Higher Education Benefits All of Us
Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council

Higher education is an investment, not just a cost. It needs to be among our state’s highest priorities. By not adequately funding higher education in Illinois, we are eating our seed corn.

1. Higher education benefits society by
   • producing a highly educated workforce
   • serving as an economic engine and a backbone of Illinois’ economic development
   • being an incubator of innovative ideas in fields as diverse as technology, health care, commerce, and agriculture
   • making Illinois an innovator and a leader
   • producing graduates who enjoy better health, commit fewer crimes, have lower unemployment and poverty rates, earn higher wages, and thus pay more taxes\(^1\)
   • enhancing cultural appreciation and understanding of others, which makes people more capable of working in a diverse modern workforce and participating in a democracy and in civic life.

2. Higher education needs legislative and financial support that provides students the opportunity to complete programs and degrees in Illinois.
   • Higher education is a public good.
   • When we adequately fund higher education, we will reverse outmigration. Students earning degrees in Illinois are more likely to work and raise families in Illinois after graduation.\(^2\) We cannot afford a brain drain.
   • Today’s students should not be saddled with a crushing debt that older Illinois citizens did not have. We need to treat the next generation fairly.
   • Illinois should ensure academic opportunities by offering financial packages that competitively match out-of-state offers.
   • In previous decades, higher education was subsidized by the state to a greater extent. The members of the Faculty Advisory Council for the IBHE believe the current generation should have this same opportunity.

Higher education in Illinois needs your support and the state’s significant financial investment.

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\(^2\)Of Illinois students who go to college here, 8% move out of state after graduation, but 33% of Illinois students who go to college out of state stay out of state after graduation (Eric Lichtenberger and Cecile Dietrich, *Outmigration and human capital: Homeward bound or gone for good?* Edwardsville IL, Illinois Education Research Council at SIU-Edwardsville, 2014, 21). [https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED555422](https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED555422)