

60 x 2025

The [State Higher Education Executive Officers \(SHEEO\) annual State Higher Education Finance \(SHEF\) report for 2017](#) examines the trends, context and consequences of state higher education funding decisions made in Fiscal Year 2017.

"Although the cost of college has been rising for students and families, so too have the economic benefits of earning a high-quality postsecondary credential or degree," said **Robert E. Anderson**, president of SHEEO. "Every higher education finance decision ought to reflect this reality. To respond to the affordability crisis, accurate data and high-quality research are needed. The SHEF report aims to broaden the field's understanding of the finance landscape to support smart policy decisions at the state and federal level."

The five key takeaways from this year's report include:

- Overall, states moderately expanded their support for higher education in FY17;
- State financial aid for students attending public institutions reached an all-time high;
- For the first time, more than half of all states relied more on tuition than on government appropriations to finance their systems of higher education;
- Total educational revenues are at the highest level since 1980; and
- Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment continues to taper, though not significantly.

"While a national snapshot is valuable in helping the field understand big-picture trends, it's important to note that the SHEF report is a composite of 50 very different states – each with its own tax structures, population demographics and resource bases," said **Sophia Laderman**, senior policy analyst at SHEEO and the FY17 SHEF report's primary author. "By controlling for variation and considering state context wherever possible, it's our hope that the SHEF report will provide state leaders with a reliable, actionable method for evaluating finance, which is one of the most fundamental issues facing state higher education policy."

For this 2017 report, Illinois' data must be viewed from the context of the -69% decline in state appropriations for the general operations of the community colleges and public universities between FY15 and FY17 due to the prolonged budget impasse. In 2017, the total general operating appropriations increased by 32.8% per FTE in constant dollars between FY16 and FY17 (over FY15 levels) to make up for the drastic loss of state funding during 2016 to the colleges and universities, including Monetary Award Program funding to eligible students attending the public institutions. The other characteristic unique to Illinois FY17 appropriation per FTE is the \$1.25 billion back payment in FY17 to Illinois' historically underfunded pension program for public college and university employees that accounts for 37.8 percent of the total state appropriations recorded in the SHEF report. These pension back payments while considered higher education appropriations for 2017, **do not benefit students, staff, faculty or educational programs provided during 2017** (emphasis added).

IBHE Bulletin staff asked for assistance from a member of the SHEEO advisory committee of experts used to take into account knowledge about certain states to prepare a summary of the SHEF report from the Illinois perspective. See the recent [IBHE DataPoint](#) for a state specific summary prepared by Dr. Jennifer A. Delaney, associate professor of higher education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who serves on the SHEF Advisory Board, along with UIUC students Emily Teitelbaum and Samantha Weil.

One hundred percent of the [Western Illinois University School of Nursing](#) students who took the required **National Council Licensure Exam** (NCLEX) in 2017 passed, surpassing the national average of 83.29 percent.

After students graduate from the WIU School of Nursing, they must then pass the national exam to be licensed in the state they wish to practice, according to WIU School of Nursing Director **P. Lea Monahan**. "Congratulations to all May graduates for a job well done," said Monahan.

WIU began offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in fall 2009. Once a student graduates and passes their boards, they are a BSN, RN. The **Illinois Board of Higher Education** approved the program in 2008. Since the program began, numerous additions have been made including the online RN to BSN program. The WIU School of Nursing has also received numerous accolades for program quality and affordability.

People in the News

The Board of Trustees has chosen **[Keith Cornille, Ed.D., as the next president of Heartland Community College](#)**.

Dr. Cornille is currently Executive Vice President/Chief Student Services Officer at Madison Area Technical College, Madison, Wisconsin. As Executive Vice President at Madison College, Cornille set the direction and oversight of student services for the institution's four regional campuses and two metro campus locations. He comes to Heartland with 32 years of experience in higher education, including an 18 year tenure at Madison College.

Cornille is expected to take office on July 1, 2018. Current Heartland President **Rob Widmer** will retire on June 30, 2018.



Other News

[Six Lewis University computer science students](#) took first place in the [Department of Energy's 2018 National Cyber Defense Competition](#) April 7 at **Argonne National Laboratory**. The Lewis University team prevailed over 28 other teams from around the country to win the title of national champions.

