This year, the University of Illinois is celebrating its sesquicentennial, an opportunity to reflect on 150 years of achievement that has created a System of three best-in-class universities with a record 81,000 students, 700,000 alumni, and a global reputation for excellence in education and discovery.

At the same time, we never stop looking ahead and reaching higher to ensure the U of I System continues to meet the needs of students and the public good in a world where technical and social change is coming faster than ever before.

We have already charted our way forward, through a Strategic Framework approved last year that will be our roadmap to a new era of service. The framework sets a high bar, seeking to make the U of I System the model for higher education in the 21st century—an engine of progress that transforms students’ lives, celebrates the humanities, fosters pioneering research and innovation, and drives economic growth.

In just a few short months, the framework has inspired ambitious new plans to increase System-wide enrollment by 15 percent—to more than 93,000 students by 2021—and a groundbreaking legislative proposal that would redefine the U of System’s partnership with the state of Illinois, providing predictable funding in exchange for performance-based standards that serve the needs of the state.

More stories on the framework’s potential are highlighted in this report, along with a look at some of the world-class initiatives at our universities in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield, and at UI Health and regional sites across the state.

We hope you enjoy learning more about our achievements and impact, and thank you for your interest in the University of Illinois System.
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Appointed by the governor, members of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees are responsible to the people of Illinois for the proper distribution of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and for the proper administration and governance of the U of I System.

Trustees serve on a voluntary, non-remunerated basis. They oversee all aspects of the System. In addition to focusing on appropriate governance, trustees advocate for programs and initiatives that support diversity and sustainability at all three universities.

Trustees meet every two months and hold positions on various committees including the executive committee; academic and student affairs; audit, finance and facilities; governance, personnel and ethics; and hospital. The board’s three-member executive committee meets to transact urgent business. Trustees also serve on several external boards, including those of the U of I Alumni Association, the U of I Foundation, the Illinois Research Park, and IllinoisVENTURES, LLC.

Three student trustees, one from each university, are elected by the student body to one-year terms; one is designated by the governor as having a binding vote, and two have advisory votes.

Two additional trustees will be appointed, with terms to expire in 2023.

*Pending senate approval.
SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

Timothy L. Killeen, PhD, President
Barbara J. Wilson, PhD, Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Michael D. Amiridis, PhD, Chancellor/Vice President, U of I at Chicago
Robert J. Jones, PhD, Chancellor/Vice President, U of I at Urbana-Champaign
Susan J. Koch, PhD, Chancellor/Vice President, U of I at Springfield
Thomas R. Bearrows, JD, University Counsel
Walter K. Knorr, BA, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President
H. Edward Seidel, PhD, Interim Vice President for Research
Dedra M. Williams, MS, Secretary of the University

OFFICERS OF RELATED ORGANIZATIONS
James H. Moore, Jr., MS, President/CEO, University of Illinois Foundation
Doug Beckmann, BB, Interim President/CEO, University of Illinois Alumni Association

SYSTEM OFFICES

The president and senior staff work together to develop strategies and solutions to address educational and administrative challenges across the University of Illinois System.

System staff are responsible for communicating the breadth and excellence of research and other academic endeavors occurring throughout the University of Illinois System to government, corporate, and civic leaders as well as to alumni and other stakeholders. The leadership works with these audiences to ensure continued support for the universities.

System offices and units provide centralized services that are vital to supporting the primary missions of the System.

System services and functions
- Academic affairs
- Business and financial services
- Economic development and innovation
- Ethics and compliance
- Illinois Freedom of Information Act compliance
- Governmental relations
- Human resources
- Information technology
- Legal counsel
- Planning, budgeting, and auditing
- Purchasing and procurement
- Treasury operations
- University relations and communications
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a major research university located in one of the world’s great cities. With 29,000 students, UIUC is Chicago’s largest university and one of the nation’s most diverse campuses. Its 15 colleges include the nation’s largest college of medicine and six other health sciences colleges. Deeply committed to its urban mission, UIUC is a leader in teaching, research, clinical practice, and outreach aimed at eliminating disparities in health, education, and economic opportunity.

**FAST FACTS**

**Total enrollment** (Fall 2016)

29,120

**Degrees awarded** (2015–2016)

7,393

**Operating budget** (2014–2015)

$2.1 billion
The University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System provides comprehensive care, education, and research to the people of Chicago and beyond. A part of UIC, UI Health comprises a clinical enterprise that includes a 495-bed tertiary care hospital, 22 outpatient clinics, and 11 Mile Square Health Center facilities. It also includes the seven UIC health science colleges.

**FAST FACTS**

**Physicians** (2016)
988

**Emergency Department visits** (FY 2016)
47,674

**Outpatient visits** (FY 2016)
485,192

The University of Illinois at Springfield, located in the state capital, emphasizes a strong liberal arts core, engagement in public affairs, and community outreach. The campus has more than 50 degree-granting programs and is a recognized leader in online education. UIS pairs academic excellence with small class size and substantial student-faculty interaction. With high-quality programs and internships in public affairs, journalism, and government, UIS offers a unique educational experience.

