

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD REPORT ON
THE BETTER GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 1, 2017, REPORT ON CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO**

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: This item is a report from the Illinois Community College Board on the Better Government Association's November 1, 2017, report on the City Colleges of Chicago.

Action Requested: None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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December 1, 2017

IBHE Board members:

Several of you have inquired about yesterday's story in Crain's Chicago on a BGA investigation.

The ICCB has done a cursory review of the City Colleges of Chicago Inspector General's report. From the ICCB perspective, it appears many of the concerns raised are in relation to violations of local college policy and procedures, not state regulations. However, the ICCB will be conducting a focused recognition visit at City Colleges in the near future to further investigate the claims laid out in the IG report and the IBEW program. The focused recognition process will include an onsite visit at the college along with a document review. The IG report and article also reveal that City Colleges applied for state base operating grant funds for program credits for which the college was not eligible. City Colleges of Chicago notified the ICCB of the claiming issue last week, and the ICCB was already in the process of verifying how much was inappropriately claimed. The Board will require City Colleges to reimburse those funds.

Prior to the release of the news story, the ICCB had taken several proactive steps to address some of the issues associated with apprenticeship programs and third-party contracts.

- 1) The Board approved a statewide agreement on apprenticeship programs in January 2017.
- 2) The ICCB, in collaboration with IBHE, sponsored legislation to provide the Board with authority to adopt rules around the awarding of Prior Learning Credit. This legislation was approved in Spring 2017, and staff is currently in the process of drafting those administrative rules.
- 3) The Board has proposed legislation for 2018 to address claiming of third-party credits for state funds and approval of third-party agreements by the ICCB.
- 4) The ICCB has notified the Higher Learning Commission of the report.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

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