



## ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

# 2017 BRIEFING SHEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE ISSUES

### FISCAL YEAR 2017 / FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET

We must continue to emphasize the critically important need for **state funding** for the Illinois community college system. For the past two years, community colleges have been operating in an unpredictable fiscal climate caused by reduced and inconsistent state funding.

Community colleges need state funding to stem the effects of hundreds of faculty layoffs, staff furloughs and program cutbacks.

### LOCAL CONTROL

It is essential that community college boards retain **local control** of their districts. ICCTA will oppose any erosion of local control that appears as an unfunded mandate or government intrusion into tax levy authority, tuition, scholarships, or spending.

Locally elected and appointed boards should govern public community colleges without interference from state government.

### BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN NURSING FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

A community college district should have the option to award the **Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing** if it wishes to offer the program.

Community colleges:

- Are accessible in a multitude of locations statewide
- Provide quality capacity necessary to reduce the shortage of nurses
- Offer efficient, cost-effective programs that reduce student loan debt
- House existing nursing facilities on many campuses
- Do not compete with universities for the place-bound student