**FAST FACTS**

**Total enrollment** (Fall 2016)
5,428

**Degrees awarded** (2015–2016)
1,755

**Operating budget** (2014–2015)
$88.8 million
ROCKFORD
Rockford is a regional home to several academic programs from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) that work in partnership with local hospitals and healthcare organizations to provide medical training and research opportunities for students and health services for area residents. One unique program based in Rockford is the Rural Medical Education (RMED) program.

- UIC College of Medicine
- UIC College of Nursing
- UIC College of Pharmacy
- UIC Crawford Library of the Health Sciences

PEORIA
Peoria is home to UIC health science programs and to UIS’ downtown Peoria Center facility. Both bring world-class academic opportunities to one of the state’s largest cities. Peoria features downstate Illinois’ largest medical campus.

- UIC College of Medicine
- UIC College of Nursing
- UIC Library of the Health Sciences
- UIS Peoria Center

QUAD CITIES
The Quad Cities area includes the Illinois cities of Moline/East Moline and Rock Island, and Iowa’s Davenport and Bettendorf. In 1980, the UIC College of Nursing established a regional program in the Quad Cities, attracting a majority of its students from 17 surrounding counties.

- UIC College of Nursing
Illinois Connection is a grassroots legislative advocacy program that enlists alumni, faculty, students, and friends to serve as advocates for the University of Illinois System. Advocates with Illinois Connection help communicate the System’s goals and needs to elected officials and increase public awareness of the U of I System’s impact through correspondence to legislators and participation in events such as U of I Day at the Capitol.
University of Illinois President Tim Killeen led the 2015–16 System-wide Strategic Framework initiative, a process that charts the institution’s path to the future and builds on the U of I’s rich legacy of service to students and to the public good.

President Killeen calls the Strategic Framework a “roadmap for the U of I System’s future.” This framework is designed to unleash the collective potential of the University of Illinois institutions and its geography, creating an array of reforms and solutions that are scalable and replicable elsewhere. In doing so, the System will become a model for the very best in research-intensive higher education.

The System has a magnificent tradition to build on. The universities make the world more imaginative, more equitable, and more sustainably productive. The U of I System is a breakthrough juggernaut, expanding the boundaries of knowledge; a launchpad for the next generation of professionals in every field; and a catalyst for well-being, social mobility, creativity, and inclusivity. The University of Illinois name is a guarantor of excellence around the world.

The framework provides fresh thinking for how, over the next decade, the System will leverage all of its strengths: academic excellence and world-class faculty; the aspirations, energy, and diversity of our students; the dedication of a staff that encompasses thousands of people—from facilities and services personnel to lab technicians to county extension officers. The framework also identifies where and how the System will improve: finding new efficiencies, forging new partnerships and collaborations, and defining new ways of operating within both physical and virtual landscapes. The U of I System has a long history of providing a return on investment that can be measured in global terms. But it can, and will, do even better.

Together, the member institutions of the System commit to these guiding principles, which have driven the development of the framework:

- Be relentlessly student-centered.
- Be where the world looks first for new ideas, creativity, and innovation.
- Be on the front lines of protecting the public interest.
- Secure Illinois’ reputation as a hub of innovation.
- Act with integrity, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and transparency.
STRATEGIC PILLARS

To reaffirm the central role that higher education can play in promoting the public good in the state and beyond, the University of Illinois System pledges to organize our world-class resources for the next decade around four strategic pillars:

An Institution of and for Our Students
Our world-class faculty, and the many staff members who support them, are entrusted with critical and enormously rewarding responsibilities to: expand our students’ understanding of life and work; equip them to be civic-minded, resourceful problem-solvers; broaden their appreciation of culture, history, and the arts; and prepare them to leave our institution ready to contribute to society.

Research and Scholarship with Global Impact
The University of Illinois System is a powerhouse of discovery, problem solving, innovation, and creative production. We have given the world the graphical web browser that led to exponential growth in Internet use; created an affordable, accessible treatment for multidrug-resistant HIV that has saved countless lives worldwide; and exonerated the wrongly convicted and imprisoned through our Innocence Project. The awards our scholars have won, their reputation in professional academies, and the recognition accorded them worldwide affirm the excellence and power of the System’s people and ideas.

A Healthy Future for Illinois and the Midwest
As The Public’s University, we are committed to serving the people and industries across Illinois. We already provide pathways for transformation and opportunity by virtue of our academic excellence and our role as a major healthcare provider. But as the state’s economy and demographics continue to change, the University of Illinois System’s approach to economic development and innovation must evolve as well. At the same time, we have the opportunity to take on a leadership role among other Midwestern institutions in reinvigorating the region’s economy, making it an international magnet for investment and talent.

