

60 x 2025

Illinois researchers have identified dual credit participation as significant for enhanced degree attainment, particularly for community college students. Recently published in the journal, *Educational Researcher* (Vol 46, Issue 5, July, 2017), **Dr. Bob Blankenberger**, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education and Associate Professor of Public Administration at the **University of Illinois at Springfield**; **Dr. Eric Lichtenberger**, Deputy Director of Information Management and Research at the **Illinois Board of Higher Education**; and **Dr. M. Allison Witt**, Director of International Programs in the College of Education at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, conducted a recent quasi-experimental study focused on Illinois students, "[Dual Credit, College Type, and Enhanced Degree Attainment.](#)" The researchers examined the relationship between dual credit and degree/credential completion across different types of colleges. In order to isolate the effect of dual credit, the researchers systematically matched each dual credit student to a similar student (based on demographics, academic background, and aspirations) who had not taken dual credit but had graduated from the same high school and initially enrolled at a similar (based on selectivity) and oftentimes the same college. (See Table below.)

Overall, it was found that students taking dual credit courses were more likely to earn a bachelor's degree, or any high quality postsecondary credential, relative to the observationally equivalent comparison group. The strongest and most robust effect was experienced by dual credit students who began at a community college after high school, as they were significantly more likely to obtain a high quality credential relative to the comparison group. It should be noted that the majority of the dual credit group directly enrolled at a community college, and many did not vertically transfer to a bachelor's granting institution; this tended to lower the overall and community college-specific rates of bachelor's degree completion.

A number of researchers have touted the benefits of taking dual credit courses in high school such as facilitating the transition between high school and college, elevating student college aspirations, making better use of the senior year, enhancing college readiness, and increasing enrollment and degree completion. Dual credit courses are college courses taken by high school students that also count for high school credit. These can be taken in high schools or colleges, but must meet the same criteria as other college courses. There are concerns by some that dual credit courses are not of the same rigor as other college courses. To address this concern, the Dual Credit Quality Act in Illinois mandates that dual credit courses must meet the same quality standards as an institution's traditional courses and dual credit instructors must meet the institution's faculty qualifications.

The positive benefit to completion for community college students found by this study is not only valuable for students and their families, but also for policymakers and institutional leaders seeking to create viable, and less timely and expensive pathways to postsecondary degree attainment. The results of analyses of longitudinal data sets such as this one can provide important evidence about ways to improve degree attainment. With growing numbers of students attending lower cost community colleges in states like Illinois, the authors recommend that policymakers and institutional leaders should consider supporting interventions like increased access to dual credit courses to enhance the likelihood of postsecondary completion for these students.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Dual Credit Quality Act.

Table: Completion Outcomes by Dual Credit Participation and College Selectivity/Type

Institution type for student's first year of postsecondary attendance*	Dual Credit	Non-Dual Credit Comparison	Absolute Difference
Community College	(n=4,695)	(n=4,695)	
Percentage with Bachelor's degree or higher **	28%	19%	9%
Percentage obtaining any postsecondary credential **	53%	45%	8%
Less/Non Competitive	(n=523)	(n=523)	
Percentage with Bachelor's degree or higher **	56%	48%	8%
Percentage obtaining any postsecondary credential	64%	57%	7%
Competitive	(n=1597)	(n=1597)	
Percentage with Bachelor's degree or higher **	73%	67%	6%
Percentage obtaining any postsecondary credential **	76%	70%	6%
Very Competitive	(n=622)	(n=622)	
Percentage with Bachelor's degree or higher	80%	77%	3%
Percentage obtaining any postsecondary credential	83%	80%	3%
Highly/Most Competitive	(n=658)	(n=658)	
Percentage with Bachelor's degree or higher **	90%	84%	6%
Percentage obtaining any postsecondary credential **	92%	85%	7%
Overall	(N=8,095)	(N=8,095)	
Percentage with Bachelor's degree or higher **	48%	40%	8%
Percentage obtaining any postsecondary credential **	64%	57%	7%
*Initially defined as community college or four-year institution, and refined by Barron's selectivity levels for the individuals directly enrolling at four-year colleges.			
**Difference between dual credit (treatment) and non-dual credit (comparison) groups was statistically significant.			

