



UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
SYSTEM

OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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Introduction

The following report covers work conducted by the University of Illinois System's Office of Governmental Relations (OGR) during the 2021 fiscal year.

OGR Mission

State, federal, and local support is essential to the U of I System and its efforts to provide a high-quality education, promote economic growth and opportunity, and produce cutting-edge research and scholarship. The mission of OGR is to support the U of I System by building and sustaining effective partnerships with state and federal government. This is achieved through advocacy of the system's needs and interests with elected officials and policymakers in Springfield, Washington, D.C., and throughout Illinois.

The U of I System is proud to provide the state with steady, responsible leadership in good times and bad. Throughout our long partnership with the state, we have a proven track record of serving Illinois as its land-grant institution and flagship university system.

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STATE RELATIONS

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Update

Despite the challenges presented in the 2021 legislative session, OGR is proud of the work the state relations team was able to accomplish. The 2021 session was legislatively robust, which resulted in an intense volume of legislation directly impacting the U of I System. As outlined below, the state relations team was able to collaborate with legislators to negotiate solutions that worked for the U of I System, secure new funding for line items in the budget and capital request, and elevate the importance of the U of I System as a partner with the State of Illinois. The following outline shows the results of many months of work with members of the Illinois General Assembly (ILGA):

SB2800 - Budget

Overall

- Flat for Public University Operations. \$637 million for the U of I System
- \$25,000 increase for Hispanic Center for Excellence, now at \$698,800
- Statutory Level for Fire Service (\$4,694,700)
- New for U of I System:
 - \$769,000 for a University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Government Finance Research Center's Water Rate Study from the COVID Emergency Fund
 - \$8 million for PRI Carbon Capture Tech (previously an appropriation to Department of Natural Resources and grant to PRI of \$2 million in FY21)
 - \$175,000 for PRI Carbon Capture Study
- Remaining Other State Funds for U of I System at FY21 level

ISAC

- \$28,224,300 (6.3%) increase to MAP to \$479,566,200
- \$35,900 (2.9%) increase for Dependents Grants
- \$50 million to Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund and a supplemental for FY21 of \$20 million. All from GRF for College IL.
- \$55 million from SLOF for Early Childhood Programs
- \$35 million for AIM high funding

SURS

- \$102,512,000 (5.8%) increase from GRF for State Contribution to \$1,883,279,000
- \$3 million increase (1.4%) from State Pension Fund to \$218,000,000

IBHE

- New GRF: \$1 million for Common App, \$250,000 for Strategic Plan, \$500,000 for Public Higher Ed Assessment in Quad Cities, \$500,000 GYO at EIU
- Federal Grants: \$30 million Early Childhood Programs, \$43 million Governor's Emergency Education Relief

Capital

- All past capital projects have been reappropriated, including our revised language for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Chicago Quantum Exchange
- New capital appropriation of \$65 million for the Clinical Decision Unit at UI Health
- Changes to an appropriation go to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in accordance with the purposes of satisfying Private Colleges and Universities Capital Distribution Formula Act for the JMLS grant

HB2017 - Budget Implementation Plan - Passed both Chambers

- Allows UIUC to enter into a long-term lease with the University of Chicago for the Chicago Quantum Exchange
- One-year extension to exempt our investment portfolio vendor from a RFP, exemption extended to June 2022
- Provides for the implementation of the Coronavirus Vaccine Incentive Public Health promotion in the Illinois Lottery Law

The full FY22 budget breakdown for Illinois public universities can be found [here](#).

2021 Priority Bill Highlights

HJR43 - U of I Caucus Support - Passed House

Resolution for the 102nd General Assembly to establish and support the U of I caucus.

HB796 - Community College transfer to UIUC - Passed both Chambers

In early session, Rep. Deanne Mazzochi introduced a bill that would automatically admit the top 10% of each high school class to UIUC. We opposed this bill in committee. Instead, we offered to work with her on an automatic transfer program from an Illinois community college. We drafted this language to say that if you attend a community college and maintain a 3.0 GPA, you will automatically be admitted to any university in the U of I System after graduation.

SB521 - Sports betting in the broader gaming bill - Held in Senate

We opposed a measure that would allow sports betting on Illinois universities. UIUC Director of Athletics Josh Whitman led all of the Illinois Division I schools in opposition. Language was included in a last-minute bill for the gaming industry. The provision would allow betting on Illinois university teams only, not any individuals. Betting would only be allowed at brick-and-mortar locations, not online. Sunsets in two years.

HB1855 - DCEO Innovation Voucher Program - Passed both Chambers

This legislation will boost economic activity and job growth by creating R&D partnerships between businesses and universities in the state, boosting both business competitiveness and university research funding. Vouchers will be awarded to in-state businesses to help offset the cost of R&D or business assistance engagement with an Illinois college or university. Vouchers will match up to 75% of the cost of an innovation partnership, not to exceed \$75,000. The vouchers will target key industries (Agribusiness and Ag Tech, Energy, Information Technology, Life Sciences and Healthcare, Manufacturing, Transportation and Logistics), women- and minority-owned businesses, and businesses located in economically depressed areas of the state.

HB2567 - Higher Education Procurement clean up - Held on House concurrence - *needs follow-up*

The U of I System drafted legislation to provide regulatory relief. The changes are as follows: corrects a routine audit finding received by the universities regarding the posting of the annual farm or food purchases; Illinois Vendors are required to certify with three main “bodies” before receiving an award from a State Agency or Institution of Higher Education, SOS, BOE, and IDHR; should a vendor submit a response lacking either SOS or BOE they are allowed to cure that deficiency and are not immediately deemed non-responsive, this same cure will be allowed for lack of IDHR certification; sets a threshold for certification completion; aligns the exemption posting with the small-dollar threshold requiring the posting of “traditional” purchases; limits on the Chief Procurement Officer for higher education.

HB2878 - ECE CC four-year program - Passed both Chambers

The new Early Childhood Education Consortium language requires IBHE and ICCB to establish the Access Consortium for Equity of Illinois higher education institutions, which will focus on streamlining, coordinating, and improving accessibility of degree completion pathways for upskilling educational pipelines. Consortium members shall operate jointly to provide streamlined paths to associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s degrees and certificates, Gateway credentials and other licensure endorsements in early childhood education.

HB3438 – Dream Resources - Passed both Chambers

In the 2022-23 academic year, HB3428 will require universities and community colleges to designate an employee as an Undocumented Student Liaison. The liaison will be available on campus with space to provide assistance to undocumented students and those of mixed status households by removing barriers and providing access to financial aid and academic support to successfully matriculate to degree completion. Each liaison will receive training by the Illinois Dream Fund and is to include two co-chairs on campus to assist and review policies and procedures to provide equitable access to students.

SB166 - Supplier Diversity - Passed both Chambers - *needs follow-up legislation*

Illinois legislative black caucus measure to promote additional minority supplier diversity that will make the task of procuring very challenging.

SB581 – File-only contracts - Passed both Chambers

Currently, the procurement code requires universities and agencies entering contracts exceeding \$20,000 of locally held funds (contracts that do not obligate funds held within the State treasury) to file a copy of that contract with the IOC within 30 days. IOC serves only as a repository for these contracts. SB581 eliminates this filing requirement and, instead, requires a quarterly report outlining the contract specifications and scope, not currently captured in reporting, to the IOC. This report will be made public, and each individual contract will remain available for FOIA inspection through the agency or university.

SB815 - Higher Education Funding Formula - Passed both Chambers

We opposed an originally drafted bill that would create a funding formula for higher education based only on equity. We worked with the sponsor to amend the language to create a commission with broad representation to look at a funding formula for higher education based on a number of different metrics, including equity, research, graduate and professional students, healthcare, innovation, and economic development.