Tomorrow’s University Today
The traditional models of public higher education are being challenged as never before. State funding has become more uncertain at just the time that more is being expected of public universities. The higher education marketplace has become more competitive and more global. Policy makers and public officials as well as students and families are raising serious and appropriate questions about the escalating cost of college, unacceptable levels of student debt, the readiness of graduates to enter a rapidly changing workplace, and the management practices employed at every level of the academic enterprise. It is our duty as the University of Illinois System to offer the best possible return on investment for all our stakeholders and to ensure that we are efficient, competitive, and constantly improving. In doing this, we must aggressively promote our reputation as a leading global brand in higher education and a preeminent destination for the world’s best students and scholars.
AN INSTITUTION OF AND FOR OUR STUDENTS

• Reimagining teaching and learning
• Enhancing diversity and inclusiveness
• Integrating global perspectives
• Growing experiential learning
• Helping students excel outside the classroom
• Promoting engagement with alumni

Educating more Latino scientists, engineers

Although Latinos and Latinas now make up 15 percent of the adult population in the U.S., they comprise only six percent of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) workforce. UIC has been taking steps to address this gap and increase the number of Latino students attaining degrees in STEM fields.

UIC’s initiative, Latinos Gaining Access to Networks for Advancement in Science, or LAS GANAS (“the desire”) provides academic support and coaching to Latino undergraduates who have an interest in STEM fields. The program is supported by a five-year, $5.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Hispanic-Serving Institutions—STEM (HSI-STEM) and Articulation Programs.

“At UIC, as elsewhere in the country, we have many Latino students who come here intending to have careers in STEM fields, but we lose them after the first year,” says Aixa Alfonso, associate professor of biological sciences at UIC and principal investigator on the HSI-STEM grant. “They tend to switch majors or not graduate.”

To improve academic outcomes, the program will include five components shown to be effective: opportunities for undergraduate research with faculty mentors, holistic academic support and advising, support networks of faculty and peers, collaborative learning opportunities, and financial support.

To increase Latino STEM enrollments and raise science literacy, the program works with other UIC units to expand recruiting in high schools and community colleges that serve large Latino populations.
Equipping business leaders of the future with analytics

Students at the College of Business in Urbana-Champaign will soon have access to a leading-edge curriculum for business analytics thanks to a $5 million gift from the Deloitte Foundation and Deloitte’s retired and current partners, principals, managing directors, and employees.

The University of Illinois-Deloitte Foundation Center for Business Analytics will provide students with the data knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to become the most highly trained business leaders of tomorrow. Through the use of data and business analytics, companies are better equipped to make enlightened financial and operational decisions, while improving their competitive position in a global marketplace.

“Students with an education in STEM disciplines are widely needed in business to help fuel economic growth, create competitive advantage, and drive innovation,” says Ron Sonenthal, chief operating officer, Deloitte Tax LLP and Deloitte’s advisory university partner for the University of Illinois. “Deloitte recognizes the importance of analytics as a science-led, issue-driven solution to help address these business needs.”

“Faculty will receive specialized training that will be integrated into existing curriculum,” says Jon Davis, head of the Department of Accountancy. “Students will benefit because they can participate in national or global case competitions, become involved in organizations that focus on analytics, and, in the future, be eligible for scholarships and degrees in data analytics.”

System eyes 15% growth by 2021

The University of Illinois System experienced record enrollment last fall—more than 81,000 students—and that record may soon be broken again.

System leaders have been hard at work crafting plans to increase enrollment over the next five years by nearly 15 percent, to more than 93,600 students across its three universities.

U of I President Tim Killeen says the growth plan, developed by a strategic enrollment committee, will expand academic programs by capitalizing on the unique strengths of each university, and will raise the U of I System’s commitment to in-state and minority students. He also says the plan will help curb a growing migration of Illinois students to out-of-state colleges and universities.

Each university developed its own growth plan, seeking to take advantage of distinctive strengths and opportunities while also providing adequate resources to ensure academic excellence, such as faculty, staff, and facilities.

“Big numbers aside, this enrollment initiative is really all about opportunity—giving more students the opportunity for a world-class education that will transform their lives and seizing on our opportunity to serve the needs of the state by expanding the pipeline of talent that is so critical to its future,” Killeen says.

Details of the plan for each university can be found at go.uillinois.edu/strategicenrollment.
Building a hub for student campus life

The University of Illinois at Springfield is hoping to fill a void on campus by building a social heart for student life—a new Student Union. Officials broke ground on the $21.7 million project in spring 2016.

Located at the south end of the Main Quad, the 50,000 square-foot building features a modern design, with plenty of windows to let in natural light, and a green “living” roof. Plans for the space include restaurants,
Preparing students for life in a diverse society

The year 2016 was one of substantial racial tension and unrest in the United States. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, like other universities nationwide, continued to examine ways to increase and improve the conversations surrounding the issues, and to better prepare students to live in an increasingly diverse society.

In the spring, the University Senate approved adding a course in U.S. minority culture to the undergraduate student core curriculum, to begin in fall 2018. The senate is a group of 200 faculty, 50 students, and eight academic staff overseeing educational policy.

