

Higher Education Benefits All of Us

Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council

Higher education is an investment, not just a cost. It needs to be among our state's highest priorities. By not adequately funding higher education in Illinois, we are eating our seed corn.

1. Higher education benefits society by
 - producing a highly educated workforce
 - serving as an economic engine and a backbone of Illinois' economic development
 - being an incubator of innovative ideas in fields as diverse as technology, health care, commerce, and agriculture
 - making Illinois an innovator and a leader
 - producing graduates who enjoy better health, commit fewer crimes, have lower unemployment and poverty rates, earn higher wages, and thus pay more taxes¹
 - enhancing cultural appreciation and understanding of others, which makes people more capable of working in a diverse modern workforce and participating in a democracy and in civic life.

2. Higher education needs legislative and financial support that provides students the opportunity to complete programs and degrees in Illinois.
 - Higher education is a public good.
 - When we adequately fund higher education, we will reverse outmigration. Students earning degrees in Illinois are more likely to work and raise families in Illinois after graduation.² We cannot afford a brain drain.
 - Today's students should not be saddled with a crushing debt that older Illinois citizens did not have. We need to treat the next generation fairly.
 - Illinois should ensure academic opportunities by offering financial packages that competitively match out-of-state offers.
 - In previous decades, higher education was subsidized by the state to a greater extent. The members of the Faculty Advisory Council for the IBHE believe the current generation should have this same opportunity.

**Higher education in Illinois needs your support and
the state's significant financial investment.**

¹Walter W. McMahon, *Higher Learning, Greater Good*, (Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009) 133, 217, 152, 220, 74.

²Of Illinois students who go to college here, 8% move out of state after graduation, but 33% of Illinois students who go to college out of state stay out of state after graduation (Eric Lichtenberger and Cecile Dietrich, *Outmigration and human capital: Homeward bound or gone for good?* Edwardsville IL, Illinois Education Research Council at SIU-Edwardsville, 2014, 21). <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED555422>