



2016 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Adopted by the ICCTA Board of Representatives on January 23, 2016

1. Protect local control

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.

2. Fund community college operations

Illinois community colleges operate high-quality institutions in a lean and fiscally responsible manner. ICCTA will seek 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 and improve student outcomes at a low cost.

3. Fund Monetary Award Program grants

Nearly 128,000 low-income students rely on state-funded Monetary Award Program grants to attend Illinois community colleges and universities. As a result of the state's budget delay, no money has been authorized to provide any MAP grants for Fiscal Year 2016. ICCTA will seek full funding of MAP grants for all eligible community college students.

4. Fund capital construction projects

Community colleges have capital needs that are approaching more than \$1 billion statewide. The last capital construction program was approved by the Illinois General Assembly in FY 2010, yet many of these projects remain unfinished. ICCTA will pursue the release of funding for essential capital projects at community colleges.

5. Fund 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.

6. Fund Illinois Veterans Grants

The Illinois Veterans Grant program provides financial assistance to college students who have served in the U.S. military. ICCTA will continue to support full funding of this program for all community colleges, especially in light of the number of student soldiers returning from overseas.

7. Fund 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.

8. Support Associate Degree Nursing programs

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

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