Courses should “substantially address the experiences, conditions, and perspectives of U.S. racial minority populations,” according to the requirement.

Students already were required to enroll in one Western culture course and either a non-Western or a U.S. minority course. The approved changes to the General Education curriculum mean they will take all three types of cultural studies courses.

Similar requirements have been implemented at a number of peer institutions, such as the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Northwestern University, and the University of California-Berkeley. According to the senate proposal, an evaluation at Wisconsin found that students who completed a new ethnic studies requirement “were more likely to think about ethnic diversity and the experiences of those in a different ethnic group, more likely to talk to their friends about diversity, more likely to seek information, and more likely to interact with people outside their racial/ethnic group.”
• Building culture of innovation, collaboration
• Identifying sociotechnical problems to solve
• Highlighting centrality of the humanities and arts
• Forging new global research and development partnerships

Making strides in treatment for Type 1 diabetics

A unique approach to treating type 1 diabetes that protects insulin-producing cells from attack by the body’s immune system is being tested at the UIC College of Medicine in the hope that it could free patients from the need for daily insulin injections.

With his UIC colleagues, Bellur S. Prabhakar, professor of microbiology and immunology, is testing the efficacy of two protein molecules that may hold the immune system in check, sparing the beta cells of the pancreas from autoimmune destruction.

The immune system produces a broad arsenal of T cells to recognize and destroy all sorts of bacteria and viruses. But some of these cells will wrongly perceive the body’s own cells as foreign. In a healthy person, these errant “effector” T cells are repressed by watchdog cells called regulatory T cells. People with type 1 diabetes—1.25 million in the U.S.—don’t produce enough regulatory T cells to halt the wayward effector T cells from wreaking havoc in the pancreas.

Experimental mice with type 1 diabetes that were treated with the mouse versions of the two molecules were found to have more working regulatory T cells. They also had more intact islet cells and normal blood sugar levels. Now the team is taking testing to the next step.

“If we can show that the two human proteins can selectively restore healthy numbers of functional regulatory T cells, then we may have a treatment for type 1 diabetes that requires an injection every couple of weeks instead of insulin injections multiple times a day,” Prabhakar says.
Enhancing photosynthesis for crop production

The United Nations predicts that by 2050 the world will need to produce 70 percent more food in order to feed its population. A genetic breakthrough from scientists in Urbana-Champaign holds great promise for the ability to address this need.

Researchers have been able to make photosynthesis more efficient by boosting levels of three proteins, effectively increasing plant yield. In field trials, the scientists saw increases of 14 percent to 20 percent in the growth of their modified tobacco plants, and now they are focusing on food crops.

The team targeted a process plants use to shield themselves from excessive solar energy (nonphotochemical quenching, or NPQ), which can slow down the natural process.

"When a cloud crosses the sun, or a leaf goes into the shade of another, it can take up to half an hour for that NPQ process to relax," says Stephen Long, professor of plant biology and crop sciences and co-author of the study. "In the shade, the lack of light limits photosynthesis, and NPQ is also wasting light as heat."

The scientists used a supercomputer at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications to predict how much the slow recovery from this protective mechanism reduces crop productivity over the course of a day. These calculations revealed surprisingly high losses of 7.5 percent to 30 percent, depending on the plant type and prevailing temperature.

Long’s discussions with researcher and study co-author Krishna Niyogi from the University of California, Berkeley, suggested that boosting levels of three proteins might speed up the NPQ recovery process, and enhance growth.

Expanding international partnerships

The U of I System and its universities maintain a variety of strategic international partnerships with institutions of higher education, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and private corporations. These relationships provide global opportunities for research collaboration and provide possibilities for diverse, external funding sources.

This year, the University of Illinois System signed a variety of agreements in Mexico that will explore academic and research partnerships with two of that nation’s top universities, a leading research institute, and government agencies.

Agreements included one that will bring doctoral students funded by Mexico to the U of I System’s three universities, a partnership for diabetes and obesity research, and others.

“...We are committed to new partnerships at home and around the world that support our students and our...”
International partnerships, continued

excellence—promoting opportunity, diversity, and educational and research programs with global impact,” says U of I President Tim Killeen.

A delegation of officials from the System traveled to Mexico and met with the Mexican Science and Technology Council, the Department of Health in Mexico City, the National Institute of Public Health, Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM), and private university Tecnologico de Monterrey.

The group also met with Mario Molina, winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Molina is a climate policy advisor to Mexico’s president and founder of the Molina Center for Energy and the Environment.

Releasing endangered birds

In summer 2016, Tih-Fen Ting, associate professor of environmental studies at UIS, translocated 12 six-week-old ospreys, an endangered fish-eating bird of prey, from Virginia to Illinois with the help of the Illinois Audubon Society.

“Biological diversity is important to the long-term well-being of human health and communities,” says Ting. “Efforts to recover threatened or endangered species, such as ospreys in Illinois, are necessary to keep biodiversity strong so that future generations can benefit from these wonderful creatures.”

