2012
Service to the State of Illinois

University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign • Chicago • Springfield
# 2012 Service to the State of Illinois

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University of Illinois
2012 Service to the State of Illinois

The University of Illinois has a distinguished history of engagement and service, beginning with its founding as the state’s land grant institution in 1867. Central to the land grant responsibility of teaching, research, and service, engagement initiatives transcend the traditional classroom and laboratory to enable learning beyond the campus walls, to make what we discover through research useful beyond the academic community, and to strengthen our communities through services and outreach that directly benefit the public. The impact of the University of Illinois on the State of Illinois extends far beyond our campuses in significant, synergistic, and empowering ways. Outreach and engagement activities help create healthier, more livable communities and strengthen the ties between the University and the State of Illinois.

The University of Illinois, with its three distinctive campuses, is a very large and complex institution serving over 70,000 enrolled students and well over a million Illinois residents each year. The campuses attract the nation’s most talented students with hundreds of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, many of them ranked among the best in the United States. We are Illinois’ largest college educator.

The University of Illinois is a leader in research and discovery. Our internationally renowned faculty win more federal research dollars than all other public Illinois universities and colleges combined, resulting in priceless new knowledge and life-changing breakthroughs in medicine, agriculture, and technology, among others. Engagement with Illinois institutions, communities, individuals and regional partners enables the University to share that research and knowledge and improve the quality of life of the larger Illinois community.

Campuses, departments, continuing education units, extension offices, medical centers and health clinics, university administration units, faculty, and staff are all involved in credit and non-credit programming, collaboration and partnerships, and direct services to an array of institutions, communities, and individuals.

This report provides highlights of the University of Illinois outreach and engagement with the state of Illinois. It provides a portrait of the breadth and depth of the services, educational programming, and engagement initiatives woven into the fabric of our communities across the state. The first several sections describe highlights from our three campuses and from the University’s Institute of Government & Public Affairs. Later sections cover University Outreach & Public Service and its several affiliate units, and P-20 Education Initiatives.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Illinois Extension

The Goal

Through educational programs University of Illinois Extension helps Illinois residents obtain knowledge—making life better, healthier, safer, and more prosperous for individuals and their communities.

Program Reach and Delivery Methods

In AY 2011-12, Extension programs involved nearly 1,000,000 face-to-face teaching contacts with residents of all of Illinois’ 102 counties. These contacts were made through nearly 8,500 teaching events.

In addition, total page views on Extension’s websites numbered more than 66 million. Over 350 unique websites, including 53 in Spanish and 4 in other languages are available to the public on a wide variety of topics. Hort Corner encompasses 77 separate websites that address plant cultivation and disease control topics and accounted for more than 10 million page views. An emphasis on making Extension online information mobile-friendly has increased use, especially in accessing horticultural, agricultural and natural resource information.

Educational outreach through more traditional media included distribution of more than 4,000 news releases, as well as broadcasts of more than 700 radio programs and 250 television programs. Distribution of newsletters on a variety of topics totaled nearly 680,000. Other program delivery methods included hands-on workshops, field days, self-paced tutorials, expanded audio- and video-conferencing, and podcasts.

Program Focus

In response to locally-identified needs, Extension draws on university-based research and partners with organizations, businesses, and groups to develop and deliver programs. A sample of Extension programs conducted in 2011 illustrating the broad areas of focus, the diversity of audiences, variety of delivery methods, and specific impact on participants are described below.

Food Security and Safety

• Extension Master Gardeners assisted in helping others grow gardens and promoted the donation of 180,000 pounds of fresh produce to places that furnished food for the hungry.

A majority of the 50 growers of fresh produce who participated in a pilot program took action to improve worker hygiene and facility/equipment sanitation to prevent microorganism contamination that can cause outbreaks of food borne illnesses.

• A survey of a sample of 134 of the participants in Food Safety Refresher Courses who serve food to the public revealed that two-thirds adopted one or more of 11 safe food-handling practices ensuring the prevention of food borne illness.

Family Health, Financial Security, and Wellness

• Statewide workshops on memory improvement and other aging topics reached nearly 4000 retirees with over four hundred reporting that participation improved their quality of life.

Through completed evaluations, Just in Time parenting newsletter subscribers (3,212) reported gaining confidence and developing positive workable parenting strategies.

• Of 300 fifth-graders who participated in Health Jam (two-day camps focused on keeping their bodies fit and exploring health professions), close to half were able to identify the healthier of several food choices and calories used in exercise following the program.
**Economic Development and Workforce Preparedness**

- To reduce natural disaster damage to communities, Illinois State Water Survey and University of Illinois Extension staff conducted meetings attended by 150 officials, with 96% indicating increased knowledge about flood risk and opportunities to reduce flooding.
- 8,072 commercial pesticide applicators participated in training to receive required certification ensuring new and retrained employment worth $363 million (average salary of $41,000).
- Welcome to the Real World curriculum materials and simulation evaluations (490) evidenced an increase in older youth participants’ knowledge of the connection between career choices and the money management challenges of independent living.

**Energy and the Environment**

- Nearly 2,000 youth completing the Wired for Wind experiment gained knowledge about how wind energy is captured through wind turbine blades.
- More than 500 Farm Progress Show attendees viewed a gasification test unit that turns corn crop field residue and other dry plant matter into a renewable gas heat resource.
- The 111 Master Naturalists from East Central Illinois focused on eradicating 2,740 pounds of Garlic Mustard and other invasive plants that are competing with native plants for light, moisture, and needed nutrients.

**Youth Development**

University of Illinois Extension’s 4-H Youth Development program assists youth in acquiring knowledge and developing life skills that will enable them to become caring, competent, and contributing members of society. In 2011, nearly 175,300 youth participated in 4-H activities and programs. Just less than 18,000 Illinois volunteer leaders worked with these youth. Special initiatives for 2011 focused on expanding participation in 4-H Youth Development experiences resulting in the following successes:
- After a six-year decline in 4-H club enrollment, Illinois 4-H achieved a 4% increase in 2011.
- 4-H reached 8% of the Illinois youth population and 4% in sustained experiences.
- One-hundred twenty-nine (129) new Special Interest (SPIN) Clubs were started with a total of 1,019 members and 195 leaders—over half were new to 4-H.

More information about University of Illinois Extension programs can be found at: http://www.extension.illinois.edu.

**Online & Continuing Education**

The Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois has been serving distance learners for over 75 years.

In 1933, the Division of University Extension, now known as Online & Continuing Education (OCE), was established to serve the needs of working professionals, non-traditional students, and lifelong learners. Its mission remains—to work with faculty and the academic units to extend the reach of this great institution throughout the state, the nation, and the world to learners constrained by time, place, and obligation.

**Academic Programs & Services**

Distance offerings of the Urbana-Champaign campus enable participants to fulfill state and professional certification requirements, expand knowledge, enhance skills, and improve performance. Individuals served include adult, part-time students in various fields along with high school and traditional college students. Most academic distance programs offered by the Urbana campus are administered by OCE.
During Academic Year (AY) 2011/2012, the Urbana-Champaign campus offered:
• 30 online/off-campus post-baccalaureate degree programs
• 26 online/off-campus certificates and endorsements

The majority of post-baccalaureate degree programs and all the certificate programs are offered online. A number of the online programs have received national awards for excellence, including the Graduate School of Library and Information Science LEEP program, and College of Education’s Curriculum, Technology, and Education Reform and Global Human Resource Education programs. During spring 2012, an online course offered by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, developed in cooperation with OCE staff, received national recognition by University Professional & Continuing Education Association.

