





IBHE

A THRIVING ILLINOIS

Higher Education Paths to Equity,
Sustainability, and Growth

2021

A Presentation to the Illinois
Board of Higher Education
June 15, 2021

A Thriving Illinois



A thriving Illinois has an inclusive economy and broad prosperity with equitable paths to opportunity for all, especially those facing the greatest barriers.



Developed for the Future but Grounded in the Present



**COVID-19 has shaped
and will continue to
reshape the educational
experience.**

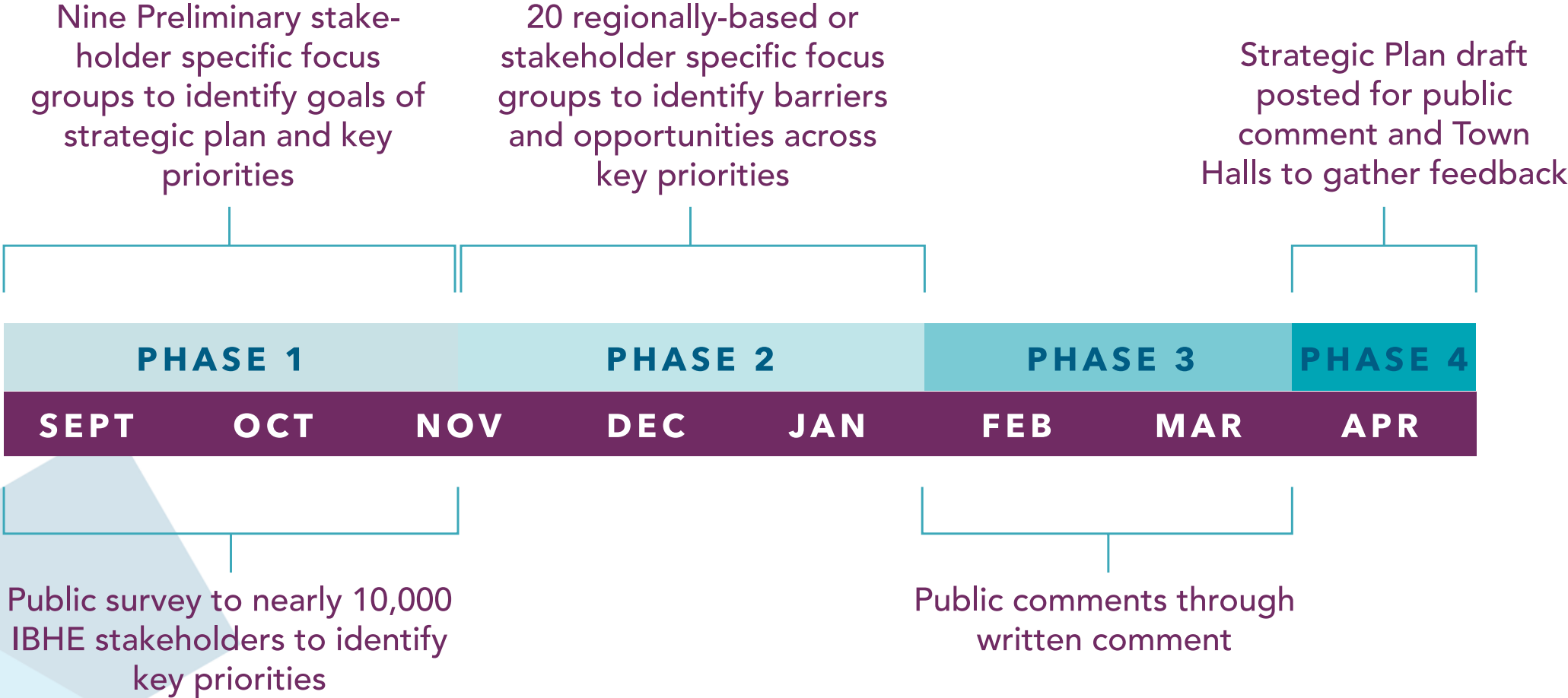
**Racial injustice can
no longer be ignored.**

**Changes in the nature
of work are
accelerating.**

**Innovative disruptors
to traditional
postsecondary
education are
growing.**

**Budget challenges are
exacerbated.**

Built on Community Engagement



Sustained by Core Principles



Students are our priority.

