

## Illinois Board of Higher Education



**Tom Cross**  
Chair



**Nyle Robinson**  
Interim 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; collecting, maintaining and reporting demographic information about enrolled students and degree recipients, faculty and staff, and characteristics of individual 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*.

In December 2008, the board approved the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success 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) 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:** Tom Cross, *chair*; Lazaro Lopez, *ex-officio member*, Illinois Community College Board; Kevin Huber, *ex-officio member*, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Jay D. Bergman; Max Coffey; Meredith Daw; Sherry Eagle; Alice Marie Jacobs; Santos Rivera; Darlene Ruscitti; Jack Thomas; Emily Buice, *student representative*; and Truong "Jack" Luu, *nontraditional student representative* (three vacancies).