

# FACTS AND STATS

## ABOUT ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- America's first public community college was established in Joliet, Illinois, in 1901. Today there are 48 community colleges and 39 college districts in Illinois alone.
- The Illinois community college system is the third largest in the nation, educating nearly 1 million students each year.
- Earning an associate degree from an Illinois community college adds more than \$540,000 in lifetime earnings.
- The average full-time Illinois community college student pays only \$3,100 per year in tuition and fees.
- Nine out of 10 of the state's community college graduates live, work, pay taxes, and raise their families in Illinois.
- The "typical" Illinois community college student is female, white, 30 years old, enrolled part-time, and preparing for transfer to a four-year institution.
- More than two-thirds of all minorities in Illinois public higher education attend community colleges, and nearly 12,000 students with disabilities and 62,000 students with limited English proficiency are served each year.
- Illinois community colleges educate 65 percent of the students enrolled in Illinois public higher education but receive only 16 percent of the state's higher education funding.
- More than 80 percent of Illinois employers have hired a community college student over the last 10 years, and nearly 30 percent of Illinois employees have completed a credit course at a community college in that same time period.
- One year after graduation, Illinois' community college occupational graduates averaged a full-time salary of \$36,420 in 2012.
- Illinois was the first state in the nation to "guarantee" its community college occupational graduates; those graduates who need additional technical training may enroll in the appropriate courses at no cost to themselves or their employers.

