

AGENDA ITEM 3.

ENDORSEMENT OF THE IBHE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Submitted for: Action

Summary: The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has approved a new strategic plan for higher education in the state entitled *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth*.

The plan was developed in collaboration with the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), and other stakeholders, and it contains 25 strategies to support three goals: Equity, Sustainability, and Growth.

ISAC's mission and programs relate directly to several strategic plan components, including a recommendation for increased Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding and a strategy of supporting college access programs like the ISACorps to improve college-going and completion rates.

Action requested: Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the following motion:

“The Illinois Student Assistance Commission hereby endorses the IBHE strategic plan for higher education, *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth*. ”

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

ENDORSEMENT OF THE IBHE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

At the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) meeting on June 15, 2021, members approved a new strategic plan for higher education in the state entitled *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth*. (The full plan is attached to this item.) The IBHE is statutorily required to develop a strategic plan for higher education in cooperation with the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), which endorsed the plan at its August 19, 2021, board retreat.

The plan was developed in partnership and collaboration with the ICCB and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), with the active involvement of hundreds of higher education leaders and stakeholders across Illinois, and with input from nearly 10,000 individuals.

ISAC Commissioners and staff were involved in many different aspects of the plan, including as participants on the IBHE Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, as participants in focus groups, and as representatives in Design Working Groups.

The plan contains 25 strategies intended to support three goals:

- (1) Equity: Close the equity gaps for students who have historically been left behind.
- (2) Sustainability: Build a stronger financial future for individuals and institutions.
- (3) Growth: Increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth.

Several elements of the plan relate directly to ISAC's mission and existing programs. For example, the plan emphasizes the importance of affordability in achieving its three primary goals. Specific recommendations include increased investment in MAP, as well as the expansion of college access and support models (like the ISACorps) to positively impact college-going and completion rates.

Action Requested

Staff recommends that the Commission formally endorse the IBHE strategic plan for higher education, *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth*.