



In honor of the Class of 2018, the IBHE Bulletin is featuring three graduates and their stories. You can read their profiles in this issue.



**Michelle Shaver**  
University of Illinois  
at Springfield



**Joseph Kalala**  
Lincoln Land  
Community College



**Justin Smith**  
Governors State  
University

## Increasing Affordability

In consultation with the Illinois public universities, the **Illinois Board of Higher Education** developed estimates of what undergraduate Illinois residents pay for tuition and fees after factoring in all tuition discounting at Illinois public universities. For comparison purposes, estimates of what a typical Illinois resident would pay for undergraduate tuition and fees after factoring in all tuition discounting at select out-of-state institutions were also calculated.

The analysis finds that the estimated averages for undergraduate tuition and fees after discounting compared across Illinois public universities and 15 out-of-state public universities does not support the notion that it is less expensive to attend college out-of-state. On average, nearly all of the comparisons derived from the analysis indicate that it is more cost effective for an Illinois resident to enroll at an Illinois public university.

[Click here](#) for the full IBHE DataPoint.



## 60 x 2025

Though **IBHE** supports and promotes all aspects of higher education in Illinois, the agency and its staff are somewhat removed from the "on the ground" effects of college completion. We crunch numbers, analyze trends, and propose policies taking a broad, long-term view. Sometimes, however, we are reminded of students' joys, accomplishments, and struggles without ever leaving the office.

Tomorrow, IBHE's **Michelle Shaver** graduates from the **University of Illinois at Springfield** with a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies. The road to her degree was long and winding. She overcame poverty and homelessness as a single parent and started and stopped college multiple times. Despite her struggles, education was a key part of her life as she homeschooled her children, Alex and Abigail.



Shaver joined IBHE as an Office Associate in the Private Business and Vocational Schools division in 2014. She served as support staff for the division before being promoted to Assistant Director in 2018. The PBVS division regulates non-degree granting postsecondary schools and acts as a consumer protection agency for students. Shaver likes knowing that her work ultimately benefits students seeking higher education.

Because her current and former positions are part of the State Universities Civil Service System, Shaver qualified for public university tuition waiver. Taking two classes each semester (including summer), she completed her degree in three years. Without the tuition waiver, her degree would have taken far longer.

Shaver credits former IBHE Deputy Director of Academic Affairs **Dr. Dan Cullen** with encouraging her to pursue a degree. He saw potential in her that she could not always see in herself.

She encourages other struggling students to keep working step by step. When she got tired or frustrated she would tell herself to just focus on the next piece, the next chapter, the next paper, to keep from becoming overwhelmed.

Shaver is not finished with her education, however. In the fall she will return to UIS to begin her Master's degree in Political Science with a concentration on public law and policy. Her long-term goal is to continue working in higher education, either at IBHE or a university, developing education policy that benefits minorities and low-income students. She is living proof of what higher education can do for a person and plans to spend her career helping others.

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**Joseph M. Kalala** is graduating May 18 from **Lincoln Land Community College** (LLCC) in computer application systems. He will be attending the **University of Illinois at Springfield** (UIS) next to continue his education. In addition to participating in the [Open Door Mentorship Program](#), Joseph served with the Student Government Association as a Business and Technologies Representative, as well as the Computer Science Club, the Black Student Union, and Americorps. He also tutored students in French, his native language.

Here, in his own words, Joseph describes his college completion journey:

I was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo. College has changed my life in many ways. I started just like every student but throughout the way, I learned many things that are helping me now and in the future. Being in college is not easy but it's worth it.

About six years ago, I moved from my country to the U.S to join my family who moved before me. I was excited about joining my family but nervous at the same time; nervous because I didn't know English, and also nervous to start a new life with different people. I did my last year of high school and I had to get ready for college.

Transitioning from high school to college wasn't easy, but I didn't let my fear stop me from making it through. I started my first year of college at LLCC and I struggled hard in many of my classes since I had only a little understanding of English. I joined some clubs and participated in some events just to improve my English. My journey in college wasn't easy at all; for most of the time, it was challenging. I had to challenge myself to do the homework, write a better paper, wake up early, and to keep my grades up.



