




HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

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TO: Illinois Community College & Public University Presidents
Illinois Community College & Public University Accreditation Liaison Officers

FROM: Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley, President 

DATE: May 25, 2016

RE: Response to Your Fiscal Report

CC: Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Staff Liaisons
U.S. Department of Education
Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE)
Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)

Thank you for submitting your institution's fiscal report earlier this year in response to the accreditation concerns the Higher Learning Commission raised regarding the lack of Illinois budget appropriations for higher education. I appreciate the time and attention you gave to this important matter. HLC staff members are following the state's budget situation closely this year and are frequently in contact with the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board. We exchange important information about budget developments, pending legislation, and HLC's accreditation standards and processes.

As you know, since the time I requested certain financial and operational information from your institution, stop-gap funding measures for higher education have been enacted by the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Rauner. I view these actions as positive in light of the circumstances preceding them. It is hoped that constructive progress will be made regarding next year's budget.

In the near term, if needed, HLC staff will follow up with any further questions about your institution's fiscal health and how it might relate to HLC accreditation standards and processes. If you have specific concerns, please contact your HLC staff liaison. It will also be helpful if you can alert your liaison to any expected media coverage regarding your institution's budget situation. Depending on how budget negotiations unfold for the next fiscal year, I may request a follow up report from your institution on its fiscal position and plans for the academic year. Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you again.