

News

from the Illinois Board of Higher Education

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Illinois Board of Higher Education Announces Executive Director

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) today announced the appointment of Dr. Al Bowman to serve as Executive Director of the IBHE. Dr. Bowman is currently president emeritus of Illinois State University (ISU), where he served as its 17th President from 2003 until 2013. Tom Cross, IBHE Chair, said in announcing the appointment, “The Board is pleased Dr. Bowman has accepted our request that he take the helm of the IBHE at this time. He is an exemplary role model of a college educated Illinoisan, who earned a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, a master’s degree from Eastern Illinois University, and an undergraduate degree from Augustana College. His entire career in higher education has been carried out in Illinois, starting in 1978 as a member of the faculty at ISU.”

The Board is currently engaged in a strategic process updating the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, and Dr. Bowman is being asked to lead the stakeholder engagement activities over the next several months resulting in a new plan looking forward from 2018. “Dr. Bowman’s strong commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, and to ensuring access to a high-quality education that is affordable and valued by Illinois’ citizens sets the right tone at a crucial time in the state’s higher education history,” stated Chair Cross. “Growing the reputation of Illinois colleges and universities as the first-choice for a quality postsecondary education and the development of a world-class workforce will be the Board’s number one priority under Dr. Bowman’s leadership.”

Bowman’s experiences in public higher education will benefit the state’s current and prospective college students and their families, as well as faculty and staff. After becoming chairperson of ISU’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in 1994, he served as the University’s provost until his appointment as president. Under his guidance at Illinois State University, Bowman led the University’s first major comprehensive campaign, which raised over \$96 million dollars. During Dr. Bowman’s tenure as president, the University achieved historic highs in graduation and retention rates. In addition, Bowman led the University through a number of major building projects, including the State Farm Hall of Business, the Student Fitness Center, Schroeder Hall reconstruction, Alumni Center, Cardinal Court Housing Complex, Duffy Bass Field, and the Hancock Stadium east-side Grandstand.

Dr. Bowman and his wife, Linda, are the parents of two daughters, and they reside in Bloomington, IL. Mrs. Bowman, with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in speech pathology from ISU, served nearly 30 years at ISU as lecturer, advisor, clinical supervisor, and retired as the director of ISU’s Eckelmann-Taylor Speech and Hearing Clinic.

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