



UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
SYSTEM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

FEDERAL PRIORITIES FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS



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CONTACT	EMAIL	PHONE
Paul Weinberger, Assistant Vice President, Federal Relations	paulw3@uillinois.edu	(217) 300-4739
Melissa Haas, Director, Federal Relations	mshaas@uillinois.edu	(217) 244-4815



I. REAUTHORIZING THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT TO ENHANCE AFFORDABILITY, ACCESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

The U of I System is committed to providing Illinois students a world-class education at a reasonable cost.

We have increased institutional financial aid for undergraduates by \$122 million—an 88% increase—over the past 10 years. Additionally, the system has frozen tuition for six of the past eight years. Four out of five undergrads across the system are Illinois residents.

- ▶ We urge Congress to prioritize reauthorizing the Higher Education Act (HEA) for the first time since 2008. Our detailed HEA reauthorization priorities are listed below.

Enhancing Affordability and Access

Pell Grants are the foundation of a student financial aid package at the U of I System. Pell eligibility can be a good indication of eligibility for additional state and institutional aid, depending on residency. In Academic Year 2021-2022, nearly 21,500 students across the system received \$105.8 million in Pell Grants.

- ▶ We urge Congress to:
 - Double the maximum Pell Grant award to \$13,000. The U of I System is actively participating in [#DoublePell](#), a national campaign to double the maximum Pell Grant award. Students across our universities have [shared stories](#) about the positive impact that Pell Grants have had in their lives.
 - Prioritize the extension of the Pell Grant mandatory inflation adjustments, which expired at the end of 2017.
 - Extend the Pell Grant eligibility period by two semesters and extend eligibility to graduate education and DACA participants.
 - Make Pell Grant funding fully mandatory.

Campus-Based Aid Programs provide crucial support for our students. Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) supported over 7,600 students across the U of I System with \$4.2 million in total funding in 2021-22. In addition, in 2021-22, over 2,100 U of I System students participated in the Federal Work-Study program.

- ▶ We encourage Congress to expand support for federal campus-based aid programs such as SEOG and Federal Work-Study.

Direct Loan disbursements for U of I System undergraduate, graduate, and professional students totaled more than \$474.4 million in 2021-22.

- ▶ We support simplifying loan repayment options and eliminating origination fees on federal student loans to lower the cost of borrowing.

The verification process for federal student aid presents a bureaucratic hurdle for millions of students annually. According to the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), on average, 84% of verified applications resulted in either no EFC change or a change so small that it did not result in a shift in the student's Pell Grant award. UIC has a significant portion of its applications selected for verification (~38%), and this additional step imposes substantial burdens on students—discouraging some from completing the application process—as well as aid administrators.

- ▶ As Congress works to simplify the federal student aid application form (FAFSA), we urge Congress to improve the verification process.

With over 35,180 graduate and professional students, the U of I System is providing the human capital and highly skilled workforce that Illinois needs. Federal support for graduate students is key to those efforts.

- ▶ We urge Congress to:
 - Maintain graduate student loan options, strong repayment terms, and loan forgiveness benefits that put graduate and professional studies within reach of all interested students.
 - Support Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN), which helps ensure a pipeline of talented experts to meet the need for a 21st century workforce.

Studies show that the high cost of textbooks affects learning outcomes and student success. Open educational resources (OER) can mitigate these problems, promoting equity of access to learning materials. OER includes not only textbooks, but also ancillary materials such as quizzes, tests, study guides, and worksheets. Our universities have programs to encourage faculty to adopt and use OER materials as alternatives to commercially produced textbooks. The U of I System leads the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), and through a [statewide collaborative enterprise](#) is working to promote, develop, and expand OER across the state.

- ▶ We encourage Congress to support OER through continued funding for the open textbooks pilot program in the Department of Education's (ED) Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).

Encouraging Degree Completion and Student Success

The U of I System proudly educates many low-income, first-generation students, and fully supports the federally funded TRIO programs, which motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit of a college degree. The system has seven TRIO-funded programs that serve approximately 1,231 students.

- ▶ We ask that Congress increase funding for TRIO programs.

