

## 60 x 2025

### 2017 College Changes Everything Conference Addresses Efforts to Remove Barriers to Equity



Dr. Kyle Reyes

The data is clear that a college degree or postsecondary credential is a ticket to a brighter economic future for Illinois students and for the state as a whole, but not everyone has an equal chance at getting that ticket. “Equity isn’t just about giving resources; it’s also about removing barriers,” said **Dr. Kyle Reyes** during his keynote address at [the Seventh Annual College Changes Everything \(CCE\) Conference](#) held in Tinley Park on July 20. Reyes is Special Assistant to the President for Inclusion an Assistant Professor of Education at Utah Valley University (UVU).

This year’s conference saw a record number of registrants – over 500 Illinois educators, government and community leaders, other professionals and students – interested in addressing efforts to improve equity in college and career readiness initiatives. Sponsored by the **Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)**

in collaboration with partner agencies and organizations, the annual conference is focused on collaborative efforts to increase the number of adults in Illinois who have a high quality postsecondary credential or degree.

Other interactive breakout sessions focused on topics such as creating safe spaces for undocumented immigrants, equity and access for college students with disabilities, defining microaggressions and types of oppression that impact student success, connecting low income youth with public benefits, and more. A luncheon address by **Antoinette Taylor**, chairperson of the **Illinois Attendance Commission**, focused on the Commission’s campaign to improve K-12 attendance statewide.

The **Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)** received this year’s College Changes Everything Champion Award, an annual honor presented to a person or organization that has made significant contributions to help the state improve college access and completion efforts for Illinois students. The state’s largest provider of higher education, the Illinois Community College System serves over 800,000 students a year with credit, non-credit and community education courses. ICCB has worked tirelessly to create early college models, rethink math pathways, expand dual credit programs, and improve opportunities for adult learners, among its many achievements.

“Community colleges prepare the workforce of today and tomorrow and are the first choice and best choice for millions of students. They are proof positive that College Changes Everything,” said ICCB Executive Director **Karen Hunter Anderson**, who accepted the award on behalf of the agency.

The relevance and urgency of the issues addressed during the conference were perhaps most strikingly reflected in a



L to R: ISAC Executive Director Eric Zarnikow and ICCB Executive Director Karen Hunter Anderson.

panel moderated by Reyes that focused on how diverse students navigate to and through higher education. Four students – an adult learner returning to school, an undocumented student, a student with autism, and a college student who grew up in foster care – shared their personal journeys in higher education, each offering their own candid and powerful story. As one conference attendee noted, “these are the real teachers today.”

Also at CCE, IBHE Academic Affairs Assistant Director **Malinda Aiello** and ICCB Senior Director for Academic Affairs **Ashley Becker** co-presented “An Update: Transfer Initiatives in Illinois” and provided updates on a variety of policies and initiatives including the Illinois Articulation Initiative, the modified Associate of Science degree, and MyCreditsTransfer.

*Photo credit: Matt Montez, ISAC*

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**Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson**, executive director of the **Illinois Community Board (ICCB)**, recently visited **Black Hawk College** to recognize the college for excellence in workforce education and training programs. The visit was part of a statewide tour to unveil the ICCB’s **Workforce Education Strategic Plan** and highlight best practices across the state in workforce training.

Anderson was joined by college president **Dr. Bettie Truitt** who discussed how Black Hawk College combines technical and career instruction with the development of soft skills necessary for success in the workforce. “A great education includes the soft skills our students will need to be successful in the workforce,” said Truitt. “Having the technical skills isn’t enough any longer.”

“Employers have consistently told us they want training partners to address the deficit in workers’ soft skills,” said Anderson. “Black Hawk College’s approach to embedding soft skills into academic work is a model for community colleges across the state.”

The Workforce Education Strategic Plan will expand and enhance Illinois’ ability to attract, retrain and grow business and develop educational opportunities to support students’ success in the workforce. The plan is the culmination of regional meetings held in each of the state’s ten economic development regions with partners from across the education, economic development, and workforce sectors. The resulting plan identified four priority areas to be addressed over the next five years. These areas are: 1) increasing early career-related education and exposure; 2) addressing essential and occupational skill gaps; 3) aligning education and training programs to employers’ needs; 4) and strengthening connections among public partners and engagement and alignment with business. For more information, including a copy of the Workforce Education Strategic Plan, visit [ICCB.org](http://ICCB.org).