SB1697 - Exempt Higher Education from GATA - Support (U of I bill) - Passed both Chambers

The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) applies federal uniform guidance (UG) grant making principles to state and federal flow-through awards issued from Illinois' state agencies to public universities. The Act is more restrictive than the federal government and does not recognize the difference between state agencies and institutions of higher education, producing significant barriers and administrative impacts to public universities. SB1697 reforms GATA for Illinois' public universities by improving the application of uniform guidance to state grant making processes, which includes amending the Act to recognize that institutions of higher education fall under a different set of UG principles for a variety of cost considerations.

SB2103 - SURS automatic enrollment - Passed both Chambers

We worked with the State University Retirement System (SURS) on an amendment to its bill that would automatically enroll all university employees in the SURS 457 program. We argued this would create confusion with our own 403b program as well as the CMS 457 that our employees are eligible to participate in. This bill changes the date for auto-enrollment from July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2023. Auto-enrollment will only apply to persons who first become participants of SURS on or after July 1, 2023. It also removes the State Deferred Compensation Plan as an option for persons who first become participants of SURS on or after July 1, 2023. Such persons will be auto-enrolled into the 457(b) plan offered by SURS. We will also continue to offer our 403b plan to all employees.

SB2338 - Name Image and Likeness - Passed both Chambers

The U of I System worked with the Speaker and the sponsors to draft SB2338. The bill promotes the evolution of the modern collegiate athletics model by enabling today's student-athletes to market themselves in a fashion similar to other students attending our institutions. The bill includes a set of principles that allows our student-athletes to earn compensation for commercial use of their name, image, likeness, and voice, while at the same time establishing needed guidelines to shield them from bad actors, to protect the integrity and core principles of collegiate athletics, and to honor the academic mission of our institutions.

Other

Legislative Map Redistricting

Following several weeks of public hearings, Illinois House and Senate Democrats released the new legislative maps that are redrawn every 10 years. The new Senate and House districts can be viewed [here](#) and [here](#). Typically, the maps are redrawn using census data from the most recent census. However, because the census was delayed due to COVID-19, Democratic leadership opted to use the most recent data from the American Community Survey. Democrats have cited legal experts and precedents set by other states that they claim allows them to use the American Community Survey, but Republicans and some reform-based good government groups disagree and are arguing that the maps should not be drawn until census data is available.

However, the Illinois Constitution requires the legislative maps be passed by the General Assembly before June 30. If the General Assembly fails to approve the maps before the June 30 deadline, a bipartisan commission will draw the new maps instead. This is a significant incentive for Democrats, who maintain supermajorities in the House and Senate, to pass their maps now using the American Community Survey.

Because of these disagreements, we expect lawsuits to be filed over the summer that may result in new legislative maps. The analysis below reflects the maps that were passed by the General Assembly in the 2021 legislative session.

Higher Education Big Picture

Under the new map, several more four-year public universities are expected to be represented by Democratic legislators. Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, University of Illinois Springfield and Illinois State University are all currently represented by Republicans in both chambers of the legislature but are expected to be in Democratic-held districts in the new map. Democrats are expected to continue to hold large majorities in both the House and Senate for the next several years, so we believe it is a positive sign for higher education as a whole that more universities will be represented by members of the majority party.

UIUC

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will still be directly represented by U of I champions Rep. Carol Ammons (D-Urbana) and Sen. Scott Bennett (D-Urbana). UIUC's other local champions, Sen. Chapin Rose (R-Mahomet) and Rep. Mike Marron (R-Danville) will continue to represent the areas surrounding UIUC. Overall, the new map does not make many significant changes for UIUC.

UIS

Unlike UIUC, the University of Illinois Springfield will most likely have both a new senator and state representative. Previously in Sen. Steve McClure's (R-Springfield) district, UIS will now be represented by Sen. Doris Turner (D-Springfield). Sen. Turner is newly appointed to replace previous Sen. Andy Manar (D-Bunker Hill), but has a longstanding relationship with UIS. Rep. Mike Murphy (R-Chatham) has also been replaced by Rep. Tim Butler (R-Springfield). Rep. Butler is a member of the U of I Caucus and both UIS and the Office of Government Relations have worked with him on several occasions. Rep. Murphy has been drawn into the same district with another republican legislator, so it is difficult to predict if he will remain in the General Assembly.

UIC

The University of Illinois Chicago and UI Health Hospital will continue to be represented by Rep. Lakesia Collins (D-Chicago) and Sen. Patricia Van Pelt (D-Chicago), both members of the U of I Caucus.

DPI

The Discovery Partnership Institute's proposed location of 15th Street and Wells Street in Chicago will continue to be represented by Rep. Sonya Harper (D-Chicago) and Sen. Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago).

Click below to see the current status of bills tracked by OGR sorted by topic area:

Issue Areas

Administrative Burden
Admissions
Appropriations (Capital)
Appropriations (Operating)
Athletics
Board of Trustees
Campus Specific (UIC)
Campus Specific (UIUC)
Campus Specific (UIS)
Ethics
Financial Aid
FOIA
Healthcare/Hospital
Maternal Health
Medicaid
HR
Labor
Procurement
Research
U of I Legislative Agenda

Quorum Bill List

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Advocacy In Action

STATE

January 8: Call-to-Action to U of I System faculty, staff, and students involved in research

Researchers across the U of I System were asked to write a letter to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to emphasize the incredible importance of research and encourage them to add research into their strategic plans. As a result of the campaign, advocates sent 18 personal letters to the IBHE.

January 25: Call-to-Action to Illinois Connection advocates and other U of I System stakeholders

Illinois Connection advocates were asked to write a personal letter to their state legislators about the unique impact the U of I System has had on their lives or about the impactful work they do as a part of the U of I System. This ongoing effort has engaged 127 advocates who have written 239 unique letters to their state legislators.

February 19: State Internship Zoom Panel for students

OGR and the Student Advocacy Coalition hosted a panel to discuss interning in Springfield or Chicago. Attendees heard from a panel of alumni about legislative internship opportunities available in Illinois, how to apply, and their experiences as interns.

February 22: ILGA U of I Caucus Meeting

OGR hosted a closed meeting of the U of I Caucus in the Illinois General Assembly. This meeting was an opportunity for members of the Illinois General Assembly who are part of the U of I System Caucus to engage with our system leaders, President Tim Killeen and Executive Vice President Barb Wilson.

Week of February 22: Illinois public university joint Call-to-Action

OGR partnered with the other Illinois public universities to launch a joint Call-to-Action asking for support for higher education funding to coincide with the Governor's state of the state and budget address. This campaign engaged 631 advocates who sent 1,266 emails to their state legislators. In addition to the Call-to-Action, OGR coordinated a joint letter from the alumni association board presidents at all of Illinois' public universities to members of the ILGA and the Governor asking for support for Illinois higher education.

March 5: "Coffee with Killeen-State Priorities" Zoom Webinar

OGR hosted a "Coffee with Killeen" Zoom webinar where invitees included alumni living in Illinois as well as Illinois Connection advocates who live in Illinois. President Killeen gave an update about the U of I System and had a conversation on the system's state agenda for the new Illinois General Assembly. This webinar included a question-and-answer session where alumni were able to submit questions for President Killeen to answer.

January-March: New Member Meetings

OGR hosted "New Member Meetings" with incoming and new members of the Illinois General Assembly who were either newly elected in the 2020 General Election or appointed during session. These meetings focused on introducing new members to the University of Illinois System, highlighting the impact of the system on their district, and discussing the U of I System's legislative agenda and resources for them as legislators. In total, staff hosted meetings with 22 new members.

April 27-29: System Virtual U of I Day in the Illinois Capitol

This invitation-only event brought together students from across the U of I System to raise the system's profile and advance its state agenda. The event included meetings with members of the ILGA who represent the university campuses. Twenty meetings were held with members of congress and/or their staff.

