

2016 Annual Report



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INTRODUCTION

The following report covers work conducted by the University of Illinois' Office of Government Relations (OGR) from January 1, 2016 –December 31, 2016.

Mission

The mission of OGR is to support the University of Illinois by building effective partnerships between the University and state and federal governments. This is achieved through representation and advocacy of the University of Illinois' needs and interests with state and federal elected officials in Springfield and Washington, D.C.

State and Federal support is paramount to the University of Illinois's efforts to provide a quality education to a growing number of students and healthcare to some of the state's underserved communities. The University's activities are far reaching and support the state's public service and economic development goals in many additional ways.

Goals for 2016

- Promote the University's interests at the state and federal level
- Enhance the understanding of the role and value of the University of Illinois
- Achieve status as one of the top public university governmental relations offices in the United States
- Obtain a sensible FY16 and FY17 budget solution for the University of Illinois
- In addition, the central grassroots goal for 2016 is to recognize our legislative champions and to grow new and stronger relationships with legislators, key decision makers, while activating our alumni and supporters throughout the state
- To educate the Illinois Congressional Delegation, the Governor's office, the IL General Assembly, state leaders, and the public on how the University of Illinois operates and what it needs to be able to be a world class institution
- Develop new partnerships with legislators, stakeholders, industry, business, community leaders to be better tell the story of the University of Illinois

Strategies

- Maintain visibility at both the state and federal level through testimony, tours, outreach events, Hill and Capitol visits, and other activities to increase contact with state and federal policy makers.
- Foster relationships between the president, chancellors and designated officers of the university with members of the General Assembly, Illinois Congressional Delegation, and Executive branch of both the state and federal government.
- The University of Illinois has forty-six members of the U of I caucus. These members can be champions for our causes at the state level. We need cultivate and grow these relationships both in the Capitol and in their communities by connecting them to alumni, students, faculty, staff, facilities, and university supporters.
- Engage the business community, UI Advocates, and alumni to help advocate for the university's initiatives.
- Request state funding for special projects at each campus.
- Lobby for robust federal funding for research and education.
- Educate elected officials about the university through contact with faculty, students, and administrators from all three campuses.
- Provide internal communication by:
 - Holding frequent legislative strategy meetings with top university officers
 - Providing legislative updates at all three campuses and via email to the university community
 - Communicating with appropriate university faculty, administrators, and students regarding specific legislation and policy issue.

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2016 State Relations in Review

During the 2016 spring session, the University of Illinois effectively represented the University and raised its state advocacy profile in the state capitol and around the state through the following actions:

CAMPUS IMPACT

- Held events, meetings, and campus tours with state legislators at all three Universities:
 - Dinner with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus at UIC
 - Tour and meetings with 6 Higher Education committee members at UIUC
 - Rep. Cabello tour and meetings at UIS
 - Local legislator meetings with Chancellors at UIC and UIUC
 - Rep. Gordon-Booth tour and meetings at UIUC
 - Rep. Olsen tour and meetings at UIUC
 - Higher Education member meetings with Chancellor at UIC
 - Juliana Stratton, Director of Center for Public Safety and Justice at UIC, elected and engaged
 - President and Chancellors meetings with Legislative leaders both in the district and in the Capitol
 - Visit by Secretary of Education Beth Purvis to UIUC and UIC
 - Governor Rauner visited UIUC and UIC, as well as UI Health
 - Hosted local, state and federal Hispanic leaders for a breakfast at UIC celebrating Hispanic heritage month, including Governor Rauner and Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanquinetti

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Held events, meetings, and events with state legislators and alumni throughout the state of Illinois:
 - Executed three UIAA IL Connection call to actions and story collection campaigns
 - Coordinated 27 alumni and student in district legislative meetings
 - Held 29 district meetings with legislators and OGR
 - Regional events with legislators and community leaders:
 - Peoria
 - Chicago
 - Champaign
 - Provided regular updates through a state relations newsletter and social media, and increased communications through UIAA newsletter updates as well as UIAA social media shares
 - Organized all nine public universities to execute a crisis advocacy campaign
 - Assisted UIAA in coordinating Alumni Association Advocacy Consortium
 - Formed the Coalition to Support Higher Education, made up of public, private, and community college institutions, business, labor, and municipalities
 - Organized nine regional press conferences

STATE CAPITOL IMPACT

- Strengthened relationships with UI alumni legislators, higher education legislative champions, and staff in the state Capitol
 - Hosted five UI Caucus events in Springfield
 - Planned a basketball legislative watch party with Dee Brown
 - Area alumni invited
 - All members of GA invited (20 attended)
 - Testified at multiple appropriations hearings in the Capitol
 - Organized two alumni and student lobby days
 - Organized Alumni in Government reception in Springfield in conjunction with UI System Presidents office and Illinois Connection
 - Coordinated 3 Legislative receptions with UI Caucus members, other elected officials and area alumni
 - Recruited UI Caucus members to speak at UIAAA and UI related events
 - Hosted the University Student Advocacy Coalition in Springfield where students from all three Universities met with elected officials, UI Administration and UI alumni.
 - Drafted and passed legislation on behalf of the University of Illinois
 - Amended and weighed in on legislation that impacts the University of Illinois
 - Lead the other IL public universities in drafting 2 joint letters
 - Met regularly with Chief of Staffs and Senior staffs

University of Illinois FY16 and FY17 Budget Update

For the second year in a row, the General Assembly and Governor were unable to reach a resolution on a budget for the state of Illinois. In April, the University received a FY16 “stop gap” appropriation of less than 30% of our final FY15 state appropriation. This was followed by a second stop gap appropriation in June that provided 50% of our final appropriation FY15 for FY17, but could be used to pay FY16 bills. Due to the lack of a full state budget, The University of Illinois System is facing –\$763.7M as the two-year loss of general funds (EAF/GRF).

