# PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

# Summer 2022 summary and next steps

University of Illinois System President Tim Killeen delivered a comprehensive overview of the system's initiatives and impact, tying significant progress back to the organization's mission and values. The group's robust conversation featured feedback and suggestions for continued forward motion.

"The system's work extends beyond higher education. Our research solves problems, fuels innovation and creates jobs. We partner to grow the Illinois economy, support communities and more. These key elements make the system altogether extraordinary."

- President Tim Killeen

## SHARING IMPACT THROUGH MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS

- Focusing on three areas:
  - Education, including talent and workforce development
  - Health and wellbeing, including environmental sustainability and social supports
  - Research and innovation
- Ramp up national promotion of the U of I System, its mission and its capabilities
- Show clearly how what we do ties back to the strategic framework
- Communicate the synergy among our universities and with our external partners
- Spotlight accomplishments like Illinois Innovation Network (IIN) and Discovery Partners Institute that are unlike most land-grant institutions
- Distribute key messages to partners who can share those points on our behalf





#### **ENHANCING THE SYSTEM'S STRONG CULTURE**

- Faculty involvement
  - Integrate educational functions with the system mission beyond classrooms and labs
  - Engage all levels of faculty so they understand their role, especially as system champions
  - Inspire faculty senates to share how proactive and robust involvement from faculty is essential
- Governance and succession planning
  - Continue to align governance structure with the essential value of action-oriented service leadership
  - Identify additional opportunities when we should adopt multi-tiered governance mechanisms, such as IIN's councilgoverned, distributed collaborative

- Establish a culture that is so firmly embedded that system missions continue even when leadership changes
- Diversity: Hispanic students, educators
  - Recent successes include the Illinois Mexican & Mexican American Students System Initiative and stronger ties with Autonomous National University in Mexico City, as well as UIC's leadership in the launch of the Hispanic Serving Research Universities Alliance to increase the number of Latino graduate students and professors at the participating 20 Hispanic-serving research universities.

"We have a distinctive culture of generous collaboration, flowing interdisciplinarity, pride and excellence, academic and servant leadership. This secret sauce supports our initiatives and operations – for example, SHIELD, U of I's innovative response to COVID-19 – with influence from our land-grant mission and Midwestern culture."

- President Tim Killeen

# GRAND CHALLENGE: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

- Pursue and share about a unique achievement that helps solve this critical issue
- Work through implications of economic transformation and resilience
- Expect a briefing about related data-backed sustainability R&D and workforce development initiatives

### THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Assess and provide guidance around the evolution of four-year undergraduate experiences
- Pursue obligations beyond providing degrees, including outreach and support for pre-high school students of color and lifelong learning

#### **CHAIRMAN LANGER'S CONCLUDING REMARKS**

The chair challenged the group to help generate publicity around the U of I System's strengths, especially what differentiates it from peer institutions. Also, the chair suggested the council develop a plan for what it wants to accomplish, including key metrics to measure success.

### **POTENTIAL FUTURE TOPICS**

- Future of higher education and system universities
  - Community college interface opportunities, especially around access and diversity
  - System research to understand and quantify its own transformative process
  - Pandemic lessons around distance learning and enhanced use of technology
- How the U of I System is addressing the next grand challenges
  - Sustainability
  - Artificial intelligence and machine learning to design and operate research workflows