May 3: Call-to-Action State Budget

A Call-to-Action went out to all alumni, staff, students, faculty, and Illinois Connection advocates asking for support for an increase to higher education funding.

Ongoing: State legislator in-district meetings via zoom

Illinois Connection advocates and student leaders have joined OGR for meetings with members of the ILGA to personally share their U of I story on Zoom meetings. In total, Illinois Connection hosted 31 in-district meetings between March and the end of session with 32 state legislators. These meetings engaged nearly 500 advocates from across Illinois who participated and shared their personal story with their state legislators.

OTHER EFFORTS**Meetings with UIAA Clubs and Networks**

OGR Staff joined the UIAA Clubs Zoom call to present our legislative initiatives and upcoming advocacy efforts. Club members were encouraged to join Illinois Connection and to participate in the current "share your story" campaign.

April 9: Pregame Pep Rally for Big 10 Tournament:

This invitation-only event invited members of the ILGA, members of Congress and their staff, alumni staffers, alumni working in government and Illinois Connection Advocates for a pregame pep rally ahead of the first Big 10 Tournament Illini basketball game. This event included Deon Thomas as the emcee and other former players as guest speakers.

Meetings with Cultural Houses, Departments and Alumni Networks

OGR initiated meetings with programs that serve a diverse population across the U of I System to learn more about overall Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts, including UIUC's La Casa Cultural Latina and Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations, the Illinois Latina/o Alumni Association and the Black Alumni Network, UIS Diversity Center, UIC Institute for Race and Policy, Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, the Hispanic Center of Excellence and Urban Health Program. As a result, our advocacy and state teams were able to advocate for resources and will continue to hold these meetings to ensure the system continues to keep the experiences of under-resourced communities at the forefront.

Local Relations

Local relations focuses on Chicago community building and raising the profile of the U of I System across the City of Chicago.

Meeting with President Killeen and Inaugural Chicago U of I Caucus

President Killeen and Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia hosted the inaugural Chicago U of I Caucus meeting. President Killeen provided an update on the state of the U of I System, collaborative research initiatives, including the saliva-based PCR tests, UI Health, the Discovery Partners Institute and the importance and impact of continued investment in higher education. The newly formed caucus consists of aldermen, Cook County commissioners and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District commissioners who are alumni from one of the system's three universities, represent one of the campuses or have a tie to the U of I System. Thirty elected officials have been invited to join the caucus and will meet again in the summer of 2021.

Meetings with Local Elected Officials and Civic Organizations

OGR also serves as a liaison to the Discovery Partners Institute, I-MMÁS System initiative (Illinois-Mexican and Mexican American Students) and the U of I Extension Illini Science Policy Program. OGR coordinates meetings with Chicago stakeholders to build awareness and partnerships, offer opportunities to the Chicago community and engage students, alumni, and diverse businesses to participate in current initiatives. OGR also coordinates meetings with President Killeen, local elected officials and leaders from prominent Chicago civic organizations to provide an overview of the system-wide local and state economic impact and the system's leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meetings with UI Health and Chicago Mile Square Clinics Elected Officials

OGR serves as a liaison to UI Health and Chicago Mile Square Clinics that serve underrepresented communities to offer access and awareness of services, health equity education and vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, and will continue with a focus on Chicago aldermen, Cook County commissioners and members of the Chicago and Illinois Black and Latino Caucuses.

Meetings with Chicago City Clerk and Staff

In addition, there are ongoing efforts with the Chicago City Clerk's office to utilize our top research universities and the Institute of Government and Public Affairs to reform current policies that impact the lives of Chicago's underserved population.

FY22 Goals

1. Increase state support the U of I System and Illinois public higher education.
2. Ensure state support for the Equal Opportunity Bridge Program to better recruit and retain more diverse students.
3. Work with the state to release the appropriated capital dollars for university projects.
4. Advocate for regulatory relief measures that would allow us to attract more diverse vendors and partners.
5. Build strong connections between our universities and the diverse communities across the state.
6. Engage students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and retirees in system advocacy and civic engagement efforts.
7. Exhibit the system as a builder of innovative solutions to better public policy and the public good for the state of Illinois and beyond, and ensure the system's place as a major stakeholder in all policy decisions related to higher education.
8. Establish relationships between elected officials and subject matter experts at the system universities to ensure our world-class faculty are consulted when policies are crafted that impact their areas of expertise.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

The following section provides an overview of OGR's federal achievements and milestones from July 2020 through June 2021.

FEDERAL ENGAGEMENT & PROFILE-RAISING ACTIVITIES

- The federal team facilitated virtual meetings with the Illinois congressional delegation in early 2021 for President Killeen to share the U of I System's [federal priorities](#) for the 117th Congress.
- The federal team partnered with the advocacy team to organize two virtual U of I System advocacy events that promoted our priorities.
 - The first, entitled "U of I System Students Connecting with Congress," took place in September 2020. Student leaders from across our three universities engaged in federal advocacy on behalf of the system to underscore the need for urgent pandemic relief, increased support for programs that enhance higher education access and affordability, and support for undocumented and international students. The event launched with a "breakfast program" with U of I System leadership to prepare the students for the meetings. Over the course of the next three days, the students participated in video meetings with Illinois and U of I System alumni members of Congress and staff. There was also a [panel discussion](#) with U of I System alumni working in government who spoke about their personal career paths in public policy.
 - The second virtual event, "[Spring into DC](#)," was held in April 2021, and consisted of 19 total meetings with legislators and staff in the Illinois delegation. Meetings included system leadership, chancellors, trustees, alums and students.
- President Killeen provided an [update](#) on the U of I System's federal priorities to more than 240 alumni and Illinois Connection advocates during a virtual webinar. (*February 2021*)
- The federal team helped lead efforts in coordinating "Altogether Extraordinary" webinars to educate federal/state staff on U of I System initiatives. Three webinars have been held to date:
 - February 19: COVID-19 testing system (SHIELD), view [here](#)
 - April 9: Discovery Partners Institute, view [here](#)
 - May 21: Illinois Innovation Network, view [here](#)
- Built relationships with new members of the Illinois delegation.
 - Rep. Mary Miller visited UIUC in April to meet with the College of ACES and to see the Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory.
 - The federal team has been engaging with Rep. Marie Newman staff on Transportation & Infrastructure Committee issues.

Demonstrated U of I System Leadership in the Nation's Capital

- In 2020, two U of I System experts provided Congressional testimony during committee hearings.
 - U of I System Interim Vice President for Research and Development Jay Walsh testified at a House Science Committee subcommittee [hearing](#) entitled "The Impact of COVID-19 on University Research" where he responded to positive comments and questions from

lawmakers about SHIELD (see [here](#) and [here](#)) and urged Congress to provide pandemic relief for researchers. (September 2020)

- Jonathan Coppess, assistant professor in UIUC's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Economics, [testified](#) at a House Agriculture subcommittee hearing entitled "[Challenges and Success of Conservation Programs in 2020](#)." (October 2020)

Supported Virtual "Fly-Ins" of Various U of I System Stakeholders

- While fly-in days and association events in Washington, D.C. were ultimately cancelled in the spring of 2021, a few administrators and faculty were still able to advocate virtually.
 - Throughout Spring 2021, OGR helped coordinate and staff congressional meetings for U of I System faculty taking part in virtual "fly-ins" including advocacy days for:
 - National Humanities Alliance
 - Title VI/Fulbright Hays
 - Council on Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) (UIUC's Colleges of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences)
 - Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) (UIUC's College of Veterinary Medicine)
 - Fusion Energy Research
 - Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)
- Several faculty members participated in virtual panel discussions or spoke at briefings. For example:
 - House Science Oversight Subcommittee Chairman Bill Foster invited a team of UIUC researchers led by Dr. Kevin Leicht to brief the subcommittee about COVID-19 misinformation on social media. (April 2021)
 - UIUC faculty member Dr. Nick Glumac participated in a briefing for congressional staff about the Materials Science in Extreme Environments program, of which UIUC is a core partner. (April 2021)
 - OGR worked with faculty from UIUC and Purdue University to host a virtual congressional briefing about the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant program which combines research, extension, and education to secure a resilient environment and economy for Lake Michigan communities. (February 2021)