Equity drives our system.

Higher education is a public good that enriches life.

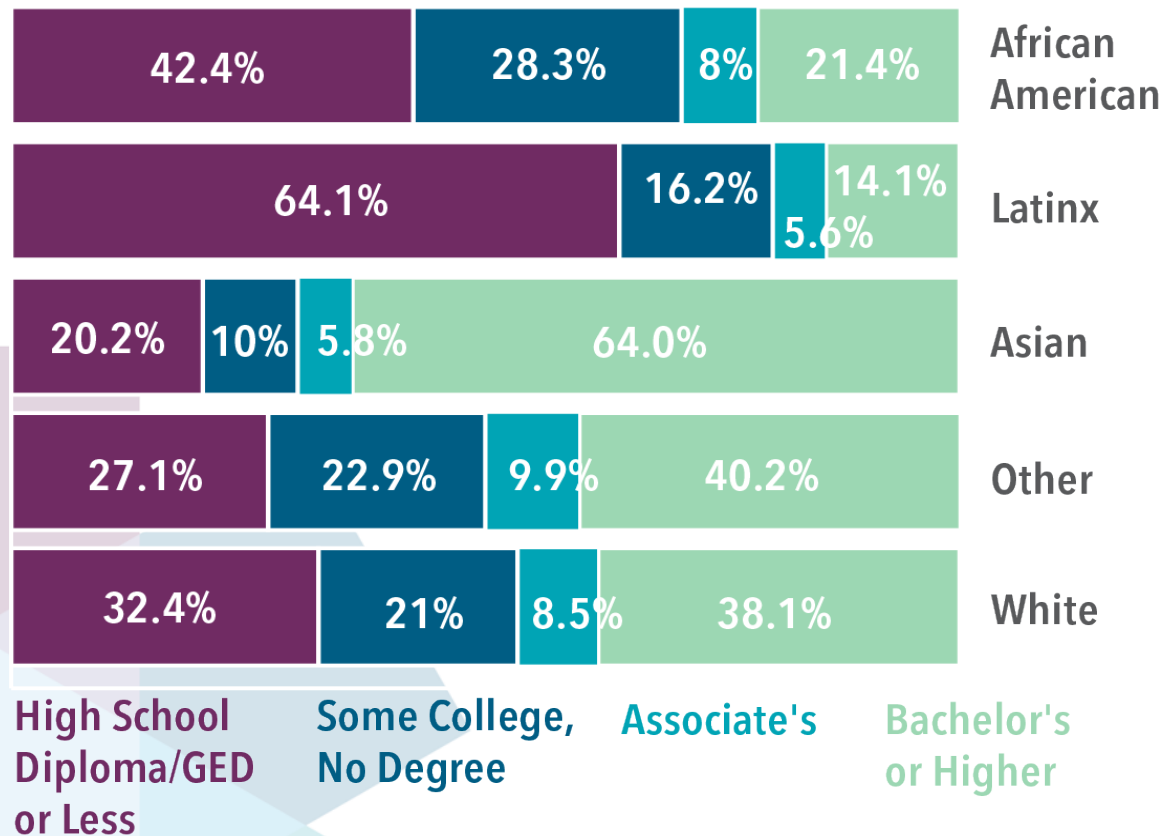
Our diverse institutions work in concert.

We reinforce the P-20 education continuum.

