



ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Fifth Annual Public University Trustee Leadership Conference

Agenda | October 20, 2020

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Mr. John Atkinson, Chair, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Governor JB Pritzker, 43rd Governor of the State of Illinois
Ms. Ginger Ostro, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education

Related Resources:

- [Illinois Board of Higher Education Assessing Equity in Illinois Higher Education](#)
- [Illinois Board of Higher Education Assessing Equity in Illinois Higher Education: Part 2](#)
- [Illinois Board of Higher Education Educational Attainment and Equity Dashboards](#)

9:30 a.m. Session I: The Importance of Board Engagement in Closing Equity Gaps in Higher Education

Dr. Kayla Elliott, Senior Policy Analyst, The Education Trust

The State of Illinois has set a goal to have 60% of adults attain a postsecondary credential by 2025. Data from the IBHE show that while progress has been made, we are not on pace to reach this goal. African American and Latinx students are disproportionately underrepresented in terms of their opportunities to have early college experiences in high school, enroll in a college or university, progress from freshman to sophomore status on time, and complete degrees. Learn about the role of trustees in advancing institutional work to close equity gaps.

Related Resource: [Hard Truths: Why Only Race-Conscious Policies Can Fix Racism in Higher Education \(The Education Trust\)](#)

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Session II: Creating Plans to Close Equity Gaps in Higher Education

Dr. Lisa Freeman, President, Northern Illinois University
Mr. Dennis Barsema, Chair, Board of Trustees, Northern Illinois University
Ms. Veronica Herrero, Trustee, Northern Illinois University and Vice Chair, IBHE

Higher education leaders intent upon ensuring that traditionally underrepresented groups have access to the life-changing opportunities afforded by a college degree need to critically analyze the policies and practices that have resulted in equity gaps. This session will feature the work at one Illinois public university to conduct these analyses and create an action plan to close equity gaps.

Related Resource: [Northern Illinois University Equity in Attainment Plan 2020-2025](#)

12:00 p.m. Break

12:30 p.m. Session III: Guideposts and Guardrails for the Trustee Role

Mr. Luke Crater, General Counsel, Southern Illinois University

Ms. Lisa Huson, General Counsel, Illinois State University

Ms. Alice Maginnis, Associate University Counsel, Illinois State University

This session will highlight information about trustees' duties and constraints, ethics, transparency, and university contracting, including considerations in engaging minority-owned businesses.

1:30 p.m. Session IV: Trustee Peer Networking and Reflections

Engage with fellow trustees in discussion about your work and insights from the conference.

2:00 p.m. Break

2:15 p.m. Session V: Navigating the Leadership Relationship: What Does a President Need from a Good Board?

Dr. Kenneth Shaw, Board Member, IBHE, and Chancellor Emeritus, Syracuse University

The relationship between university presidents and boards includes a focus on accountability, strategic direction, advocacy, and leadership support. This session will feature an informational presentation and include an interactive question and answer period.

3:15 p.m. Concluding Remarks and Reflections

3:30 p.m. Adjourn

2020 Conference Speakers



Mr. John Atkinson
Chair
Illinois Board
of Higher Education



Ms. Ginger Ostro
Executive Director
Illinois Board
of Higher Education



Dr. Kayla Elliott
Senior Policy Analyst
The Education Trust



Dr. Lisa Freeman
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Mr. Dennis Barsema
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Ms. Veronica Herrero
Trustee
Northern Illinois University and
Vice Chair, Illinois Board
of Higher Education



Mr. Luke Carter
General Counsel
Southern Illinois University



Ms. Lisa Huson
General Counsel
Illinois State University



Dr. Kenneth Shaw
Board Member, Illinois
Board of Higher Education
and *Chancellor Emeritus*
Syracuse University