Colleges offering online degree programs include Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences (ACES), Applied Health Sciences (AHS), Education, Engineering, Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS), and Graduate School of Library & Information Science (GSLIS).

At the same time, the Urbana-Champaign campus continues to offer select site-based (and in some cases “blended”) programs in various areas of the state including from the College of Business, College of Education and the School of Social Work.

Summary of online and site-based credit courses offered during Academic Year 2011/2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Level</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Enrollments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>7,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>1,254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to term-based offerings, OCE administers self-paced, continuous enrollment courses on behalf of the Urbana campus. These courses have enabled undergraduates at all three residential U of I campuses (Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield) and elsewhere in the state to fulfill general education requirements and facilitate completion of degree programs. In addition, online math courses for high school and college students (NetMath) are available through the Department of Mathematics and include an extensive mentoring dimension.

OCE also delivers cutting-edge research and information to such diverse constituencies as municipal leaders, farmers, engineers, scientists, teachers and academics, within Illinois and across the nation and world through the conferences and other events it helps organize.

In FY 2012, the unit offered nearly 60 programs benefiting more than 9,000 participants. In a tradition of mounting thoughtfully organized and meticulously executed events, OCE offered a broad array of conferences, institutes, workshops, classes, and programs including:
• Scholarly meetings for academic groups
• Continuing professional education for professional, government and industry groups
• Scientific and technical conferences for academic societies
• Technology training for college and university faculty

The unit also enjoys ongoing programming alliances with professional societies such as the Winter Conference on Brain Research, the Society for Research and Biological Rhythms, and statewide groups.

**Lifelong Learning Programs**

OCE works with the Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) program on the annual Ebertfest Film Festival held in Urbana-Champaign each April. The Road Scholar program offers learning-in-retirement and lifelong learning opportunities to older adults. For more information about OCE offerings, visit [http://oce.illinois.edu](http://oce.illinois.edu).
Office of Public Engagement

A land grant institution, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a long record of commitment to public engagement and to the discovery and application of knowledge. Its faculty, staff and students collaborate with external audiences and partners to address the needs and opportunities of society. Through these partnerships, critical societal issues are embedded in the research and educational missions of the University. The Office of Public Engagement initiates and supports a broad and diverse set of public engagement activities that link the campus to society.

Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement (CAEPE)

The Office of Public Engagement annually recognizes faculty, academic professionals, and students who engage the public to address critical societal issues. Awards are available for both individuals and projects. In 2012, two faculty members, one academic professional and one undergraduate student were recognized with a CAEPE award.

Public Engagement Grant Program

This program funds proposals submitted by faculty, students and staff that support the research, teaching and economic development missions of the university through community-related projects, scholarly work, creative endeavors, course development, and other activities within the broad framework of public engagement. In AY11-12, $244,000 was awarded to public engagement programs.

CCFD

The Campus Charitable Fund Drive (CCFD) is the only annual, combined charitable giving campaign for employees at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Through the eight-week campaign, University employees help improve the lives of people in our community and around the world. In 2011, campus employees made 5,500 donations totaling more than $1.34 million.

Public Engagement Portal

The Public Engagement Portal assists community members in finding public engagement opportunities at the University. More than 8,500 events have been included since 2008. This portal eliminates duplication of effort on the part of those inputting information, thus allowing it to maintain its viability over time. http://engage.illinois.edu

5th Global University Summit

The University of Illinois co-sponsored the 5th Global University Summit from April 29-May 1, 2012. Presidents and senior officials representing 30 countries and more than 75 leading research universities attended. Held in parallel with the events of the G8 Summit in May 2012, the Summit’s aim was to engage university leadership at the highest levels with the major global social challenges facing higher education in the 21st century.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Held on the National Mall in Washington D.C., the University of Illinois exhibit provided over one million patrons with the opportunity to learn about seminal research on which the American National Standards Institute is founded. It highlighted Illinois firsts such as a wheelchair-accessible fixed route bus system, accessible residence halls, a service fraternity and advocacy group for students with disabilities, collegiate adapted sports and recreation programs, and innovative adaptive technologies, as well as our influence on public policy and perception as it relates to persons with disabilities.

Money Smart Week

Money Smart Week is a series of free classes and activities designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. The University of Illinois hosts a variety of events during the week
as a part of the efforts of Money Smart Week Champaign County. Each year, the event listing is available at http://engagement.illinois.edu/moneysmart.

**Magrath Awards**

The Office of Public Engagement manages the nomination process for the C. Peter Magrath Community Engagement Award. The Magrath Award is sponsored by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). The goal of the Peter Magrath Community Engagement Award is to recognize the outreach and engagement partnership efforts of four-year public universities.

**Youth Programming**

Each year the Office of Public Engagement distributes a comprehensive list of summer camps to approximately 300 local organizations, and for the past two years, the Office has hosted a radio show about summer camps on a local station. The full summer camp listing can always be found on the Public Engagement Portal at http://engage.illinois.edu.

**Public Engagement Symposium**

On April 18, 2012, the Office of Public Engagement sponsored the Public Engagement Symposium – Transforming our Society, which provided faculty, staff, students, and community partners the opportunity to share innovative ideas and approaches to community engagement activities. Over 200 people attended the 2012 symposium.

**Allied Agencies**

Allied Agencies are those organizations closely associated with the University that support specific aspects of the University's program and those governmental, professional and technical organizations or agencies whose activities contribute directly to the University's program. View a list of current Allied Agencies at http://engagement.illinois.edu/Page.aspx?site=AlliedOrganizations&page=List-of-Current-Allied-Agencies

**Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration**

Each year, a representative from the Office of Public Engagement serves on the Chancellor’s Campus MLK Commemorative Planning Committee and serves on the County MLK Celebration Committee. The two committees work nearly year-round to plan events for the national holiday in January. http://engagement.illinois.edu/mlk

**CCNet**

CCNet fosters collaboration around leadership opportunities for Champaign County with the theme of sustainability. CCNet enables Champaign County to attract and retain innovative ideas, products and people, and attracts external financial resources in the form of federal funds, research dollars and new corporate investments. http://champaigncountynet.org
University of Illinois at Chicago

University of Illinois at Chicago is a major research university located in the heart of one of the world’s great cities. The largest university in the Chicago area, UIC has 26,000 students, fifteen colleges (including the nation’s largest medical school), and annual research expenditures exceeding $332 million in FY 2009. UIC students reflect the global character of Chicago and more than a third speak English as a second language. UIC’s student body is recognized as one of the nation's most diverse. The university considers the diversity of its student population among its greatest strengths.

UIC provides broad access to the highest levels of academic excellence. UIC offers a wide representation of academic and professional disciplines, especially in healthcare, physical and biological sciences, engineering, and economic development. UIC has a significant history of engagement with the city of Chicago through its Great Cities Commitment and other activities. In addition, UIC’s burgeoning research activities extend the University’s ability to reach the lives of people beyond the immediate vicinity of Chicago. The following programs and initiatives span healthcare delivery, economic development, education, and more, and serve to illustrate UIC’s significant contributions to the welfare of the people of Illinois.

