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INTRODUCTION

The following report covers work conducted by the University of Illinois System’s Office of Governmental Relations (OGR) from January 1, 2018–December 31, 2018.

OGR’s Mission

State, federal, and local support is essential to the U of I System’s efforts to provide a high-quality education, promote economic growth and opportunity, and produce cutting-edge research and scholarship.

The mission of OGR is to support the U of I System by building and sustaining effective partnerships with the state and federal governments. This is achieved through representation and advocacy of the U of I System’s needs and interests with elected officials and policy makers in Springfield, Washington, D.C., and throughout the State of Illinois.

2018 OGR Goal-Setting & Accomplishments

In 2018, OGR made considerable progress toward its goals to enhance advocacy on behalf of the system through a more unified, coordinated approach.

Goal 1: More Effective Advocacy as a University System

Notable Accomplishments:

● OGR established the Council on Governmental and External Relations to coordinate outreach and government relations efforts across the system. It includes representatives from each university, the system’s Office for University Relations, the Office of the Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation (VPEDI), the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, UI Health, and the University of Illinois Alumni Alliance. The group held a fall planning retreat and also drafted a set of goals and guidelines to better coordinate advocacy by faculty, staff and administrators across the U of I System. The guidelines will be rolled out in 2019.

● OGR hired two student fellows to represent the unique perspective of students as OGR develops, strategizes and executes plans on issues.
**Goal 2: Better Inform the Conversation to Achieve Public Policy Outcomes that Strategically Benefit the University**

Notable Accomplishments:
- In 2018, OGR developed a new state legislative agenda that seeks to capitalize on the key role that higher education holds in solving the many challenges facing our state. This agenda would build on the power of higher education, and encourage new innovation to drive economic growth in Illinois.
- OGR is a trusted source for members of our Illinois congressional delegation — particularly those on the science committee — who rely heavily on the information OGR provides in advance of relevant hearings. As a result, our members — including several who serve in leadership roles — often cite the university and its strengths.

**Goal 3: Reaffirm the Central Role That the University Of Illinois System Can Play In Promoting the Public Good for the Entire State of Illinois and Beyond**

Notable Accomplishments:
- OGR regularly convenes the University of Illinois Caucus, bringing together legislators with university ties to discuss the system’s legislative agenda and how it can benefit the entire state of Illinois.
- Through Illinois Connection, we maintain regularly contact with district legislative offices to build relationships and discuss solutions to serve the state.
- In February, **Gov. Bruce Rauner** proposed $500 million in state capital funding for the Discovery Partners Institute and Illinois Innovation Network. These funds were including in the fiscal 2019 budget approved by the legislature and signed into law by **Gov. Rauner** last spring.
- In September, OGR helped plan an appearance by former **President Barack Obama** that drew world attention to the U of I System. During his visit, **President Obama** received the Paul H. Douglas Award for Ethics in Government, presented annually by the system’s Institute of Government and Public Affairs. He also spoke to about 1,000 students from across the U of I System at Foellinger Auditorium in Urbana-Champaign.
- OGR continues to send a monthly e-newsletter to 275 congressional staff as well as state legislators and their staff to provide regular updates on system activities and achievements. Along with system and university highlights, the newsletters also feature a new “Innovation Spotlight” section, which includes a summary of government-funded research at one of the three universities. We have received positive feedback from recipients.

Each month, this newsletter averages 104 unique opens and 30 link clicks.
Goal 4: Build Bridges to Facilitate Innovative Solutions to Public Policy Challenges

Notable Accomplishments:

- At the state level, we continued to work closely with the University of Illinois Caucus, a bipartisan group of Illinois legislators who are supportive of the U of I System.
- Continued to grow our grassroots and grass-tops advocacy efforts by reaching out to university groups and boards to speak on our behalf.
- Continued to lead the Coalition to Invest in Higher Education, a bipartisan group of leaders from business, labor, education, and other sectors who advocate for support for higher education.
- OGR has continued to work more closely with government relations officers from other Illinois educational institutions — both public and private — to discuss common issues affecting our universities and to strategize about how we can collaborate both in DC and in Illinois.
- In October, the U of I System hosted a workshop at UIC for the Infrastructure Technology Resource Consortium (ITRC). ITRC is a partnership between major universities, government and industry stakeholders in the Midwest created to advance economic growth by providing innovative infrastructure technologies to federal and state agencies. Five senior district staff members from the offices of Sen. Dick Durbin and Reps. Mike Quigley, Bill Foster, Raja Krishmamoorthi, and Brad Schneider attended the workshop, along with officials from Gov. Bruce Rauner’s office and the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Leadership from industry including Caterpillar, ADM and CSX Transportation also attended.
In 2018, we were able to continue moving past the Illinois budget crisis. The state’s second straight, full-year budget brought a much-needed return of stability and reinvestment in higher education after a two-year impasse that cut sharply into funding and hampered our ability to plan our future. With solid financial footing restored, OGR was able to start planning and executing an ambitious state legislative agenda.

Our state agenda focuses on positioning higher education as the solution to many of the problems Illinois faces. OGR sought to highlight the growing pipeline of world-class talent and innovation that our universities produce, and the crucial role it plays in driving progress and economic growth.

Our outreach efforts focused on four key areas:

- Impacts
- Legislation
- Advocacy
- Coalitions

**GREW AWARENESS OF U OF I IMPACT**

The U of I System plays a crucial role in Illinois’ future and its economic well-being. It is the state’s largest educator, with nearly 86,000 students enrolled in fall 2018 – a record for the sixth straight year. Across our three universities, we enroll more than half of all students attending Illinois public universities. We award more than 22,000 degrees each year, and well over half of our graduates stay to join nearly 400,000 fellow alumni and become part of Illinois’ workforce and taxpayer base. A new study found that the U of I System pumps $17.5 billion into the Illinois economy every year and supports 171,000 jobs – one in every 46 jobs across the state. In short, the U of I System is a key engine of progress, and state support is vital to ensure that we continue building on our rich legacy of service to students and the state.

**CRAFTED AND SUPPORTED LEGISLATION FOR U OF I SYSTEM PRIORITIES**

Our 52-member U of I Caucus was instrumental in helping us steer legislation and policies that supported the U of I System and higher education. The caucus was organized in 2015, and consists of alumni legislators, legislators representing one of our universities, and legislators who have had a child
attend one of our universities. They have supported us by sponsoring legislation, and by speaking on our behalf both on the chamber floors and behind closed doors. In the 2018 election, the caucus grew with a net gain of seven new alumni members.

The following are some of our key legislative initiatives and achievements:

**U of I Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC) (SB222/HB2996)**

Our proposed IPAC legislation would create a new partnership with the state to secure our collective future. It would provide adequate and predictable funding for university operations in exchange for tangible performance goals that support Illinois students and serve the needs of the state. IPAC is arguably the most comprehensive performance-based funding agreement of its kind, and would hold down in-state undergraduate tuition and fees, increase institutional financial aid, expand enrollment of Illinois undergraduates, and guarantee high graduation and retention rates. In return, the state would commit to fund the university at a stable and appropriate amount every year for the next five years, while also creating the Illinois Excellence Program to recruit and retain promising faculty.

**Fiscal Year 2019 Budget (SB3137/HB5339)**

The FY19 budget was approved by both the House and the Senate before the May 31 deadline and signed into law by Gov. Bruce Rauner. This bipartisan agreement was approved on a 56-2 vote in the Senate and 97-18 vote in the House, and provides a second straight, full-year budget after a two-year impasse that cut sharply into funding and hampered our ability to plan our future.

This budget will:

- Provide a $11.6 million increase for day-to-day operations at our three universities, up 2 percent to $594.6 million compared to fiscal 2018 appropriations.
  - This includes $14.8 million for the Prairie Research Institute.
- Provides the U of I System’s first capital appropriations since FY10. The $145.2 million in capital funding includes $116 million for projects that had been delayed by prior appropriation shortfalls, such as the Advanced Chemical Technology Building in Chicago, the Public Safety Building in Springfield and the Integrated Bioeconomy Laboratory in Urbana-Champaign.
- Provides $500 million to support the development of the Discovery Partners Institute and Illinois Innovation Network.
- Provides $401 million statewide for the Monetary Award Program (MAP), which provides financial aid to support Illinois students, including thousands across our universities.
- Provides about $25 million for a new state scholarship program (AIM HIGH) that will encourage in-state students to attend college in Illinois and stem an outmigration of talent to other states. The U of I System and other universities would be asked to match the state’s contribution.

