



UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
SYSTEM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM DAY IN DC

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023

52% OF ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING ILLINOIS
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES ARE ENROLLED
IN U OF I SYSTEM UNIVERSITIES

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

77% GRADUATION RATE FOR THE SYSTEM
COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL
AVERAGE OF 64%

94,000+ STUDENTS EDUCATED
ANNUALLY

\$19B YEARLY CONTRIBUTION TO
THE ILLINOIS ECONOMY

79% OF UNDERGRADS
ARE ILLINOIS
RESIDENTS

88% FIRST-YEAR
RETENTION
RATE

\$1.8B+ IN ANNUAL
STUDENT AID
AWARDED

\$1,090,000,000
TOTAL RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

TOP 25 REUTERS MOST
INNOVATIVE
UNIVERSITIES



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ABOUT THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Office of External Relations and Communications (ERC) builds, broadens and protects the University of Illinois System's brand and reputation and advances its priorities, fostering broad-based understanding, engagement, support, advocacy, and investment to enable the transformative power of the system to grow and positively impact lives at scale.

ERC's federal relations team, through its offices in Washington, D.C. and Illinois, works closely with Congress, the Administration, and federal agencies to promote the system's education, research, health, and economic development missions. ERC also includes Illinois Connection, a grassroots advocacy network that brings together alumni, students, faculty and staff to support the system's legislative interests.

MESSAGES AND TALKING POINTS

TOP LINE MESSAGES

WE URGE CONGRESS TO:

1. Enhance higher ed affordability and access by boosting Pell Grant funding.
2. Increase federal support for research and innovation.

TALKING POINTS

- Thank you for being a champion of the U of I System!
- Across our system, we are providing the education, health care and economic opportunities that matter to your constituents. And we couldn't do it without support from Congress.
- **As Congress works on FY2024 appropriations, we have two asks:**
 1. **We are urging Congress to increase Pell Grant funding.**
 - The U of I System is committed to providing Illinois students a world-class education at a reasonable cost.
 - We provide significant institutional aid, but over 21,000 U of I System students also rely on Pell Grants to pay for college.
 - We support doubling the maximum Pell award to \$13,000 and permanently indexing the award amount to inflation.
 - We are grateful that last year, Congress increased the maximum Pell award by \$500 to \$7,395 a year, the largest increase in a decade. We hope you will build on those efforts this year.
 2. **We are asking for increased federal support for research and innovation.**
 - With over \$600 million a year in federal research expenditures, the U of I System is a research powerhouse. From a safer shingles vaccine to Mosaic—the first graphical Internet browser—the U of I System has transformed lives.
 - By increasing funding for the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and other agencies that fund our faculty, Congress can promote innovation and national competitiveness.
 - The last Congress took important steps to boost research funding, particularly through enactment of the CHIPS and Science Act. This Congress should build on those efforts by providing the funding that was promised in the CHIPS law.
 - Thank you again, and we hope you will join us this evening to celebrate the U of I System and our congressional champions!

BACKGROUND ON PELL GRANTS

The federal government plays a key role in enhancing college affordability and access. The Higher Education Act (HEA), first enacted in 1965, authorizes federal financial aid programs for individuals pursuing a postsecondary education and programs that support institutions of higher education. Title IV of the HEA authorizes the federal government's major student financial aid programs, including need-based grants such as Pell and the federal student loan program. Nationwide, over seven million students, or about 40 percent of undergraduates, receive a Pell Grant each year, including more than 2.5 million students at public four-year institutions.

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. Our students also receive significant institutional aid. The U of I System has committed to providing \$277 million in undergraduate aid for the current year, an increase of 6 percent over last year, and a figure that has grown by \$138 million over the past 11 years.

The U of I System is actively participating in #DoublePell, a national campaign to double the maximum federal Pell Grant award to \$13,000. We also support extending the Pell Grant eligibility period by two semesters; extending Pell eligibility to graduate education and DACA participants; and making Pell Grant funding fully mandatory, so it is not subject to the annual appropriations process in Congress.

BACKGROUND ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Our faculty expend 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 including 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 118th Congress should build on those efforts by providing full funding in FY2024 for the major research initiatives and accounts that were authorized in CHIPS. That funding is essential to support investments in foundational basic research and research infrastructure. It will also help ensure that universities can continue to drive regional innovation with support from the NSF and Department of Commerce.



TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL HILL MEETING

- 1. Be flexible.** Schedules change frequently on Capitol Hill, and members may be called away unexpectedly for committee business or floor votes. Meetings may need to be shortened, rescheduled, or relocated to accommodate the evolving legislative schedule or the number of people attending.
- 2. Be prepared.** Review the key messages and talking points in this booklet and think about how you want to put them in your own words. Plan as a team who will deliver which messages to keep the conversation running smoothly. Prepare a succinct version of your talking points in case the meeting gets cut short.
- 3. Have a U of I System story ready.** You can amplify the impact of the key messages by incorporating a story from your own experience with the University of Illinois System. For example, consider talking about how your education has made a difference in your life, or how research benefits your community and the state.
- 4. Know your audience and make connections.** Familiarize yourself with the elected official's policy views, and the demographics of their district. Look for things you may have in common, such as interests, hometowns, friends, and, of course, the U of I System universities. If you're meeting with your own local representative, make sure to mention that you're a constituent!
- 5. Be sure the information you provide is accurate.** Legislators may ask you questions about the policies you are advocating for or about unrelated topics. Don't guess or overstate anything. It is okay to tell them you don't know the answer and you will relay their questions to ERC staff to follow up.
- 6. Be courteous.** Sometimes a legislator may have a different opinion than you. Please remember to be respectful despite any disagreements, both in person and on social media. If the legislator is unavailable, remember that congressional staff play an important role in advising members on policy issues. Staff meetings can be just as useful as member meetings.

AFTER YOUR MEETING:

Debrief with your team about your conversation. The team lead will be responsible for submitting your feedback form for each meeting. Please make note of any promised actions, unanswered questions and responses to the items you discussed with the legislator or their staff.



SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

ERC is executing a social media plan to promote our event on Twitter and Facebook. Follow the University of Illinois System Office of Governmental Relations page on [Facebook](#) and @uofigovrelation on [Twitter](#) to participate. Use the **#UofISystemInDC** when posting about the event.

IN THIS TEMPLE
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER



CONTACT US [UILLINOIS.EDU/ERC](https://uillinois.edu/erc)

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LEGISLATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME	DIST.	ROOM	PARTY	COMMITTEES
Sen. Dick Durbin	IL	711 Hart	D	Judiciary (Chairman); Appropriations; Agriculture
Sen. Tammy Duckworth	IL	524 Hart	D	Armed Services; Commerce, Science, & Transportation; Small Business & Entrepreneurship; Foreign Relations
Rep. Jonathan Jackson	01	1641 LHOB	D	Agriculture; Foreign Affairs
Rep. Robin Kelly	02	2329 RHOB	D	Energy & Commerce
Rep. Delia Ramirez	03	1523 LHOB	D	Energy & Commerce
● Rep. Chuy Garcia	04	1519 LHOB	D	Financial Services; Transportation & Infrastructure; Natural Resources
Rep. Mike Quigley	05	2083 RHOB	D	Appropriations
Rep. Sean Casten	06	2440 RHOB	D	Financial Services; Science, Space, & Technology
Rep. Danny Davis	07	2159 RHOB	D	Ways & Means
Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi	08	2367 RHOB	D	Oversight & Reform; Select Committee on Intelligence; Select Committee on China (Ranking Member)
● Rep. Jan Schakowsky	09	2408 RHOB	D	Energy & Commerce; Budget
Rep. Brad Schneider	10	300 CHOB	D	Ways & Means; Foreign Affairs
Rep. Bill Foster	11	2366 RHOB	D	Financial Services
● Rep. Mike Bost	12	352 CHOB	R	Agriculture; Transportation & Infrastructure; Veterans Affairs (Chairman)
● Rep. Nikki Budzinski	13	1009 LHOB	D	Agriculture; Veterans Affairs
Rep. Lauren Underwood	14	1410 LHOB	D	Appropriations
Rep. Mary Miller	15	1740 LHOB	R	Agriculture; Education & the Workforce
● Rep. Darin LaHood	16	1424 LHOB	R	Ways & Means; Select Committee on Intelligence; Select Committee on China
Rep. Eric Sorensen	17	1205 LHOB	D	Agriculture; Science, Space, & Technology
●● Rep. Larry Bucshon	IN-8	2313 RHOB	R	Energy & Commerce
● Rep. Chuck Fleischmann	TN-3	2187 RHOB	R	Appropriations; Science, Space, & Technology