President's Executive Leadership Program DC Seminar

- In lieu of an in-person visit to Washington, D.C., the federal team coordinated virtual meetings for the 2020-21 fellows in the [President's Executive Leadership Program](#). The fellows, joined by President Tim Killeen and Executive Vice President Barb Wilson, heard from [Sen. Dick Durbin](#) as well as leadership at the White House [Office of Science and Technology Policy](#) and the [National Science Foundation](#). (May 2021)

Other Activities

- OGR works with delegation offices to provide quotes for press releases regarding bills we support as well as for releases that highlight major grant awards that our universities receive. Examples include:
 - Sen. Dick Durbin [announced](#) a \$1 million grant to the U of I System from the Department of Education's Open Textbooks Pilot Program with a quote from Executive Vice President Barb Wilson.
 - Reps. Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood joined Urbana's College of ACES during a virtual event to celebrate "[Innovation to Impact](#)" (i2i), a new \$1 million award from USAID to the [Soybean Innovation Lab \(SIL\)](#), a Feed the Future Innovation Lab. Reps. Davis and LaHood, and Sen. Tammy Duckworth provided quotes for a [press release](#) that went out after the event.
- In advance of committee hearings, OGR regularly shares relevant information and potential questions with delegation offices that will be participating. Examples include:
 - In advance of a House Energy and Commerce [hearing](#) about the long-term effects of COVID-19, OGR sent Rep. Robin Kelly's office a summary of UIC's research on the subject.
 - OGR sent information about the impact of COVID-19 on the U of I System to Reps. Casten and Foster in advance of the House Science Committee's [hearing](#) entitled "Building Back the U.S. Research Enterprise: COVID Impacts and Recovery."
- Senator Dick Durbin hosted a [press conference](#) in Urbana to highlight the U of I System's important role in responding to the pandemic and the urgent need for federal support for higher ed. He was joined by President Killeen, Chancellor Jones, Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Martinis, and members of the SHIELD team. *(September 2020)*
- Rep. Rodney Davis [visited](#) UIUC's Willard Airport to see how federal infrastructure spending has benefited the facility. He also announced that the airport will receive a \$1.17M grant for a new aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicle and snow removal equipment. *(April 2021)*
- Dr. P.S. Sriraj, the director of UIC's Urban Transportation Center, participated in a transportation and infrastructure roundtable hosted by Rep. Chuy Garcia. *(April 2021)*
- The federal team worked with Rep. Sean Casten's office to provide a [video recording](#) of his remarks to play during an [annual conference](#) co-hosted by the [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center](#) at UIUC and the [Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant program](#) that focused on emerging contaminants in the environment. *(April 2021)*
- The federal team worked with Sen. Tammy Duckworth in securing a [video recording](#) for an International Women's Day celebration hosted by the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program and UIUC's Humanities Research Institute. Sen. Duckworth talked about her military experience and why she is proud to "fight like a girl." *(March 2021)*

PROMOTED U OF I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

With the start of the 117th Congress in January 2021, the federal team prepared a [comprehensive handout](#) identifying U of I System priorities. We shared the packet with the entire Illinois delegation.

Below are some highlights of the major issues that the federal team worked on:

- **Pandemic Relief**
 - OGR continued to advocate aggressively for COVID-19 relief for students and institutions of higher education.
 - The federal team drafted and organized sign-on letters led by President Killeen from all of the IL public universities to the Illinois delegation advocating for pandemic relief. As of June 2021, three letters have been sent since the start of the pandemic (April 2020 letter [here](#), July 2020 letter [here](#), and January 2021 letter [here](#)).
 - The U of I System joined more than 200 science organizations, higher education associations, and colleges and universities [in a letter](#) to President Joe Biden requesting the White House support [H.R.869/S.289](#), the “Research Investment to Spark the Economy Act,” which would authorize COVID-19 research relief across federal science agencies. The federal team also reached out to Illinois delegation offices to encourage them to cosponsor the bill. (*March 2021*)
- **Higher Education Act (HEA) Issues**
 - The federal team partnered with the advocacy team on a “call-to-action” on doubling Pell. More than 1,600 U of I System students, alumni, and faculty/staff responded to the call-to-action, sending more than 5,000 messages to members of Congress, urging them to double the maximum Pell Grant award.
- **“Build Back Better” (American Jobs Plan/American Families Plan package)**
 - The federal team coordinated a [letter](#) that was sent to Illinois’ federal legislators by presidents of the state’s public universities, listing their priorities for inclusion in legislation investing in infrastructure and families. (*May 2021*)
 - The team has been working with the U of I System to position itself on potential opportunities.
- **Science/Research**
 - Competitiveness packages/NSF authorization (*Endless Frontier Act/NSF for the Future*)
 - The federal team drafted and worked with Illinois delegation offices on amendments regarding high-performance computing and regional tech hubs.
 - The federal team advocated for higher authorization levels for NSF.
 - The federal team has been advising the U of I System on potential opportunities.
 - UIUC joined 120+ organizations in a letter expressing support for Sen. Dick Durbin’s [America Grows Act](#), which would increase funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s research activities. (*April 2021*)
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
 - The federal team has been working with the chancellor to support the launch of an Hispanic-Serving Institution R1 consortium in which UIC is playing a leading role.
- **Infrastructure & Transportation**

- Pursued authorization for a rail center of excellence within reauthorization of the FAST Act (federal surface transportation legislation).
 - Rep. Marie Newman [succeeded in attaching an amendment](#) establishing a rail center of excellence to a five-year, \$547 billion surface transportation bill that the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved, and Sen. Duckworth included similar language in the Senate version of the bill. OGR has championed this legislation for years, and has worked closely with congressional offices, in light of the U of I System's expertise in rail and transit issues. (*June 2021*)
- The federal team has been engaging House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee members and Senate Commerce Committee members.
- In conjunction with UIUC's College of ACES, the federal team has been advocating for the inclusion of an agricultural research infrastructure investment at U.S. colleges of agriculture in any federal infrastructure initiatives (APLU-led proposal).
 - Succeeded in getting four IL agricultural organizations to sign onto an APLU-led [letter](#) to House and Senate ag committee leadership.
- **Immigration**
 - Throughout the year, federal relations participated in regular immigration-focused calls and strategy sessions with our higher education associations (AAU, APLU) to stay informed and strategize on advocacy. OGR was in communication with our Illinois peer institutions about joint efforts, and worked with Illinois Congressional delegation offices to raise concerns.
 - UIUC Chancellor Robert Jones participated in the American Business Immigration Coalition's [briefing](#) with Sen. Dick Durbin about the DREAM Act and immigration reform.
 - The U of I System submitted comments opposing the U.S. Department of Labor's [wage protections for H-1B Visa Holders](#) and the Department of Homeland Security's [proposed rule to end "duration of status"](#).
 - The U of I System joined an [amicus brief](#) with 59 other institutions calling for the federal government to allow international students to study entirely online in the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Name, Image, Likeness (NIL)**
 - OGR represented the U of I System at higher education strategy meetings focused on NIL.
 - OGR organized a meeting between Big Ten representatives and UIUC's Department of Athletics with Sen. Durbin's higher education and judiciary staff.
- **Budget/Appropriations**
 - As part of the U of I System's advocacy for the annual appropriations process, OGR develops programmatic requests, appropriations plus-ups and report language to advance specific line items in the federal budget that support our missions. Throughout March/April in 2021, OGR submitted the [U of I System's FY 2022 programmatic requests](#) to the Illinois congressional delegation.
 - Additionally, OGR encouraged members of the Illinois delegation to sign onto "Dear Colleague" letters supporting some of the top agencies that fund our campuses: the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of