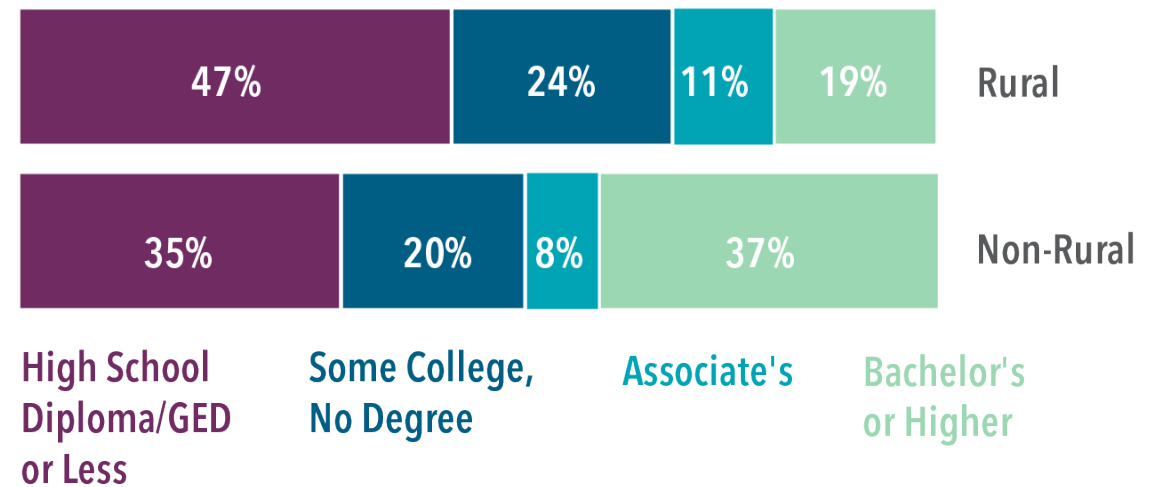
Talent, research, and innovation drive our economy.

Disparities in Postsecondary Attainment

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN ILLINOIS
(AGE 25+) BY RACE/ETHNICITY



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN ILLINOIS
(AGE 25+) BY RURALITY