Supporting Minority-Serving Institutions

Since 2010, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) has been federally designated as a [Minority-Serving Institution \(MSI\)](#). That same year, UIC was designated an Asian American and [Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution \(AANAPISI\)](#) and it has received four grants totaling \$7.1 million in support of its AANAPISI Initiative to support Asian American, Pacific Islander, low-income, first-generation, and English language learner undergraduate students. In 2016, a [five-year, \\$5.3 million grant](#) from ED affirmed UIC's designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). The grant supports UIC's efforts to increase the number of Latinx and low-income students obtaining degrees in STEM fields. The designations allow UIC to apply for any new grant opportunities set aside for federal MSI, AANAPISI and HSI institutions under Titles III and V of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.

- ▶ We encourage Congress to provide significant increases to Title III and V programs authorized through the HEA.

Addressing Teacher Preparation

With colleges of education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), UIC, and the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS), the U of I System is committed to preparing the next generation of educators, educational leaders and educational researchers.

- ▶ We urge Congress to address the needs of the U.S. educator workforce through Title II of HEA by:

- Increasing grant funding for ED's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to address shortages of special education teachers.
- Sustaining and expanding TEACH grant funding and introducing new funding initiatives to prepare teachers in critical shortage areas including mathematics, science, bilingual, and early childhood.
- Increasing federal support for a critical and growing need—educating and certifying high school teachers to teach computer science, and IT/digital skills more broadly.
- Supporting the Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) grant program to enhance the professional development of teachers.

In addition, there are not sufficient faculty in special education who are equipped to serve in higher education.

- ▶ We urge Congress to advance new OSEP initiatives to equip future faculty who train special education teachers.

Reauthorizing Title VI

ED funds important international and foreign language teaching, research and outreach through the Title VI International and Foreign Language Education programs. UIUC was one of the top Title VI funding recipients in 2022, with six National Resource Centers (NRC): the Center for African Studies; the Center for Global Studies; the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies; the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; the European Union Center; and the Russian, East European and Eurasian Center. These centers, which have more than 600 faculty affiliates, provide students with specialized language skills, support area/international studies teaching and research, and provide professional and curriculum development for K-14, graduate, and postsecondary educators. Our NRCs also administer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, totaling \$7 million over four years, which are underwritten by ED, and support graduate and undergraduate language study in combination with area and global studies, as well as related professional studies.

- ▶ We urge Congress to reauthorize the critical international education programs under Title VI to strengthen our nation's global engagement and competitiveness.

Preventing Sex Discrimination

In 2022, the Department of Education issued a [proposed rule](#) on Title IX and sex discrimination and is now in the process of reviewing and developing final regulations. Once those final regulations are released, the U of I System and its three universities will thoroughly review the final rule to ensure that our policies and practices are compliant and that our universities continue to provide safe and supportive learning and living environments for all students, faculty, staff and visitors.



II. PROMOTING INNOVATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Thanks in part to federally funded research and development (R&D), the U of I System is an engine for statewide and regional economic development, contributing \$19 billion annually to the state's economy, and supporting nearly 164,200 jobs, or one out of every 46 jobs in Illinois.

Our faculty receive over \$600 million annually in federal research funding (research expenditures) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Defense (DOD), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and other federal agencies. Urbana-Champaign routinely leads the nation in NSF grant awards, and UIC is a top recipient of NIH funding.

The U of I System has launched two related initiatives to promote innovation and economic growth, and help train the workforce of the 21st century. The Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), based in Chicago, is focused on developing tech talent for high-demand jobs, applied R&D, and business building to foster equitable economic development. DPI is the anchor of the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN), a statewide network of 15 economic development hubs that includes all of Illinois' public universities. The IIN combines research, public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship and workforce training programs to spur inclusive economic development.

Federal support is needed to ensure that institutions like the U of I System can continue to power our country's leadership in science and technology. By increasing funding for research, Congress can foster the groundbreaking innovation that will move America forward. The 117th Congress took important steps toward that goal by enacting the CHIPS and Science Act (CHIPS+), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The 118th Congress should build on those efforts by providing funding for the major research initiatives that were authorized in CHIPS+.

