



Illinois Community College Trustees Association

2025 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Pursue Community College Workforce Degrees

As Illinois faces significant workforce shortages, particularly in technical fields, there is an increasing need to consider the role of community colleges in meeting these demands through baccalaureate degree offerings. Community colleges already engage with thousands of employers statewide and play a critical role in developing talent to fill gaps in industries struggling with hiring and retention. A data-driven approach will assess the demand for baccalaureate degrees in limited fields of study, focusing on fields with acute workforce needs and underserved communities. Currently, 24 states allow community colleges to award baccalaureate degrees.

Enhance Student Transfer and Articulation Policies

Illinois must improve the transfer process between community colleges and four-year institutions to ensure students can efficiently pursue their degrees without delays or added costs. This includes strengthening articulation agreements and creating clear, guaranteed transfer pathways. ICCTA supports legislation that fosters seamless credit transfer, enhances student advising, and expands transfer opportunities. These improvements will help increase degree completion rates, reduce financial burdens, and strengthen Illinois' workforce.

Prepare Illinois' Future Workers

New technologies, including the rapid emergence of artificial intelligence (AI), continue to reshape the future of work. To stay ahead of this trend, community colleges must not only prepare students with the competencies needed for careers in AI and related fields, but also integrate AI across existing curricula to enhance learning outcomes. ICCTA is committed to supporting the expansion of access, funding, and innovative approaches in career and technical education (CTE), community college career pathways, and work-based learning. By doing so, we can help build a pipeline of skilled workers who are not only prepared for the jobs of today but also equipped to adapt to the evolving demands of tomorrow's workforce.

CORE LEGISLATIVE VALUES

Remain Responsive to the Community College District

Illinois community college boards are locally elected to make decisions affecting their local districts and are directly responsive to the electorate. ICCTA is committed to preserving the ability of these institutions to make decisions that best serve their communities and will oppose legislation that undermines this essential autonomy.

Receive Equitable Funding for College Operations

Illinois community colleges operate high-quality institutions in a lean and fiscally responsible manner. ICCTA advocates for funding to expand job-training programs in high-demand fields. Illinois community colleges will continue to provide critical educational services and to improve student outcomes at a low cost while removing barriers to success so all students have the needed resources to complete their education and enter the workforce.

Champion 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.

For more information, please contact:
Jessica Nardulli (217) 415-6704