The birds were flown into the Decatur Airport, and were processed and tagged the following day at the Illinois Raptor Center in Decatur. The ospreys were released at two sites, one near Lake Shelbyville and the other near Canton, along the Illinois River.

Establishing a self-sustaining breeding population of ospreys in Illinois is one of the goals of a multi-year U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant awarded to Ting through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The objective is to re-establish ospreys in Illinois where they are listed as endangered.

Since 2013, Ting and a group of UIS students and research personnel, in collaboration with IDNR, have helped to successfully translocate and fledge 24 young ospreys from the Chesapeake Bay area.

Shining a light on battery improvement

Battery researchers seeking to increase the energy density and power density of lithium battery systems are concentrating on improved electrode materials with “tunneled” structures that make it easier for charge-carrying ions to move in and out of the electrode.

Reza Shahbazian-Yassar, associate professor of mechanical and industrial engineering at UIC, is part of a global team that has focused on developing a cathode based on manganese dioxide, a very low cost and environmentally friendly material with high storage capacity and a lattice structure of tunnels.
Freeze-dried blood developed to save lives

Researchers at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have developed the first artificial red blood cells designed to emulate vital functions of natural red blood cells. If confirmed safe for use in humans, the nanotechnology-based product could represent an innovative alternative to blood transfusions that would be especially valuable on the battlefield and in other situations where donated blood is difficult to obtain or store. The artificial cells, called ErythroMer, are designed to be freeze-dried, stored at ambient temperatures, and simply reconstituted with water when needed.

The donut-shaped artificial cells are about one-fiftieth the size of human red blood cells, and were formulated by Dipanjan Pan, Urbana assistant professor of bioengineering, by using nanotechnology. A special lining encodes a control system that links ErythroMer oxygen binding to changes in blood pH, thus enhancing oxygen acquisition in the lungs and then dispensing oxygen in tissues with the greatest need. Tests show ErythroMer matches this vital oxygen binding feature of human red blood cells within 10 percent, a level the researchers say should be sufficient to stabilize a bleeding patient until a blood transfusion can be obtained.

So far, tests suggest ErythroMer has overcome key barriers that halted development of previous blood substitutes, including efficacy and blood vessel narrowing. The team’s next steps are testing in larger animals and conducting in-human clinical trials. If further testing goes well, ErythroMer could be ready for use by field medics and emergency responders within 10–12 years.
A HEALTHY FUTURE FOR ILLINOIS AND THE MIDWEST

• Developing and investing in human capital
• Driving statewide and regional economic development
• Creating models for healthcare training, access, positive outcomes
• Building state educational connections to improve college readiness
• Promoting strong civic engagement

Strategic alliances around the state

In August 2016, University of Illinois President Tim Killeen and a delegation of senior administrators and deans from the U of I System’s three universities gathered in Peoria for meetings with local alumni, state and federal lawmakers, and business and community leaders to explore new opportunities to build on existing partnerships and drive economic growth in the region.

The day included roundtable discussions with top management at Caterpillar and OSF Healthcare and its Jump Trading Simulation and Education Center. Brainstorm sessions explored how to better use technological advancements to enhance area companies and create jobs.

Peoria is home to a campus of UIC’s Colleges of Medicine and Nursing and UIS’s Peoria Center. Between the three universities, the System has relationships with more than 30 of Peoria’s top employers.

“We want to channel our world-class resources to provide economic growth in this city and region,” says Killeen.

Killeen plans to have similar economic development summits in other areas throughout the state, with the next being planned for Rockford in 2017. Rockford’s strengths in aerospace, advanced manufacturing, automotive, and healthcare industries present robust opportunities for collaboration with the U of I System’s institutions.
Vision restored through retinal implant

Robert Selby, a legally blind 54-year-old man, has retinitis pigmentosa (RP), a rare, inherited condition that progressively robs sight. But with the help of an artificial retina called the Argus II—implanted in his left eye in late 2016 at UI Health—he is able to get around more independently and safely.

The device consists of a miniature camera housed in a pair of glasses that converts video images into electrical impulses that are transmitted wirelessly to an array of electrodes implanted on the surface of the retina. The pulses stimulate the retina’s remaining light-sensitive cells, which send signals through the optic nerve to the brain, where they are translated into images.

“It’s humbling and gratifying that after so many years of following the development of this kind of technology, that now I can see it work in one of my own patients,” says surgeon Jennifer Lim, who is the Marion Schenk Chair for Research of the Aging Eye, director of UI Health’s Retina Service, and professor of ophthalmology at UIC’s College of Medicine.

Selby had extensive training at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary at UI Health to learn how to use the device and how to interpret the signals it provides.

In Argus II trials, participants were better at tasks like detecting street curbs, walking along a sidewalk, and perceiving objects like windows and doors. Some were able to sort light and dark laundry and read large letters (about nine inches high).

UI Health is one of only 13 centers in the U.S. to offer the Argus II.