*[Photo Caption: front, L to R: Moraine Valley President Sylvia Jenkins, Elmhurst President Troy VanAken; back, L to R: Pamela Hardy and April Edwards, vice presidents for academic affairs at Moraine Valley and Elmhurst, respectively]*

On July 12 **Moraine Valley Community College** and **Elmhurst College** signed two new transfer agreements between the higher education institutions, allowing new and current students to earn credit at Moraine Valley and Elmhurst simultaneously. “Partnership agreements with quality four-year colleges and universities such as Elmhurst College help ensure our students complete their associate degree and provide them with a seamless pathway to a bachelor’s degree,” said **Dr. Sylvia Jenkins**, Moraine Valley president.

The **Dual Enrollment Agreement** allows new high school graduates to commit to Moraine Valley

and Elmhurst College at the same time. Students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters between both institutions and must take at least one course (up to two courses) at Elmhurst College each year they are enrolled at Moraine Valley. Those courses will be discounted to the Moraine Valley tuition rate. Students can take advantage of Elmhurst College's residence life housing, library, student events, and fitness center, and they are eligible for multiple scholarships generally not available to transfer students.

The **Guaranteed Admission Agreement** allows current Moraine Valley students to seamlessly transfer to Elmhurst College. To do so, they must commit to transferring by the second week of the fall semester of their second/sophomore year. Students who complete their associate degree and transfer with at least 64 credit hours (70 total is accepted) will be granted junior standing.

## Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students

The **Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Program** (DFI) provides financial assistance, based on demonstrated financial need, for members of traditionally underrepresented groups to pursue and complete graduate degrees at Illinois institutions of higher education. DFI is a program for graduate students traditionally underrepresented in higher education who have received postsecondary degrees from educational institutions in Illinois or who have three or more years of residency in Illinois and are citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Applicants compete in a statewide competition for DFI awards at over 30 Illinois institutions. [More information is available at IBHE.org](#). Completed applications are to be submitted to university Institutional Representatives no later than August 15, 2017.

## Increasing Adult Degree Completion

For the first time ever, people in the Southern Illinois region will be able to complete a bachelor's degree from **Southern Illinois University Carbondale** (SIUC) at **John A. Logan College** (JALC) in Carterville. This fall, SIUC is introducing an off-campus bachelor's degree completion program in workforce education and development at John A. Logan College. The program, with specialization in organizational training and development, is geared toward adult learners who typically have completed some college classes or an associate's degree and who have professional work experience and occupational training.

Through a combination of online and accelerated weekend classroom courses, participants can complete their baccalaureate degree in as little as one year, depending on their previous education and work experience.

"Our students enter the program with life experience, professional work experience and occupational or military training," says **Deborah Barnett**, director of off-campus degree programs for the Department of Workforce Education and Development at SIUC's College of Education and Human Services. "We value this experience by evaluating it for college credit, and by incorporating it in the classroom through assignments, projects and real-world application. "

"**President Ron House** and JALC administrators have been wonderful to work with and have welcomed SIUC and our WED program with open arms," Barnett said. "We all embraced this opportunity not only as a collaborative partnership, but as a great benefit for JALC students and others in the Southern Illinois region who are considering pursuing a bachelor's degree. "

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Workforce Education and Development off-campus degree completion program or contact [Barnett directly](#) to discuss your personalized degree completion plan. In addition, SIUC Extended Campus is offering two [\\$500 scholarships to qualifying students enrolling in the WED program at JALC](#) this fall.



The **AARP Foundation** [has awarded a grant to Concordia University Chicago's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Center for Gerontology](#) to conduct **Work for Yourself@50+** workshops in Oak Park/River Forest and the Chicagoland area. This national grant initiative is designed to help vulnerable older adults assess opportunities for self-employment, build skills, and connect with resources that will enable them to generate income by working for themselves. Concordia University Chicago is among 32 community-based organizations selected to receive funds to assist older adults.