▶ We urge Congress to:

- Provide robust funding at the full levels authorized in CHIPS+ for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science and the Department of Commerce (DOC). This funding is essential to support:
 - Foundational basic research, mid-scale and other research infrastructure and tech transfer funded by NSF, as well as major new STEM programs across NSF;
 - Regional innovation, funded through programs such as Regional Innovation Engines at NSF's new Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnership, and DOC's Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs;
 - New DOE centers and research initiatives addressing critical areas such as microelectronics, renewable energy and grid modernization, and environmental resilience.
- ▶ Support efforts to ensure that universities can continue to drive economic and workforce development, such as bipartisan legislation introduced in the 117th Congress (H.R. 8688, the Boosting University Investments in Low-Income Districts [BUILD] Act), that would provide grants of up to \$50 million for regional public universities situated in distressed communities.

III. PROTECTING DREAMERS, MAINTAINING PATHWAYS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND WORKERS

The U of I System is committed to providing educational opportunities for qualified and deserving students, and we strongly support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

While the Administration put forward a rule in 2022 to fortify DACA, the continued uncertainty around the program's legal status—and the inability of USCIS to process new applications—creates tremendous anxiety and uncertainty for current and prospective students. It is past time for Congress to end this uncertainty by enacting bipartisan legislation such as the DREAM Act that will permanently protect deserving undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children.

Congress and the Administration should also work on a bipartisan basis to ensure that the United States continues to be a welcoming and sought-after destination for international students, scholars and workers. International students enrolled in universities across Illinois contributed more than \$1.6 billion to the state's economy in the 2021-22 academic year and supported over 18,000 jobs. Their presence adds to the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives in our student body, provides a richer cultural and academic experience for all, and supports pioneering research.

- ▶ We urge Congress and/or the Administration to:
 - Enact comprehensive immigration reform that includes the DREAM Act.
 - Expand visa and citizenship opportunities for international students and high-skilled workers. This includes extending the concept of “dual intent” to F-1 and J-1 visas so that international students and exchange visitors can no longer be denied visas because they failed to adequately demonstrate an intent to return to their home country.
 - Reduce the amount of time it takes to obtain a student or work visa by eliminating administrative processing delays across agencies and streamlining the application process. Depending on what country they are in, students overseas

may have to wait many months for an appointment to apply for an F-1 visa; for some students, that wait can be over a year currently. In addition, backlogs at the Department of Labor for prevailing wage determinations for both H-1B petitions and permanent resident applications can make it challenging for universities to attract and retain key international faculty and staff. So, too, do delays at USCIS in processing change of status, employment authorization documents, extensions for dependents of H-1Bs, etc.

- Ensure that the newly reestablished Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council provides a productive forum for the Department of Homeland Security to engage with higher education on issues of mutual concern.
- Provide opportunities and support for students, scholars and others displaced by humanitarian crises or subject to persecution around the world.
- Address the long-term physician shortage in the U.S. by passing legislation such as the Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act, which Rep. Brad Schneider introduced in the 117th Congress as H.R. 3541 (S. 1810 in the Senate). For years, rural areas in Illinois and across the country have benefited from the J-1 waiver program for international physicians who have been trained in the U.S. Legislation is needed to extend the program and to increase the number of slots available to at least 40 or allow states to pool unused slots.



IV. ADVANCING DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity, equity and inclusion are bedrock principles of the U of I System, and are central to our mission of educating deserving students from all backgrounds.

There are a number of recent and ongoing initiatives across the U of I System to enhance diversity:

- ▶ The U of I System launched the [Mexican & Mexican-American Students \(I-MMÁS\)](#) initiative in 2021. I-MMÁS was created to increase enrollment of Mexican students at the three system universities, as well as academic and research partnerships with universities, government agencies and private industry in Mexico.
- ▶ In 2022, the U of I System launched Access 2030 to increase the number of graduates from underrepresented groups by 50 percent by the end of the decade. The new initiative is intended to increase equity and diversity across the U of I System universities in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield.
- ▶ UIC was a founding member of what is now the [Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities \(HSRU\)](#), which consists of universities that are both HSIs and in the top 5% of universities in the country for research. By 2030, the Alliance is seeking to double the number of Hispanic doctoral students enrolled at Alliance universities and increase by 20% the Hispanic professoriate in Alliance universities.
- ▶ UIUC has a Call to Action to Address Racism & Social Injustice Research Program, which is a \$2 million annual commitment to examine two of the greatest challenges facing our society and seek new solutions. The Research Program provides support for academic research and the expansion of community-based knowledge that advances the understanding of systemic racism and generationally embedded racial disparity. A list of funded projects from 2021 can be reviewed [here](#).
- ▶ UIS provides [living-learning communities \(LLCs\)](#) for students, which can include increased resource efforts, support services and other high-impact practices to expand experiential learning opportunities. One of the five LLCs offered is the Necessary Steps Mentoring Program (NSMP), designed for first-generation

college students, which is one of the fastest-growing student populations entering higher education.

- ▶ We urge Congress and/or the Administration to:
 - Increase support for programs such as TRIO that help ensure that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to obtain a college education.
 - Provide strong support for Minority-Serving Institutions such as UIC that serve a disproportionate number of students of color, low-income students, and first-generation college students.
 - Support universities' efforts to promote access, equity and inclusion and to ensure inclusive and welcoming learning environments that reflect the country's diversity.



V. MAINTAINING ILLINOISANS' ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE COVERAGE AND TRAINING

UI Health provides comprehensive care, education, and research to the people of Illinois and beyond.

Part of UIC, UI Health is an academic health enterprise that integrates the clinical activities of a 450-bed tertiary care hospital, 40-plus outpatient clinics, 13 federally qualified [Mile Square Health Center facilities](#) locations, and the University of Illinois Cancer Center.

As the State's hospital caring for an underserved population, UI Health depends on federal support.

- ▶ We urge Congress and/or the Administration to:
 - Increase access to Medicaid coverage, and to avoid policy changes that could reduce federal funding to states or access for Medicaid patients, which could jeopardize care for populations most in need.
 - Ensure stability for the Medicare program and oppose any cuts to the program, including cuts to the Physician Fee Schedule.
 - Continue to support the 340B prescription drug program, which allows UI Health to leverage drug discounts from pharmaceutical companies to ensure patients can access care they otherwise would not receive, all at no cost to taxpayers. Potential changes to the 340B program could make it difficult for UI Health to provide access to drugs for patients, including those with complex and chronic diseases.
 - Provide continued federal funding for Graduate Medical Education (GME) and indirect medical education, and raise the number of Medicare-supported GME positions to ensure access to care for future generations. GME funding is vital to our efforts to train the next generation of physicians, including the 1,169 residents sponsored by the UIC College of Medicine each year.

- ▶ As hospitals contend with not only an ongoing public health crisis but also a financial crisis, we urge Congress to provide additional funds to hospitals, especially those such as UI Health that care for underserved populations.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, important telehealth flexibilities have allowed UI Health to safely care for patients. Such flexibilities include removing geographic restrictions, allowing the use of audio-only services, and expanding the types of practitioners eligible for reimbursement.

- ▶ We support the extension of telehealth flexibilities that were implemented during the COVID-19 public health emergency, which will increase access to care.

COVID-19-related cancellations and delays of services put a significant financial strain on hospitals, in addition to the added costs associated with acquiring needed supplies and equipment, protecting and maintaining a healthy workforce, and preparing for surge capacity.

VI. ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

As a member of the [International Universities Climate Alliance](#), the U of I System is committed to advancing climate science and to helping ensure that countries meet the goals laid out in the Paris Agreement.

Our researchers and scientists stand ready to assist in these efforts at the federal level by providing expertise and policy proposals to mitigate, adapt and build resiliency to increasingly severe, human-induced climate change. Across the system, our faculty are teaching about and conducting research into a range of issues, from vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation strategies, to growing food more efficiently for large populations, to protecting the most vulnerable by ensuring that decisions on climate policy are participatory and equitable.