As every man needs a helping hand, LLCC installed the Open Door Mentorship Program to help minority students to do better in college. This was like a dream come true. This program enlightened me and helped me see the bigger picture of how education could benefit me in the future. Throughout this program, I had a chance to visit many local companies and learn how they run their businesses and see what they offer to students. I even had a chance to work in one of those companies as an intern throughout summer 2017. Those times were when I realized that hard work pays. Since then, I always try my best to keep the grades up and finish strong. Now I am done with LLCC and about to start a new journey at UIS. This time now I feel prepared because LLCC has prepared me enough to be ready. I'm thankful for everything that LLCC has done for me, especially establishing the Open Door Program to help us.

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**Governors State University's** First Class 2014 Speaker at Commencement on May 19 is **Justin Smith**. "Justin has left an indelible mark on Governors State University," stated **Dr. Elaine Maimon**, GSU President. "I've had the pleasure of watching him grow and thrive from his first days as a member of GSU's inaugural freshman class. When it came time to select a major, Justin worked with our College of Business to tailor a degree to combine entrepreneurship and music. Justin's success represents all that is possible in higher education."

The youngest of 12 children, Justin grew up in the Crete-Monee area where he was shaped by the support and encouragement he received from his brothers and sisters as he discovered and pursued his passion, music. Combined with his parents' emphasis on the value of higher education, Justin's contributions to GSU exemplify student success and achievement. His support of GSU's principles is reinforced by the depth of his involvement in the GSU community. Whether participating in the

school's student choir, or acting as a peer mentor, student ambassador, and orientation leader, or serving two terms as Student Body President. His dedication to building and supporting his community was formally recognized in 2017 when he became GSU's Lincoln Laureate award recipient.

Justin is graduating – without student debt – with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a focus on business administration and management. Threading his passion for music and community with his business degree, Justin intends to support the music community on myriad levels, whether managing and producing shows or helping artists successfully negotiate contracts.

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On May 8, [Oakton Community College and Elmhurst College signed two agreements](#) – an innovative dual enrollment agreement and a guaranteed admission agreement. The agreements facilitate a seamless transfer process for students meeting the requirements of the program and earning associate degrees at Oakton.

"Today is a great day for Oakton students," says Oakton **President Joianne L. Smith**. "The agreements make it easier for students to earn their bachelor's degrees and allow them to take courses concurrently at both Elmhurst and Oakton at the Oakton tuition rate, saving them both time and money."

"It's all about better serving students by determining their needs and figuring out how we, as administrators and faculty, can work together to provide opportunities for them to reach their full potential," said Elmhurst College **President Troy D. VanAken**. "We're pleased to build on our individual and institutional connections with Oakton, and to welcome more Oakton students to Elmhurst."



**Black Hawk College** has announced **Tim Wynes** has been selected as its next president. Wynes has been president of Inver Hills Community College since 2010 and was named president of Dakota County Technical College in 2013. He continues to serve both colleges.

"Mr. Wynes' credentials, experience, enthusiasm and demeanor convinced all of the trustees that he will work hard for our students and our college community," said **Richard Fiems**, Board of Trustees Chair.

"I am humbled and honored to accept the opportunity to lead Black Hawk College," Wynes said. "During my many trips to the area over the last eight years, I have observed Black Hawk flourish at both campuses despite the uncertainty of state funding and a roller coaster economy. During my two-day interview, I experienced an enthusiastic student body with faculty and staff who are dedicated to student success and goal completion."



Wynes is a graduate of Cornell College in Iowa, holds a Juris Doctorate from St. Louis University School of Law and has completed graduate coursework in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Iowa State University. He practiced law in Joplin and Columbia, Missouri, before joining the University of Missouri Law School as an assistant professor of clinical law. At the request of Gov. Mel Carnahan, Wynes served as General Counsel and Director of Legal Services for the Missouri Department of Social Services from 1993-96. He then became Executive Dean at Indian Hills Community College in Iowa until 2002 when he accepted the Chancellorship at Iowa Valley Community College District, serving in this role until 2010. He is expected to assume the role of president on or before July 1.



The **Carl Sandburg College** Board of Trustees has selected **Dr. Seamus Reilly** to become the College's seventh president. Reilly, who has been vice president of institutional advancement at Parkland College in Champaign since 2008, was chosen from a nationwide search that yielded more than 40 applicants. Prior to his position as vice president, Reilly chaired the Fine and Applied Arts Department at Parkland from 2006-08 and was director of literature, philosophy and religion there from 2001-03. He also served as the acting director of business and technical writing at the University of Illinois from 1997-98, and he has faculty experience at Parkland, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Bradley University, Illinois Central College and as an English as a Second Language instructor in Madrid, Spain.