University of Illinois		
General Funds Appropriations		
FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
FY 15 Final PA 99-01	SB 2059 PA 99-502 April Stop Gap	SB 2047 (PA 99-524) June Stop Gap
647,186,400	180,094,000	350,598,700

Total Stop Gaps for 24 months	\$ Short of 24 month full budget	Stop Gaps as % of 24 Month Budget
530,692,700	(763,680,100)	41.0%

University of Illinois Legislative Priorities

FY16 and FY17 State Appropriation

Goal: To provide the University of Illinois with Stable Operating Funding

Status: Unresolved

Procurement reform

Goal: Change the Illinois Procurement Code to improve state purchasing procedures that have had detrimental consequences for many public university operations and core missions of education, research, public service, and economic development.

Status: [HB170](#) (reinstatement of expired exemptions) passed the House and remains in the Senate. The University gave input and supports the identical bills: [SB584 \(comprehensive reform to include research and healthcare\)](#) and [SB1050 comprehensive reform to include research and healthcare](#). The procurement reforms are being negotiated within the General Assembly working groups, and will likely be included in a final budget deal.

We were successful in building support for procurement reform from all four caucuses and the Governor's offices. For example, all four legislative leaders and the Governor all acknowledge that public higher education procurement reform is needed). We will work toward a specific solution in the spring.

State Capital support

Goal: To appropriate funds for repair and renovation on all Campuses and renewal of existing University facilities

Status: Capital appropriations and re-appropriations are being negotiated within the General Assembly working groups, and will be included in a final budget deal. Legislation has been introduced by the Governor to help re-appropriate the projects that are on hold due to the budget impasse.

The Student Access Bill

Goal: Allow public universities to award financial aid to undocumented students. Not to include MAP grants

Status: [SB2196/HB4350](#) passed the Senate and remains in the House

We were successful in passing this bill out of the house. We are negotiating an amendment that would bring additional votes in the house. We will work with the sponsors to refile legislation in the spring with this agreement, if the legislation does not pass in the January lame duck session.

University of Illinois Student Board of Trustee Requirements

Goal: Change requirements for students to run for student trustee in order to allow more students to participate

Status: [SB2204](#) Passed both Houses, and vetoed by the Governor

Although we did not expect or plan for the Governor's veto, we were successful in meeting with legislative sponsors and the Governor's office. New compromise legislation will be introduced in the spring.

University of Illinois Investment, Performance and Accountability Commitment (IPAC)

Goal: To reach a multi-year accord with the State that provides the University a stable and appropriate level of State financial support, and gives the University the necessary autonomy to operate most effectively and efficiently while holding it accountable to the state.

Status: Rep. Zalewski filed [HB6623](#) in November and will join Sen. Cunningham in filing in the 100th General Assembly, along with a bipartisan group of co-sponsors from the U of I Caucus. The roll out of the legislation was successful. A bipartisan group of U of I caucus members joined President Killeen at the November Board of Trustees meeting to express their support of the bill. The proposal was [well received by elected officials and the press](#).

University of Illinois Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC) HB6623

A five-year agreement with the state to allow the University to operate effectively, efficiently and with transparency:

- Provides the university a stable and appropriate level of state financial support
- Establishes a long-term budget planning process that benefits the state and the university
- Holds the university accountable to the state in delivering its missions of affordable education, workforce preparation, innovation and economic development
- Allows for a more transparent appropriations process and provides sunshine on university metrics and goals for student affordability and enrollment
- Gives the university the necessary autonomy to operate most effectively and efficiently and thus be competitive on the world stage, while helping the state reduce expenditures

U of I obligations:

- The Board may not increase the base rate of in-State undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees by more than the rate of inflation
- The University of Illinois will admit a minimum number of Illinois residents as undergraduates:
 - 14,000 students at UIUC
 - 11,800 students at UIC
 - 1,500 students at UIS
- Illinois residents will comprise at least 50% combined of any growth in on-campus undergraduate enrollment above 2015-2016 levels.
- Will provide at least 12.5% combined of the state appropriation to need-based financial aid for Illinois residents
- Commits annual financial assistance to underrepresented students of at least \$15M financial aid targeted for students of Illinois undergraduates from historically underrepresented populations.
- Maintain at least a combined 87% first-to-second year retention rates
- Maintain at least a combined 72% six-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen in undergraduate programs
- Increase accountability to the state by providing an annual report card on key indicators, published and updated on the university website

State obligations:

- Provide a stable appropriation every year for five years that enables the university to deliver on its multiple missions as a state university and properly plan for its future (a minimum appropriation will be identified in statute)
- Create an Illinois Excellence fund to support retaining and recruiting rising star faculty
- Reform state regulations to allow the university to be more efficient and streamline operations, including:
 - Exempt the university from the state procurement code and the Property Control Act
 - Reinstate the Certificate of Participation Program

Bills amended by the U of I

HB4323 FANTASY CONTESTS ACT (ZALEWSKI M) Creates the Fantasy Sports Contest Act to provide regulation of companies providing access to paid fantasy sports contests and protect Illinois consumers who play paid fantasy sports contests for prizes from unfair acts and practices that may arise in the gaming process.