All “SET” to improve economy in southern Illinois

A team of community leaders and elected officials from throughout an 11-county region of southernmost Illinois have developed a rural regional economic development plan with the help of the University of Illinois Extension. The plan was created in cooperation with a USDA Rural Development program entitled Stronger Economies Together (SET).

SET aims to strengthen the American agricultural economy, build vibrant rural communities, and create new markets for the innovation of rural America. SET was designed to foster a regional approach to economic development focused on working with neighboring counties to capitalize on available assets. Agencies work together to decrease economic obstacles while building on the current and emerging strengths of the region.

Last fall, U of I Extension offices began holding public informational sessions in the southern communities to outline the initiatives set forth in the plan.

Susan Odum, Extension community economic development educator involved in the planning process, says: “Over the course of the planning period, the regional team has taken a fresh look at where the region is, where it wants to go, and the best way to get there in support of a stronger, more sustainable southernmost Illinois.”
A unique, cross-disciplinary UIC study was one of the first in the nation to look at community-level land use to see how zoning codes can facilitate or inhibit structural changes in the environment that could, in turn, lead to increased physical activity among adults.

Jamie Chriqui, co-director of the Health Policy Center in the UIC Institute for Health Research and Policy, hired students from the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) to help compile and analyze county and municipal codes of more than 4,000 U.S. jurisdictions.

Sunny Bhatt, one of seven students from CUPPA who worked on the study, says: “It was particularly interesting to me because I’ve always had an interest in zoning policy and grassroots community activism efforts around sustainability and walkability.”

Ideas being hatched at Tech Nest

Students and faculty now have the opportunity to collaborate with AARP on leading-edge, technology-based research and creative solutions to address the needs of the 50-plus population.

The Tech Nest at AARP in Research Park, a 2,700 square-foot innovation-focused facility, opened in Urbana-Champaign’s University of Illinois Research Park in fall 2016.

The Tech Nest is focused on developing prototypes in the fields of artificial intelligence, mobile apps, information security, biometrics, and software engineering. By leveraging the university’s academic research and adjacent startup community, the AARP is creating opportunities to enhance the daily lives of American citizens as they age.

“Innovation is central to AARP’s mission to improve the lives of people 50-plus,” says Jose Hernandez, vice-president for IT business operations at AARP. “By working with the University of Illinois, there is an enormous opportunity to unlock innovation and product research and development that exists within one of our nation’s world-class universities.”

“The Tech Nest provides a unique opportunity to leverage the depth of our campus’ interdisciplinary research in aging with our strengths in data science and computing,” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign chancellor Robert Jones says. “AARP adds a welcome new dimension to the experiential learning opportunities available to our students through the Research Park.”

The University of Illinois Research Park is home to innovation centers for multinational corporations and publicly traded firms including ADM, John Deere, Yahoo!, Anheuser-Busch InBev, Caterpillar, State Farm, Capital One, Grainger, CME Group, and Abbott.
New ideas being nurtured in Springfield incubator

Bruce Sommer, a Springfield native who returned home to teach entrepreneurship courses in the UIS College of Business and Management, has been a driving force behind Innovate Springfield (iSPI), a new business incubator located in downtown Springfield.

“We’re providing a space where enterprising young people can create value and effectively launch their dreams at the same time they have access to needed financial capital and business-related expertise,” says Sommer.

A typical incubator residency for a client is about 18 months, with services like shared space, tech support, mentoring, team development, and access to valuable human and financial capital being available.

Several UIS faculty members from a variety of fields are involved in iSPI, helping to recruit entrepreneurs and prospective non-profit leaders, and providing services through their students.

Aims of the incubator include enhancement of the community’s entrepreneurial climate, creation of new employment opportunities, and diversification of the local economy. Given iSPI’s location in the heart of downtown Springfield, an added benefit is that it will help to enliven the downtown area, making it a more attractive place for creative young professionals to work and live.

iSPI is supported with the shared commitment of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, UIS, and the Q5 Strategic Leadership Council of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.
Committed to bettering our climate

In spring 2016, Chancellor Michael Amiridis and the UIC Office of Sustainability announced four climate commitments that aim to confront the challenges of climate change and sustainability on campus:

**Carbon neutral campus**: reduce carbon emissions; **Zero waste campus**: reduce, reuse, and recycle to divert 90 percent of waste now sent to landfills; **Net zero water campus**: increase water efficiency to use no more water than the amount that falls within UIC’s boundaries; **Biodiverse campus**: create a resilient campus landscape that supports plants and animals to increase biodiversity on campus.

The Climate Commitment document is the result of work begun in 2015 by the Chancellor’s Committee on Sustainability and Energy and includes aspirational goals and short-term action items that UIC can implement to meet the commitments.

UIC has been a leader of the sustainability movement in higher education since becoming an inaugural signatory of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment in 2007. UIC was among the first of a group of universities to sign Second Nature’s Climate Commitment newly expanded action plan in 2015, which includes helping the Chicago region become more resilient to a changing climate.