"I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for the opportunity to be the next president at Carl Sandburg College. I am honored and humbled by the chance to serve this great institution and look forward to joining the community," Reilly said. "My focus will be on building and creating relationships with everyone in the District 518 community to aid in the transformation of individual lives and to continue the growth and development of the community and region. Carl Sandburg is involved in working to make dreams become reality, to make what is potential possible and to provide opportunities for success. I am excited to be part of the Sandburg family."

Reilly will begin the position July 1, replacing current president **Dr. Lori Sundberg**, who will step down in June after eight years as president.

Two **Harper College** administrators have been awarded the prestigious **Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence**, a leadership program aimed at preparing the next generation of community college presidents.

**Michelé Smith**, vice president of Workforce Solutions/associate provost for curriculum, and **Brian Knetl**, associate provost, are among 40 Fellows from across the country selected by the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program, a Washington, D.C.-based educational and policy studies organization working to advance higher education practices, policies and leadership that significantly improve student outcomes.



Michelé Smith



Brian Knetl

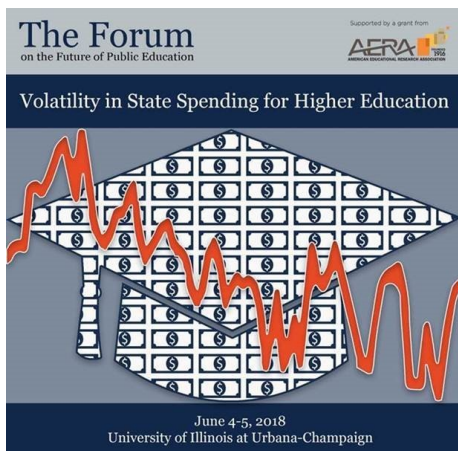
"Both Brian and Michelé are exceptionally talented leaders," Harper College **President Dr. Ken Ender** said. "They will be superb community college presidents."

Smith and Knetl were selected based on their ability to take strategic risks, lead strong teams and cultivate partnerships, and focus on results-oriented improvements in student success and access.

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**The State Universities Retirement System (SURS)** has announced the results of their 2018 board of trustees election. The newly elected active-member trustees are **Steven Rock** from **Western Illinois University** and **Collin Van Meter** from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Current board member **John Engstrom** was re-elected as an annuitant trustee. Their six-year terms begin July 15.

## Events



You are invited to participate in the **Forum on the Future of Public Education**, an academic research conference on the topic of volatility in state spending for higher education at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on June 4-5, 2018**.

Most discussions of higher education finance focus on the levels of funding (i.e., how much will the state appropriate this year?). While these discussions about levels of funding are undoubtedly important, too little attention is paid to the consequences of volatility in funding. Predictability matters – to institutions, students, families, and states. In addition, the risks of operating in an uncertain financial environment lead to behaviors that are not always in the best interests of states, institutions, or students. As

such, this research conference has been developed to encourage new, original scholarship on volatility in state support for higher education. Organized around five overarching research questions, this conference will showcase 12 new pieces of scholarship from a range of experts on volatility in state spending for higher education.

Please [click here](#) to view the conference agenda, explore the conference logistics, and register by May 18, 2018. Any questions may be directed to [Jennifer Delaney](#). This research conference is supported by a grant from the Education Research Conferences Program of the **American Educational Research Association**. Additional support has been provided by the **O'Leary Endowment**, which supports the Forum on the Future of Public Education at the University of Illinois.



# COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING®

Registration is now open for the 2018 College Changes Everything Conference  
July 19, 2018 | 8 am - 4:30 p.m. | Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois

[Register now](#) to attend the eighth annual College Changes Everything (CCE) conference – the state's premier college access and success event. This one day conference focuses on effective practices and showcases resources available to help with increasing access to postsecondary education, college completion, and career readiness. The conference also supports the state's Goal 2025 – to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality college degrees and postsecondary credentials to 60% by the year 2025.

## Scholarship Opportunities

The **Exelon African-American Resource Alliance** (EAARA) Chicago Chapter has made a scholarship opportunity available. EAARA is accepting applications for the **2018 Frank M. Clark/John T. Hooker Scholarship**. They will award twenty-seven scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to support students who are currently attending or plan to attend a 2-year or 4-year college or university in the fall of 2018.