Current Status: Remains in the House. We successfully weighed in privately on this legislation and worked closely with the sponsor to communicate possible concerns on behalf of athletics. The sponsor will continue to pursue a compromise in 2017.

SB2193 FANTASY CONTESTS ACT (RAOUL K) Creates the Fantasy Contests Act. Establishes certain requirements for policies and procedures for the operation of fantasy contests. Provides that any person, firm, corporation, association, agent, or employee who violates any provision of the Act shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each violation, which may be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General.

Current Status: Passed Senate, remains in House

HB5729 POSTSECOND/WORKFORCE READINESS (BURKE K) Creates the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act. Sets forth provisions concerning postsecondary career expectations; a competency-based, high school graduation requirements pilot program; transitional mathematics courses; reading and communication transitional competencies; College and Career Pathway Endorsements and State Distinction programs; and administrative rules.

Current Status: 5/31/2016 - Passed Both Houses

SB2156 PEN CD-SURS-SEVERANCE PAYMENTS (CUNNINGHAM B) Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. For an employee who first becomes a participant on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act, excludes housing allowances, vehicle allowances, and club memberships or dues from the calculation of basic compensation and earnings. Adds bonuses to a list of items not included in the term "basic compensation" for persons who first become participants on or after the effective date. - the list of items not included in the term "basic compensation" for persons who first become participants on or after the effective date, removes club memberships or dues and adds social club dues and athletic club dues.

Current Status: Public Act 98-0897

State Bill Page: [SB2156](#)

- SB2505 EDUC-INTL BACCALAUREATE EXAM (STEANS H)** Amends the College and Career Success for All Students Act. Provides that scores of 4 or higher for International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme subjects shall be accepted for credit to satisfy degree requirements by all public institutions of higher education. Provides for publication of the policy before the beginning of the 2017-2018 (instead of 2016-2017) academic year. Effective immediately.
Current Status: Public Act 99-0624. The University of Illinois took the lead in amending the bill to better fit with our current requirements.
State Bill Page: [SB2505](#)
- SB3301 ILL ARTICULATION INITIATIVE (ROSE C)** Creates the Illinois Articulation Initiative Act. Requires all public institutions of higher education to participate in the Illinois Articulation Initiative through submission and review of their courses for statewide transfer consistency.
Current Status: Public Act 99-0636. The University of Illinois took the lead in amending the bill to better fit with our current requirements.
State Bill Page: [SB3301](#)

Bills that did not move because of U of I's opposition

- HB4446 COLLEGE ADMISSION INQUIRIES (WHEELER B)** Creates the College Admission Inquiries Act. Provides that during the admission decision-making process, a college (defined as an institution of higher education authorized to confer degrees in this State) may not inquire about arrests that did not result in a criminal conviction and criminal convictions that have been sealed or expunged or make any inquiry or consider information about any arrest or criminal accusation of an individual that was followed by a termination of that criminal action or proceeding in favor of the individual.
Current Status: Passed the House, remains in the Senate. We have had numerous conversations with the Senate sponsor, and have agreed to continue the conversation in 2017.
State Bill Page: [HB4446](#)
- HB5991 U OF I-ADMISSIONS STANDARDS (PHILLIPS R)** Amends the University of Illinois Act. Provides that not less than 90 days prior to accepting applications for any undergraduate program for an academic year, the University of Illinois shall publish the standards for admission to that undergraduate program. Provides that no student shall be admitted to an undergraduate program who does not meet the published standards for admission to that undergraduate program.
Current Status: Remains in House rules. We have had numerous conversations with the House sponsor, and have agreed to continue the conversation in 2017.
State Bill Page: [HB5991](#)
- SB2170 UNIVERSITIES-ADMIN COSTS (CULLERTON T)** Creates the Public University Administrative Cost Decrease Act. Provides that all public universities shall annually submit a cost certification that certifies the level of spending dedicated to administrative costs for the current academic year. Provides that beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, a Board of Trustees of a public university may not enact a budget that contains tuition or fee increases above that of the tuition and fees set in the 2015-2016 academic year until the Auditor General has verified that the cost certification submitted by the public university and due in the same calendar year of the proposed tuition or fees increase has shown a

decrease of administrative costs by 25%. Amends the Illinois State Auditing Act. Makes related changes. Effective immediately.

Current Status: Remains in the Senate. We have not heard if the sponsor plans to reintroduce in 2017, and plan to follow up.

State Bill Page: [SB2170](#)

SB2356 RESEARCH DOGS/CATS ADOPTION (HOLMES L) Amends the Animal Welfare Act.