Energy Office of Science, and the Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The Illinois delegation demonstrated strong support for these agencies, as reflected in the following chart:

Federal Agency/Program	FY2022 “Dear Colleague” Letters
National Science Foundation (NSF)	<p><u>House</u> : Requested that NSF receive “at least \$10 billion” in funding</p> <p>12 Total IL Signatories (of 154): Reps. Bobby Rush, Robin Kelly, Chuy Garcia, Sean Casten, Jan Schakowsky, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Danny Davis, Bill Foster, Mike Bost, Rodney Davis, Adam Kinzinger, Cheri Bustos</p> <p>Senate: Requested \$10 billion</p> <p>2 Total IL Signatories (out of 42): Senators Dick Durbin, Tammy Duckworth</p>
National Institutes of Health (NIH)	<p><u>House</u>: Requested at least \$46.1 billion for NIH</p> <p>11 Total IL Signatories (out of 215): Reps. Bobby Rush, Robin Kelly, Sean Casten, Danny Davis, Jan Schakowsky, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Mike Bost, Rodney Davis, Adam Kinzinger, Cheri Bustos, Darin LaHood</p> <p><u>Senate</u>:</p> <p>2 Total IL Signatories: Senators Dick Durbin, Tammy Duckworth</p>
Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science	<p><i>House</i>: Led by Rep. Foster; Expressed “strong support for robust and sustained funding” for the DOE Office of Science</p> <p>4 Total IL Signatures: Bill Foster, Sean Casten, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Rodney Davis</p> <p><i>Senate</i>: Led by Senators Durbin and Duckworth; requested “at least \$7.7 billion”</p> <p>2 Total IL Signatories: Senators Dick Durbin, Tammy Duckworth</p>
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Agriculture and Food Research Initiative--	<p><i>House</i>: Led by Rep. Rodney Davis; included \$2 million request for funding to support the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA)</p> <p>9 IL Signatories (out of 128): Reps. Rodney Davis, Darin LaHood, Danny Davis, Mike Bost, Sean Casten, Bobby Rush, Cheri Bustos, Adam Kinzinger, Jan Schakowsky</p>

International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs, including Title VI and Fulbright Hays Programs	<i>House:</i> Advocating for \$151.4 million 7 IL Signatories: Reps. Robin Kelly, Danny Davis, Rodney Davis, Sean Casten, Bill Foster, Adam Kinzinger, and Jan Schakowsky
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Several Illinois members sent their own letters to appropriators expressing support for funding and report language.

LEVERAGED MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Paul continued serving on the Executive Committee of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' (APLU) Council on Governmental Affairs (CGA). He also continued serving as co-chair of the Science Team Co-Lead for the APLU CGA. Additionally, Paul continued serving as a member of the APLU-AAU science and security working group, which consists of select export control officers, VPRs and government relations officers, and is spearheading the higher education community's response to concerns about foreign engagement.

In January 2021, Melissa started serving on the Communications Committee for The Science Coalition, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of more than 50 of the nation's leading public and private research universities that focuses on sustaining the federal government's investment in fundamental scientific research.

Illinois Connection By the Numbers

Below is a profile of currently coded Illinois Connection advocates. This list breaks down registered advocates by various demographics.

Advocate Profile

Total Unique Advocates Coded in TED (Active in the past five years): 26,182

Advocates by:

- **Locations**
 - **Illinois** – 20,421
 - **Outside IL** – 5,763
- **University Affiliation**
 - **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** – 14,108
 - **University of Illinois Chicago** – 10,404
 - **University of Illinois Springfield** – 1,005
 - **University of Illinois System** – 278
- **Gender**
 - **Male** – 12,117
 - **Female** – 13,989
 - **BLANK** – 83
- **Age Bracket**
 - **15-29** – 4,057
 - **30-39** – 8,162
 - **40-49** – 3,549
 - **50-59** – 3,363
 - **60-69** – 3,077
 - **70-79** – 1,843
 - **80-89** – 557
 - **90-99** – 105
 - **100+** – 4
 - **BLANK** – 1,467
- **Race/Ethnicity**
 - **Asian or Pacific Islander** – 2,819
 - **Hispanic or Latino** – 1,814
 - **White/ Non-Hispanic** – 9,865
 - **Black/African-American** – 1,510
 - **American Indian/ Alaskan Native** – 24
 - **BLANK** – 8,720

Illinois Connection Engagement Overview

Illinois Connection had an incredibly successful year in terms of engagement. Despite major disruptions to in-person events due to COVID-19, Illinois Connection successfully pivoted advocacy tactics to embrace remote engagement. Zoom has provided unparalleled accessibility for advocates to participate in Illinois Connection programming – specifically in-district meetings – and has allowed Illinois Connection to advocate for the U of I System efficiently and effectively.

Zoom Webinars

- U of I System Federal Government Update with President Killeen
 - Spring 2021 – 290 attendees
- U of I System State Government Update with President Killeen
 - Spring 2021 – 545 attendees
- SAC Internship Panels
 - approximately 70 students and seven panelists

In-district Meetings

- 41 meetings with 42 legislators in FY21
- More than 600 advocates attended meetings to support the U of I System

Small Group Lobby Days

- Five Small Group Lobby Days engaging more than 50 student, alumni, faculty, and staff
 - UIC Hispanic Center of Excellence
 - UIC School of Public Health
 - UIC Urban Health Program
 - UIC Rural Health Program
 - UIC Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement

Virtual D.C. Days

- Students Connection with Congress Federal Lobby Day (September 2020)
 - 54 students over the course of two weeks met with the Illinois Congressional Delegation
- Spring into D.C. (April 2020)
 - 28 participants met with 19 federal legislators

Call-to-Action Campaigns – 2,908 unique advocates in Spring 2021

- Share your Story
 - 129 advocates sent 243 personalized emails to state legislators
- IBHE Research
 - 18 advocates sent 18 emails to state legislators
- Higher Education Budget Appropriations (February)
 - 631 advocates sent 1,266 emails to state legislators
- Higher Education Budget Appropriations (May)
 - 622 advocates sent 1,237 emails to state legislators
- Double the Pell Grant!
 - 1,767 advocates sent 5,296 emails to federal legislators

New Advocates since October 2020

- 2,292 alumni
- 1,602 current students
- 847 faculty and staff
- 36 extension/4-H advocate
- 181 are friends/general public

Newsletters and Regular Communications

- OGR Monthly Newsletter
 - 345 stakeholders monthly, 12 issues annually
- Illinois Connection Newsletter
 - approximately 20,000 advocates monthly, 12 issues annually
- U of I System and OGR, Good News!
 - 287 legislators and state government receive a good news roundup weekly
- OGR Annual Report
 - 205 people annually

Other communications

- OGR Annual Holiday Card
 - 198 external stakeholders and 975 employees in the U of I System
- State Election Round-Up
 - 200 internal and external stakeholders
- Illinois Connection Recruitment Solicitations
 - 425,115 alumni, 56,790 faculty and staff, 33,900 UIUC students, 24,445 UIC students, and 3,327 UIS students

COVID-19

The following is a broad overview of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the University of Illinois System, in addition to the resources and expertise the U of I System offered to the state during this incredibly difficult time.