Selected Programs from the Colleges

Bridging the Gap Conference on Emerging Health Issues in Underrepresented Minorities

Bridging the Gap is an annual conference organized by the Department of Surgery and the Urban Health Program. The program focuses on emerging healthcare issues in minority communities, primarily Hispanic and African American, and on diseases that are predominant in these populations. Each of the nine sessions focuses on a different disease state and learners are educated on the prevalence in minority communities, diagnostic techniques, and emerging treatment options available to patients. The program specifically targets primary care providers, nurses, and outreach programs within the city of Chicago and in surrounding communities with large minority group populations.

Center for Literacy

The UIC Center for Literacy is a public service and research center designed to improve literacy education, policy and research at the local, state and national levels. It provides leadership and technical assistance to Chicago-area schools and community-based organizations to enhance the delivery of high-quality literacy services. The Center also works with public and private entities to form policies that support effective literacy programs.

The Center serves as a public clearinghouse on literacy information, establishing partnerships with university departments and external agencies, contributing to enhanced graduate education for future leaders in literacy education, and creating innovative, research-based programs that can serve as exemplary models for public practice. The Center provides document design and evaluation services to help reduce literacy as a barrier to full societal participation for individuals with low literacy attainment.

The Center is furthering its reach this year through its UIC Family Literacy Resources Programs, serving Chicago Head Start programs, with a $2.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. For more information: http://www.uic.edu/educ/cfl/.

Developmental Disabilities Family Clinics

The Developmental Disabilities Family Clinics in the Department of Disability and Human Development provide bilingual, bicultural assessment and family support services to those with developmental
disabilities and autism. Over 1,000 individuals of all ages and ethnicities are served annually through four programs: (1) Adult Diagnostic and Intervention Program, (2) Hispanic Diagnostic and Family Support Program, (3) Children and Adolescent Diagnostic and Family Support Program, and (4) The Autism Program (TAP). The Family Clinics host and support Grupo SALTO, a monthly support group of over 450 Hispanic families of children with autism that offers parent training, a sibling support group, and an arts, dance, and music program.

**Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center**

The Jane Addams College of Social Work operates Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center (GLATTC), one of 14 addiction technology transfer centers in the United States. Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, GLATTC works to increase the knowledge and skills of addiction treatment practitioners and to foster regional and national alliances among practitioners, researchers, policymakers, funders, and consumers.

**Hispanic Center of Excellence**

For over 20 years, the Department of Medical Education’s Hispanic Center of Excellence has worked to improve the medical care of Latinos in Illinois by providing programs that strengthen the pipeline of medical school applicants; enrich the education of Latino medical students, with an emphasis on producing linguistically—and culturally—competent physicians; and build global partnerships with others that share the same vision. Recent HCOE community outreach initiatives include:

- Medicina Academy, a 4-year partnership program with Chicago high schools that provides a pathway into medical school by investing in the preparation of Latino students aspiring to become physicians
- Latino Health Science Enrichment Program (LaHSEP), a partnership with the Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) program at UIC
- Summer research experiences involving UIC researchers that introduce college students to the field of health disparities research.

**Illinois Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Education and Research Center**

The Illinois Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Education and Research Center (Illinois ERC) is supported by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to provide interdisciplinary graduate, continuing, and research education in industrial hygiene, occupational safety, occupational medicine, occupational health nursing, agricultural health and safety, and occupational epidemiology.

As a multidisciplinary center, the Illinois ERC:

- Applies faculty and staff expertise in occupational and environmental health to scientific discovery through leading edge research
- Meets the needs of practitioners through graduate education in occupational health and safety
- Provides service to the community through continuing education and outreach programs

The Illinois ERC was among the first centers established 35 years ago and is one of 17 regional centers. Currently, it supports over 40 graduate students in six academic programs. Other Center programs include the Pilot Project Research Training and Targeted Research Training Programs.

**Illinois ResourceNet**

The UIC Neighborhoods Initiative Illinois ResourceNet (IRN) is building a sustained model of place-based community and economic development by assisting nonprofits and local units of government in Illinois to become more effective in fundraising and strategic management. Key accomplishments include:

- Providing technical assistance on 130 proposals for $276M, of which $113M has been awarded to communities across the state
• Conducting over 100 trainings, webinars and conferences across the state
• Providing new resource development tools to approximately 137,984 individuals and organizations across the state
• Completing customized organizational capacity assessments for 50 organizations
• Disseminating 19 sub-awards in the amount of $236K to faith-based and community-based organizations
• Providing one-on-one technical assistance to 49 organizations to develop and implement strategic and fund development plans, and financial management, human resources, board development, and evaluation systems
• Developing a new Certificate in Sustainable Fund Development program with the Great Cities Institute’s Professional Education Department

innovative research on futures, derivatives and financial markets. The center's mission is to:

• Foster research and innovation in futures and derivatives
• Leverage existing connections between UIC, China and the financial exchanges in Chicago
• Promote understanding of derivatives and futures in risk management and economic growth
• Attract and prepare students for careers in futures and derivatives

MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice

The MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice (MCPHP) works to improve public health systems through workforce development, research, service, and technology by blending academia and field practice. In collaboration with local, regional, and national partners, MCPHP offers training, technical assistance, and mini grants to support the needs of partner organizations through customized solutions designed to address the current challenges of public health practice.

MCPHP offers a variety of training and development services, particularly in public health preparedness, management, and leadership. Services are tailored to meet the needs of both rural and urban areas in the Midwest. Training is delivered in face-to-face, online, and blended learning options to address workforce development needs. MCPHP has developed and delivered an extensive portfolio of blended and online trainings. MCPHP also plans and executes meetings and conferences for the public health workforce.

MCPHP also promotes academic-practice partnerships. By linking research to practice, the Center strives to improve the quality of education for both graduate and undergraduate students through exploring and identifying best practices for public health organizations. To learn more, visit http://www.midamericacphp.com.

The International Center for Futures & Derivatives in the College of Business Administration

The center was established through a gift from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Trust. The Center seeks to become a global source for scholarship, collaboration, quality education and cutting-edge, demonstration represents a major step in
developing community-based long-term care programs. The MFP program, enacted by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is based on the premise that many Medicaid beneficiaries who reside in institutions would rather live in the community, could do so with adequate support, and that such support would cost less than the institutional care they receive.

The Illinois MFP demonstration, Pathways to Community Living, began transitioning individuals back to the community in February 2009. UIC College of Nursing (CON) faculty provide all evidence-based transitional and long term care management education, oversight, coaching and resources in Illinois through a State of Illinois contract. In this model, care management skills are taught to employees of community care agencies, most of whom are not health professionals. CON faculty consult with agencies and transition coordinators to assure that transitional care, self-management education, and coordinated care interventions are consistent with protocol to assure a successful transition. CON is also conducting the ongoing and long term evaluation of this demonstration. This collaboration between the State and the CON is receiving national attention as an effective model for other states.

**UIC College of Pharmacy Drug Information Group**

In January 2004, the UIC College of Pharmacy’s Drug Information Group (DiG) forged a partnership with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS) to support the State Medicaid program that serves 2.5 million Illinois residents. DiG faculty work with IDHFS staff to prioritize review of therapeutic drug classes, such as diabetes medications and antibiotics, using evidence-based criteria which form the basis of which drugs will be preferred for the state formulary. The partnership between the UIC College of Pharmacy and the State of Illinois benefits both partners: the College, by providing this service to the state, creates funding that supports the education of future pharmacists; the State, by using the unique pharmaceutical expertise of the College of Pharmacy in a cost-effective manner.