Equity Gaps Facing African American Students



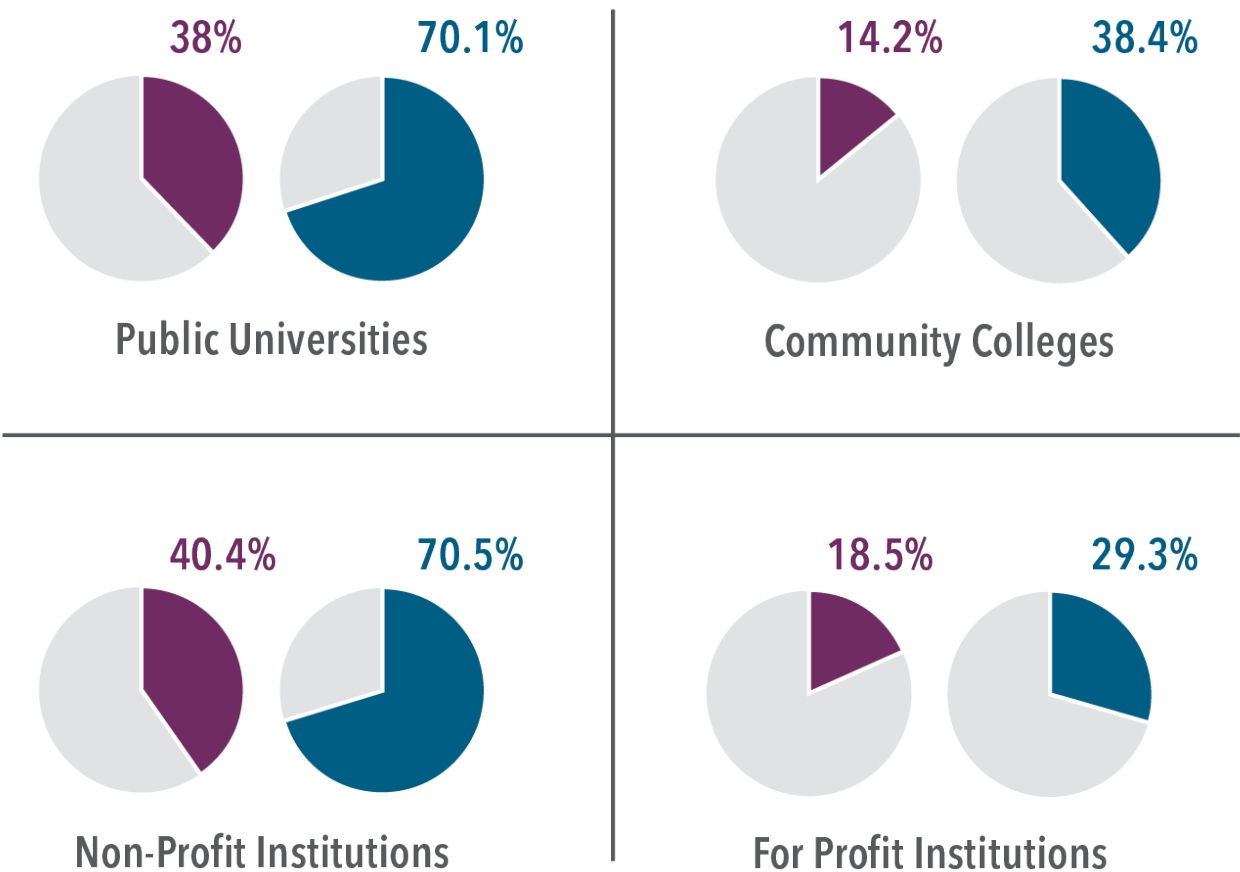
ENROLLMENT CHANGE OVER TIME

Enrollment has dropped **34%** for African Americans.



African American
White

2019 GRADUATION RATES



Equity Gaps Facing Latinx Students



ENROLLMENT CHANGE OVER TIME

Enrollment has increased by over 8% for Latinx students.



