

IBHE Affordability Action Team Resolution on the Promotion of an Affordable Post-Secondary Education in Illinois – Adopted December 1, 2015

WHEREAS, The Illinois Board of Higher Education created four action teams during the fall of 2014, including Advocacy for Quality Higher Education, Increasing Affordability, Reducing Attainment Gaps, and Increasing Adult Degree Completion Aligned with State Economic Development/Workforce Needs; and

WHEREAS, The Affordability Action Team determined the most appropriate means of setting forth its goals and efforts was formulation of a White Paper to provide strategic priorities to improve college affordability in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Many stakeholders had an opportunity to review and provide comment on the paper, including during a forum at an IBHE Board meeting on August 11, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Team determined which priorities should be incorporated into the final draft of the White Paper, as the paper was critiqued by the university and community college presidents and administrators, the private institutions, IBHE Board members, ISAC, the University Center of Lake County (UCLC), and others; and

WHEREAS, The White Paper offers five recommendations for improving college affordability in Illinois:

1. Promotion of Institutional and Administrative Efficiency and Effectiveness
2. Frequent and Well-Communicated Flow of Information
3. Creation of Comprehensive Completion Advising Programs at Illinois Colleges and Universities
4. Revisiting Illinois' Truth in Tuition Law
5. Redesign of Financial Support Programs; and

WHEREAS, The Team's intention is to utilize these recommendations to compel further discussion on the topic of college affordability in Illinois and establish attainable goals and metrics therein; and

WHEREAS, The Team intends to coordinate with the Advocacy for Quality Higher Education Action Team to determine potential legislative initiatives and next steps as a result of these recommendations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Illinois Board of Higher Education endorse these recommendations to promote and enhance best practices in making college more affordable for Illinois students and support their implementation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Chair of the Illinois Board of Higher Education.