

Illinois Board of Higher Education



Carrie J. Hightman
Chair



Judy Erwin
Executive Director

The Board of Higher Education, created in 1961, is a planning and coordinating agency for all sectors of Illinois higher education. The board's major statutory responsibilities include continually analyzing the aims, needs and requirements of Illinois higher education; making budget recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly for higher education operations, grants and capital improvements; approving proposals for new units of instruction, research and public service for public colleges and universities; approving operating and degree-granting authority for independent and out-of-state institutions; administering designated state and federal grant programs; and other responsibilities specified in the *Illinois Compiled Statutes*.

Through its master planning responsibility, the board approved the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success in December 2008 as the blueprint for higher education over the next decade. The agenda focuses on four goals:

- 1) Increase educational attainment to match the best-performing states and countries.
- 2) Ensure college affordability for students, families and taxpayers.
- 3) Increase production of high-quality post-secondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.
- 4) Better integrate Illinois' educational, research and innovation assets to meet the economic needs of the state and its regions.

The board consists of 16 members, including 10 members appointed for six-year terms, the respective chairs of the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, a member of a public university governing board, a member of an independent college or university board of trustees, and two student members elected by the recognized Student Advisory Committee to the Board.

Board Members: Carrie J. Hightman, *chair*; Lucy A. Sloan, *vice chair*; Guy H. Alongi, *ex-officio chair*, Illinois Community College Board; Donald J. McNeil, *ex-officio chair*, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Jay D. Bergman; Dr. Frances G. Carroll, Public University Trustees; Dr. Alice B. Hayes, Independent College and University Trustees; Dr. John P. Minogue; Dr. Proshanta K. Nandi; Robert J. Ruiz; Dr. Elmer L. Washington; Dr. Addison E. Woodward, Jr.; William Obuchowski, *student representative*; and Dimitri Kametas, *nontraditional student representative*.