**Urban Medicine Program Community Partnership**

Urban Medicine (UMed) is an urban medicine curriculum, established to prepare physician-leaders to practice in underserved urban communities. Disparities in health outcomes based on gender, ethnicity, and a number of socioeconomic factors are well documented, and are more likely to be encountered in diverse urban settings. As a forerunner in educating a diverse physician workforce, the UMed program is uniquely positioned to prepare future leaders in urban medicine. Approximately 24 matriculates are selected each year to participate in this program. UMed students have participated in and/or taken leadership positions in a number of co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities to enhance their education and preparation for the future. This year, students are actively involved with community-based projects involving organizations including: Alivio Medical Center, American Indian Center, Breakthrough Urban Ministries, Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center, Community Health, Deborah’s Place, Diabetes Empowerment Center, Englewood Emergency Food Network, Heartland Alliance, Mujeres Latinas, Project Brotherhood, Reach Out and Read, Sickle Cell Center, Somali Center, UIC College Prep, VIDA SIDA, and Young Doctors Club in North Lawndale.

**Urban Transportation Center High Speed Rail Project**

In 2011, Governor Quinn announced that Urban Transportation Center (UTC) would be part of a research team receiving funding for a feasibility study for a 220-mph high speed rail serving Chicago and Champaign, with possible extensions to St. Louis and Indianapolis. The study is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Transportation and UTC will partner with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s Rail Transportation and Engineering Center (RailTEC). RailTEC focuses on examining potential routes to determine the most efficient route, and to estimate capital and cost of maintenance and operation. UTC focuses on the demand for travel between Chicago, Champaign, St. Louis, and Kankakee, and also on intra-regional demand for proposed stops the Chicago area at O’Hare, downtown Chicago, and McCormick Place. As part of the scope, UTC will also look at potential
funding sources for high speed rail including traditional government financed strategies and private-public partnerships, and will be based on a thorough review of previous funding arrangements for similar projects in Europe, Asia, and the United States.

Distance Education

Through online programming and interactive video, UIC provides academic coursework to students who do not come to campus to take courses in traditional academic settings.

During the 2011–2012 academic year, UIC offered 12 online degree programs—10 graduate and 2 undergraduate degree completion—and 27 online certificate programs. In AY 2011–2012, these programs served 1,606 students and generated a total of 5,768 enrollments.

As part of the Rural Pharmacy Program in Rockford that trains pharmacists to practice in rural areas of the state, core courses in the pharmacy education program are offered via interactive video. There were 36 courses offered in AY 2011–2012 with a total of 92 enrollments.

Although online and interactive video courses can potentially reach students across the nation and in other countries, the majority of students taking these courses live in Illinois. In fall 2011, 53% of the students enrolled in online programs and 92% of the students in the RPharm interactive video courses were Illinois residents.

UIC School of Continuing Studies

The UIC School of Continuing Studies (SCS) supports a broad spectrum of programming for adults and professional audiences who are seeking professional development, personal enrichment, career transition and academic growth including credit and noncredit courses and workshops, certificates and degree programs, and intensive and customized ESL instruction in online, face-to-face, and blended formats.

Online Degree and Certificate Programs

The SCS manages several fully online programs that offer students the opportunity to meet their academic and career goals while living and working in their home regions. Ranked 5th nationally, UIC Online RN-BSN degree completion program extends access to a rigorous, high quality nursing education to RNs throughout Illinois. This program specifically targets RNs within Illinois through partnerships with community colleges and healthcare organizations throughout the state. In so doing, it actively supports the development of a professional nursing workforce in Illinois that is educationally prepared to serve as nursing leaders in their communities.
Credit Courses for Professional Development

Credit courses offered by UIC colleges and institutes through the SCS and taught in a traditional classroom setting, mostly on the UIC campus, serve a wide array of primarily graduate-level audiences, who are pursuing specific professional development goals. Teachers (Chicago Public Schools teachers in particular) are a primary audience. In AY 2011–2012, there were 512 enrollments in 114 credit course sections. The programs below highlight some of the partnerships and grant programs that enable school districts and state agencies to meet Illinois professional certification requirement standards and participate in employee training initiatives.

Early Childhood Director Credential Coursework

An offshoot of the Early Childhood Alternative Certification Program, this coursework was developed for eligible early childhood administrators employed in community agencies that are part of the Chicago Public Schools Community Partnership Program. The three courses offered help participants grow in their early childhood leadership, management and administration skills and can be applied towards the Illinois Director Credential offered by the Illinois Gateways to Opportunity.

West Cook and South Cook Math Initiatives

The Chicago Community Trust awarded a grant to the Learning Sciences Research Institute in collaboration with the West 40 Intermediate Service Center and the South Cook Intermediate Center to provide mathematics teaching coursework to teachers from participating southern and western Cook County suburban school districts.

The two companion initiatives are ground-breaking programs where consortia of high-needs school districts (11 in west Cook County; 22 in south Cook County) are working together to forge regional solutions to mathematics improvement. The districts have agreed that collaborating on mathematics instructional improvement offers significant advantages over each district individually trying to reinvent its own wheel. The teachers will be able to use courses towards fulfilling the requirements for a middle grades mathematics endorsement, expanding content knowledge, or completing a Master of Science in Teaching degree.

Summer Session

UIC’s Summer Session provides opportunities for students to progress toward graduation by offering a wide array of undergraduate and graduate courses in 4- and 8-week session lengths. In addition to serving over 8,600 UIC students, the Summer Session enrolls approximately 600 visiting undergraduate students, the majority of whom are Illinois residents who attend other colleges or universities.
The University of Illinois Springfield is proud to serve the citizens of Illinois through community partnerships, public service activities, citizen education, professional development, lifelong learning, and online education. With its location in the state capital, UIS emphasizes public affairs, citizen engagement, and societal change. UIS also has a tradition educating public servants and leaders.

Public and Civic Engagement

Center for State Policy and Leadership

The Center plays a fundamental role in advancing UIS’ interest in public affairs. It develops new knowledge through research and evaluation to inform public decisions. It also fosters a better informed and more engaged citizenry, and strengthens public service through leadership development. To carry out this agenda, the center mobilizes the expertise of faculty, staff, and students to work in partnership with government, local communities, citizens, the nonprofit sector, and other universities. Some of the Center’s services to the state are:

Research and Evaluation

The Center’s Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies conducts program evaluations and research studies for state and local government agencies. It is currently wrapping up a multicounty project for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to evaluate a program which uses multidisciplinary teams to coordinate services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Institute staff are in the first year of a five-year, foundation-funded evaluation of a local initiative in Springfield to improve the access that children with social and emotional problems have to mental health providers and other care and support.

Certified Public Manager Program

The Institute administers the Certified Public Manager Program of Illinois, both online and in class, for public and nonprofit personnel looking to enhance their management knowledge and skills.

Training for Practitioners

The Institute presents seminars on the Illinois legislative and budget processes for advocates, lobbyists, executives, board members, interest groups, and citizens interested in knowing more about how government works. In addition, for many years, institute faculty and staff have worked with the Illinois Department of Transportation to improve the capacity of law enforcement personnel in the state to mitigate the risks of drunk driving.

Sunshine Project

The Sunshine Project promotes public awareness of the role of money in Illinois politics. Through
research and outreach starting in the early 1990s, the project and its predecessors produce searchable campaign finance databases and reports that are frequently cited in news stories in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Crain’s Chicago Business, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and the Springfield State Journal-Register. The project works closely with the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform in Chicago.

**Illinois Innocence Project**

The Center is the home of the Illinois Innocence Project. Through collaborative partnerships with all of the public university law schools in Illinois, the UIS Project organizes faculty, staff, and students to work on cases of persons who are in prison for crimes they did not commit. With the assistance of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the project has obtained significant federal funding to support its efforts.

**Survey Research**

The Survey Research Office provides a full range of survey services and specializes in meeting the survey needs of state and local government and nonprofit agencies. For example, the office conducts an annual Motorist Public Opinion Survey to help inform the Illinois Department of Transportation’s strategic planning and decision making. Currently, in conjunction with the Institute, the office is conducting a survey of businesses that have exited and entered the state for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Locally, the office conducts the widely heralded Sangamon County Business Economic Outlook Survey in a joint venture with the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

**WUIS 91.9 FM Public Radio**

WUIS is a listener-supported public radio station that has served central Illinois for more than 35 years. Western Illinois is served through repeater station WIPA 89.3. WUIS/WIPA offers access to highly regarded national and state news and information programs, such as Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Marketplace, Talk of the Nation, On Point, State Week in Review, and Illinois Edition. WUIS’ Statehouse News Bureau provides extensive coverage of state government news, and its state news stories are picked up by public radio stations throughout Illinois, especially through the WUIS-hosted Illinois Public Radio Network. The station’s Statehouse Bureau Chief also provides regular up-to-the minute updates on legislative matters in Springfield through a Twitter account.

**Illinois Issues Magazine**

The magazine is the state’s leading publication on Illinois government and politics. Published 11 times a year, Illinois Issues has developed a reputation for provocative, well-informed, nonpartisan reporting and analysis of public affairs issues. The magazine’s online version provides readers with news blogs, links to daily newspapers, access to past issues of the magazine, and other public policy resources. The magazine’s Statehouse Bureau Chief also provides regular updates on state government and politics via a blog.

**Governmental Internships**

The center administers two prestigious paid internship programs. The Illinois Legislative Staff Internship Program is among the premier graduate-level programs of its kind in the nation, placing interns each year on all four legislative leadership staffs in the General Assembly and with the legislature’s nonpartisan Legislative Research Unit. The Graduate Public Service Internship Program places 130 to 170 graduate students every year in internships with state agencies. Over the years, many of the interns from both programs have gone on to leadership and managerial positions in the public sector.

**Electronic Media**

The Center’s Office of Electronic Media produces public service, educational, informational and public affairs programs on DVD, CD, video, audiotape and the Internet. For example, the office currently videotapes and webcasts, with live captioning, meetings of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission. It also produces training videos for the Illinois Department on Aging and the Illinois Department of Transportation, and it produces a live feed of all University of Illinois Board of Trustees meetings.
Papers of Abraham Lincoln

The center co-sponsors the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, helping to preserve and inform the legacy of Illinois’ greatest political figure. The Papers is a long-term documentary editing project dedicated to identifying, imaging, transcribing, and publishing all documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln during his lifetime.

The Nonprofit Project

The Nonprofit Project, located in the Department of Public Administration in the College of Public Affairs and Administration, is a diverse and networked community of public affairs students, practitioners, and scholars interested in nonprofit management. It utilizes expertise of the public administration faculty and students to develop, share, and apply knowledge and to build the capacity of the nonprofit community, much of which, in Springfield, is connected to local or state government in some way.

Faculty associated with the Nonprofit Project consult on nonprofit responses to disasters, the state budget crisis, nonprofit leadership development, and many other areas. Along with graduate education for nonprofit leaders, the project provides training in a variety of critical areas for nonprofit development. UIS offers a Certificate in Nonprofit Management in its Public Administration program.

Volunteer & Civic Engagement Center

The Volunteer & Civic Engagement Center fosters a lifelong commitment to community within UIS students, faculty, and staff by linking the UIS community to service and civic engagement opportunities in central Illinois and beyond. During the 2011 academic year, the UIS community volunteered more than 24,000 hours in both ongoing service and episodic service, assisting more than 40 local organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, American Lung Association, Springfield School District 186, and the Springfield Park District. On April 27th, 220 UIS volunteers planted more than 2,800 tree saplings in Carpenter Park in commemoration of Arbor Day 2012. The Volunteer Center works with four service-based student organizations, one of which took 28 students to New Orleans to rebuild houses during spring break this year. The Volunteer Center also leads the UIS Holiday Stars project, which in three years has collected over nine tons of food for the Central Illinois Foodbank. In 2012-13, the Center is focused on student-led service initiatives via the creation of five new student leadership positions within the existing Leadership for Life service program.

Applied Study Term

Hundreds of UIS students work with faculty each year to create a semester-long or yearlong off-campus self-directed study program. Since the students create their own program, the experiences are widely varied, but many are similar to internships in government or for a public official. The Applied Study Term (AST), a requirement in many programs, is mutually beneficial because of the service provided to government, nonprofits and other organizations during this experience. The AST is one of UIS’s longstanding successful traditions of engagement.
**Intercollegiate Athletics and NCAA Division II**

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics embraces the NCAA Division II philosophy of Life in the Balance where student-athletes experience a rich well-rounded learning experience. Achieving a well-rounded student-athlete experience at UIS includes service and civic engagement. During the 2011-12 academic year, Prairie Star student-athletes performed over 1,500 hours of community service working with organizations such as Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity, Boy’s and Girl’s Club, and the Springfield School District. Every year our student-athlete advisory council (SAAC) establishes student-athlete goals in support of raising funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, collecting donations for local charities, and dedicating community service hours. In 2011, our SAAC raised over $2,700 toward the Make-A-Wish Foundation and collected over 2,500 items for charity, finishing in the top two contributing schools in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

**Online Education**

UIS is a national leader in online education in higher education. Enrollment in online programs and the percentage of credit hours generated in online courses at UIS has continued to increase every semester for more than 10 years. UIS has 16 degree programs online with students residing in 75 of Illinois’ counties.

No other university in the country has received as many national achievement awards for online education as UIS, which received yet another national award in 2011. Communication Professor Michael Cheney received the 2011 Excellence in Online Teaching Award from the Sloan Consortium, a national group of online educators. In 2012, Ray Schroeder was named the inaugural Innovation Fellow in Digital Learning by the University Professional and Continuing Education Association. Schroeder is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Director of the Center for Online Learning, Research, and Service (COLRS) at UIS. Prior to 2010, UIS received national outstanding achievement awards from the Sloan Consortium in 2002, 2003, and 2006. UIS was recognized with an Institution-Wide Excellence Award in 2007 and the Ralph E. Gomory Award for Quality Online Education in 2008.

COLRS is currently working on a number of national research projects, notably, a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and administered by the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) on Predictive Analytics Reporting in higher education. This project is developing algorithms for identifying success patterns for online students. COLRS is also working with the Illinois Department of Transportation on an online statewide training program for road and highway construction safety workers and the Illinois Department of Aging on developing a series of online training and information programs to serve those working with the aged in Illinois.
The Institute of Government and Public Affairs

IGPA connects the state’s leaders with cutting edge public policy research and engages the public in discourse about the most pressing issues facing the state and nation. In the 2011-2012 academic year, IGPA published several influential reports and publications, and hosted more than twenty dynamic events in all three University of Illinois campus cities.

Connecting Research to Practice: Publications

IGPA publishes scholarly work in a variety of research areas, including economics, sociology, health policy, and political science. Below, we describe several major publications from the 2011-2012 academic year. All of IGPA’s scholarly research can be found at igpa.illinois.edu.

Public pension policy was one of the most important issues facing Illinois this year. As policy options were debated in Springfield and across the state, IGPA produced policy briefs utilizing the best academic research to evaluate possible reform measures and propose important alternative considerations. IGPA held several events surrounding pension reform, including the IGPA State Summit 2011, and informative panels on all three U of I campuses (see below). You can find all of IGPA’s work on pensions at igpa.illinois.edu/pensions.

IGPA’s signature publication, The Illinois Report, entered its sixth year in 2012. The publication is a critical examination of the state’s performance on several issues in a given year. The Illinois Report 2012 provided analysis on issues including: demographics and the 2012 Census; statewide trends in immigration; playful learning in early childhood education; and the impact of the research university on economic development.

The publication is distributed widely to the state’s leaders in the public and private sectors. This year’s report was accompanied for the first time by an interactive website with video, chapter summaries, and more. Download the report or request a copy at igpa.illinois.edu/IR12.

Fiscal Futures Project

IGPA’s Fiscal Futures Project takes a critical, in-depth look at the state’s budgeting practices to better forecast the state’s financial future. The project produced several budget projection briefs, including analysis of the impact of the state income tax increase. They also published a special report titled, Why Ignore Over Half of the Illinois State Budget Picture? Consolidation of General and Special Fund Reporting. The report examines and evaluates transparency in all 50 states, and demonstrates how Illinois stacks up, proposes a new, more transparent way to report and monitor the state’s fiscal practices. Read the report at igpa.illinois.edu/fiscalfutures.

The Fiscal Futures Project also recognizes the importance of public education on issues related to the state budget crisis. With generous support from the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement at UIC, The Fiscal Futures Project has delivered presentations on fiscal planning and state budget policy to community groups across the Chicago area. The goal of the public education project is to empower communities with factual, nonpartisan information, giving them a voice in the state budget process. Learn more about the Fiscal Futures Project at igpa.illinois.edu/fiscalfutures.

Engaging the Public: Events

IGPA holds more than twenty events every academic year, including seminar series, public lectures, and conferences. Below, we detail several highlights from the 2011-2012 academic year. Every year, IGPA provides a forum on a major issue confronting Illinois. The IGPA Summit 2011: A Bold New Dialogue on Public Pensions convened more
than 100 stakeholders to evaluate best practices from other states and discuss reform options using criteria outlined by top researchers in the field. The 2011 summit culminated in a report that provides an overview of the debate, important criteria for effective, sustainable reform, and new policy ideas from the nation’s leading scholars on compensation and benefits. Learn more about the summit at: igpa.uillinois.edu/pe/state-summit.

One of IGPA’s most highly regarded public lecture series is the annual Craig S. Bazzani Lecture on Public Affairs, which brings a prominent public intellectual to the University of Illinois each year. The 2012 lecture brought political scientist and MSNBC program host Melissa Harris-Perry to the University of Illinois at Chicago. More than 300 students, scholars, and community members attended the talk. Harris-Perry discussed inequality, democracy and the American promise. You can view highlights of the talk at: igpa.uillinois.edu/pe/bazzani.

IGPA provides training and assistance for leaders at every phase of their professional development. One such program is NEW Leadership Illinois, which IGPA cosponsors with the Conference of Women Legislators of the Illinois General Assembly (COWL). The 2012 program brought together a class of 20 college women who are demonstrated leaders on their campuses across the state. They engaged in an intensive week of study, training and networking and met with the state’s most powerful leaders in the public and private sectors. The women gained the skills and inspiration necessary for a lifelong commitment to public service. For more: igpa.uillinois.edu/pe/newl.

The 2012 Family Impact Seminar addressed a new concept in child protective services called differential response. This new policy approach offers tailored services to lower risk families in the child welfare system. The Family Impact Seminar examined the effectiveness and progress made in the state by bringing scholars and practitioners together. Read a conference overview at: igpa.uillinois.edu/pe/fs.
University Outreach and Public Service

University Outreach and Public Service (UOPS), reporting to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, is a University of Illinois central support unit that provides coordination, expertise, and support to the educational outreach and public engagement initiatives of the University’s three campuses and central administration.

Also included under the UOPS umbrella are UI Online (including University of Illinois Online, Illinois Virtual Campus and Illinois Online Network), Illinois P-20 Education, Illinois Project Lead the Way, and AdvancED Illinois.

Some Key AY12 Accomplishments:
- Built strong relationships with Illinois community colleges to assess regional needs and grow student pipelines for campuses’ online programs.
- Expanded use of Customer Relationship Management System (Talisma) to recruit and support students enrolled in the campuses’ online programs.
- Served as Administering Institution for the Higher Education Consortium of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System.
- u.select Illinois expanded participation among Illinois institutions through more than 40 promotional events and training sessions.

Education Outreach and Support

UOPS Regional Offices provide bridges between the University and regions around the state. Through support to and collaboration with the campuses, engagement with local communities, and partnership activities, UOPS helps Illinois citizens and communities to more readily access the resources and educational programming of the University.

UOPS works collaboratively with the campuses and units, and ensures that they have the tools needed to deliver programming and engage in partnership activities throughout the state. UOPS also represents the University at local, regional, and statewide consortia.

In AY 2012, UOPS and all its units supported 656 University of Illinois courses and activities with 7,222 enrollments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Courses/Activities</th>
<th>Enrollments</th>
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<td>CPDU Coordination</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 656 7,222
Oak Brook Education Center

The Oak Brook Education Center is a UOPS managed, centrally located instructional facility offering classrooms, a computer lab, and conference rooms. The Center provides support services to students enrolled in the University’s graduate degree programs and professional development activities, and to the faculty who teach them. The Center is housed in an area of many corporate headquarters and enables working professionals in the Chicago metro area to access the University’s site-based programming.

In AY 2011-2012 the facility supported a broad array of University of Illinois and other public universities’ credit and noncredit programming, including 130 courses, seminars, and activities with 2,015 enrollments.

Supporting Online and Site-Based Students

UOPS directly impacted thousands more citizens:  
• UOPS help desks through the UI Online, UOPS, and Illinois Educator websites, answered over 6,000 inquiries from prospective students and other citizens  
• Proctored over 80 exams for online and site-based students around the state  
• Attended 34 college fairs at Illinois community colleges and corporations, and facilitated 28 partnership meetings at community colleges  
• Handled thousands of information calls and resource referrals for the University

Supporting University Campuses and Faculty

In AY 2011-2012, UOPS units supported campuses and faculty through additional services that enable the University to extend learning beyond the bricks and mortar campuses. Examples include:  
• Managed the Sloan C Consortium for Online Learning membership, which provides faculty development conferences, workshops, and online seminars for University faculty teaching online  
• Worked with UIUC’s School of Earth, Society, and Environment faculty to connect the new online ESE bachelors completion degree to key faculty at community colleges across the state, in order to grow a pipeline of transfer students  
• Awarded 84 new Master Online Teacher Certificates to college faculty throughout Illinois and beyond.

UI-Service Public Service Database

Every day University of Illinois faculty and staff reach out in countless ways to extend the teaching, learning, and research of the University’s campuses to the citizens and communities of Illinois. The UI-Service public service database, managed by University Outreach and Public Service, is a powerful search tool for Illinois citizens to find out what the University of Illinois is doing in their communities. Interested citizens can search by region, by area of interest, or by programs targeted to their age group.

To find out more, visit the UI-Service website at: http://www.uops.illinois.edu/UI-Service.

University of Illinois Online

University of Illinois Online (UIOL) is a central resource for marketing and recruiting activities for the e-learning and distance education opportunities available from the University’s three campuses. To this end, the UIOL website is a one stop portal for information on programs and courses offered online from the University. The website offers detailed information on admissions requirements, prerequisites, curriculum, and tuition. The past year included a redesign of the website that better directs students to the degree information they are seeking.

The UI Online website averages 20,000 visitors per month providing great recruitment potential for the online offerings of the three campuses. UIOL staff also work directly with campus program coordinators to help develop marketing
and recruitment materials, including website content, electronic advertisements, and written promotional pieces. In addition, the utilization of the Customer Relationship Management tool Talisma allows UIOL to provide department and campus contacts with up-to-date information on requests, current and complete student information, as well as detailed and up-to-the-minute reports. For more information: http://online.uillinois.edu.

**Illinois Virtual Campus**

The Illinois Virtual Campus (IVC) provides potential and current college students with easy access to information about online courses and programs available through colleges and universities in Illinois, and provides support services for online learners throughout the state. The IVC serves 75 public and private colleges and universities by referring potential students who inquire about online programs via the IVC website to the institution(s) that match the individuals’ requirements. The online catalog lists more than 360 degrees and certificates, and more than 7,200 courses. The IVC’s leadership has encouraged the development of quality, comprehensive, cost effective online education offerings within higher education in Illinois. IVC provides valuable information to institutions that offer distance education programs and courses so that they are better prepared to serve the needs of students, and react to changing situations.

The IVC website is the primary means of reaching potential online students in Illinois. This past year the IVC instituted a new website design that promotes “Featured and New Programs” and also provides quick links to the programs by degree level. Website data shows that the Bachelor’s degree level is the most popular search performed on the site.

AskIVC is a service for potential distance education students who visit the IVC website, complete a Web-based form, and inquire about the availability of distance education courses or degrees. Students receive individualized responses from IVC staff that take into consideration constraints that the potential students have indicated are important to them, such as quickest method, lowest cost, or closeness to a particular region of the state. IVC refers students that inquire about available programs to institutions in Illinois that offer the program in which the students are interested. If more than one institution offers the program, IVC refers the students to the distance education programs that best fit the students’ needs.

IVC provides the Illinois statewide distance education enrollment report once each semester that enumerates enrollments in five categories of distance education courses, including completely online courses. The report is available for viewing by anyone interested in the growth of online learning in Illinois. For more information: http://ivc.uillinois.edu.
**Illinois Online Network**

The Illinois Online Network (ION) provides comprehensive professional development opportunities in online teaching and learning and technology enhanced classroom techniques to faculty and staff from P-20 institutions in Illinois. ION’s mission is to promote the effective use of networked information technologies, to enhance traditional classroom instruction, and to build the foundation for developing, delivering and supporting online education.

ION added the Global eLearning course to the regular schedule of eight-week courses as an elective in the MOT and COLA programs. In AY 2012, ION debuted Quality Assurance and Accountability in Online/Distance Learning (8-week) and the Administrator of Online Learning Seminar, a four-week course. Both are part of the required core of the COLA program. For more information, visit [http://www.ion.uillinois.edu](http://www.ion.uillinois.edu).
P-20 Education Initiatives

P-20 Education signifies a national concern for treating early childhood through higher education as a continuous system. In this arena, the initiatives of many University units cross as we provide leadership and expertise on a variety of projects designed to improve teaching, learning and achievement. These initiatives provide a means to harness the strength of colleges and universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, business and industry in ways that increase the impact of each on the P-20 system.

In AY12, this involvement included:

**Illinois P-20 Council**

Established by the Illinois General Assembly, the Illinois P-20 Council developed a statewide agenda to improve academic achievement, increase college access and success, improve the use of existing data and measurements, develop improved accountability, foster innovative approaches to education, promote lifelong learning, ease the transition to college, and reduce remediation. The 2025 goal is to increase to 60% the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials. The Illinois P-20 Council is staffed by the University of Illinois. http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/p20/

**Illinois State Longitudinal Data System Project**

The P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act, Public Act 096-0107, became effective July 30, 2009. It is landmark legislation, which will allow leaders in education and the general public, to follow students and their performance throughout their formal school experience and beyond. Specifically, the longitudinal data system is intended to link student test scores, length of enrollment, and graduation records over time. Illinois will have in place a searchable longitudinal data system by June 20, 2013.

Staff at the University of Illinois, Illinois Board of Higher Education, and Illinois Community College Board are providing leadership for the Illinois Higher Education Consortium (IHEC), which is building the infrastructure for the Illinois higher education institutions to participate in the ILDS. The University of Illinois is the Administering Institution for IHEC.

A website provides the stakeholders of IHEC with regular updates on project status, materials from IHEC meetings, and a means to send in feedback and suggestions. http://www.illinoiseducator. uillinois.edu/ILDS

**u.select**

u.select is an online transfer advising tool that allows students and advisors to obtain up-to-date information on program requirements, view course-by-course equivalencies, and run personalized degree reports that can combine enrollment across institutions and be used to track student progress toward specific degrees. This capability enables students in higher education, particularly underrepresented students, to more easily access information about transfer to baccalaureate-granting institutions and to make the most of their time and money as they work toward degree completion.

In Illinois during AY 2011-2012 all 12 public universities, the 48 community colleges, and seven independent institutions participated in u.select. One important goal of the u.select Illinois project is to expand participation among Illinois institutions. To that end, in AY 2012 the u.select Illinois staff participated in more than 40 promotional events including 23 training sessions reaching 40+ institutions, 11 presentations at State, Local, Regional Association meetings/conferences, and six student transfer events.
The u.select Illinois project team collaborates with other organizations to maximize shared resources and to develop new solutions for technology and funding challenges facing non-participating schools.

Funding is provided through a grant to the University of Illinois from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, allowing the system to be free to students. Participating institutions also provide support. For more information, visit https://www.transfer.org/uselect.

**K-12 Continuing Professional Development Unit Coordination**

University of Illinois Outreach and Public Service provides coordination of Illinois K-12 teacher Continuing Professional Development Unit recognition for most noncredit workshops, institutes, and special events sponsored by the Urbana-Champaign campus and University Administration. In AY 2011, a total of 80 workshops, institutes, and online activities in a wide range of P-20 best practices and content areas provided almost 32,000 total contact hours to 2,136 teachers and other participants statewide.

**Illinois Educator Web Portal**

The Illinois Educator Web Portal is a UOPS maintained resource for P-20 teachers, administrators, school personnel and others interested in topics and issues affecting teaching and learning in Illinois schools. Educators can access information on teacher prep programs, teacher recruitment, professional development, policy issues, and research-based effective practices. The site receives over 1,500 visits per month. http://www.illinoiseducator.uillinois.edu

**AdvancED Illinois**

AdvancED Illinois offers school improvement and accreditation services to PK – 12 education providers in their pursuit of excellence in serving students. Currently, this impacts over 550 schools and six districts, which serve nearly 400,000 students. Continuous improvement through process, content, and technology is our goal with an eye toward accreditation. In Illinois, we offer our schools and districts accreditation through the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI). School Accreditation is pivotal to leveraging improvement. There is no question that the school and the classroom are at the heart of teaching and learning. However, increasing student achievement involves more than improving instruction. Using a set of rigorous protocols and research-based standards, the accreditation process examines the whole institution – the programs, the cultural context, the community of stakeholders – to determine how well the parts work together to meet the needs of students. Institutions that choose the AdvancED Accreditation Protocol know that it is not the outcome, but the process of accreditation that yields the greatest return on investment for institutions.

The AdvancED Accreditation Protocol creates a stronger alignment between internal and external diagnostic assessment, stakeholder perception data, and student achievement data. The result is a performance-based accreditation process that provides each institution with a more comprehensive analysis to drive continuous improvement.

AdvancED Illinois accomplishments include:

Planned Professional Development Opportunities
- Coordinated 14 workshops and webinars focused on assessment processes and procedures, data collection and analyses, school improvement planning, vision development and implementation, quality assurance review preparation, and external evaluator assessment methodology
- Hosted state-wide practitioner’s conference with 4 pre-conference sessions, 20 concurrent sessions, 2 keynote speakers, moderator controlled practitioner’s panel, ISBE Deputy Superintendent update, and 11 exhibitors

Conducted External Quality Assurance Review Visits
- Successfully completed 85 Quality Assurance Review (QARs) school level and three system-wide visits
- Staffed teams through effective management of volunteer database which includes 521 team members and 46 trained chairs
Collaborated and Partnered with Multiple Associations
• Illinois Principal’s Association: Board of Director’s Liaison and AdvancED Illinois State Council Member
• Illinois Association of School Administrators: Board of Director’s Liaison
• Illinois Association of School Boards
• Coalition for Illinois High Schools: Board Member
• Presented Accountability Model to Governor’s Commission on Regional Offices of Education
• U.S. Department of Education Regional Center: Illinois Representative on Advisory Board
• Exhibitor and presenter for various associations including ISBE Non-Public Special Education Conference, IPA Annual Conference; IASA Spring Conference; and Educator Symposium for SIU Law Conference

Illinois PLTW school membership has grown quickly, and the program seeks to involve more females and under-represented minorities. Growth is reflected in the following:
• Illinois PLTW schools grew from 12 in AY 2005 to 113 schools in AY 2011, with 133 anticipated for AY 2012
• 7,000 high school students were enrolled in one or more of the PLTW courses in AY 2011 (19% female; 35% minority)
• More than 7,000 middle school students were exposed to one or more of the middle school Gateway To Technology PLTW course modules in AY 2011 (48% female; 31% minority)

**Project Lead the Way**

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a nationwide program that aims to foster increased interest in careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) by promoting pre-engineering curricula for middle and high school students and a biomedical curriculum for high schools.

PLTW, offered in more than 4,000 schools in 50 states, forms partnerships with public and private schools, higher education institutions and the private sector to meet our country’s need for increased quantity and quality of engineers, engineering technologists, and other STEM professionals.

The PLTW high school Pathway to Engineering curriculum is a project and problem-based curriculum of eight courses. The PLTW Gateway to Technology is a modular middle school science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) curriculum.

The University of Illinois became one of 35 Affiliate Universities nationwide in 2004, and developed a plan for statewide program collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
The select Illinois project team collaborates with other organizations to maximize shared resources and fund the transition through technology and training challenges facing non-participating schools.

Our schools and districts accreditation through the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and their needs for technology funding and policy changes. Allowing the system to be free to students. Participating institutions also provide support for more information visit https://www.transfer.org/aseet.

**K-12 Continuing Professional Development Unit**

Continuing Professional Development Unit at the University of Illinois Champaign-City Campus provides coordination of Illinois K-12 teacher recognition and workshops. In 2011, a total of 80 workshops, institutes, and special events sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois State Council on Education, were held.

The team at the University of Illinois has been working to develop new solutions for technology and funding the transition through technology and training challenges facing non-participating schools.

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• Illinois Association of School Administrators: Board of Director’s Liaison
• Illinois Association of School Boards
• Coalition for Illinois High Schools: Board Member
• Presented Accountability Model to Governor’s Commission on Regional Offices of Education
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Illinois PLTW school membership has grown quickly, and the program seeks to involve more females and under-represented minorities. Growth is reflected in the following:
• Illinois PLTW schools grew from 12 in AY 2005 to 113 schools in AY 2011, with 133 anticipated for AY 2012
• 7,000 high school students were enrolled in one or more of the PLTW courses in AY 2011 (19% female; 35% minority)
• More than 7,000 middle school students were exposed to one or more of the middle school Gateway To Technology PLTW course modules in AY 2011 (48% female; 31% minority)
The University of Illinois coordinated statewide PLTW professional development activities providing over 10,500 contact hours, including:
- Intensive two-week summer teacher training institutes at the Urbana-Champaign and Chicago campuses for 82 teachers
- An October 2010 statewide conference for almost 150 school administrators, counselors, and teachers
- Regional roundtables with 172 attendees for teacher and technology training liaison activities

Other special state and national outreach efforts included:
- 48 site visits to schools for PLTW program certification review and onsite school consulting
- 18 presentations, exhibits, and information sessions coordinated throughout Illinois
- Exploration of expanded opportunities for math, science, engineering, and technology outreach by the University to K-12 schools involved with Project Lead The Way.

The University of Illinois’ Urbana-Champaign and Chicago campuses have hosted teacher Summer Training Institutes for the Digital Electronics, Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Biotechnical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Engineering Design and Development, and Gateway to Technology PLTW courses. The University is also considering hosting teacher training for the new Biomedical Sciences curriculum strand.

The University of Illinois Project Lead the Way effort has taken the lead in promoting collaboration among high schools, career and technical programs, two and four-year colleges and universities, and state educational agencies in efforts to coordinate program participation and data collection, to assess impact of PLTW program participation on student achievement, and to support creative program delivery options around the state.

For more information, visit http://www.pltw.uiuc.edu.
Conclusion

The University of Illinois is committed to providing ready access to its high quality education and significant evidence-based research by engaging with Illinois communities through a myriad of outreach and service initiatives that are multi-dimensional, complex, and robust. Historically the University has been a leader in outreach and engagement that directly enhances the lives of Illinois citizens and communities. The University is continually assessing the most pressing education, societal and workforce development needs of Illinois citizens and communities. As distributed and distance learning modalities and technologies have evolved in recent years, the University now finds itself ever more able to extend access to the University to ever more Illinois citizens and communities. By providing continued leadership and vision in the development of new and innovative responses to 21st century needs, the University is working to ensure that the future is sound and the horizon expansive for the state of Illinois.

An electronic copy of this report may be accessed at http://www.uops.uillinois.edu.
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