

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2026

- **Fueling Illinois' Workforce & Economy** – The U of I System drives \$24.9B annually into the state's economy and educates over half of Illinois' public university students.
- **Making Education Affordable** – In 2024-25, 22,197 students received \$156.2M in MAP grants, ensuring access to quality education.
- **Retaining Top Talent** – With 74% of graduates staying in Illinois, we strengthen industries, communities, and economic growth.
- **Partnering for Progress** – Collaboration with state government is key to expanding opportunity, innovation, and long-term prosperity.

**TO CONTINUE MAKING AN IMPACT IN ILLINOIS,
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

1. Increase funding and support for the University of Illinois System

- Sustained, predictable state investment allows the system to expand high-demand academic programs, research capacity, and workforce pipelines aligned with Illinois' economic needs.
- Public funding leverages significant federal, private, and philanthropic dollars, multiplying the state's return on investment and driving economic mobility statewide.

2. Release appropriated capital dollars for new projects and deferred maintenance

- Timely release of capital funds enables critical infrastructure upgrades that support student success, research competitiveness, and public safety.
- Capital projects create jobs, stimulate local economies, and ensure Illinois' public universities remain competitive and responsible stewards of state assets.

3. Partner with the U of I System to drive student opportunity, talent retention, and economic growth

- Collaboration connects students to internships, apprenticeships, research, and careers in high-demand industries while helping retain graduates and talent in Illinois.
- The system's alumni, faculty, staff, and statewide presence support innovation, entrepreneurship, and community-based economic development across Illinois.

53% OF ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING ILLINOIS
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES ARE ENROLLED
IN U OF I SYSTEM UNIVERSITIES

1 IN 37 ILLINOIS JOBS CONNECTED TO
THE U OF I SYSTEM

77% GRADUATION RATE FOR THE SYSTEM:
COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL
AVERAGE OF 64%

101,081
STUDENTS EDUCATED
ANNUALLY

\$24.9B+
YEARLY CONTRIBUTION TO
THE ILLINOIS ECONOMY

79%
OF UNDERGRADS
ARE ILLINOIS
RESIDENTS

33%
OF UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS AN
UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY

\$1,000,000,000+
TOTAL RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

\$298M ANNUAL INSTITUTIONAL
AID FOR UNDERGRADS



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Altogether Extraordinary™