Nearly 300 leaders from around the country – representing systems and institutions, as well as data, communications, policy, and equity professionals – gathered in Indianapolis last month for [Complete College America's \(CCA\) 2017 Summer Action Summit](#). Teams from among the organization's 42-member Alliance committed to shared beliefs and priorities, collaborated on scaling standards that sharpen implementation of college completion strategies, and charted plans to accelerate change in their home states, regions and institutions. Led by Illinois' Alliance Liaison, **IBHE's Malinda Aiello**, the Illinois team's attendees were: **Ashley Becker, Illinois Community College Board (ICCB); Eddie Brambila, Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC); Emily Buhnerkempe, ICCB; Lauren Burdette, Office of the Illinois Secretary of Education and Nathan Wilson, ICCB**. The team also includes: **Dan Cullen, IBHE, and Eric Lichtenberger, IBHE**.

The purpose of this event was to share CCA's new plans and provide opportunities for teams to help lead this work within their state. The team identified [CCA Game Changers](#) already being implemented in Illinois, such as corequisite remediation, and which strategies could effectively be launched with proper support and collaboration, such as 15 to finish, math pathways, and guided pathways to success.

Another CCA event held in July, **Corequisite at Scale Initiative Summit**, was a small convening which brought together representatives from all the states that were involved in CCA's technical assistance grant. The Illinois Corequisite Pilot Project is a joint effort of IBHE and ICCB. Malinda Aiello, the primary leader for Illinois' pilot project was joined by Ashley Becker and Nathan Wilson from ICCB, to receive further assistance to further plans for scaling corequisite programs across the state.

Increasing Affordability

On August 9, **Governor Bruce Rauner** signed Senate Bill 8 (SB 8), a bipartisan bill that makes the state procurement process more efficient and transparent, thus saving money for Illinois taxpayers.

"Procurement rules are often confusing and difficult for vendors, state entities and universities," Gov. Rauner said at the signing at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**. "Reforming the procurement process allows more flexibility for vendors. Removing red tape will make it easier for small and midsize businesses to bid on state contracts. This is a win for our government agencies, for universities, for businesses and, most importantly, for taxpayers."

Specifically, SB 8 eliminates unnecessary administrative delays for state universities. The bill also permits Illinois to enter into joint purchasing agreements with other units of government, allowing state and local government entities to save money because of their increased purchasing power.

"Thank you to Governor Rauner for his support for SB 8, that offers needed relief from troublesome provisions of the Procurement Code to the public universities," **IBHE Chair Tom Cross** said. "For example, SB 8 raises the small purchase threshold to \$100,000, allowing smaller purchases to be made without working through procurement regulations. The bill also allows universities utilizing joint purchasing agreements through the Midwest Higher Education Compact to continue these cost saving efforts." Cross added, "IBHE stands ready to work with the Governor and General Assembly in the future to pursue additional legislation directed at providing regulatory relief to our public higher education institutions."



L to R: Governor Bruce Rauner; Dr. Jeffrey Moore, UIUC Beckman Institute Director; Dr. Timothy Killeen, U of I President; Representative David Olsen, R-81; Dr. John Wilkin, UIUC Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost; and Senator Chapin Rose, R-51.

People in the News



Mark Brodl was named the next provost of Illinois Wesleyan University, effective July 17. Previously he served as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs: Budget and Research at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Brodl joined Trinity as the George W. Brackenridge Distinguished Professor of Biology in 2001 and has remained active in teaching and research at the private liberal arts college since taking on his administrative role in 2012. He has established a reputation for his work in support of student-faculty research, particularly work with an interdisciplinary focus.

"The depth and breadth of Mark's experience stood out amongst an exceptional group of candidates," said **Illinois Wesleyan President Eric Jensen**. "The position is multifaceted, and Mark brings both practical administrative experience, stemming from his years of developing and administering academic budgets, and a strategic understanding of the intricacies involved in building and nurturing academic programs and fostering diversity."

Brodl has served a rotation as program director at the National Science Foundation and previously taught biology and chaired the Biology Department at Knox College. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Knox, a master's in plant biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana and a Ph.D. in plant biology from Washington University in St. Louis. His research – consistently involving students – has focused on heat shock responses in plant secretory cells, which play pivotal roles in key, vulnerable steps in plant life cycles.

IBHE News

Illinois colleges and universities student government leaders are invited to send a representative to the **IBHE Student Advisory Committee (IBHE-SAC) meeting on September 9, at the IBHE Office in Springfield**. This meeting will hold an election for IBHE student board member, IBHE non-traditional student board member, and two IBHE-SAC leaders for the 2017-18 academic year.

The mission of the Student Advisory Committee is two-fold:

- To **represent all higher education students in Illinois** on state-level issues concerning higher education by **providing input to the IBHE student members on the Board of Higher Education;** and
- Serve as **a coordinating body for student leaders** as they address local and institutional higher education issues on their campuses.

