

ALTOGETHER EXTRAORDINARY

We have a vested interest in the success of Illinois now and into the future—and that means being a critical partner to the state in reaching key goals and solving grand challenges.

University of Illinois System is a powerhouse for education, research, discovery and economic development—proudly partnering with the state for a thriving Illinois.

We are widening the doors of opportunity so that more students from different backgrounds can learn, grow and prepare for the jobs of the future. With Access 2030, we have committed to increasing the number of graduates from underrepresented groups by 50% by the end of the decade. Our research and discovery address critical challenges of our time by creating an inclusive innovation ecosystem through efforts like our SHIELD Illinois work and our more recent wastewater surveillance work with IDPH and DPI.

The budget request we have submitted seeks an 11.7% increase over the current fiscal year. This is not a small ask—but a well-considered, calculation of the funds needed to support Illinois' aggressive vision for the future, while sustaining our operation and continuing our role as **the state's greatest resource**. **Your consistent support will ensure that we can continue to face society's greatest challenges head on.**

We ask the Illinois General Assembly to:

Expand bridge programs that are imperative to reducing barriers to enrollment for many first-generation and non-traditional students—ensuring a successful transition from high school to higher-ed and leveling the playing field for long term success.

Expand mental health programs for students—a need which has increased dramatically since the start of the pandemic. To address the rising student mental health crisis, we need more resources to provide rapid access and assessment while we work to embrace a broader culture of wellbeing system-wide.

Support new jobs and develop curriculum. Since 2016, the system has grown exponentially—and serving more students means we must prioritize scaling our faculty to meet demand. Recruiting additional teaching and research faculty is necessary to advance discovery and innovation as well as maintain our long-standing reputation of academic excellence.

Offset significant inflation-driven cost increases so that we can ensure that no additional financial burden is placed on students and working families.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$19B ANNUAL ILLINOIS
ECONOMIC IMPACT

11.1% RETURN ON
EVERY STATE
DOLLAR INVESTED

52% OF ALL STUDENTS
ATTEND PUBLIC
UNIVERSITIES
IN ILLINOIS

52% OF STUDENTS PAID
LESS THAN \$3,000
PER SEMESTER

75%

OF GRADUATES
STAY IN ILLINOIS
AS PARTICIPANTS IN
THE STATE'S ECONOMY

\$277M

PROVIDED IN FINANCIAL
AID IN ADDITION TO STATE
AND FEDERAL AID

37%

OF UNDERGRADUATE
IN-STATE STUDENTS
HAVE TUITION & FEES
FULLY COVERED

94,000+

STUDENTS EDUCATED ANNUALLY

164,000+

JOBS SUPPORTED —
1 OF EVERY 46 IN THE STATE

787,000+

PATIENT VISITS ANNUALLY
INCLUDING UNDERSERVED
POPULATIONS

The system provides foundational support for the state's most critical endeavors.

Many initiatives that are integral to the state's advancement fall outside the scope of the core operational budget and require incremental dollars for operation. An increase in funding will ensure these efforts will continue to support the state's goals and Illinoisans across the state.

Prairie Research Institute & Dixon Springs Agricultural Center needs to be able to maintain the current level of research that provides access to clean energy, protects ecosystems from rapid biodiversity loss and establishes sustainable practices in the face of climate crisis.

Despite bringing in \$5 in competitive grant funding for every \$1 from the state, PRI hasn't received a funding increase since arriving to UIUC in FY09.

The Climate Jobs Institute bridges the skills gap and prepares Illinois' workers for the transition to clean energy.

UI Health must continue to help the state increase access to quality, affordable healthcare—including initiatives such as the **Illinois Heart Rescue Program** and **Hispanic Center of Excellence**.

Research that aims to reduce poverty, increase representation, prevent discrimination and create more stable forms of employment for the working class at the **School of Labor and Employment Relations** must continue.

The **Illinois Innocence Project** and **Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement** will be able to continue fighting for justice and working to engage the electorate.