**Thirty Year Lease Agreement for EEI (HB4550)**
Under previous law, the U of I System was prohibited from entering into leases for a period of longer than 10 years under Section 40-25 of the Procurement Code. The System has several new construction projects it would like to complete on the UIC campus but could not secure financing through public-private partnerships due to the current 10-year lease limitation. Through this new legislation, these projects are now possible. This bill passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by the governor.

**Underrepresented Students Act (SB3058/HB5696)**

The Underrepresented Student Act will provide access, academic support and financial aid to students who show promise for succeeding in college but who may not have otherwise been offered admission. Available primarily to full-time students, the program supports students throughout their college careers within the Illinois public university system. This bill was championed by the U of I Caucus and was signed into law by the governor in the summer.

**PROSPER Illinois**

An initiative led by the U of I System, PROSPER Illinois would offer new and expanding businesses the opportunity to operate on or near eligible university or college campuses across the state of Illinois. These zones would be connected to the Illinois Innovation Network and the Discovery Partners Institute. Benefits to companies: direct access to research expertise, state of the art facilities, and top tech talent in key industries. Benefits to the State: attract major corporations and growing startup companies, job creation and investments, tiered benefits to drive growth in economically distressed regions, talent retention and recruitment.

**Other Legislation (see full report on page 8 - 15)**

**ENHANCED ALUMNI AND STUDENT ADVOCACY**

With the many demands facing them today, it is easy for legislators to overlook the U of I System if they do not represent one of our universities. Our alumni can and do remind their local legislators that that the U of I System touches every corner of the state through its programs and the alumni who are voters in their districts. We have made it a priority to proactively get in front of legislators through district visits and local events with legislators.

This third-party validation helps share the stories about the impact the U of I System has on Illinois citizens. In addition to alumni, we are working to get more business, community and thought leaders involved – stepping up to speak out on the importance of higher education to the state and society as a whole.
To carry our message and engage in these important conversations, we are supported by the U of I Alumni Alliance’s Illinois Connection program. The grassroots advocacy network has grown to 21,000 members, and here are just a few of their achievements over the last year:

- Sent over 65,000 emails to the General Assembly about the importance of higher education to the state of Illinois.
- Hosted 10 U of I Caucus events in the state capitol.
- Hosted four alumni and student lobby days in the capitol.
- Hosted alumni in government events in Chicago and Springfield.
- Hosted four engagement events with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and the Latino Caucus.
- Hosted five large, in-district legislative receptions, with area legislators, local leadership, and alumni community leaders.
- Hosted 50 smaller in-district meetings across the state.
- Hosted numerous tours of our university campuses with state and federal legislators.
- Grew the Student Advocacy Coalition, our student organization at all three universities.

**LEVERAGED STATE PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH COALITIONS**

OGR has continued its focus on strengthening our statewide coalitions.

- The nine public university presidents initially came together during the budget impasse. Their connections have endured, through regular meetings and group visits with our state’s leadership. We are stronger together, speaking in one voice.

- The alumni associations of our public universities continued to work together to champion higher education. Their efforts included mobilizing alumni to join together and increase the voice for higher education in the capitol, and hosting a variety of events to promote the need for funding higher education. Those collaborations have helped move the needle on funding for higher education.

- Lastly, we brought together an informal coalition of public universities, private universities, community colleges, labor organizations, and business advocates through the Illinois Coalition to Invest in Higher Education. This third-party validation is important, and brought these sometimes unlikely partners together for regional press events, petitions, and statehouse rallies. Having business and labor speak on behalf of higher education was and continues to be powerful.

