

ICCTA Board Highlights

from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association's January 30, 2021 virtual meeting

BOARD ACTIONS AND REPORTS

- Learned that the **Illinois Council of Community College Presidents** has drafted a letter to petition **Gov. JB Pritzker** to include front-line community college employees in the state's 1-B Group vaccination schedule;
- Previewed the Illinois General Assembly's spring 2021 session. Lawmakers have cancelled most session days in February and plan to work remotely due to ongoing COVID concerns;
- Received an update on state budget issues. The **Illinois Board of Higher Education** has recommended a [2% increase in state funding for community colleges and a \\$15 million set-aside for community college Monetary Award Program grants](#). The Governor will deliver his budget address on February 17;
- Discussed the recently passed [omnibus education reform bill](#), which was one of the four pillars of the **Legislative Black Caucus** Agenda. Two components affect community colleges: 1) the [Developmental Education Reform Act](#) requires consistent placement across the state, with new reporting requirements every other year; and 2) the **Illinois Workforce Investment Board** will study the feasibility of consolidating workforce development programs;
- Were informed that ICCTA is applying for a grant from the **Joyce Foundation** to research and collect data on the state's need for community college baccalaureate degrees;
- Announced that ICCTA will not hold an in-person Lobby Day in Springfield this year. Instead, trustees will focus on a hybrid approach of in-district lobbying and Zoom meetings with targeted legislative leaders;
- Learned that the **Illinois Community College Board** has [suspended the High School Equivalency Constitution Test until December 31](#) due to a huge backlog of students;
- Reviewed community colleges' [2021 federal legislative priorities](#), including Higher Education Act reauthorization, Pell Grant expansion, and student loan debt forgiveness;
- Reminded trustees of ICCTA's virtual meetings with **U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin** (on February 3) and **U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth** (on February 4). The meetings will take place prior to the [2021 virtual National Legislative Summit](#);
- Discussed efforts to increase college flexibility in spending down [federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act grants](#). ICCTA has co-signed a letter with other higher education advocates that seeks an additional \$97.3 billion in pandemic-related relief funds;
- Received an update on the development of ICCTA's new strategic plan, which will be presented to the Board of Representatives in March;
- Learned that community colleges are actively involved in crafting IBHE's 10-year [Strategic Planning](#) initiative. **Martha Burns** (Oakton) and **Jim Reed** (ICCTA) represent trustees on the steering committee;
- Were informed that the **ICCTA Onboarding Committee** is producing a series of member-only podcasts on governance. Topics will include trustee responsibilities and the Illinois Open Meetings Act;
- Heard that the **ICCTA Public Relations Committee** is developing a searchable Q&A database for the association's website. The "Trustee Chat" resource will be accessible to ICCTA members only;
- Encouraged trustees to [register for ICCTA's March 12 seminar](#) on "*The Urgency to Treat Cybersecurity as a Business Decision*," which will take place as part of ICCTA's [March 12-13 in-person meeting in Schaumburg](#); and

- Endorsed two Illinois candidates for the fall 2021 **Association of Community College Trustees** elections: **Fritz Larsen** (Black Hawk) for Central Region director, and **Dr. Maureen Dunne** (DuPage) for ACCT director-at-large.

IMPORTANT LINKS

- [ICCTA Executive Director's January 2021 report](#)
- [ICCTA President's January 2021 report](#)
- [ICCTA January 2021 federal legislative report](#)
- [Illinois Community College Board report](#)
- [2021 Community College Federal Legislative Priorities](#) (the 'Green Sheet')
- [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund \(HEERF\) FAQs](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2021

- February 8-10: [Virtual Community College National Legislative Summit](#)
- February 22: ICCTA North Suburban and West Suburban Region joint meeting via Zoom
- February 26: Nominations deadline for ICCTA's 2021 [Distinguished Alumnus Award, Gary W. Davis Ethical Leadership Award, Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Award, Professional Board Staff Member Award, and Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award](#)

MARCH 2021

- March 9: [Illinois Board of Higher Education meeting](#), Loyola University, Chicago (as conditions allow)
- March 11: Illinois Council of Community College Presidents meeting via Zoom
- March 11-12: [State Universities Retirement System meetings](#), location TBD
- March 12-13: [ICCTA Board of Representatives meetings](#), Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Hotel, Schaumburg
- March 26: [Illinois Community College Board meeting](#) via Zoom
- March 26: Nominations deadline for ICCTA's 2021 [Business/Industry Partnership Award, Gandhi/King Peace Essay Scholarship, Lifelong Learning Award, Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award, Outstanding FT Faculty Member Award, Pacesetter Award, & Paul Simon Student Essay Contest](#)

APRIL 2021

- April 6: Consolidated election (including community college trustees)
- April 11-14: [American Association of Community College's in-person convention](#), Nashville, Tennessee
- April 15: [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#), location TBD
- April 22: [State Universities Retirement System meetings](#), location TBD

MAY 2021

- May 4: ICCTA Board of Representatives meetings via Zoom
- May 6-27: [American Association of Community Colleges' digital conference](#)

JUNE 2021

- June 3: Illinois Council of Community College Presidents meeting, location TBA
- June 3-5: ICCTA annual convention, Marriott Bloomington-Normal Hotel and Conference Center, Normal, IL
- June 4: [Illinois Community College Board meeting](#), Marriott Bloomington-Normal Hotel and Conference Center, Normal, IL
- June 17: [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#), location TBD

NEXT MEETING

The ICCTA Board of Representatives will meet in person on March 12-13, 2021 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Schaumburg, Illinois.

Illinois Community College Trustees Association

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