Current Status: After university opposition the bill held in Senate Higher Education. We anticipate the issue resurfacing in the 2017. We are currently working in a coalition to defend such issues to protect and support our research facilities.

State Bill Page: [SB2356](#)

SB3431 RESEARCH FACILITIES-DOG OR CAT (HOLMES L) Creates the Higher Education Research of Dogs or Cats Reporting Requirement Act. Provides that research facilities that are institutions of higher education which receive public funds shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Current Status: Remains in the Senate. Plan to work with the sponsor.

State Bill Page: [SB3431](#)

HB6580 RESEARCH FACILITIES-DOG OR CAT (MCDERMED M) Creates the Higher Education Research of Dogs or Cats Reporting Requirement Act. Provides that research facilities that are institutions of higher education which receive public funds shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Current Status: After university opposition the bill remains in the House. We anticipate the issue resurfacing in the 2017. We are currently working in a coalition to defend such issues to protect and support our research facilities.

State Bill Page: [HB6580](#)

HB4297 HIGHER ED-RESEARCH DOGS/CATS (MCDERMED M) Creates the Research Dogs and Cats Adoption Act. Requires (i) an institution of higher education located in this State that receives public funds for scientific, educational, or research purposes or (ii) a facility that provides research in collaboration with an institution of higher education with the use of public funds and that confines dogs or cats for scientific, educational, or research purposes and plans on euthanizing the dog or cat for other than scientific, educational, or research purposes must first offer the dog or cat to an animal rescue organization.

Current Status: Remains in the House. We anticipate the issue resurfacing in the 2017. We are currently working in a coalition to defend such issues to protect and support our research facilities.

SB2243 COMMUNITY COLLEGE BSN/RN (MANAR) Allows the community colleges to offer a BSN RN degree.

Current Status: The University of Illinois College of Nursing joined other publics and privates to testify in opposition. Conversations with the sponsor to continue.

State Bill Page: [SB2243](#)

Other Bills of Interest

- HB4370** **HOSPITALS-SUPPLIER DIVERSITY** (DAVIS W) Provides that if a specified hospital reports capital expenditures above a specified threshold, then the hospital shall also meet specified reporting requirements concerning minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and small business enterprises with respect to those capital expenditures. Specifies information that shall be included in the hospital's annual report. Provides that health care systems may submit system-wide reports.
Current Status: Public Act 99-0767
Comments: Neutral, we are already in compliance
- HB6200** **CD CORR-INMATE CALLS-NO COMMIS** (AMMONS C) Provides that any commissions or revenues for the provision of pay telephones in institutions and facilities of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice for those incarcerated are prohibited.
Current Status: Public Act 99-0878
State Bill Page: [HB6200](#)
- SB579** **PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES-GOVERNANCE** (CULLERTON J) Provides that the student members of the Boards of Trustees shall not be deemed to have a direct conflict of interest in and may vote on any item involving the employment or compensation of the Chancellor at any campus or President of the University or the election of officers. Effective immediately.
Current Status: Public Act 99-0734
Comments: Neutral
State Bill Page: [SB579](#)
- SB2155** **AUDGEN COM COL AUDIT** (CUNNINGHAM B) Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that recognition shall include a review of compliance with applicable State and federal laws regarding employment contracts and compensation. Provides that the Illinois Community College Board shall convene an advisory committee to review the findings and make recommendations for changes or additions to the laws or review procedures. Makes a technical change.
Current Status: Public Act 99-0691
State Bill Page: [SB2155](#)
- SB2157** **COM COL-TRUSTEE TRAINING** (CUNNINGHAM B) With regard to all community college districts with elected board trustees who have been elected after the effective date of this amendatory Act or appointed to fill a vacancy of at least one year's duration of an elected trustee after the effective date of this amendatory Act, provides that every voting member of a community college district's board elected or appointed for an elected trustee for a term beginning after the effective date of this amendatory Act, within a year after the effective date of this amendatory Act and during the third and fifth year of his or her term, shall complete a minimum of 4 hours of professional development leadership training.
Current Status: Public Act 99-0692
State Bill Page: [SB2157](#)
- SB2158** **COM COL-EMPLOYEE CONTRACT** (CUNNINGHAM B) Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that, beginning 60 days prior to the Tuesday following the first Monday of April in odd-numbered years until the first organizational meeting of a new board of trustees of a community college district, no addendum to modify and amend an employee agreement between a district and another party may be agreed to or executed, nor may an employment contract be made and entered into between the board of an established district and another party.
Current Status: Public Act 99-0693
State Bill Page: [SB2158](#)

SB2159 HIGHER ED-EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT (CUNNINGHAM B) Sets forth provisions governing employment contracts entered into, amended, renewed, or extended after the effective date of the amendatory Act, excluding collective bargaining agreements. Requires the governing board of a university or community college district to complete an annual performance review of the president and any chancellors of the higher education institution. Provides that such annual performance review must be considered when the board contemplates a bonus, raise, or severance agreement for the president or chancellor

Current Status: Worked with sponsor on amendment. Public Act 99-0694

State Bill Page: [SB2159](#)

SB2174 BD HIGH ED LEADERSHIP TRAINING (CUNNINGHAM B) Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall require every voting member of the governing board of a public university appointed for a term beginning after January 1, 2016 to complete a minimum of 4 hours of professional development leadership training. Provides that a public university shall maintain on its Internet website the names of all voting members of the governing board who have successfully completed the training. Due to U of I BOT policy, we were already in compliance. In addition to our internal training, the trustees attended an IBHE training this fall.

