



Illinois Community College Trustees Association

## **2024 LEGISLATIVE GOALS**

*Adopted by the ICCTA Board of Representatives on November 11, 2023*

### **Protect local control of community colleges**

Illinois community college boards are locally elected or appointed to make decisions affecting their local districts and are directly responsive to the electorate. A 2007 Judicial Circuit Court decision reaffirmed the concept that community colleges are units of local government. ICCTA will protect local control of community colleges and oppose any legislation that infringes on this autonomy.

### **Equitable funding for community college operations**

Illinois community colleges operate high-quality institutions in a lean and fiscally responsible manner. ICCTA strongly advocates for funding to expand job-training programs in high-demand fields. Illinois community colleges will continue to provide critical educational services, including to the nation's veterans, and to improve student outcomes at a low cost.

### **Equity in higher education**

Community college trustees promote policies that support access, affordability, equity, and completion for all students. In tandem with efforts taking place on individual campuses to promote equitable participation and foster a welcoming learning environment, ICCTA supports initiatives to eliminate barriers to higher education and close the educational and economic gaps of underrepresented populations.

### **Community college baccalaureate degrees**

There is a need to explore the need for community college baccalaureate degrees (CCB) in Illinois. The process for determining the need will include a data-driven CCB case-making methodology centered on supply and demand analysis and other important and supplementary data. Policy development for CCB degrees will include data analysis, emphasizing workforce needs for bachelor's graduates who represent student populations marginalized from baccalaureate access and completion. Legislative strategy will be informed by key stakeholders, including community college and university personnel, state education agency leaders, industry representatives, and others.

### **Prepare Illinois' future workers**

New technologies and innovation continue to advance and shape the future of work. Community colleges have a central role to play in preparing Illinois' future workers. ICCTA stands as a ready partner to expand access and funding for career and technical education (CTE), community college career pathways, and work-based learning to create a pipeline of well-trained workers prepared for the jobs of the future.

### **Protect student borrowers using MAP funds**

MAP resources are essential for community college students, who are often nontraditional students who tend to be the first in their family to attend college and come from families with distressed financial conditions. For-profit colleges are big business, primarily funded by taxpayers, and market aggressively to nontraditional students. For-profit colleges leave students with higher levels of debt and lower graduation rates, and often with no degree and no improvement in their job situations. ICCTA believes students should be protected from inequitable and misleading student loans by preventing MAP grants from being used at for-profit institutions.

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