

STATEWIDE RESULTS REPORT

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: The fifth annual Statewide Results report highlights statewide progress and unfinished business in fulfilling the goals of *The Illinois Commitment*. Measuring progress towards meeting the goals of *The Illinois Commitment* helps Illinois higher education identify successes, best practices, areas in need of improvement, and other challenges that guide colleges and universities in their continuing efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of Illinois higher education.

Action Requested: None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

STATEWIDE RESULTS REPORT

Even with the best roadmap, it's possible to get lost, to be enticed by an inviting detour, to get waylaid by the unexpected, or to take the long way around the hard road ahead. That's why even the best roadmap requires commitment to stay the course.

For five years, *The Illinois Commitment* has steered Illinois higher education on a policy path paved with the aspirations and expectations of its citizens:

- Help build a stronger economy.
- Forge alliances that improve learning from preschool to grad school.
- Dismantle financial barriers to a college education.
- Foster access to college for all who want it.
- Prove and improve the quality of academic programs.
- Use taxpayer dollars wisely and productively.

This fifth Statewide Results Report demonstrates that even now, along the rough road of fiscal crisis, *The Illinois Commitment* has proved a sure-footed guide. It also points out needed repairs in the road ahead.

As in previous years, the results report is a catalog of success and an agenda for unfinished business:

- More people are graduating from college, a clear signal that higher education is viewed as a reliable vehicle to economic well-being. . . . But higher ed funding is down, tuition is up, and affordability remains a growing concern for families of limited means.
- Requirements have been strengthened for prospective teachers But a third of teachers leaving the profession cite working conditions or salary as the reasons for their departure.
- ACT scores are up slightly. . . . But two in five high school graduates have not taken a rigorous high school curriculum.
- Blacks and Latinos have made impressive gains in enrollments. . . . But just 5 percent of faculty are African-Americans and 2 percent are Latino.

In short, this report features the usual mix of bragging rights (three Nobel Laureates at Illinois universities) and areas of concern (Illinois has the lowest high school graduation requirements in the nation). Yet, this report looks backward as the Board prepares to look toward a review and possible revamping of *The Illinois Commitment* – proving that even with the most detailed roadmap, it doesn't hurt to stop every so often and ask for directions.