Eligibility requirements: African-American currently residing in **Commonwealth Edison's** Illinois service territory; attends or plans to enroll in a two-year or four-year accredited college or university; and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale

Application packages are due on or before midnight CST on June 3, 2018. [Click here for the application](#) and submit all materials per the instructions to insure your submission receives full consideration. Incomplete and/or late submissions will not be considered.

## Other News

The **Illinois State Board of Education** (ISBE), **Illinois Board of Higher Education** (IBHE), and the **Illinois Green Alliance** announced on May 2, the four candidates selected by Illinois for consideration in the [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award program](#). The program recognizes schools that save energy, reduce costs, protect student and staff health and wellness, and offer environmental education. The applications have been submitted to the U.S. Department of Education and are currently under review for national recognition.

"This year we are excited to be partnering with both ISBE and IBHE to recognize four Illinois schools that are leading the way in creating sustainable and healthy spaces for students to learn. Through innovative programs, these schools are reducing their environmental impact and engaging students in sustainability education," said **Liz Kuehn**, Program Manager of the Illinois Green Alliance.

The **University of Illinois at Chicago** (UIC) is the first postsecondary institution to be nominated by Illinois for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award program. UIC's vital role in education, technology, and culture places them in a unique position to advance sustainability for the region. The University's ten year, formal commitment to sustainability builds on a long history of dedication to waste reduction, social justice, health and well-being of the City of Chicago and beyond. The programs at UIC that reduce environmental impact and costs are facilitated by the work of the Office of Sustainability (OS) and the Chancellor's Committee on Sustainability and Energy. These efforts are driven by the UIC Climate Commitments to be a Carbon Neutral, Zero Waste, Net Zero Water, and Biodiverse University.

"We are pleased the Illinois Green Ribbon Schools program has been expanded to include our Illinois colleges, said **Dr. Al Bowman**, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. "The University of Illinois at Chicago's program certainly is exemplary and will serve as an example to other Illinois college campuses to be fully involved in the Illinois Green Alliance on-going efforts to promote sustainable environments at our education institutions."

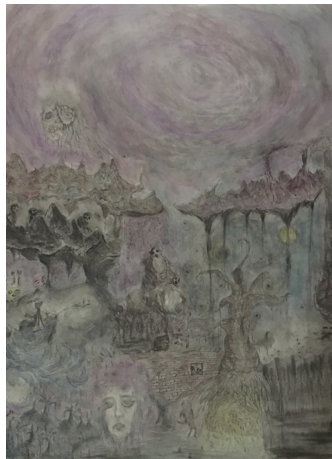


*IBHE Student Art Exhibition*

Reece Kinney, Danville Area Community College



Gary



Untitled



Untitled

Kevin Hunter  
Northern Illinois University



Reading

Darla Allen, McKendree University



Lake at Sunset



Skull with Cigarette

*Student Laureates*

Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale      Edwardsville



Kara  
Starkweather



Keelah  
Washington

Trinity Christian  
College



Roberto Rosario

Trinity International  
University



Margaret Kirst

University  
of Chicago



Pranav Puri

Chicago



Mariel Rancel

University of Illinois at  
Springfield



Regina Bolin

Urbana-Champaign



Thomas Dowling

University  
of St. Francis



Irma Sandoval  
Vizcaino

VanderCook  
College of Music



Daniel  
Mulligan

Western Illinois  
University



Jillian  
Escobar

Wheaton  
College



Tryphena Navestia  
Tandriarto

**Not pictured: Freddie Lambright, School of the Art Institute of Chicago**

If you know a past Student Laureate, please ask them get in touch with the Lincoln Academy to share what they've been up to for the Academy's social media pages! Call (217) 785-5030 or e-mail [jkellner@thelincolnacademyofillinois.org](mailto:jkellner@thelincolnacademyofillinois.org).

### *In Case You Missed It*

**State Journal-Register:** Letter: Creation of a single state board for higher education worth discussion, April 28, 2018.

**WGN Radio:** What is in store for the future of higher education in Illinois, April 29, 2018.

**State Journal-Register:** Guest view: Strengthen the teaching profession, don't lower standards, May 1, 2018.

**Chicago Sun-Times:** Public universities can't get past the lingering effects of state budget cuts, May 5, 2018.

**Daily Herald:** Students are paying more to community colleges while enrollment drops, May 10, 2018.



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