

CARRIE J. HIGHTMAN

We, the Members of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, extend our deep appreciation and admiration to Carrie J. Hightman for her outstanding contribution to postsecondary students in Illinois, to Illinois colleges and universities, and to the citizens of our state.

Carrie has led the Illinois Board of Higher Education since February 2007, and has been a champion for Illinois' higher education system which serves nearly 925,000 students enrolled at 233 campuses, including public universities, community colleges, and private not-for-profit and proprietary institutions of higher education, which award more than 195,000 degrees and certificates annually.

Her leadership was instrumental in the formation and unanimous adoption of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* on December 9, 2008, as the blueprint to guide education policy in Illinois for the next decade. This leadership has helped the State in making progress on increasing the proportion of Illinoisans with high-quality college degrees and certificates in an effort to achieve the State's goal of 60 percent by 2025.

During her tenure, IBHE has successfully:

- Implemented a Higher Education Performance Funding model.
- Continued progress on the development of the Longitudinal Data System, affording us a student unit record data system to analyze student progress from early learning programs through postsecondary education and into employment.
- Partnered with the Community College Board and the State Board of Education to develop a plan and timeline for incorporating teacher and student leader quality standards into educator preparation degree programs at colleges and universities in Illinois.
- Adopted amendments to the rules for the approval of new units of instruction to increase the transparency and accountability of the program approval process.

We applaud Carrie's tenacity and unyielding commitment to confront matters of college and workforce readiness, and to ensure both access to and the affordability of postsecondary education in Illinois. Her background and acumen in the legal and business world has been a superb asset in directing IBHE's efforts to create greater coordination and cooperation with Illinois educational agencies, the P-20 Council, and national educational organizations.

The Board congratulates Carrie for her leadership, passion, and contribution to the interests of the State's colleges, universities, and Illinois' students. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education
June 4, 2013