

Illinois Highlights 2016-2017

Illinois Key to Shaping the Compact's Direction

1. As one of the first states to pass authorizing legislation, Illinois is a founding member state of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which was created in 1991.
2. The Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments Midwest was instrumental in the formation of the Compact during 1990 and 1991.
3. Suzanne Morris, vice chair for the Illinois Community College Board, served as chair of MHEC (2014-2015); vice chair (2013-2014); and treasurer (2012-2013). Jerry Blakemore, vice president and general counsel at Northern Illinois University, served as the Compact's chair (1998-2000).
4. Over 30 individuals from Illinois, including commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory program committees, provide significant direction for MHEC programs and services.

Illinois Benefits from Participation in MHEC Programs and Contracts

1. Through use of MHEC's contracts and programs, Illinois higher education institutions (including public and private not-for-profit), school districts, state and local governments, and students have achieved cost savings of over \$283 million since 1991. In FY17, they achieved savings of over \$52 million.
2. Illinois received a 455-fold return on its MHEC investment for FY17 when comparing total savings to the state's annual commitment (dues).
3. Technology Contracts: In FY17, Illinois entities realized over \$7.6 million in cost savings by purchasing over \$63 million in technology hardware, software, and services. Cumulatively, they have saved over \$91.6 million. Serving on the Technologies Committee that determines which hardware, software, and services MHEC will pursue are: Nick Choban, Northern Illinois University; and Craig Jackson, Illinois State University. Joseph Miragliotta, College of DuPage, contributed to the committee for over 18 years and also served on the Technologies Executive Committee.
4. Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP): Illinois students and families have saved over \$127.6 million in tuition through MSEP since joining the program. In FY17, Illinois residents saved over \$40 million by using the program. Malinda Aiello, Illinois Board of Higher Education, serves on the MSEP Council.
5. State Authorization: Illinois became the ninth state to become a member of the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA). Illinois commissioners will be appointing a new representative to the M-SARA Regional Steering Committee in early 2018. MHEC has estimated Illinois' FY17 M-SARA savings to be over \$2.1 million.

Commissioners



**Karen Hunter
Anderson**
Executive Director
Illinois Community College
Board



Kelly Burke
Chair, Appropriations
Higher Education
Committee,
Illinois General Assembly



Alice Marie Jacobs
President Emerita
Danville Area Community
College



Pat McGuire
Chair, Senate Higher
Education Committee
Illinois General Assembly



Suzanne Morris
Board Member
Illinois Community College
Board

Illinois Benefits from Participation in MHEC Programs and Contracts

6. Property Insurance: MHEC's Master Property Program (MPP) insures over 170 campuses nationwide with property values exceeding \$94.8 billion, saving participating MHEC member states over \$7.7 million in FY17. The MHEC property insurance program insures the Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative (IPHEC) institutions, as well as Aurora University, and Roosevelt University. Their total property values are over \$27 billion, collectively saving over \$46.4 million since joining the program and over \$2.3 million in FY17. Chris Glidewell, Southern Illinois University, serves on the MPP Leadership Committee, and Tina McEllin, University of Illinois is serving in an interim capacity.
7. Student Insurance Solutions: MHECare, the student health collaborative, provides member institutions with sustainable student health insurance solutions and helps institutions support the student learning experience by providing over 33,000 students protection from unexpected medical expenses. The John Marshall Law School, Trinity Christian College, and Western Illinois University participate in the collaborative covering 2,505 students.

Potential Savings or Benefits of Program and Contract Participation for Illinois

1. Entities in MHEC member states have saved over \$984 million since the Compact was founded in 1991, by using MHEC contracts and programs.
2. MHEC is a statutorily created entity in each member state. The Compact conducts competitive sourcing events and negotiates contract terms and conditions, thereby allowing flexibility for state and local entities to tailor MHEC contracts to their needs without having to incur the cost of rebidding for the products or services covered in MHEC contracts.
3. Since the membership is a state membership, not only can higher education institutions use MHEC's technology contracts, but school districts, state and local governments, and not-for-profit entities can also use most of the MHEC technology contracts.

Research Keeps Illinoisans Informed

1. MHEC provides reliable and objective evaluations of the PK-16 system in Illinois.
 - » **Higher Education in Focus: Selected Performance Indicators.** This biennial report provides key performance indicators for Illinois relevant to the goal of increasing educational attainment. Performance indicators are categorized within six dimensions: Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, Equity, and Finance.
 - » **The Effectiveness and Efficiency of Postsecondary Institutions in the United States: 2010-2012 Baseline Results.** This brief evaluates the extent to which postsecondary institutions in Illinois are effective and efficient. Institutions are deemed effective if their graduation rates exceed what would be expected given the types of students served and other attributes. Institutional efficiency is estimated as the difference between actual educational expenditures and the expenditures that would be predicted from degree production levels, faculty attributes, and location. The report helps policymakers in Illinois identify highly effective institutions that make efficient use of taxpayer dollars and promote closer examination of the policies and practices that constitute their highly effective campuses.
2. MHEC informs policymaking on college readiness and teacher preparation in Illinois.
 - » **Faculty Qualification Policies and Strategies Relevant to Dual Enrollment Programs: An Analysis of States and Regional Accreditation Agencies.** This report examines state and regional accreditation policies relevant to faculty qualifications for dual enrollment programs. The report informs policymaking in Illinois by identifying the key attributes of policies across the nation and describing some of the state strategies for increasing the number of in-service teachers qualified to teach dual enrollment courses.
 - » **Blueprint for College Readiness.** This report helps K-12 and higher education leaders in Illinois determine which policies should be adopted to promote college readiness. Policy recommendations are made in relation to college and career readiness definitions, college readiness standards and assessments, graduation requirements, accountability, admissions standards, statewide remedial and placement policies, transfer, and a data pipeline and process for reporting.
 - » **The Impact of Graduate Education on Teacher Effectiveness: Does a Master's Degree Matter?** This brief examines the prevalence of graduate degrees among teachers in the United States and summarizes research on the relationship between teacher educational attainment and student achievement.

