

## **RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* requires increased college affordability, academic achievement, and college completions by more Illinoisans, and recognizes that to meet workforce demands and achieve economic growth and vitality, Illinois must increase the number of citizens with a postsecondary degree to 60 percent by 2025 ("60 x 2025 Goal"); and

**WHEREAS**, the data clearly indicate that Illinois cannot reach the 60 x 2025 Goal without significantly increasing college completions, especially among returning adults and the growing population of low income and first generation students, most of whom must rely on financial aid to attend college; and

**WHEREAS**, the limited funding for public colleges and universities made available at the end of Fiscal Year 2016, representing a \$1.4 billion combined shortfall for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017, has resulted in uncertainty for public colleges and universities operations and management; and

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing Fiscal Year 2017 budget delay, including no funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) in FY 2017 have eroded trust that MAP and other assistance funding will be available, created uncertainty and influenced college decision-making for students across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 125,000 Illinois students rely on MAP grant to attend college each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget delay is threatening the ability of public and private colleges and universities to maintain staffing, programs, and facilities that will educate the Illinois workforce of today and tomorrow; and

**WHEREAS**, a predictable budget is needed to maintain the strong performance of Illinois higher education as affirmed in 2015 studies showing Illinois well above national averages in college completion, transfer, and other important areas, and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of a budget is most severely impacting the most vulnerable students and the colleges that serve them, and

**WHEREAS**, cities and regions across Illinois that are highly dependent on colleges for their economic well-being and quality of life; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Illinois Board of Higher Education strongly urges immediate passage of a state budget by the Illinois General Assembly and signed by the Governor for Fiscal Year 2017 that will provide the necessary funding for students who depend on MAP and other gift assistance programs to attend college, ensure financial stability to community colleges and public universities, and deliver to Illinois public higher education the resources needed to advance the state's economic future; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor, the members of the General Assembly and the leadership of the higher education community.

Approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education  
December 13, 2016