All Illinois community colleges, public universities and private colleges and universities student government leaders are encouraged to participate in the activities of IBHE –SAC. In order to participate in the annual election process occurring on September 9, a [Student Voting Representative Form](#) must be completed and signed by the campus' Student Body President or Trustee, and submitted to IBHE before or at the meeting when the elections are held.

The first meeting of the year will be held on Saturday 9, at the IBHE office, 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 333, Springfield, IL 62701, from 1:30 – 4:00 pm. (The office is walking distance to the Springfield Amtrak station, and there is free parking at the office building.) RSVP to Candace Mueller, mueller@ibhe.org, by September 5.

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 Units 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 14, 2017** to [Karen Helland](#).

Fiscal Year 2018 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant

The **Illinois Board of Higher Education** has received a Fiscal Year 2018 appropriation for the Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) grant. The application and review process will be similar to the 2016 process, which is available for review [here](#), along with references to the statute and rules on the IBHE website at the aforementioned web-link. The ICWS rules and statute references are also available on the website. Publishing the application detail and notice of funding opportunity is anticipated by August 31, 2017, on the IBHE website, and notice via the [Illinois Catalog of State Financial Assistance](#). Grantee registration through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) will also be required. This registration link and details are available [here](#). If you have any questions on the ICWS grant or GATA registration, please contact **Bruce Bennett** at bennett@ibhe.org or 217-557-7344 or grants@ibhe.org.

Other News

Students from pre-kindergarten through college soon will head back to school. As families prepare for the new academic year, the **Illinois Emergency Management Agency** (IEMA) and local emergency management agencies across the state are encouraging parents to include emergency preparedness in their back-to-school plans.

“Emergencies can occur any time of the day or night, including when children are in school,” said

IEMA Director **James K. Joseph**. "The start of a new school year is the perfect time to make sure you know your school's plans for keeping students safe during an emergency and then talking to your child about those plans."

Joseph offered several back-to-school planning tips for parents of school-aged children, including:

- Find out where children will be taken in the event of an evacuation during school hours;
- Ensure your current emergency contact information is on file at your child's school;
- Pre-authorize a friend or relative to pick up your children in an emergency and make sure the school knows who that designated person is; and
- Teach children with cell phones about 'Text First, Talk Later.' Short, simple text messages, such as "R U OK?" and "I'm OK," are more likely to get through than a phone call if phone service is disrupted following an emergency. As phone congestion eases, you can follow up with a phone call to relay more information.

Students headed off to college also need to be prepared for emergencies. Many college campuses offer email and text messages to alert students of potential dangers, such as severe weather and other threats. Encourage your college student to sign-up for such alerts. Some colleges also provide alert messages for parents so they also are aware of potential dangers on campus. In addition, make sure your student knows the emergency plans for their dorm or apartment building.

Additional preparedness information is available at Ready.Illinois.gov.

Illinois Bicentennial Celebration: Video Contest for Illinois High School and College Students



Illinois high school and college students across the state are invited to submit a 45-60 second self-made video highlighting a fact, event, place, person, or something to learn about the incredible history of Illinois.

One hundred winners will have their video aired and posted as part of the 100 Day Bicentennial Countdown. Each winner whose video is selected will receive two tickets to the December 3 Chicago matinee performance of *Hamilton*. Deadline for video submissions is Aug. 31. For more details, [click here](#).

IBHE Student Art Exhibition

Veronica Cerda, Northeastern Illinois University



Stay Gold



Bright Idea

Student Laureates

Trinity International
University



Emylee Thompson

South Elgin, IL
Pre-Med/Biology
and Dual Master's
in Bioethics

Chicago



Rafid Rahman

Chatham, IL
Biological Sciences

University of Illinois
Springfield



Kendra Baber

Normal, IL
History
Teacher Education

Urbana-Champaign



Shivallben Patel

Urbana, IL
Global Studies and
Molecular & Cellular
Biology

University of
Chicago



Rachel Hile-Broad

Normal, IL
Political Science
Human Rights and
Philosophy

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

[State Journal-Register](#): Esther Cepeda: Hunger on campus is a real problem with real solutions, August 6, 2017.

[Daily Herald](#): ECC aims to distribute 1,600 backpacks with school supplies Aug. 12, August 7, 2017.

[Inside Higher Ed](#): 40% of 2-year college grads earn a bachelor's, August 8, 2017.

IBHE

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