Current Status: Public Act 99-0695

State Bill Page: [SB2174](#)

SB2960 HIGHER ED-JNT SRVCS TRANSCRIPT (MUNOZ) Creates the Educational Credit for Military Experience Act. Provides that before June 1, 2017, each institution of higher education shall adopt a policy to award academic credit for military training applicable to the student's certificate or degree requirements. Requires the policy to apply to any individual who is enrolled in the institution of higher education and who has completed a military training course that meets certain requirements. Provides that institutions of higher education shall develop procedures for evaluating courses and awarding credit.

Current Status: Passed Senate, remains in the House

State Bill Page: [SB2960](#)

All bills tracked by the U of I are listed by subject matter on the [State Relations website](#).

A full list of all bills being tracked by the University of Illinois are also list in [the State Relations Legislation Weekly report](#).

The following section provides an overview of OGR's federal achievements and milestones from 2016. They fall into the following broad categories:

1. OGR continued to strengthen U of I's Washington impact with profile-raising activities. OGR enhanced these efforts by facilitating in-district meetings and events with U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, and federal agency officials.
2. OGR proactively advocated for U of I's legislative interests and expressed concerns about harmful legislation.
3. OGR leveraged membership in national associations to raise U of I's profile on national priorities and fortify relationships.
4. OGR took significant actions to better meet the needs of internal University Administration and U of I constituencies.

The balance of the next section takes a deeper dive into each of these areas, citing specific examples.

GREW U OF I IMPACT—IN WASHINGTON AND ILLINOIS

Even with a substantially shortened Congressional calendar, OGR made the most out of the time that Congress was in session by getting University leaders and faculty in front of Illinois delegation offices to advance our legislative priorities and interests. OGR planned several University of Illinois events in Washington and plugged our experts into other opportunities to showcase University strengths and assets. Then, during both regular and extended district work periods, OGR seized every opportunity to bring legislators to campus, maximize requested visits, and proactively coordinate in-district or campus events.

DC ACTIVITIES/MEETINGS

- Worked with the University of Illinois Alumni Association (UIAA) to set up a **panel discussion during the UIAA Board of Directors Meeting in Washington, DC—April 6**
 - o Four staff members from the Illinois Congressional delegation—including three U of I alumni—joined the board to share their perspectives on federal issues and trends, specifically related to higher education, from Capitol Hill. Participants included senior staff from the offices of **Sen. Dick Durbin, Sen. Mark Kirk, Rep. Rodney Davis, and Rep. Bob Dold.**
- Secured the **participation of UIC in the Coalition for National Science Funding exhibit**, where they showcased how numerous UIC faculty have been recipients of the prestigious NSF CAREER award—*April 26*
 - o In advance of the exhibit, OGR coordinated and staffed **Hill meetings for UIC VCR Mitra Dutta** to give offices a preview and speak more broadly about UIC's research portfolio. These were joint meetings with a NIU representative. They were intended to be informational meetings, but with the underlying goal of demonstrating the transformative impact of NSF funding in order to build greater support for NSF.
- Worked with NSF to coordinate a **Hill screening of "Solar Superstorms"**—a document produced largely by Urbana's National Center for Supercomputing Applications that features scientific visualizations of the inner workings of the sun—*May 25*
 - o Donna Cox, the director of NCSA's Advanced Visualization Laboratory (AVL) and the project lead for CADENS, introduced the film. Ed Seidel, the director of NCSA and Bill Kramer, director of the Blue Waters project, attended as well and met with Congressional offices.

- This event showcased NCSA's strengths in advanced visualizations and leadership on the CADENS project to inform the general public about computational and data-enabled scientific discovery.
- Coordinated with the director of the **Illinois in Washington (IIW) program**—Urbana's DC internship program—to hold a reception with President Killeen and IIW students and board members—*June 20*
- Helped build attendance for the **UIS "Network and Learn" event** featuring IGPA's Chris Mooney—*June 21*
 - This is an annual UIS event that engages DC-area UIS alumni and friends
- Helped build attendance for the IGPA/Sen. Durbin-led **Paul H. Douglas Award**, which honored **Sen. Barbara Mikulski**, securing the participation of congressional staff—*June 29*
 - This is an annual event that honors elected or career government officials who have demonstrated high standards of ethics and public service
- Coordinated **U of I/NSF Leadership/IL Delegation Breakfast Meeting**—*September 21*
 - A strong contingent of the Illinois Congressional delegation gathered together on Capitol Hill for a breakfast meeting with NSF Director France Córdova and NSF Assistant Director Jim Kurose. The event provided an opportunity for the delegation to hear about how NSF advances the frontiers of science and engineering and in particular, about the transformative research that NSF is supporting at U of I and the local and national impacts of those federal investments.
 - Six members of the Illinois delegation attended, including our four House science committee Members—Representatives Randy Hultgren, Dan Lipinski, Darin LaHood, and Bill Foster—as well as our two main campus representatives—Rodney Davis and Danny Davis. Staff from those offices as well as the offices of Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk and Representative Cheri Bustos also participated.
 - *U of I Leaders in Attendance:* President Killeen, Interim Vice President for Research Ed Seidel
 - With partisanship and lack of productive debates, members of Congress are hungry for opportunities to reach across the aisle. The breakfast was a model for how Republicans and Democrats can come together, just weeks before a Presidential election to work toward a common goal. The event helped show how diverse and impactful the U of I system really is.
- Coordinated **high-profile meetings for Chancellor Jones in DC**—*October 25*
 - While in DC to attend the AAU presidents/chancellors meeting, Chancellor Jones participated in White House meetings with association presidents and other university presidents/chancellors
 - The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the IRS notice which restricts the ability of universities to offer student health insurance plans to graduate students under the Affordable Care Act
 - *Meetings:* Departments of Treasury, Health and Human Services and Labor; Domestic Policy Council
- **Supported the "fly-ins" of various U of I stakeholders** and set them up for meetings with delegation Members and staff, including:
 - Urbana College of Engineering leadership (February)
 - Urbana Professor Steve Long (March);
 - Urbana College of ACES leadership (March);
 - UIC College of Nursing leadership (March);
 - Urbana ACES students (March);
 - Urbana Professor Athol Kembell—LSST advocacy (April)
 - UIC leadership (June);
 - UI Health (December)