CUC is one of the few educational institutions in the country to have dedicated community outreach centers in the fields of both gerontology and entrepreneurship. The Work for Yourself@50+ program will allow CUC to address the pressing need for entrepreneurship education for older adults in the region.

"For many older adults, self-employment and business ownership is an opportunity to change their future," said **Emily Allen**, senior vice president for AARP Foundation Programs. "AARP Foundation is proud to work with organizations like Concordia University Chicago that are committed to helping older adults successfully run their own business. Our Work for Yourself@50+ program is designed to enable older adults to pursue self-employment by connecting them with trustworthy resources in their own communities."

## People in the News

**Joliet Junior College (JCC)** alum **Jay D. Bergman** won the 2017 **Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA)** Distinguished Alumnus Award. Bergman, founder and CEO of the largest oil production company headquartered in Illinois, **Petco Petroleum Corp.**, is also a well-known philanthropist who has donated more than \$780,000 to the Chicago region of the American Red Cross.

After graduating from Joliet Township High School, Bergman put himself through JCC, at one point working more than 50 hours a week as he carried a full load of classes. After JCC he graduated from **Illinois State University**.

He served on the JJC Alumni Board as president in the 1980s and later served on the Illinois State University Board of Trustees (2003 to 2017). For the past 10 years, Bergman has also served at the state level as a member of the **Illinois Board of Higher Education**.



The **Southern Illinois University** Board of Trustees has appointed **Carlo Montemagno**, a professor of engineering at the **University of Alberta** (Canada), as the next chancellor of SIU Carbondale.

The board approved the appointment at its Springfield meeting July 13. Montemagno was nominated for consideration by SIU System **President Randy Dunn** and begins his new role August 15.

Montemagno is an internationally recognized expert in nanotechnology and biomedical engineering, focusing his work on linking multiple disciplines to solve problems in areas of health, energy and the environment. He holds a bachelor's degree from Cornell University, a master's degree from Pennsylvania State University, and a doctorate from the University of Notre Dame.

Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Alberta, he served as founding dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. He also has worked for the NASA

Center for Cell Mimetic Space Exploration at the University of California, Los Angeles; Cornell University; Argonne National Laboratories at the University of Chicago; and the U. S. Department of Energy. He was named a Bill & Melinda Gates Grand Challenge Winner and a fellow for the American Institute for Medical and Biomedical Engineering, the American Academy for Nanomedicine and the NASA Institute for Advanced Concepts.

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On July 17, [Dr. Brad Colwell](#) began his official duties as Vice President for [Academic Affairs](#) for the **Southern Illinois University System**. Prior to being appointed to this Vice President position, he served as Interim Chancellor for the Southern Illinois University Carbondale campus. Dr. Colwell is a full professor in the university's Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education. He has also held positions as associate dean for academic and student affairs in the College of Education and Human Services and Chairman and director of graduate students for the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education, all at SIUC.



Before coming to SIU as Interim Chancellor, he served as dean of the College of Education and Human Development at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Before joining the university, he worked as an attorney at Miller, Tracy, Braun & Wilson, Ltd. , in Monticello, Illinois. Dr. Colwell earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Anderson University, in Indiana; a master's degree in Educational Administration, a juris doctorate, and a doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

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**Ronald Williams**, assistant vice president for academic affairs and interim vice president for student services at **Western Illinois University**, [has been named the vice president for student services](#). Williams received his bachelor's degree from Lane College and master's degree and doctorate from Tennessee State University.

"We have an outstanding Division of Student Services at Western Illinois University. Under Dr. Williams' direction, along with the staff within the division, Western will continue its longstanding tradition of providing remarkable co-curricular experiences that enhance the University's educational opportunities," **President Jack Thomas** said. "Dr. Williams' academic and student affairs experience will further the mission of the division and the University."

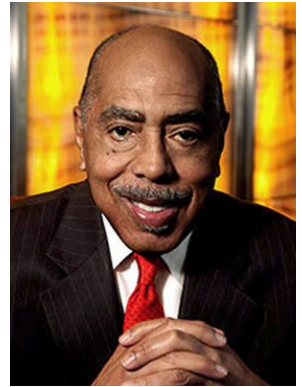
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**Elgin Community College** student **Mauro Rosiles** has won top honors in the 2017 Gandhi/King Peace Essay Scholarship competition sponsored by the **Illinois Community College Trustees Association** (ICCTA).