GUIDING THE STATE THROUGH COVID-19

Informing Policy Makers

Dozens of members of the world class faculty at the U of I System played a tremendous role in guiding the state through the COVID-19 crisis during the last 18 months. The Office of Government Relations helped connect these faculty with Gov. J.B. Pritzker, agency staff and legislative leaders throughout the pandemic to ensure they were updated with the most relevant information when making policy decisions that impacted the lives of all Illinoisans.

SHIELD Illinois Funding

OGR played a critical role in obtaining \$20 million in funding that allowed the saliva tests developed by the U of I to be rolled out across the state. With this funding, SHIELD Illinois was able to expand beyond the three U of I System campuses and offer saliva tests to all of the public universities in the state.

Returning Normalcy to the State Capital

OGR also worked with the SHIELD Team and each of the four legislative caucus to provide saliva testing for legislators, staff and lobbyists to allow them to temporarily return to Springfield to carry out legislative business. Similar to the SHIELD testing at each of the university campuses, legislators, staff and lobbyists were administered COVID-19 saliva tests multiple times a week and had to present a negative test result to enter the Capital building.

As a result of the success of the testing program, the legislature was able to carry out in-person legislative business in the Capitol for several months during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This critical service gave legislators a firsthand view of the importance of funding Research One Universities.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Campus Safety

- Since the beginning of the pandemic, many new and expanded safety protocols have been utilized, including, but not limited to:
 - university-based international travel prohibited as of March 11, 2020
 - university-based domestic travel prohibited (unless for essential purposes) as of March 11, 2020
 - gathering capacities reduced according to state and federal guidance
 - social distancing measures
 - use of masks/face coverings
 - increased availability of hand sanitizer in campus buildings
 - plexiglass dividers/sneeze guard installation
 - broadened protocols for cleaning and disinfecting campus facilities
 - use of signage that promotes COVID-19 safety measures
 - reduced in-person classes, class capacities, and sizes of other campus gatherings
 - use of remote technologies

- implementation of required COVID-19 testing and associated protocols
- use of the Safer Illinois app to enter campus buildings
- community vaccinations started in December 2020
- See additional information on the SHIELD program later in this report.

COVID-19 Resources

- **System-wide Support**
 - Campus-specific COVID-19 webpages: [UIUC](#), [UIC](#), [UIS](#)
 - Additional Resources
 - [Illinois CARES](#): The COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund was created to assist UIUC students' most critical needs, including tuition assistance, housing, and food. There are also [emergency grants](#) for graduate students.
 - [U and I Care Emergency Fund](#): for UIC students experiencing financial constraints, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - [UIS Cares](#): resources continue to be accessible to UIS students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - [Illinois Remote](#): resources for UIUC faculty, staff, and students navigating remote teaching, learning, working, and researching.
- **Mode of Learning**
 - A hybrid model of both in-person and online learning may be utilized
 - Broader use of in-person instruction is anticipated for Fall 2021 [News Release](#)
 - For university-specific calendars: [UIUC Calendar](#), [UIC Calendar](#), [UIS Calendar](#)
- **Campus Life/Housing**
 - Campus-specific housing information: [UIUC](#), [UIC](#), [UIS](#)
 - As of Fall 2020, the campuses have implemented COVID-19 testing requirements. The Safer Illinois App was launched to aid in contact tracing and compliance to regular COVID-19 testing.
- **Commencement**

The most current information on commencement for each campus: [UIUC](#), [UIC](#), [UIS](#)

Impact on Research

Labs remain open and research continues. Labs account for social distancing and other protocols to minimize risk of infection/exposure. Research involving human subjects continues to employ social distancing and other safety recommendations.

Impact on Facilities

Residence halls reopened on all campuses in Fall 2020 and remain open with modifications (e.g., scheduled move-in times/reservations, use of face coverings, access to hand sanitizer). Recreational centers on all campuses remain open since Fall 2020 with a variety of contingencies in place (e.g., social distancing, new building occupancy limits, face covering requirements, scheduled appointments). University facilities have a cleaning and disinfection process in place to reduce the potential transmission of COVID-19. University facilities, in collaboration with local public health authorities and healthcare facilities, remain part of local emergency contingency plans.

Impact on Faculty/Staff

- All faculty/staff who could perform work remotely transitioned to telecommuting in March 2020. Since that time, some staff have transitioned back to campus while others remain remote or work a hybrid schedule.
- Essential work that cannot be performed remotely continues on-site and measures are taken to ensure social distancing and observation of other protocols to minimize risk of exposure (e.g., masks, other personal protective equipment, cleaning, testing).
- All units are authorized to implement creative solutions to prevent loss of income associated with altered work assignments for employees.
- All campuses have processes in place for one-year tenure clock interruptions. These are encouraged, with approval, for those probationary faculty who have found their work to be significantly disrupted because of COVID-19, are consistent with the *Statutes*, and are allowed even for individuals in the final year of the probationary period. All three campuses have announced processes for this.

Financial Impact

- Estimated costs to the University of Illinois System (as of 4/30/21, since March 2020, and includes projections through the Spring 2021 term):
 - Total estimated lost revenue and increased costs = \$524.2 million (includes \$50 million in salaries and wages of employees sent home/lack of work – \$474.2 million if excluded)
 - Student fee adjustments (for the past spring) = \$50.3 million
 - Additional costs associated with COVID-19 response = \$173.2 million
 - Lost revenues from cancelled programs/events, student fees, housing, dining = \$237.2 million
 - Lost clinical revenue = \$63.5 million
- Of the total \$524.2 million, \$91.8 million is projected losses through June 30 and \$432.4 million incurred to date (\$91.5 million and \$382.7 million if excluding salaries and wages of employees sent home/lack of work).
- To manage budgetary goals during the pandemic, a [voluntary retirement plan](#) was announced.

Community Outreach, Testing, Vaccination, and Support

- Ongoing
 - Since mid-August 2020, the University of Illinois Foundation (UIF) has provided complimentary access to its inbound calling center to serve as the COVID-19 hotline center. Following slight modifications made by the UIF technology team, university partners can better manage the increased volume of COVID-19 inquiries from students, parents, and staff. The hotline call center accommodates daily calling activity seven days a week.
 - The University of Illinois Extension Service has a long history of community service and outreach throughout the state of Illinois, and it has continued in that mission during the COVID-19 crisis with a surge of resources for Illinois families, farms, businesses, and local government units, including establishing an informational online portal. [UI Extension](#)
 - UI Health and other stakeholders across the system continue to provide a wide variety of community-based COVID-19 relief programs, including food boxes, resource kits,

masks, response teams, testing and support for the homeless, contact tracing, community education, and community ambassadors. They have implemented hospital-based testing and expanded community testing sites to include the Mile Square Health Center main location, the UI Health Pilsen Family Health Center Lower West clinic, and the UI Health Mile Square Center South Shore clinic. [UI Health](#), [UI Health News](#) [BlockClubChicago](#)

- UIC continues to provide information and resources on COVID-19 as it relates to health disparities, equity, and structural determinants of health. <https://researchguides.uic.edu/coronavirus/healthdisparities>
- The [UIS Lunch and Learn Series](#) provides presentations on a variety of topics. Both upcoming events and past recordings, such as Pandemics and Epidemics: Past and Present, are available.

Organizations in the Chicago metro area have teamed up to form the [Vaccine Corps Partnership](#), a network of trusted messengers to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts dubbed the “vaccine corps.” The vaccine corps are trained to dispel myths, address concerns about the value and safety of the vaccine, and ultimately help people access the vaccine.

SOCIAL MEDIA

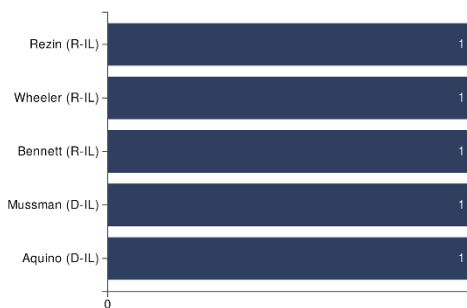
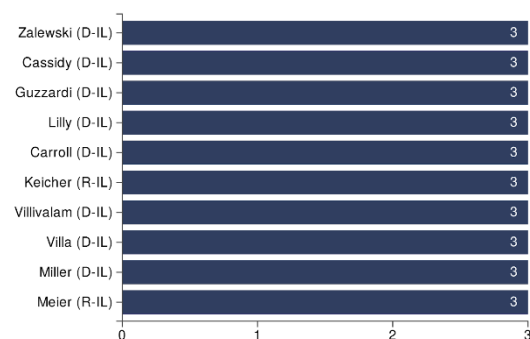
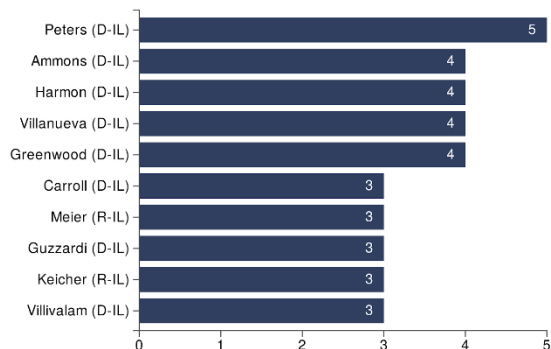
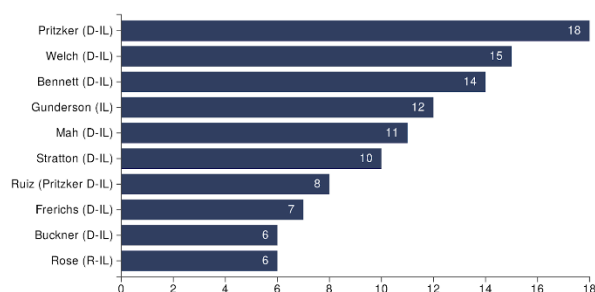
Who Mentioned Us?

Between July 2020-June 2021, legislators retweeted, shared and/or mentioned the U of I System on Facebook 382 times (click [here](#) to review complete list and to access direct links).

U of I System Mentions

Illinois General Assembly (State)

- Over the past year, state legislators mentioned the U of I System 197 times. Gov. Pritzker tops the list having referenced the U of I System 18 times, followed by Speaker Welch (15) and Senator Bennett (14). Review the charts below to see the remaining list.



Top Mentions – State Officials:

Facebook – Gov. J.B. Pritzker:

- 3.5K reactions
- 460 comments
- 457 shares



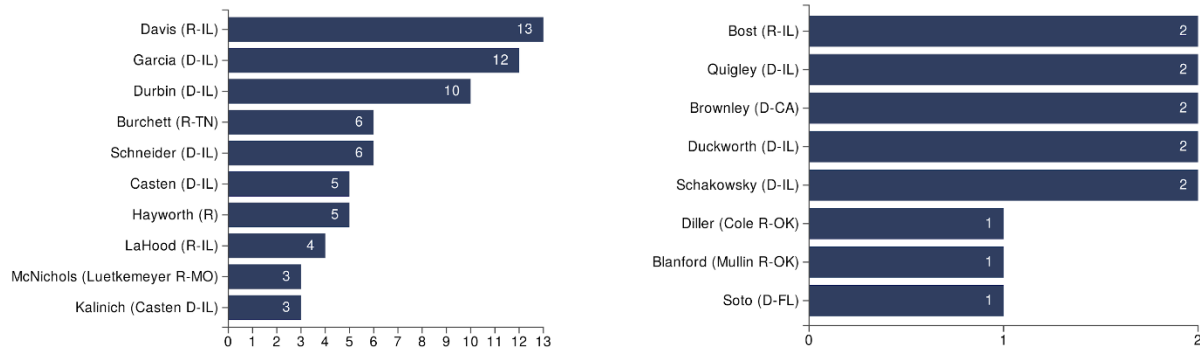
Twitter – Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz:

- 8 Retweets
- 1 quoted tweet
- 17 likes



U.S. Congress (Federal)



- Federal legislators referenced the U of I System 80 times. Congressman Rodney Davis (13), Congressman Jesus “Chuy” García (12), and Senator Dick Durbin (10) were top sharers. Feel free to review the remaining mentions below.



Top Mentions – Federal Officials:

Facebook – Senator Dick Durbin:

- 651 reactions
- 352 comments
- 65 shares



Senator Dick Durbin 
 Public Official · August 19, 2020 · 

Proud of the [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#) for leading the way and getting FDA emergency authorization on its new COVID-19 saliva test. As I told President Killeen, this is a testament to our efforts to invest in scientific research in Illinois. Fast, accurate testing will be key to containing this virus.



CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Coronavirus in Illinois updates: 2,295 new known COVID-19 cases reported — the most since late May — as FDA gives emergency use authorization for U. of ...

   651

352 Comments 65 Shares

Twitter – Senator Tammy Duckworth:

- 41 Retweets
- 1 quoted tweet
- 245 likes



Tammy Duckworth ✓
@SenDuckworth

...

More testing that's simple, quick and effective is critical for helping us get through this pandemic. I'm so pleased [@US_FDA](#) approved [@Illinois_Alma](#)'s saliva-based test, a leap forward in COVID-19 testing technology.



Chicago Tribune ✓ @chicagotribune · Mar 2

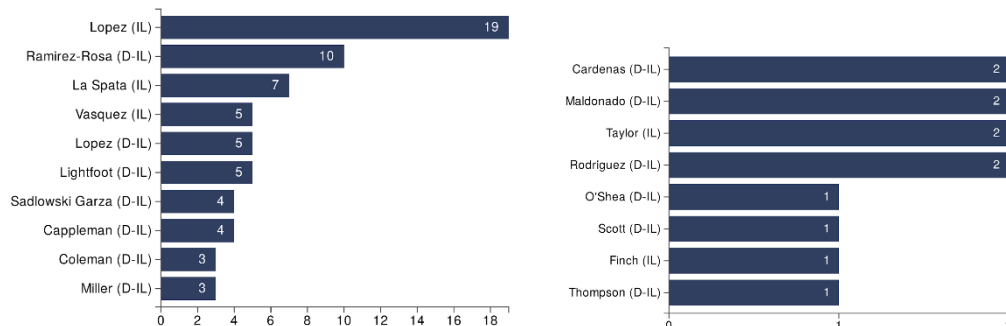
The saliva-based COVID-19 test developed by University of Illinois researchers has obtained federal emergency use authorization. trib.al/VYgyrp3

9:54 AM · Mar 3, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

41 Retweets **1** Quote Tweet **245** Likes

Illinois Local (Local/Chicago)

- In the past year, Chicago local officials referenced the U of I System 77 times. Alderman Byron Lopez (19) shared/referenced us the most, followed by Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (10) and Alderman Daniel La Spata (7). See remaining sharers below.



Top Mentions – Local Officials:

Facebook – Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot:

- 2.6k reactions
- 632 comments
- 168 shares



Twitter – Alderman Bryon Sigcho Lopez:

↻ Alderman Byron Sigcho Lopez for the 25th Ward Retweeted



SEIU Local 73
@SEIU73

...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEIU Local 73 discovers evidence that UIC is bringing strikebreakers from states on Chicago's COVID Emergency Travel Order.

Read more: seiu73.org/2020/09/12/uic...