The students, who are part of the student-run Cyber Defense Group based in the Computer and



Mathematical Sciences department, worked on setting up, troubleshooting and protecting cyber-physical systems associated with critical infrastructures. The CaMS Cyber Defense Group members include **Joey Casalino** of Shorewood, **Gabriel Diaz DeLeon** of Wheaton, **Johny Kegaly** of Clarendon Hills, **Ryan Meeker** of Joliet, **Brandon White** of Burbank, and **Brian White** of Orland Park. They are led by faculty moderator **Dr. Jason Perry**, assistant professor of Computer and Mathematical Sciences.

U of I Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol

Thirty undergraduates from all three universities in the **University of Illinois** system (UIC, UIS, and UIUC) will be at the **Capitol Building** in Springfield on April 26 to present their research to lawmakers and members of the public to demonstrate the importance of undergraduate student research. Students were selected in a competitive process by the **Undergraduate Research Steering Committee**. [Click here for more information](#).

Build Partnerships that Go Beyond Articulation Agreements

Join Governors State University June 3-7, 2018, for the Summer Institute and engage in a dynamic learning experience to strengthen your partnerships. Learn from other colleagues and create an actionable plan for the future.

Through a selective process, [The Summer Institute](#) brings together teams consisting of community college and 4-year college/university campus leaders to learn how to create a structured pathway for transfer students.

Registration: \$250 per participant / \$375 per participant with on-campus housing

Funding for the Summer Institute is provided by generous support of [The Kresge Foundation](#). Additional funding provided by a Title III grant under the [U.S. Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions Program](#).

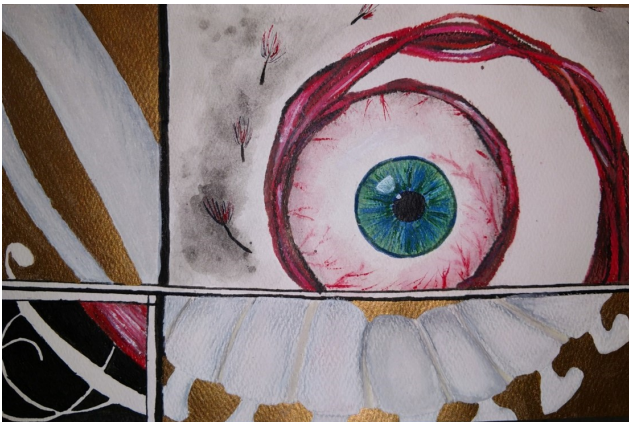
[Apply now](#) for the Summer Institute at Governors State University, June 3-7, 2018.

Request for Proposal

Complete College America (CCA) is launching a public Request for Proposal for the [2018 Annual Convening](#), scheduled from December 4-6 in Chicago. For the first time ever, CCA will be accepting session proposals in an effort to recognize and highlight effective strategies that eliminate achievement gaps and boost college completion rates. The deadline of April 30 is for presentation or workshop sessions to highlight Game Changer Strategies. An alliance member state, Illinois' proposed presentations will be given special consideration. [Click here for](#) the RPF guidelines and forms.

IBHE Student Art Exhibition

McKenzie Zarn, Danville Area Community College



Eyeball



The Flocking Scarlett

Student Laureates

North Park
University



Jomarie
Olaivar Perlas

Northeastern Illinois
University



Cesar Bustos

Northern Illinois
University



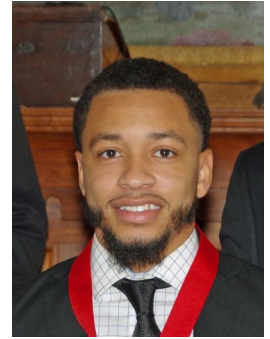
Rachel Jacob

Oakton Community
College



Andrew Tieng

Olivet Nazarene
University



Charles Deloach, III

Not pictured: Imani Wilson, Northwestern University.

If you know a past Student Laureate, please ask them get in touch with the Lincoln Academy to share what they've been up to for the Academy's social media pages! Call (217) 785-5030 or e-mail jkellner@thelincolnacademyofillinois.org.

In Case You Missed It

State Journal-Register: Guest View: Investment needed to improve higher education in Illinois, April 10, 2018.

Chicago Tribune: Growing brain drain: University of Alabama's gain in drawing Illinois students is a loss for Illinois, April 6, 2018.

Bloomberg: McDonald's to boost its tuition benefits after tax windfall, March 29, 2018.

Washington Post: Flagships go national: At U-Michigan, nearly half of students now from out of state, March 29, 2018.

Crain's Chicago Business: Illinois State may add an engineering program, March 28, 2018.

New York Times: The growing college graduation gap, March 25, 2018.



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