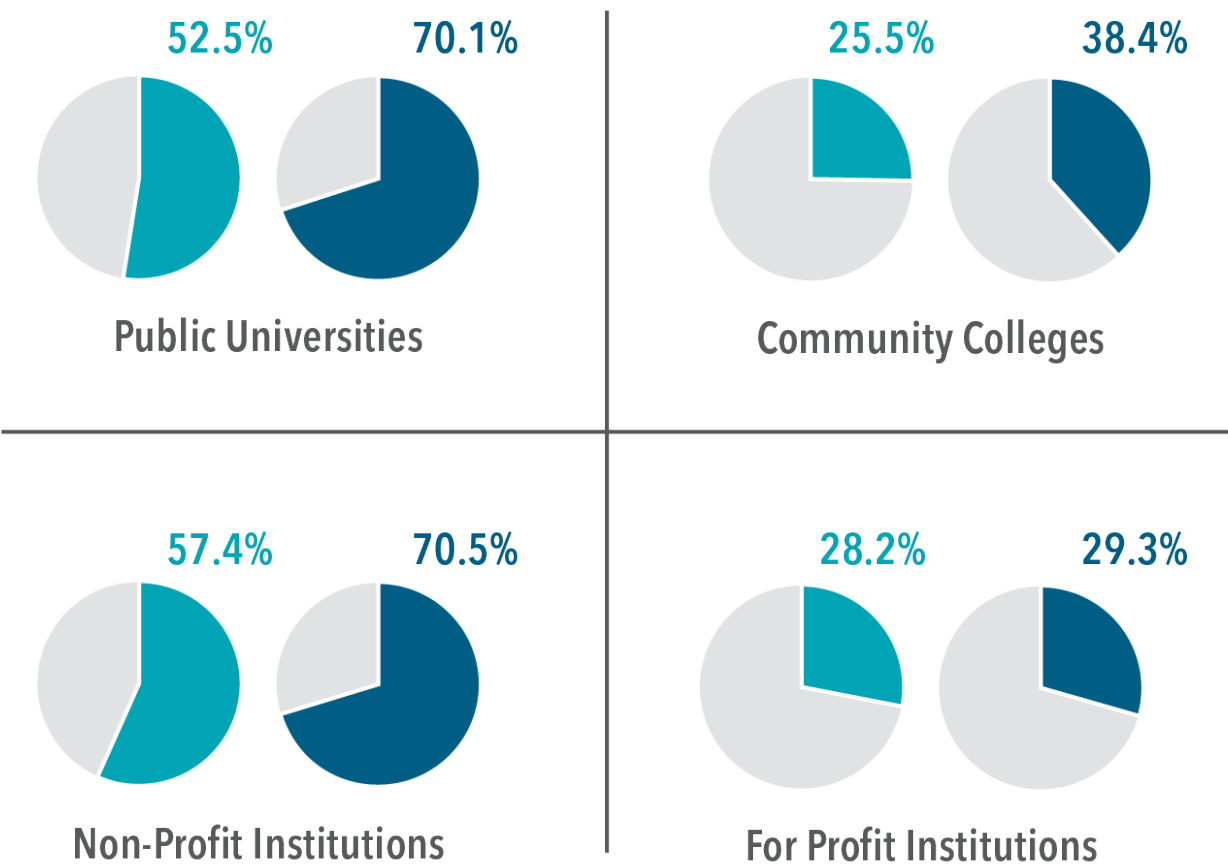
2013
118k Latinx
students enrolled

2019

128k Latinx
students enrolled

Latinx
White

2019 GRADUATION RATES



