



Support SB2482 and HB3717 - Community College Baccalaureate Degrees to Expand Illinois' Skilled Workforce

Community College Baccalaureate degrees will increase baccalaureate attainment in Illinois.

- Adopting Community College Baccalaureate (CCB) degrees is a natural extension of Illinois' commitment to improving career pathways for all students, including adult learners.
- Twenty-four states have allowed community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. States such as Ohio, Washington, and Florida have successfully launched these programs in partnership with local and regional employers to map career pathways and improve baccalaureate attainment.¹
- Local students who attend community colleges are not traditional students—most are working adults with job and family responsibilities, making baccalaureate attainment difficult due to commuting barriers, schedule conflicts, and cost.
 - 78% of prospective graduates surveyed from ten Illinois community colleges work while attending school, making relocation, commuting, and rigid class schedules unrealistic.²
 - Without a flexible, local, and affordable pathway to a bachelor's degree, these students are left without viable options to advance their education and careers.
- Community colleges are already equipped to serve these students, offering affordable tuition, flexible scheduling, and localized support. By offering bachelor's degrees locally, community colleges can ensure that students don't have to choose between education and their jobs, families, or communities.

*"I want to pursue higher education, I am a bit older than my typical community college peers. I am 25 and will complete my Associate's Degree in Business Administration in the spring of 2025, at age 26. I work almost full-time with 5 classes right now. I worry about the cost of studying for my Bachelor's and how a university operates because I need something flexible if I'm working and in school."
- Illinois Community College Student*

¹ (Brigg, D. D., & Harmon, T. (2023). Twenty Frequently Asked Questions about Community College Baccalaureate (CCB) Degrees in Illinois. Springfield, IL: Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA).
² Harmon, T. (2024). Survey of Illinois Community College Students about the Community College Baccalaureate. Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

ICCTA Board Highlights



Advocacy

- Discussed legislative strategies with State Rep. **Tracy Katz Muhl**, chief sponsor of [House Bill 3717](#) (Community College Baccalaureate Degrees);
- Urged trustees to contact lawmakers and [submit witness slips](#) in support of HB 3717, which was heard in the House Higher Education Committee on March 19;
- Were reminded that the annual Illinois Community College Caucus reception will take place on Tuesday evening, May 6, in Springfield. [ICCTA Lobby Day](#) is Wednesday, May 7;
- Suggested trustees request copies of their institution's sexual misconduct climate survey;
- Discussed recent federal executive orders impacting higher education; and
- Received updates on the [Illinois Community College Board](#), the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, and the Association of Community College Trustees.

March 14-15, 2025 meetings * Lisle, Illinois



Member Engagement

- Announced that the nomination deadline for 2025-2026 ICCTA office is April 25. Elections will occur at the June 7 annual meeting in Normal. Vice president candidates must submit a letter of support for their two years of ICCTA service;
- Discussed how trustees can support their president during challenging times; and
- Noted the attendance of trustees, presidents, administrators, and students from 33 community college districts from around the state.

Trustee Education

- Reviewed ICCTA's March 14 "The State of DEI in Higher Education" seminar;
- Learned that the ICCTA Trustee Roundtable discussed the U.S. Department of Education, state funding, and dual credit;
- Welcomed remarks from College of DuPage student trustee **Anam Sultana**; and
- Noted several upcoming education and networking opportunities:
 - **June 6-7 ICCTA conference**, Bloomington/Normal. *Mandatory trustee training will be provided at no charge to ICCTA members.*
 - **November 13-14 ACCT Governance Leadership Institute**, Naperville. *This training will take place in conjunction with ICCTA's November meeting.*

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ICCTA Lobby Day and board meeting

May 6-7, 2025

Springfield, Illinois

Click [HERE](#) for more events



April 2025 is
Community College Month