The University of Illinois System is a powerhouse for education, research, discovery and economic development. The federal government is a key partner in these efforts.

As the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations process gets underway, we urge Congress to:

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

BOOSTING 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 to undergraduate students—$277 million this year—a figure that has roughly doubled over the past 11 years.
- Pell Grants also play a crucial role in allowing low- and middle-income students to attend college. In Academic Year 2021-22, nearly 21,500 U of I System students received $105.8 million in Pell Grants.
- The U of I System supports #DoublePell, a national campaign to increase the maximum Pell award to $13,000.

INCREASING FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

- With over $600 million a year in federal research expenditures, the U of I System is driving innovation and discovery. From a safer and more effective shingles vaccine, to Mosaic—the first graphical Internet browser—U of I System researchers and students transform lives.
- UIUC routinely leads the nation in National Science Foundation grant awards, and UIC is a top recipient of funding from the National Institutes of Health.
- The CHIPS and Science Act, enacted last year, took important steps to boost federal R&D. Now, Congress should build on those efforts by providing the agency funding that was authorized in CHIPS.