Equity Gaps Facing Low-Income Students



ENROLLMENT CHANGE OVER TIME

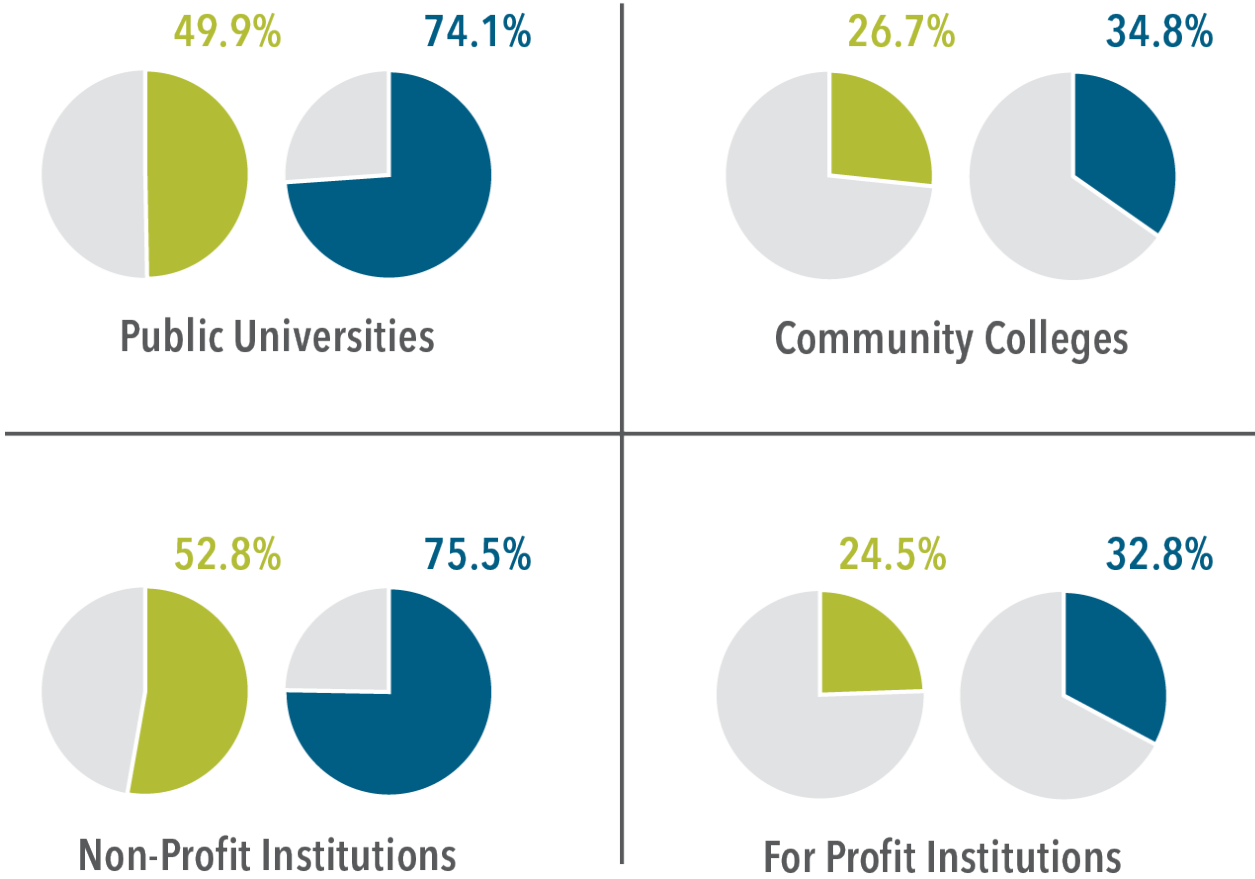
Enrollment has decreased by **33%** for low-income students.