CAMPUS/IN-DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

OGR arranged and prepared **key events and visits between U of I leadership and Washington representatives in their districts or on our campuses** on important issues, including: economic development and federal funding for research and higher education:

- Worked with **Sen. Dick Durbin**'s office to organize a policy speech that the Senator delivered at Urbana on the importance of federal investment in biomedical research—*January 2016*
 - o The Senator highlighted transformative research at Urbana
- Facilitated a **“campus safety summit” with Rep. Rodney Davis** at Urbana—*April 2016*
 - o This conversation included a variety of students, faculty, and staff, and centered around issues surrounding effectively combatting sexual misconduct
- Facilitated a visit by **Rep. Rodney Davis** to the Fire Service Institute—*March 24*
 - o Rep. Davis toured the Learning Resource and Research Center (LRRC) and the IFSI training ground, observed on-going academy training, and spoke to IFSI Basic Firefighter Academy students and instructors
- Ensured representation (by the Prairie Research Institute) in a Zika virus roundtable that **Sen. Dick Durbin** hosted (July 2016).
 - o Our participation provided a platform for PRI to showcase its efforts in monitoring insects and insect-borne disease in the state
- **UIC Participation in Sen. Kirk Brain Consortium Meeting—August 1**
 - o Dr. Jeffrey Loeb, Head of the Department of Neurology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago, joined representatives from Argonne National Laboratory, University of Chicago, Rush University Medical Center, Ann & Robert Lurie H. Children's Hospital, and Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine to participate in a roundtable discussion convened by Sen. Mark Kirk on brain-related research and the importance of NIH funding in that space.
 - o Dr. Walter Koroshetz, the Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) at the NIH, also participated remotely.
 - o It provided Dr. Loeb an opportunity to highlight the UI NeuroRepository.
- **Rep. Cheri Bustos Visit to the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP)—August 2**
 - o Rep. Bustos met with UICOMP Regional Dean Sara Rusch, as well as with students. Dean Rusch briefed Rep. Bustos on UICOMP's rural health program.
- **“U of I Strategic Alliances Day” in Greater Peoria—August 30**
 - o The day included a legislative breakfast hosted by Illinois Connection, a roundtable discussion with Caterpillar, a roundtable discussion with OSF HealthCare, and a media availability
 - o Attendance by elected officials:
 - Federal legislators: Rep. Darin LaHood, Rep. Cheri Bustos' Chief of Staff
 - State legislators: State Senator David Koehler, State Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, State Representative Mike Unes
 - o *U of I Leaders in Attendance*: President Killeen, Board of Trustees Chairman Ed McMillian, then Interim Chancellor Barb Wilson, Chancellor Koch, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Bob Barish, College of Medicine Dean Dimitri Azar, UICOMP Dean Sara Rusch, Vice Chancellor for Research Peter Schiffer, College of Engineering Dean Andreas Cangellaris, Loren Taylor
 - o We plan to organize similar economic development days in other regions of the state in 2017.