- ▶ The 117th Congress provided crucial support for clean energy and climate resilient infrastructure in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. We urge Congress to build on those efforts by continuing to provide robust funding for climate research, and by ensuring that IIJA and IRA funds are swiftly and effectively distributed.

The U of I System is also committed to serving as a model for environmental sustainability, based on sound science and technology, and on excellence in teaching and knowledge dissemination. This commitment is captured in our [Strategic Framework](#), which targets carbon neutrality within the next four decades, and in the efforts underway at our universities in [Urbana-Champaign](#), [Chicago](#) and [Springfield](#).



VII. ENSURING THE TAX CODE PROTECTS STUDENTS AND NONPROFITS

Congress and the Administration should work together to revise provisions in the tax code that are detrimental to our students, employees and nonprofit mission.

► We urge Congress to:

- Exclude dual exempt (state instrumentality and IRC Section 501(c)(3) status) entities from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) excess executive compensation excise tax on a retroactive basis. This excise tax has cost the U of I System over \$4 million from calendar years 2018-2021.
- Repeal the TCJA's rules for unrelated business income (UBI) for nonprofits. In FYs 2019-2021, the U of I System reported \$2.2 million in taxable UBI due to the TCJA's basketing rules changes; if not for the TCJA, this figure would have been a loss of \$7.8 million. In addition, the TCJA reduced the system's net operating loss (NOL) for UBI, resulting in a loss of just \$3.5 million to carry forward to FY22; if not for the TCJA, the NOL carried forward to FY22 would have been \$13.5 million. The significant reduction in the NOL increases the system's tax liability in future years.
- Repeal the gross income exclusion for interest on advance refunding bonds. Since 2004, the U of I System has advance refunded approximately \$921 million of tax-exempt debt, saving approximately \$64 million. The ability to advance refund and restructure outstanding debt is critical for many institutions' operations and viability.
- Address an ambiguity in sec. 13801 of the Inflation Reduction Act by ensuring that public universities that are classified as "government instrumentalities" are eligible for clean energy tax credits.
- Increase incentives for charitable giving by extending the charitable deduction to all taxpayers regardless of whether they itemize deductions. The CARES Act of 2020 provided non-itemizers with an above-the-line charitable deduction of up to \$300 in eligible donations in 2020. Congress extended the deduction through 2021 and increased the deduction to \$600 for joint filers. The Universal Giving Pandemic Response and Recovery Act (S. 618/H.R. 1704 in the

117th Congress) would renew the deduction and increase the cap to one-third of the standard deduction, or about \$4,000 for single filers and about \$8,000 for joint filers.

- Increase the annual limit on the aggregate amount of distributions from IRAs for charitable purposes that may be excluded from the gross income of a taxpayer, and permit tax-free distributions from IRAs to a split-interest entity. Bipartisan legislation such as the Legacy IRA Act (S. 243 in the 117th Congress) and the Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2022 (H.R. 2954 in the 117th Congress) would achieve these objectives.
- Reinstate the rule that allowed taxpayers to deduct 80 percent of a contribution made for the right to purchase tickets for college and university athletic events (often referred to as the "80/20 rule").



VIII. STRENGTHENING RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION IN THE NEXT FARM BILL

UIUC is a world-class provider of cutting-edge agriculture and technology research, agricultural education, and innovation and technology transfer through the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) and Illinois Extension.

UIUC contributes to the Illinois ag sector's global leadership in soybeans and corn productivity; a vibrant AgTech ecosystem; and climate, workforce, and economic sustainability and resilience.

The Farm Bill, last signed in 2018, provides a five-year reauthorization and funding for significant portions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Of particular note to the U of I System is Title VII, which reauthorizes the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) education, research, and extension programs. The Farm Bill is set to expire September 30, 2023.

- ▶ We urge Congress to:
 - Increase capacity funding, including:
 - Hatch Act of 1887, which supports agricultural research and state agricultural experiment stations.
 - Smith Lever Act 3(b) and 3(c), which supports the Cooperative Extension System through dollar-for-dollar matched funding, providing research-based education and programs that advance agriculture, economic development and health.
 - Smith Lever Act 3(d), which in part supports Extension's innovative Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, targeting low-income populations.
 - Increase competitive funding. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is the USDA's competitive grant program for food and agriculture research, education and extension.
 - Support Title V – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Nutrition education funded through the SNAP-Ed program enables Illinois Extension to provide programs and assistance to food-insecure individuals and families.