[#FairContractNowUIC](#) [#StrikeForOurLives](#)



8:48 PM · Sep 12, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

- 135 Retweets
- 15 quoted tweets
- 159 likes
 - *34 of the 77 mentions were shared in solidarity of SEIU Local 73*

Yearly Analytics: OGR Twitter, OGR and Illinois Connection Facebook pages

OGR worked to increase its reach and engagement on its three social media accounts: the [OGR Twitter page](#), [OGR Facebook page](#), and the [Illinois Connection Facebook page](#). Our followers on all three accounts increased this year, and our Twitter page topped more than 1,000 followers. Specifics about OGR's social media performance include:

- The OGR Twitter page currently has 1,006 followers, the OGR Facebook page has 517 likes and 563 followers, and the Illinois Connection Facebook page has 938 likes and 2,903 followers.
- This year, all three [accounts combined](#) earned 234,821 impressions, and 10,883 engagements. On Twitter, we had an average engagement rate of 1.69%.
- Our [top tweet](#) for the year earned 9,972 impressions and 121 engagements and was retweeted by U.S. Reps. Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood. Our [top Illinois Connection Facebook post](#) for the year earned 2,627 impressions and 180 engagements and was shared by U.S. Rep. Mike Bost. Our [top OGR Facebook page post](#) earned 4,533 impressions and 206 engagements and was shared by UIC.

OGR followed a weekly social media plan that involved regular posting on the OGR Twitter page and Illinois Connection Facebook page three times per week. On Mondays, OGR creates an original graphic to honor an alumni legislator. On Wednesdays, OGR features specific research going on at our three universities (#ResearchWednesday). On Fridays, OGR features federally funded projects at our three universities (#FederallyFundedFriday). OGR also creates social media plans for events throughout the year. OGR uses social media to highlight current events and meetings with Illinois legislators. Virtual advocacy events, fly-ins, district meetings, and Calls-to-Action are featured on all three of our pages.

Our U of I Caucus Monday Highlights regularly performed well and earned attention from Illinois legislators. Since OGR started this initiative in 2019, these highlights have earned a total of 28,917 impressions and were shared by legislators 5 times. Our [top Monday Highlight tweet](#) earned 3,580 impressions and was retweeted by U.S. Rep. Chuy Garcia. Our top Monday Highlight post on the Illinois Connection Facebook page earned 1,512 impressions.

Followers/Likes July 2020-present

- Twitter 1,005 followers
- OGR FB 517 likes, 563 follows
- IL Connection, 938 likes, 1,039 follows

Annual impressions July 2020-present

- OGR Twitter: 183,400
- OGR Facebook: 24,098
- Illinois Connection Facebook: 27,323

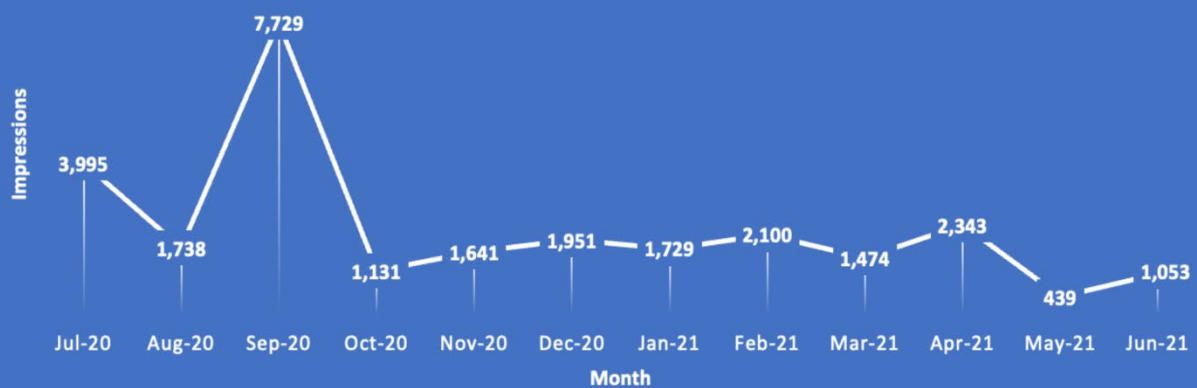
OGR TWITTER IMPRESSIONS 2020-21



OGR FACEBOOK IMPRESSIONS 2020-21



IL CONNECTION IMPRESSIONS 2020-21



Engagements July 2020-present

- OGR Twitter: 4,993
- Illinois Connection: 2,989
- OGR Facebook: 2,903



Top post for the year on each page:

OGR Twitter:

- 9,972 impressions
- 121 engagements
- Retweeted by U.S. Reps. Davis and LaHood



IL Connection Facebook:

- 2,627 impressions
- 180 engagements
- Shared by U.S. Rep. Bost



Thank you to Rep. Mike Bost, an University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign alumnus for taking the time to meet with our students to discuss higher education and the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your time and support for the University of Illinois System! #ConnectingwithCongress #HigherEd



OGR Facebook:

- 4,522 likes
- 206 engagements
- 11 shares (UIC, SAC, IL Connection)



University of Illinois System Office of Governmental Relations



Published by Theresa Thomas · June 11 at 5:02 PM ·

Call-to-Action: Reach out to your federal legislator and ask them to support all students by doubling the maximum award for the Pell Grant! Pell Grants provide critical support for low- and moderate-income students to attend and complete college and are especially critical for students of color.

"Growing up as a low-income student, I often feared not being able to afford college. We are always told that college is expensive and you ought to have a savings plan. Fortunately, I was Pell Grant eligible and was able to cover my educational expenses with my Pell Grant and a few loans. As a recent grad, I want future students in need to have an even easier time affording college."

Aaliyah Romer

University of Illinois Chicago Alumna

Too many students struggle to pay for food, housing, health care, let alone college. More Pell funding can help address these essential needs. We share Aaliyah's passion to make college more affordable for all of our students. Lend your voice and TAKE ACTION by following the link below: <https://uillinois.quorum.us/campaign/33593/>
#DoubleThePell



Monday Legislator Highlights Post Impressions					
Date	Legislator	OGR Facebook Impressions	IL Connection Facebook Impressions	OGR Twitter Impressions	Legislator Retweet?
6/21/21	U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos		70	1602	Yes
6/14/21	U.S. Rep Bobby Rush	72	48	282	No
6/7/21	U.S. Rep. Mike Bost	48	80	466	No
5/24/21	U.S. Rep. Chuy García		109	3580	Yes
4/19/21	State Rep. Tim Butler		81		
4/12/21	State Sen. Robert Martwick		59		
4/5/21	State Sen. Doris Turner		67		
3/22/21	State Rep. Kathleen Willis		127		
3/8/21	State Sen. Sara Feigenholtz		60	311	No
2/22/21	State Rep. Keith Wheeler		66		
2/15/21	State Sen. Ann Gillespie		72	239	No
2/8/21	State Rep. Debbie Myers-Martin		75	563	No
2/1/21	State Rep. Robyn Gabel		64	262	No
1/18/21	State Rep. Jim Durkin		83	243	No
1/11/21	State Sen. John Curran		98	294	No
1/4/21	State Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas		127	1054	No
12/28/20	State Rep. Kelly Burke		105		
12/21/20	State Sen. Elgie Sims		70		
12/14/20	State Sen. John Connor		81	245	No

12/7/20	State Sen. Celina Villanueva		101		
11/30/20	State Sen. Win Stoller		110		
11/23/20	State Rep. Dagmara "Dee" Avelar		92		
11/16/20	State Rep. Jackie Haas		118	371	No
9/28/20	State Sen. Patrick McGuire		99		
9/21/20	State Sen. Patricia Van Pelt		123		
9/7/20	State Sen. Celina Villanueva		104		
8/31/20	State Rep. Michael Marron		104		
8/24/20	State Rep. Joyce Mason		81		
8/17/20	State Sen. Michael Hastings		110		
7/27/20	State Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch		943		
7/20/20	State Sen. Steve McClure		118		
7/13/20	State Sen. Andy Manaar		140		
7/6/20	State Rep. Kambium Buckner		155		