- **UIC Participation in Sen. Durbin-Convened Event with the NIH Director—August 31**
 - Sen. Durbin hosted a biomedical research forum with NIH Director Collins, and UIC VCR Mitra Dutta was one of the three Illinois university research leaders who spoke at the event
 - The university representatives spoke about Illinois NIH-funded projects, such as the recently announced grant to enroll participants in the national Precision Medicine Cohort Program
- **Sen. Kirk Staff Member Visit to UIC—August 31**
 - Met with College of Education leadership, College of Dentistry leadership, College of Nursing faculty, toured the Electronic Visualization Laboratory
- **Sen. Durbin Staff Member Visit to UIC—September 2**
 - Met with College of Dentistry leadership; her trip laid the groundwork for a visit by the Senator
- **National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) 30th Anniversary—September 16**
 - NSF Assistant Director for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Jim Kurose spent the entire day on campus meeting with various researchers who are either leading or working on projects supported by the CISE Directorate
 - Dr. Kurose delivered remarks at the NCSA 30th anniversary reception, where staff from the offices of Senator Dick Durbin, Rep. Rodney Davis, and Rep. Darin LaHood attended
 - *U of I Leaders in Attendance*: President Killeen, NCSA Director and Interim Vice President for Research Ed Seidel, (then) Interim Chancellor Barb Wilson, Vice Chancellor for Research Peter Schiffer
- Collaborated with Illinois Connection on **Illinois Connection Annual Meeting—September 17**
 - Rep. Rodney Davis staff attended
 - This year's speaker was a state legislator; the speaker has been federal the past two years
- Coordinated **Joan Ferrini-Mundy Visit to UIC—September 19**
 - Toured the Learning Sciences Research Institute (LSRI) and walked through a poster session
 - Participated in a lunch meeting at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, where there she learned about UIC ENGAGE and UIC's Social Justice Initiative
 - Delivered a lecture on the intersection of innovation, diversity, and social justice
 - *U of I Leaders in Attendance*: President Killeen, Interim Vice President for Research Ed Seidel, Vice Chancellors Mitra Dutta, Susan Poser, Bob Barish, and Michael Redding—the deans from UIC's Colleges of Education, Engineering, and Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Interim Dean for the College of Education at Urbana-Champaign and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) officials
- Facilitated **Rep. Cheri Bustos Meeting on Urbana-Champaign Campus—October 1**
 - Meeting with President Killeen and Chancellor Jones to discuss economic development collaboration opportunities
- Facilitated **Rep. John Shimkus Visit to the Urbana-Champaign Campus—October 4**
 - Introductory meeting with Chancellor Jones
 - Toured the Abbott Power Plant and received a briefing on the PRI's DOE proposal to retrofit the plant for carbon capture
- Facilitated **Rep. Rodney Davis Press Conference on the Urbana-Champaign Campus—October 5**
 - Rep. Davis held a press conference on the importance of mass transit; it was part of his 13th District transit tour
 - Along with representatives from C-U MTD, Facilities & Services Interim Executive Director Helen Coleman participated and spoke about the MCORE project

- **Rep. Robin Kelly Visit to UIC—October 11**
 - o The original purpose of her visit was to attend the Hispanic Heritage Month Breakfast, but she stayed for an extra hour in order to tour the Electronic Visualization Laboratory (EVL)
- **Senator Dick Durbin Visit to the Urbana-Champaign Campus—October 17**
 - o Meeting with President Killeen and Chancellor Jones
 - o He convened a roundtable discussion with campus representatives (student affairs, counseling center) on mental health services on college campuses
 - o Received an update on the Carle Illinois College of Medicine from Interim Provost Ed Feser and Carle’s Dr. Matthew Gibb
 - o He delivered “The New Lincoln Lecture: What Abraham Lincoln Means to the 21st Century,” which was organized by the College of Law
- **Sen. Dick Durbin Visit to UIC College of Dentistry—October 26**
 - o Sen. Durbin sat down with UIC College of Dentistry leadership, UIC Chancellor Amiridis, and then toured the college’s facilities
- **Rep. Rodney Davis to Attend Homecoming Events—October 29**
 - o He attended the pre-game event as well as the game, which will provided him with opportunities to interact with President Killeen, Chancellor Jones, UIAA President Taylor, students and athletes, and alumni
- **Rep. Danny Davis Receiving Chancellor’s Medallion—November 3**
 - o During their Community Health Excellence Awards ceremony, UI Health Mile Square Health Center will present Rep. Davis with the Chancellor’s Medallion—UIC’s most distinguished honor—for his service and leadership improving the global community
 - o Sen. Durbin will be receiving the “Danny K. Davis Pathfinder Award,” which is meant to honor elected officials for forging paths to quality care for people in need. Sen. Durbin is the first recipient of the new award, which recognizes Rep. Davis’ long-time support of Mile Square.
- **Rep. Rodney Davis Visit to the Urbana-Champaign Campus—November 28**
 - o Rep. Davis met with Chancellor Jones
 - o Rep. Davis also received a briefing on the Carle Illinois College of Medicine by Interim Provost Ed Feser and Dean King Li
- **Rep. Rodney Davis Meeting with Urbana College of ACES Dean Kimberlee Kidwell—December 21**
 - o As the new leader of the College of ACES, and with Farm Bill reauthorization discussions gearing up, Dean Kidwell met with Rep. Davis, who serves as chair of the agriculture subcommittee with jurisdiction over research

PROMOTED U OF I LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As an election year, there was not significant movement on major legislation. However, there were a couple of notable “wins” for our higher ed and research community at large. For instance:

- One exception was the **medical innovation bill**, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 13. The higher ed and research communities embraced this 21st Century Cures legislation, as it authorizes critical funding (\$4.8 billion) to support initiatives at the National Institutes of Health over the next ten years, including the Cancer Moonshot, Precision Medicine Initiative, BRAIN Initiative, and regenerative medicine research.
- Another exception was the **American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA)**, which will soon be signed into law by the President. The legislation updates programs and activities last authorized in the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, including at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of

Standards and Technology (NIST). The bill reaffirms NSF’s merit-based peer review process and aims to reduce the administrative burden on researchers.