Research Keeps Illinoisans Informed (continued)

3. MHEC helps policymakers in Illinois evaluate options for improving college affordability.
 - » **State Higher Education Financing Models.** This brief addresses four areas in which state policy makers can learn from practices in other states and from principles of sound public policy design to strengthen their higher education financing systems. The year-to-year stability of funding, the balance between appropriations for institutions and student aid, the growing interest in tuition-free community colleges, and the allocation of funds across public colleges and universities are all areas in which states take a variety of approaches, with quite different implications for educational opportunity.
 - » **A Review of College Promise Programs: Evidence from the Midwest.** College promise or tuition-free college programs are becoming increasingly popular, and there is evidence that these programs can be effective under the right conditions. In this brief, the body of research is detailed on the effects of three well-known college promise programs in the Midwest before discussing some of the key questions that policymakers and funders must consider when designing promise programs.
 - » **Tuition Control Policies: A Challenging Approach to College Affordability.** This brief details how often tuition and fee controls are used and the body of research on whether they are effective in achieving their ultimate goal. Case examples are provided for three Midwestern states' tuition and fee policies before offering recommendations for policymakers to consider when adopting tuition controls.
4. MHEC provides summaries of the latest research for institutional leaders and analysts in Illinois to identify best practices in improving student success.
 - » **Financial Aid** summarizes key findings from research to inform institutional policy regarding institutional grant aid and work-study programs.
 - » **Faculty Policy** examines key issues that confront institutional leaders in creating faculty policies conducive to student success, including employment status, faculty roles and reward systems, and faculty development.
 - » **Developmental Education** provides a summary of research on policy and program reforms that may improve developmental education and the outcomes of underprepared students, including establishing appropriate program requirements, refining the student placement process, improving the quality of developmental curricula, and incorporating support services.
 - » **Software Solutions** provides an overview of student success software and summarizes findings from the nascent body of student outcomes research. Three types of software solutions are examined: academic planning systems, task engagement systems, and early alert systems. Several campus practices are then identified that may facilitate software adoption.
5. MHEC informs policy and practice on the preparation of college graduates for gainful employment.
 - » **The Occupational Relevance of a College Education: An Examination of Education-Job Match among Bachelor's Degree Recipients.** This research brief provides a national account of whether recent college alumni attain employment congruent with their academic major, reasons for working outside of one's major field, and possible consequences for job satisfaction. The brief encourages policymakers in Illinois and elsewhere to develop indicators of education-job match that reflect the relevance of a college education for formal employment; implement "Tuning" programs when necessary; raise admissions standards for majors with projected market saturation; and increase student intentionality in the major selection process.
 - » **Transparent Pathways, Clear Outcomes: Using Disciplinary Tuning to Improve Teaching, Learning, and Student Success.** "Tuning" is a process through which faculty members create shared understandings of the knowledge and transferable skills students in specific academic disciplines and professional fields must demonstrate upon completion of their degrees. The process helps to clarify to students, parents, and policymakers what degree holders know, understand, and are able to do.

Opportunity to Discuss the Issues in Illinois and Convene with Peers

1. **Military Credit:** The Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC) is a forum for states to exchange information and best practices around translating competencies acquired through military training and experiences into milestones toward completing a college degree or earning a certificate or license. The MCMC has provided grant funds of \$30,000 to Illinois to support their state efforts in these areas. The state coordinated a Military Prior Learning Assessment Taskforce and several postsecondary institutions underwent a policy audit to ensure that policies are truly veteran friendly. Amanda Winters, Illinois Board of Higher Education, serves on the MCMC Steering Committee. Additional Illinoisans participate in knowledge communities.
2. Based on the many ideas that MHEC Commissioners and Commissioner Alternates submitted in late August of 2015, a survey was created with potential policy topics for MHEC research, program initiatives, and professional development. Survey respondents evaluated the need for additional knowledge on various topics, identified the top three topics of interest, and selected the most helpful resource formats. The collective results were used to determine which policy topics MHEC should prioritize. Commissioners at the MHEC annual commission meeting voted to focus on affordability initiatives.
3. MHEC convenes institutional leaders and policymakers to discuss critical issues confronting Illinois, the region, and the nation.
 - » MHEC Commissioners were active in discussions in 2015 about the new Higher Learning Commission (HLC) faculty qualifications revised policy which was to take effect in July 2016. This policy especially impacted smaller and rural school districts. Considering MHEC's efforts, the HLC allowed for institutions with dual credit programs to apply for an extension to implement the new policy by 2022.
4. During the legislative session MHEC convenes a group of state leaders including MHEC commissioners, legislative leaders, higher education leaders, K-12 representatives, and executive branch officials to discuss MHEC programs and also to receive input about MHEC services and state issues.
5. The locations of MHEC commission meetings rotate among the member states, showcasing each state's education initiatives to an audience comprised of Midwestern legislators and education leaders. MHEC held its Executive Committee in Chicago in June 2015 and June 2016, and Annual Commission Meeting in Chicago in November 2015. Program committee meetings are regularly held in Chicago.
6. All travel and lodging expenses for commissioners who attend Compact meetings are paid by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact.

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