

News

from the Illinois Board of Higher Education

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UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS IN ACADEMIA TASK FORCE HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETING

The Underrepresented Groups in Academia Task Force, called for in [House Joint Resolution 2](#), sponsored by Rep. Andre Thapedi (D-32) and Sen. Napoleon Harris, III (D-15), has been convened and held an organizational meeting on November 30. The Task Force members are:

- **State Representative Andre Thapedi**, 32nd District
- **State Representative Norine Hammond**, 93rd District
- **Dr. James Applegate**, Visiting Professor in the College of Education's Center for the Study of Educational Policy, Illinois State University
- **Dr. Linda Renee Baker**, Professor, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, Southern Illinois University
- **Ms. Khadine Bennett**, ACLU Director of Advocacy and External Affairs
- **Mr. Andrew Broy**, President, Illinois Network of Charter Schools
- **Ms. Claudia Castro**, Hispanic Lawyers' Association of Illinois
- **Ms. Veronica Cortez**, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- **Dr. Mona Davenport**, Director of Minority Affairs, Eastern Illinois University
- **Mr. Will Davis**, Vice President for Development, Governors State University
- **Ms. Cathy Early**, Board of Trustees Chairwoman, Western Illinois University
- **Dr. Vernese Edghill-Walden**, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Diversity and Chief Diversity Officer, Northern Illinois University
- **Dr. Valerie Goss**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering Studies, Chicago State University
- **Dr. Satasha Green**, Interim Associate Provost, Chicago State University
- **Dr. Robert Jones**, UIUC Chancellor and University of Illinois System Vice President
- **Dr. Daniel Lopez**, Vice President for Student Affairs, Northeastern Illinois University
- **Ms. Candace Moore**, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
- **Dr. Sulyema Perez**, Director of Governmental Relations, Northeastern Illinois University
- **Mr. Scott Savage**, Principal at Bloom High School, Chicago Heights

The Task Force plans to determine ways to better assist African-American and Latino populations, in particular, in achieving access, academic success, and completion of postsecondary educational pursuits. Four Task Force meetings are planned for 2018, with a final report due to the Governor and General Assembly by the end of that year. The Illinois Board of Higher Education is designated by the Resolution to provide administrative support.

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