- Support Title II – the Regional Conservation Partnership Program supports important water quality and nutrient loss programs in Illinois

Congress should also ensure that the next Farm Bill reauthorization helps colleges of agriculture to address a large backlog of deferred maintenance and to modernize facilities. In 2020, Gordian, a top provider of construction cost and data, estimated 69% of buildings in colleges of agriculture were at the end of their useful life, with \$11.5 billion in deferred maintenance and an estimated \$38.1 billion replacement cost nationwide. At UIUC, there is over \$287 million in estimated deferred building maintenance for College of ACES buildings which support innovation and discovery. Investing in research infrastructure will propel advancements in climate, food and nutrition sciences; attract the next generation of students to the food and ag sector; and support Illinois's innovative and vibrant AgTech economy.

- ▶ We urge Congress to invest in renewing research, extension, and education facilities by reauthorizing the Research Facilities Act, which provides competitive funding for colleges of agriculture.



IX. PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING STUDENT-ATHLETES

The U of I System is committed to safeguarding the integrity of college athletics and ensuring that student-athletes have the resources they need to succeed in their sport, in the classroom and in their respective lives.

We support allowing student-athletes to profit from use of their own name, image and likeness (NIL). As states develop and implement their own NIL laws, federal involvement is needed to ensure a successful, consistent NIL paradigm in college athletics.

- ▶ The U of I System endorses the following priorities with regard to federal legislation:
 - Preempting state NIL laws to provide a consistent national framework and an even playing field for universities and student-athletes in all states.
 - Adopting a narrowly tailored antitrust exemption that would allow universities to maintain the distinction between NIL and pay-for-play, thus preserving the amateur status of college student-athletes.
 - Protecting against abuses by boosters, particularly in the recruiting process.
 - Preserving the role of universities in student-athlete commercial arrangements, including the use of university intellectual property and trademarks and conflicts with existing university agreements.
 - Protecting student-athletes from abuse or manipulation by agents or other internal or external stakeholders in a new NIL environment.



X. COMBATING ILLICIT FOREIGN INFLUENCE WHILE PRESERVING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

In recent years, Congress and federal agencies have taken a number of steps to address efforts by foreign countries to obtain illicit influence over, or access to, U.S. universities and researchers. The CHIPS and Science Act enacted last Congress, for example, included several provisions to enhance research security through new or expanded training, risk assessments, information sharing, disclosures of foreign financial support and guidelines on foreign talent recruitment programs.

The U of I System is committed to protecting our universities, faculty and students from efforts by foreign actors to compromise or unfairly exploit research. We have internal controls in place to secure and manage access to research on sensitive topics, such as technology control plans. We also educate our faculty about risks, and about the importance of complying with federal laws, regulations and policies that are designed to prevent misuse of research. These protections include the [classification system for national security information](#), as well as federal policies on [Controlled Unclassified Information](#) and on Dual Use Research of Concern in the life sciences. The protections also include export controls, which govern certain research with foreign persons or entities; sharing of certain technologies and information overseas; and foreign travel.

At the same time, the U of I System is committed to advancing knowledge through open research and international collaboration in which methodologies, data and research results are shared freely with the public. That commitment is essential to ensure scientific progress as well as national and economic security, which is why it has been the policy of the federal government for decades that basic and applied research should “to the maximum extent possible...remain unrestricted” and that “where the national security requires control, the mechanism...is classification.”

The U of I System is open to proposals to enhance research protections that are consistent with the longstanding principles outlined above, and with efforts already underway at federal agencies, such as implementation of National Security Presidential Memorandum-33 (NSPM-33), “Presidential Memorandum on United States Government Support Research and Development National Security Policy.”

- ▶ We urge Congress and the Administration to ensure that any new federal controls on the distribution and accessibility of research information are narrowly defined and focused on specific technologies that are essential to national security, and do not unduly restrict international collaboration.

