

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

ACHIEVING THE EXTRAORDINARY FOR OUR STUDENTS, COMMUNITY & STATE OF ILLINOIS

Expanded access for students to increase community impact while containing costs

Illinois public universities are providing opportunities for students of all backgrounds to access an affordable, world-class public education, while also impacting economies across the state of Illinois through job creation and innovative business solutions that contain costs.

- **Support an increased annual budget appropriation for Illinois Public Higher Education:** The Illinois Public Universities are proud to be a leader during this critical time for the state. Each of our universities has taken unprecedented steps to protect the safety of our students and offer additional resources to ensure they are able to continue their education while containing internal costs. We need state investment to continue to protect and positively impact the state through higher education.
- **Increase MAP grant investment:** Monetary Award Program grants provide essential assistance from the state to create a generational impact for students' family dynamics by aiding them on their way to a college degree.
- **Appropriation for the Higher Education Statewide Bridge Program:** An appropriation to the Illinois Equal Opportunity Bridge Program would provide access, academic support and financial aid to students who show promise for succeeding in college but may not have otherwise been admitted. A statewide program would assist the Illinois Public Universities in recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in Illinois.
- **Procurement reforms to attract minority vendors (Harris, Ammons):** Immediate increase in certified diverse businesses; slowing or stoppage of diverse businesses deemed nonresponse on solicitations; easier access to direct business with certified diverse businesses; greater impact on discovery and certification of diverse businesses. Passage of the proposed legislation will lead to a dramatic increase in the number of diverse businesses available to state universities and state agencies. More importantly, an immediate impact will be felt in the direct and substantial increase in actual dollars spent with these firms. Reforms are vitally important to reaching the state's stated goal of 20 percent of overall spending with certified diverse firms.

- **Exempt Illinois Public Universities for the Grants**

Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA): The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act 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 differences between state agencies and institutions of higher education, placing significant cost barriers and administrative impacts to public universities. We are asking to reform GATA by improving the application of UG to state grant-making processes, including amending the Act to recognize that institutions of higher education fall under a different set of UG principles.

- **Reinstate the State University Certificates of Participation**

Act: 110 ILCS 73 State University Certificates of Participation Act granted the board of any state university the authority to enter into financing agreements to fund capital improvements by selling certificates of participation in installment payments made under such financing agreements. The expiration of this Act eliminated that authority. We request to reinstate the State University of Certificates of Participation Act and to extend by 10 years the current authority of the Boards of Trustees to enter into financing agreements in connection with financing or refinancing of capital improvements.

- **Liability Coverage for Illinois Public Universities:** Provide appropriate liability protection from litigation for the Illinois public universities. The health and safety of students, faculty, and staff during the pandemic remain the top concern, but failure to address this issue will hamper the universities' ability to remain open and operate effectively in providing students with a quality education.

55% OF ALL ILLINOIS PUBLIC COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN THE U OF I SYSTEM

1 IN 46 ILLINOIS JOBS CONNECTED TO THE U OF I SYSTEM

76% GRADUATION RATE FOR THE SYSTEM: COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 61%

90,000+
STUDENTS EDUCATED ANNUALLY

\$17.5B+
YEARLY CONTRIBUTION TO THE ILLINOIS ECONOMY

81%
OF UNDERGRADS ARE ILLINOIS RESIDENTS

88%
FIRST-YEAR RETENTION RATE

\$1.5B
IN ANNUAL STUDENT AID AWARDED

\$1B
TOTAL RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

TOP 25
REUTERS MOST INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITIES

800 COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS