



ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

2019 COMMUNITY COLLEGE ISSUES

- Fiscal Year 2020 Budget**

The Governor has recommended a 5% increase (\$13.5 million) in state funding above FY 2019 levels for public community colleges and public universities. This recommendation follows four consecutive years of either very little state funding or austere budgets for higher education.

ACTION: Ask members of the Illinois General Assembly to support the Governor's budget recommendations to help community colleges recover from 16 years of declining state support.

- Capital Construction**

There is more need for state capital construction projects than there is revenue to pay for them. In recent years, the General Assembly has not seen traditional rules and criteria for developing a higher education capital plan. The result has been inconsistent and often times no funding for community college construction. Only a few projects have been funded in recent years.

ACTION: Remind the members of the General Assembly of the critical need for a capital bill. Explain your community college capital needs to your legislators.

- Thank You**

ACTION: Thank legislators for supporting community colleges during the state's budget impasse. Explain that their support allowed community college students to transfer to four-year universities and boosted college initiatives to create new vocational or technical programs that are putting people to work.

2019 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Adopted by the ICCTA Board of Representatives on February 11, 2019

- Educate new members of the 101st Illinois General Assembly**

A record number (nearly one-third) of the members of the Illinois General Assembly are new to the legislative process and may be unfamiliar with community colleges. ICCTA will promote coordinated efforts by trustees and presidents to inform lawmakers about community college issues.

- Protect local control of community colleges**

Illinois community college boards are locally elected or appointed to make decisions affecting the local district 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.

- Secure equitable funding for community college operations**

Illinois community colleges operate high-quality institutions in a lean and fiscally responsible manner. ICCTA will seek Fiscal Year 2020 state funding to ensure that community colleges continue operating efficiently while keeping tuition and administrative costs low. 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.

- Pursue funding for capital construction projects**

Community colleges have capital and deferred maintenance needs that are approach more than \$1 billion statewide. ICCTA will pursue the inclusion of community colleges in capital construction proposals that are brought before the 101st General Assembly.

- Protect Monetary Award Program grants**

Many low-income students rely on state-funded Monetary Award Program grants to attend Illinois community colleges and universities. ICCTA will work to protect these essential financial-aid grants in the FY 2020 state budget.

- Promote adequate funding for adult education programs**

More than 1.8 million people in Illinois lack a high school diploma or equivalent. ICCTA will promote initiatives to support the funding and expansion of adult education and literacy programs in Illinois.

- Preserve the College Insurance Program**

The College Insurance Program is a successful health insurance program for Illinois community college retirees. Efforts are required to improve the funding sources for CIP and allow the City Colleges of Chicago to participate.

- Support community college bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degrees**

The rising shortage of registered nurses (especially in rural areas) has prompted Illinois community colleges to seek legislative authority to offer bachelor of science degrees in nursing. ICCTA will support efforts to provide local college districts with the option of conveying the BSN degree.

***For additional information, contact ICCTA
at 1-800-454-2282 or iccta@communitycolleges.org***