

2014 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Adopted by the ICCTA Board of Representatives on February 10, 2014

ICCTA WILL WORK TO PASS BILLS THAT:

1. Protect local control of community colleges

A 2007 Judicial Circuit Court decision reaffirmed the concept that community colleges are units of local government with locally elected or appointed governing boards. ICCTA will continue to protect local control of community colleges and oppose any legislation that infringes on this authority.

2. Restore full and equitable FY2015 funding for community college operations

Student enrollment at Illinois community colleges is close to the record highs of 2010. However, the system has also experienced significant reductions in state support since Fiscal Year 2002. As a result, community colleges are providing more educational services to more students with less state funding than they received 20 years ago.

3. Make the State Universities Retirement System financially sustainable

The State Universities Retirement System is one of the five state-supported public pension systems that is experiencing a high degree of unfunded liabilities. Legislative initiatives continue to be proposed that would adequately fund the pension plans.

4. Protect and adequately fund the College Insurance Program for community college retirees

The College Insurance Program (CIP) 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.

5. Reform the Monetary Award Program to serve more students

The Monetary Award Program (MAP) is operated by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to provide need-based grants to students. Demand for the MAP program is increasing at an unprecedented rate. In FY 2013, over 100,000 qualified community colleges students were unserved because MAP needs at least \$100 million more to keep up with demand or identify ways to serve more community college students.

6. Restore the capital construction program for higher education

The first capital construction program in nearly a decade was approved by the Illinois General Assembly in FY 2010. Community colleges were approved for 35 projects totaling \$358 million in state-funded construction. Projects continue to slowly be, released and constructed. ICCTA will pursue additional capital construction projects. Community colleges have capital needs that are approaching \$1 billion statewide.

7. Restore funding and support additional growth in adult education programs

Promote initiatives to improve state and federal funding for adult education programs. Over 1.8 million people in Illinois qualify for adult education services.

8. Restore funding of Illinois Veterans Grants

ICCTA supports full funding of this program for all community colleges, especially in light of the number of student soldiers returning from overseas.

9. Support automatic transfer of community college credits to four-year universities

10. Support Associate Degree Nursing programs

ICCTA strongly supports community college Associate Degree Nursing programs and opposes attempts to implement "BSN in 10" (which would make a bachelor's degree the minimum education required for entry-level nursing).