Cindy Klein-Banai, associate chancellor for sustainability, says that the committee is also addressing teaching and learning opportunities in sustainability.

“Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends directly or indirectly on our environment,” she says. “Climate change is one of the greatest threats to sustainability. We are taking on a role in working toward the solution.”

Learn more about sustainability at all three universities:
sustainability.uic.edu  sustainability.illinois.edu  uis.edu/sustainability
Designing an imaginative future

Urbana-Champaign students can look forward to a brand-new facility in the center of campus for design thinking, learning, and problem-solving in a collaborative environment.

Last fall, the Thomas and Stacey Siebel Foundation pledged a $25 million lead gift to establish the Siebel Center for Design, a hub to facilitate and support innovative approaches to product, process, and user interface design, with an emphasis on advanced technology, creativity, purpose, and multidisciplinary collaboration. The remainder of the funding for the $48 million project will come from institutional funds.

The two-story, 60,000 square-foot building will be centrally located, between Huff Hall and the Art and Design Building. It will feature five collaboration studios, including one for large-scale construction and graded access for big prototypes. It will also include a large workshop for 3-D printing, metal fabrication, laser cutting, water-jet cutting, and computer-controlled machining. Two digital media studios will support video and audio recording, as well as immersive technologies for virtual reality applications.

Andreas Cangellaris, dean of the College of Engineering, says the Siebel Center for Design will offer the entire campus opportunities to rethink the student experience at Illinois.

“Many of our students arrive here with an innovative, entrepreneurial spirit,” says Cangellaris. “Tom Siebel understands that as well as anyone. He’s giving us the opportunity to offer a design-thinking education that will be unique. The Siebel Center for Design will drive students to make the most of their wide-ranging creativity and deliver new ideas to the world in unexpected, thrilling ways.”

Groundbreaking for the Siebel Center for Design is planned for summer 2017, with construction expected to take about 18 months.

More majors = more options

In order to give students more educational options, the youngest university in the U of I System added five new majors in fall 2016, with another on the way in fall 2017.

Bachelor’s degrees are now offered at UIS in biochemistry, exercise science, public administration, public policy, and theatre (’17), as well as a master’s degree in data analytics.

“These new majors represent a continual effort by our faculty to provide undergraduate and graduate degree opportunities in the professional fields, STEM, and the liberal arts,” says James Ermatinger, UIS interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost. “These majors are in areas which have high student interest and demand.”

The biochemistry curriculum prepares students to immediately begin careers in the medicinal chemistry, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology industries, and meets the requirements for successful admission to professional...
New hall honors the past and forges sustainable future

In September 2016, the University of Illinois dedicated its newest residence hall—another step forward in the System’s commitment to sustainability.

Urbana-Champaign’s newest residence hall has been named Wassaja, the birth name of Carlos Montezuma, the university’s first Native American graduate and a leader in advocating for Native American rights. Wassaja Hall opened for students in fall 2016.

The gold LEED-certified residence hall features widespread sustainability efforts large and small, from solar panels and energy-efficient LED lighting to low-flow shower heads, dual-flush toilets, and spectacular lobby paneling created from reclaimed wood.

The first-floor lobby, conference room, and lounges all feature striking accent walls paneled with rich golden wood. Rather than cutting down living trees for this timber, the architects opted for wood “reclaimed” from old logs that had been at the bottom of a Maine lake for decades.

The veneer is made from two logs that are each more than 400 years old. They were likely first cut down in the 1600s as part of the Northeastern colonial timber industry, but sank to the bottom of a lake in Maine during bad weather and were lost. A few years ago, they were recovered from that very cold lake by a company that prefers to work with preserved wood rather than cut down new trees. The cold water preserved the logs, and the forgotten treasure now graces the residence hall’s walls.

More majors, continued

schools in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, pharmacy school, and other health-related fields.

The master’s degree in data analytics is offered in traditional on-campus, online, and blended formats. The degree aims at providing an interdisciplinary approach to data analytics that covers both the foundational mathematical knowledge of data science and the computational methods and tools for preprocessing, interpreting, analyzing, representing, and visualizing data sets.

The other fields prepare students for careers in exercise and health, local and federal government, the non-profit sector, and theatre performance and production.
Historic gift for College of Pharmacy

Herbert Retzky has never forgotten his time as a student at the UIC College of Pharmacy. A $5 million donation from his and his wife Carol’s estate will ensure his legacy of advocating for the practice of pharmacy is secured within the college in perpetuity.

The largest monetary gift in the history of the college will establish the Herbert M. and Carol H. Retzky Deanship, which replaces an endowed chair position created by a previous gift from the Oak Park couple.

“Herb and Carol’s vision for the role of a pharmacist aligns perfectly with the mission that has guided us since 1859,” says Dean Jerry Bauman. “It charges us to raise awareness of the role of the pharmacist within our communities and within healthcare. Their generous gift will allow us to do just that.”

The field of pharmacy has played an important part in the lives of the Retzkys. Herb was a pharmacist, while Carol was a pharmacy technician.