2019
195k low-income students enrolled

Pell
Non-Pell

2019 GRADUATION RATES



Strategies for a Thriving Illinois



Close the equity gaps for students who have been left behind.



Build a stronger financial future for individuals and institutions.

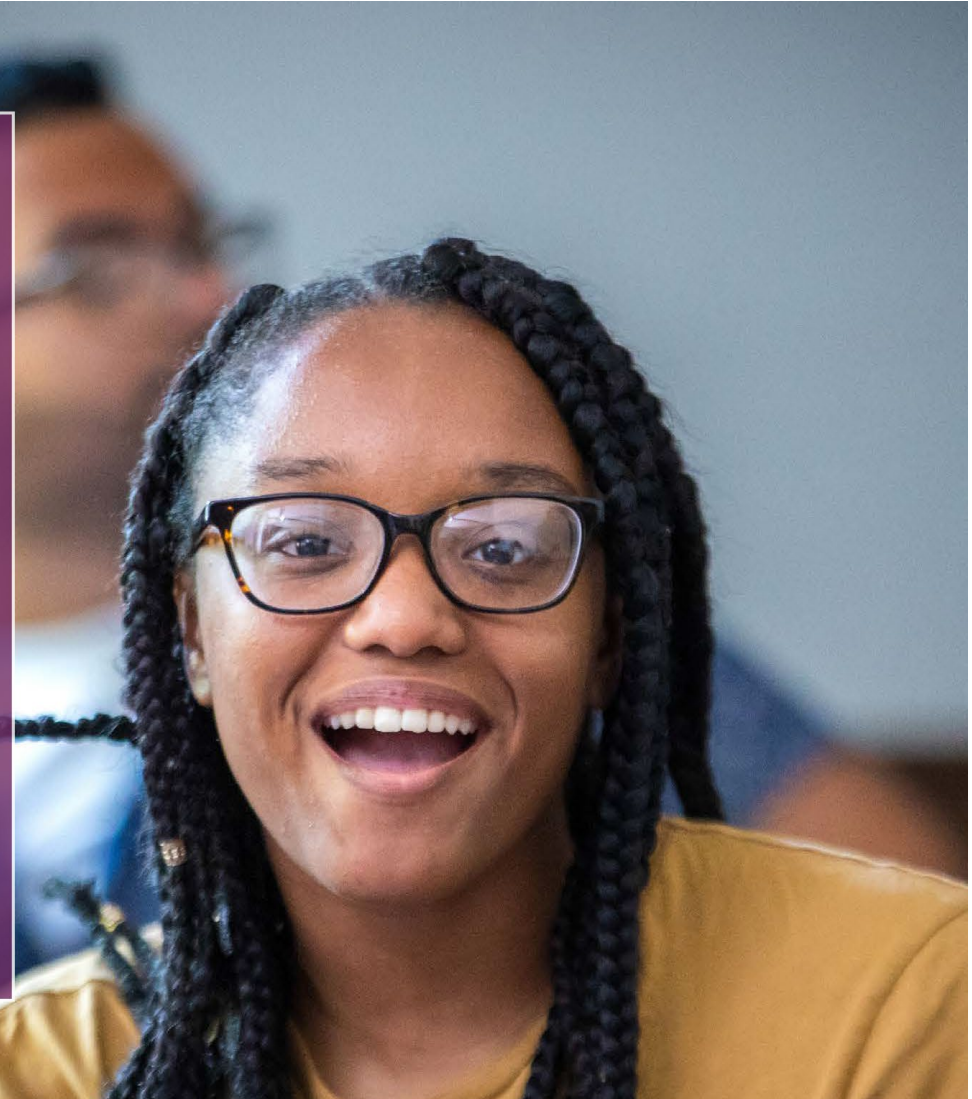


Increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth.

Equity-Close Equity Gaps for Students Who have been Left Behind



We need a higher education system in Illinois designed to meet the needs and lead to the success of historically underserved and underrepresented students, with particular attention paid to Black, Latinx, Low-Income, rural, and working adult students, so that all students can thrive.



Strategies for a Thriving Illinois

Equity-Close Equity Gaps for Students Who have been Left Behind



1. Support **learning renewal and student supports**
2. Implement institution-level **equity plans and practices**
3. Use **equitable talent management** to increase and retain faculty, staff and trustees of color;
4. Provide more pathways through **higher education for adults**
5. Consider a **direct admissions program** to simplify college search and admissions
6. Expand equitable access to **early college coursework** for high school students
7. Support implementation of **developmental education reform**
8. Expand **college access and support** models to improve college-going and completion

Equity-Close Equity Gaps for Students Who have been Left Behind



These recommended equity strategies incorporate data-driven and best practices that help to address the persistent equity gaps in higher education and lay the framework for an aligned higher education system that serves students independent of the path they take.



Sustainability-Build a Stronger Financial Future for Individuals & Institutions



Affordability is one of the biggest barriers to higher education access and success, especially for low-income students, students of color, working adults, rural students, and many others who are underserved by the higher education system.



Strategies for a Thriving Illinois

Sustainability-Build a Stronger Financial Future for Individuals & Institutions



1. **Invest** in public higher education through an **equitable, stable, and sufficient funding** system
2. Increase **Monetary Award Program (MAP)** funding to **\$1 billion** over ten years
3. Allow MAP grants to be used for **year-round study**
4. Address the **challenge of “holds”** on student accounts that prevent them from completing their degrees
5. Support new **low-interest loan programs** through the Office of the Treasurer for low-income students
6. Encourage creative options for family **savings through Illinois' 529 plans**
7. Pilot and expand **shared services** programs to reduce administrative costs
8. Expand **joint purchasing** among institutions

Growth: Increase Talent & Innovation to Drive Economic Growth



Our state's universities are hubs of research, discovery, and innovation that continue to drive the economy forward and contribute to Illinois' growth.



Strategies for a Thriving Illinois

Growth: Increase Talent & Innovation to Drive Economic Growth



1. Leverage the **Illinois Innovation Network**
2. Establish a statewide **Business and Employer Advisory Council** to foster the growth of Illinois' talent pipeline
3. Align the state's **economic development and higher education** strategies, ensuring that both address historic inequities
4. Encourage high school graduates to **stay in state for college** and keep talent in Illinois
5. Establish a consortium of community colleges and universities to better serve the incumbent **early childhood workforce**
6. Expand higher education models of teaching and learning to prepare students for **success in the work of the future**
7. Enhance access to **teacher preparation** programs
8. Strengthen the **credit transfer system** to help students stay on track
9. Consider the role the **Private Business and Vocational sector** for workforce needs

Next Steps



- Accountability System
- Institutional Equity Plans and Practices
- Business and Employer Advisory Council
- Early Childhood Educator Consortium
- Higher Education Funding System
- Learning Renewal and Social-Emotional Support
- Engage Adults
- Transfer Infrastructure
- Detailed Implementation Plan

Higher Education is the Path to a Thriving Illinois



The challenge of the next decade is to focus on creating broad, sustainable, and equitable paths to a prosperous future for every learner, leader, and community that we engage.



