



IL Coalition to Invest in Higher Education

We come together – public and private universities and colleges, business, labor, administrators and faculty, students and families – to call for an immediate investment in students and our higher education system.

- Every college and university is handling these budget cuts differently. But make no mistake – at 7 months into the fiscal year without funding, the budget crisis is causing measurable pain.
 - Over 125,000 Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant recipients, by definition the poorest students in our state, were promised an award and without it many will not be able to continue at their college or university.
 - The absence of operational funding is already limiting public higher education's ability to provide services and classes for students to complete their degrees, which could lead to more students dropping out of college.
 - To offset these cuts, raising tuition and fees and cutting positions give our out-of-state competitors the opening they need for our students and faculty talent
 - Research dollars and out-of-state students will not come here – and won't be easy to bring back once the crisis has passed

Higher education is an integral part of Illinois' success story. Improving our communities and the lives of our citizens and their families in turn improves the state's ability to grow and build future resources. Our higher education system needs action in Springfield now.

- Our state's ability to compete at a high level with other states and countries, and grow opportunities for our citizens and businesses, is directly connected with our investment in human capital. Without it, as evidenced over the last decade, we will continue to fall further behind.
- 70% of all jobs in the modern economy require some level of higher education. Illinois' citizens will be left out of job opportunities, better paying jobs, more growth and opportunity.
- Think of how Carbondale, Charleston, Macomb, Galesburg, Jacksonville and many, many other communities will be devastated by slowing their most important economic engines
- It's well documented that an educated citizenry is directly correlated to lower unemployment and increased tax revenues at all levels of government.

Higher Education is an economic engine for our citizens and the state

- We employ **nearly 175,000** people directly.
- **We generate, at 150+ locations statewide, over \$50 billion in state and local economic activity**
- We annually educate over **800,000** students at our community, public and private universities and colleges
- We boost the standard of living in communities around the state by providing good-paying jobs for our administrators, faculty and staff who support our schools and local businesses
- We draw students and workers and strong economic activity to our campuses in every county in Illinois
- We bring in billions of dollars in research grants and thousands of students from around the world
- We provide hope to many students and families whose lives and careers wouldn't be the same without us

We stand together to call for MAP and operational funds from Springfield today. Lawmakers and the governor came to an agreement on releasing funds to avert disaster several times in 2015. Higher Education, our state, and our students need that leadership through compromise right now!

**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS TO MAKE SURE
ILLINOIS HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE!**