“We wanted to provide something that extends beyond our own time here on Earth, and we found that a gift to the College of Pharmacy would seem to fulfill the ambitions we had,” says Herb Retzky.

UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis says that the couple’s gift “opens an enormous opportunity to recruit a highly visible, renowned, and top regarded pharmacy leader.”

The income from the pharmacy deanship will support expenditures such as salary, research, graduate students, curriculum development, scholarships, outreach, and materials.

Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC) proposed

Unprecedented in Illinois, the legislative initiative first filed in November 2016 would set in law the level of funding and regulatory relief the U of I System can rely upon for the next five years, as well as setting in law the performance, accountability, and transparency commitments that the U of I would provide in return.

President Tim Killeen outlined the proposed agreement to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees and the board unanimously approved a resolution supporting the measure.

The proposed Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC) is a win-win for the U of I System and the people of Illinois. The System universities would receive a five-year funding guarantee, at levels to maintain their excellence, along with regulatory reforms that would improve efficiency across the System. In return, the U of I would set into law its commitment to Illinois students and the needs of the state, locking in tangible performance standards for student costs, in-state enrollment, and graduation and retention rates.

It is arguably one of the most comprehensive agreements of its kind in the nation, and the first in Illinois history to incorporate public university performance standards into state law.

The commitment reflects outside-the-box strategic thinking and the System’s bedrock commitment to fulfill its key role as an economic engine for the state.

To learn more about IPAC, visit go.uillinois.edu/ipac.
The University of Illinois System’s new Strategic Framework has set ambitious goals for growth and achievement. While progress is already being made toward the Framework’s vision, the System is also committed to transparency and accountability as it works to meet and exceed outlined targets.

The U of I System is making a variety of data readily and publicly available through its website to show stakeholders how it’s performing, improving, and remaining competitive.

At uillinois.edu/data, visitors can examine a variety of dashboards that provide figures in key areas such as enrollment, graduation and retention rates, and degrees issued. One can search by individual university or the System as a whole, and the data can be sliced and diced in a number of ways. For example, if you want to see how many female, in-state, African-American new freshmen enrolled at UIC in fall 2016, the dashboard will tell you (180). An interactive map will also show the home county for those students (or state or country for non-resident and international students).

In addition to student data, other dashboards are available with information such as research expenditures by university and innovation transfers (disclosures, patents, licenses, and options), with more in development.

“Transparency is imperative,” says U of I President Tim Killeen. “It is our duty to demonstrate the best possible return on investment for all our stakeholders—whether that is a parent shopping around for the best investment for a child’s education, a donor wanting to ensure his or her gift is being reinvested for success, or a state citizen interested in the performance of Illinois’ public universities.”
The total operating budget* for the University of Illinois is $5.64 billion.

**WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?**

- **20.1%** Student Tuition and Fees
- **19.9%** State Payments on Behalf
- **11.9%** State Revenues
- **13.3%** US Grants and Contracts/Federal Appropriations
- **5.9%** Institutional Funds
- **13.5%** Earnings, misc. (e.g., hospital and medical services plans)
- **12.6%** Auxiliary and Departmental Operations (e.g., bookstores, housing)
- **2.8%** Private Gifts

**HOW IS THE MONEY SPENT?**

- **19.9%** Instructional and Departmental Research
- **16.7%** Separately Budgeted Research
- **12.6%** Hospital Operations
- **9.8%** Auxiliary and Independent Enterprises
- **6.8%** Administration and General
- **9.6%** Extension and Public Service
- **6.0%** Physical Plant
- **5.6%** Student Aid
- **2.7%** Student Services
- **2.7%** Auxiliary and Independent Enterprises

* Includes $1.12 billion in payments made on behalf of the University for employee benefits and $36.9 million for the Academic Facilities Maintenance Fund Assessment (AFMFA).

Numbers from 2014–2015. 2015–2016 data not available because state budget was not finalized at time of printing.
State Farm Center renovations

Renovations were completed on State Farm Center in fall 2016. The $169.5 million project included a renovated seating bowl, the addition of four levels of premium seating, improved restrooms and concessions, a team hall of fame, air conditioning, and other amenities.

Shakespeare in Springfield

University of Illinois at Springfield unveiled a new Shakespeare Garden on its campus in September 2016, marking the 400th anniversary of the death of the poet and playwright. The garden features plants mentioned in Shakespeare’s work, a fountain, walkways, and benches.
Family health center opens in Pilsen

The newest UI Health family health center opened October 2016 in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood. The UI Health Pilsen Family Health Center Lower West provides access to comprehensive healthcare close to home for the area’s diverse population.

New look for Library of the Health Sciences

UIC’s Library of the Health Sciences is sporting a new look thanks to a $5.2 million, two-year renovation project. The modern design is meant to encourage activity and collaboration, and meet the needs of today’s students. It includes semi-private study areas for group work, acoustically sealed quiet reading rooms, soft furniture, electrical outlets within reach of every seat, and a café for study snacks.