The Gandhi/King Peace Scholarship provides a one-time \$500 stipend to the Illinois community college student who best articulates the peaceful messages of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The scholarship was established in 2014 through an endowment by **Oakton Community College** trustee emeritus **Jody Wadhwa** and the Oakton Educational Foundation.

In honor of his winning effort, Rosiles was a guest of honor at ICCTA's June 2 awards banquet in Normal, where he was presented with a \$500 scholarship. His winning essay is reprinted below and on [ICCTA's website](#).

[Mayor Rahm Emanuel](#) announced the appointment of **Walter E. Massey** as Chairman of the Board for **City Colleges of Chicago**. Massey currently serves as the chancellor for the **School of the Art Institute of Chicago**. He is a distinguished educator and scientist, with more than 50 years of experience as a leader of some of the nation's most prominent higher education and scientific institutions. He replaces **Charles Middleton**, who served a two-year term as Chair.



**Governor Bruce Rauner** announced he has appointed **Stuart King** to the **University of Illinois** Board of Trustees. King's decades-long relationship with the school will be invaluable to the board's success.

King served as the Interim Assistant Dean of Clinical and Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois' College of Medicine. In that role, he oversaw the medical school accreditations and curriculum. He also taught on an as-needed basis. King is a practicing physician with the Christie Clinic in Champaign. He previously practiced with Medical Anesthesia Consultants in Florence, S. C.

King received his B. A., M. D. , and MBA from the University of Illinois. He lives in Champaign.

## IBHE News

[The Illinois Board of Higher Education \(IBHE\)](#) proposed amendments to the rules for Dual Credit Courses; Program Review at Private Colleges and Universities; Approval of New Unites of Instruction, Research and Public Service at public institutions; and Private Business and Vocational Schools were announced by the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules**. Those affected by these rulemakings include private colleges, vocational schools, and instructors of dual credit high school/college courses. Questions, requests for copies, or comments on the four IBHE rulemakings may be referred through **August 8, 2017** to [Karen Helland](#).

## IBHE Student Art Exhibition



Ocean Storms

Anna Henderson  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Golden Dragon



Ocean Sunset



## Student Laureates

### Rockford University



**Ivy Hood**

Roscoe, IL  
Economics and  
International Studies

### Saint Xavier University



**Meghan Hill**

North Aurora, IL  
Communication  
Sciences & Disorders  
and Vocal Music

### Southern Illinois University Carbondale Edwardsville



**Steven Dew**

Downs, IL  
Television/Video  
Production and  
Financial Economics



**Chloe Huelsmann**

Alton, IL  
Civil Engineering  
Mathematics

### Trinity Christian College



**Courtney Kalous**

Menomonee Falls, WI  
Communications  
Psychology and  
Theology

Photo unavailable: Roosevelt University, Alice Beals, Somerset, NJ, Music Education; School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Al-Qawi Nanavati, Mumbai, India, Fine Arts.

The Lincoln Academy wants to know what past Laureates have been up to since being named [the Lincoln Academy of Illinois](#) Student Laureate. Please call 217.785.5030 or e-mail [Julie Kellner](#) to share your story!

## In Case You Missed It

[Chicago Tribune/Blue Sky Innovation](#): It's getting harder for kids to move up the economic ladder. He's got ideas how to fix that, July 13, 2017.

[WNIJ-89. 5/Norther Public Radio](#): Faculty at area community college aim to reduce textbook costs for students, July 17, 2017.

[WUIS-93. 9/NPR Illinois](#): State budget boosts MAP, July 18, 2017.

[Galesburg Register-Mail](#): Restored MAP funding gives local colleges a boost, July 23, 2017.

[Daily Herald](#): Illinois colleges' bond status upgraded as budget impasse ends, July 24, 2017.

[Inside Higher Ed](#): College degrees lead to 'good jobs,' July 26, 2017.



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