- Universities received enforcement relief from the Affordable Care Act’s employer mandate, so that they can continue providing **subsidized student health insurance plans (SHIP) for graduate student employees**. In February, temporary relief was granted to institutions through the 2016-17 academic year. And in October, the Departments of Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services released additional guidance that extended temporary relief for the indefinite future.

Budget/Appropriations

As part of the annual appropriations process, U of I sends a “programmatically request” letter to the Illinois Congressional delegation to articulate the university’s support for line items in the federal budget that support our missions. At the end of February, OGR submitted U of I’s Fiscal Year 2017 programmatic requests. OGR then met with the delegation to further discuss the significance of having robust funding for those agencies and programs.

Additionally, OGR encouraged members of the Illinois delegation to sign onto “Dear Colleague” letters supporting some of the top agencies that fund our campuses—the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy Office of Science, and the Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The Illinois delegation demonstrated strong support for these agencies, as reflected below:

Federal Agency/Program	FY2017 “Dear Colleague” Letters
National Science Foundation (NSF)	<p><i>House letter</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urged Congress to appropriate \$8 billion in funding to NSF in FY2017 - Illinois signatories (7): Danny Davis, Bobby Rush, Dan Lipinski, Bill Foster, Robin Kelly, Jan Schakowsky, Cheri Bustos
National Institutes of Health (NIH)	<p><i>House letter</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urged appropriators to fund the NIH at least at \$34.5 billion in FY2017 - Illinois signatories (11): Cheri Bustos, Danny Davis, Rodney Davis, Bob Dold, Bill Foster, Luis Gutierrez, Robin Kelly, Dan Lipinski, Bobby Rush, Jan Schakowsky, Tammy Duckworth <p><i>Senate letter</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urged appropriators “to maintain a strong commitment” to NIH funding - Illinois signatories (1): Dick Durbin
Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science	<p><i>House letter</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urged robust and sustained funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science - Illinois signatories (8): Randy Hultgren, Bill Foster, Danny Davis, Tammy Duckworth, Robin Kelly, Adam Kinzinger, Dan Lipinski, Jan Schakowsky <p><i>Senate letter</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeks strong FY 2017 funding levels for four specific DOE “Energy Innovation” programs: 1) ARPA-E; 2) Energy Innovation HUBS; 3) EFRCs; and 4) a newly proposed “Regional Clean Energy Innovation Partnerships” program - Illinois signatories (1): Dick Durbin
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	<p><i>House letter</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urged appropriators to provide “robust funding” for AFRI - Illinois signatories (5): Rodney Davis, Mike Bost, Danny Davis, Robin Kelly, Cheri Bustos

Although House and Senate appropriations committees cleared a significant number of annual spending bills for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations cycle, only a handful were actually approved on the floors of the two chambers. After running out of time under the truncated election-year schedule, Congress was forced to pass an initial Continuing Resolution (CR) in September, which funded government operations through December 9. During the busy lame-duck session, the higher education community tried in earnest to encourage Congress to complete the FY2017 appropriations process before year-end, rather than kicking it to the next Congress/Administration. Ultimately, Congress passed a CR to fund government operations and programs through April 28, 2017. We will re-initiate our advocacy early in the new year.

LEVERAGED MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- In conjunction with **The Science Coalition**, collaborated with governmental relations colleagues at Northwestern University and Northern Illinois University to organize an event at the International Conference on High Energy Physics to **honor Rep. Bill Foster with TSC's "Champion of Science" Award—August 8**
 - o President Killeen joined representatives from Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison to bestow Rep. Bill Foster with the Champion of Science award, a recognition for Members of Congress who have demonstrated consistent support for funding basic scientific research.
 - o President Killeen delivered remarks on behalf of the nominating institutions.
 - o The Congressman was extremely pleased with the event and is very enthusiastic about receiving his commemorative "Wheaties" box so that he can display it in his Congressional office. The presentation of the Wheaties box will take place during a future event—most likely a "Breakfast of Champions" ceremony, which will provide another opportunity for our institutions to collaborate and for us to work with Rep. Foster's office on a very visible forum for him to demonstrate his support for research.
- As mentioned previously, Chancellor Jones joined a small group of university chancellors and presidents, along with the presidents of three major higher ed associations—ACE, APLU, and AAU—to advocate in **high-level Administration meetings on subsidized student health insurance plans**.
- Melissa Haas went from serving as co-leader of the **APLU agriculture authorization task force** to the leader of that task force
 - o Provided electronic and verbal updates to government relations colleagues

BETTER SERVED UA AND INTERNAL CONSTITUENCIES WITH IMPROVED CAPACITY AND COMMUNICATION

- Continued distributing regular electronic newsletter that highlights legislative matters impacting the university as well as DC and campus visitors. Readership is growing—we now have more than 430 recipients.
- Enhanced social media presence (Twitter, Facebook). We are up to more than 475 followers on our Twitter handle, @UIFedRelations.
 - o Notable external retweets: Economic Development Administration, U.S. Reps. John Shimkus, Darin LaHood, Rodney Davis, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Science & Technology Coalition, The Science Coalition, Cray