**NEXT STEPS**

In the upcoming year, OGR will continue to promote higher education to Illinois lawmakers. We will strengthen our partnerships and coalitions to encourage collaboration together across the state of Illinois. Most importantly, OGR will continue to work to show the impact the U of I System has on the state. Our efforts will include:
• Establishing a coordinated communications campaign that will work with all units in the system and at each of our three universities which allowed for the units to be more efficient in achieving their goals.
• Continuing to build both our grassroots and grass-tops advocacy to connect our alumni and their constituents. We will reach out to additional university groups and boards to ask for more volunteers and empower our volunteers to speak on our behalf at all times.
• Building on the relationships between our advocates and lawmakers. Developing new events to establish more connections between our advocates and lawmakers.
• Strengthening and empowering the U of I Caucus. The helping to give the tools to the U of I Caucus members to be strong advocates and vocal supporters of the U of I System.
• Increasing engagement with business and asking them to speak on behalf of higher education. Showing businesses how they can use higher education as a resource and develop new relationships between the private sector and the U of I System.
• Engaging students by building on our student organizations, and working with faculty members to show them how they can be more involved. Encouraging students and faculty to be vocal supporters and engage with lawmakers whenever possible.

2018 END OF SESSION REPORT

The following is an at-a-glance summary of legislation affecting the U of I System or higher education in Illinois.

U of I Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Chief Sponsor</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>U of I Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB5696/SB3058</td>
<td>U of I Bridge Program</td>
<td>Provides that each public university in the state may establish a Bridge Program for underrepresented students.</td>
<td>Welch/Lightford</td>
<td>Signed by Governor</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB2362/HB4550</td>
<td>UIC EEI facility lease</td>
<td>Allows an exemption to allow the new EEI facility to enter a 30-year lease.</td>
<td>Harmon/Turner</td>
<td>Signed by Governor</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 2996/SB222</td>
<td>IPAC</td>
<td>Under the proposed University of Illinois Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC) the state would be required to annually appropriate a minimum specified amount, provided that the U of I System meets certain requirements at its universities.</td>
<td>Zalewski/Cunningham</td>
<td>House Rules/Senate Assignments</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
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<td>Status</td>
<td>U of I Position</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB4956</td>
<td>3-year teaching degree</td>
<td>Would provide a university to convert the teaching program to a three-year degree instead of a four.</td>
<td>Cavelleto/Cunningham</td>
<td>Senate Assignments</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB2693</td>
<td>Basic Skills Test</td>
<td>Allow a student to take the basic skills test before or after completing their teaching degree.</td>
<td>Weaver/Pritchard</td>
<td>Signed by Governor</td>
<td>Oppose, waiting for ISBE to change BST requirements this fall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB3045/HB5881</td>
<td>Community College Nursing bills</td>
<td>Allow Lewis &amp; Clark and Malcom X Community College to offer BSN.</td>
<td>Bistrow</td>
<td>House Rules</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB3047</td>
<td>Grow Your Own Teachers</td>
<td>Creates the Grow Your Own STEM and Vocational Education Teachers Act. Requires a public university to waive any tuition, fees, and on-campus housing costs of a student who agrees to pursue a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics for a teaching occupation. Subject to appropriation.</td>
<td>Manar/Connor</td>
<td>House Rules</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB888</td>
<td>Community College Nursing bills</td>
<td>Allow Lewis &amp; Clark Community College to offer BSN.</td>
<td>Manar</td>
<td>Senate Assignments</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB230</td>
<td>Uniform Admission</td>
<td>Requires Illinois public universities to admit students if the applicant graduated with a GPA in the top 10% of the student’s high school class</td>
<td>Thapedi</td>
<td>House Rules</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB4169</td>
<td>Higher Education Sexual Violence Transfer</td>
<td>Requires public universities to note any violations of a comprehensive policy on academic transcripts prepared for a student within 5 years, and requires any school a student may transfer to must include these violations within the 5 years</td>
<td>Carroll</td>
<td>House Rules</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB2597</td>
<td>ICCB and ISAC Consolidation</td>
<td>Abolishes ICCB and ISAC, and moves their power to IBHE, increases membership of IBHE</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>Senate Assignments</td>
<td>Support</td>
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</table>
### Administrative Reform

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<tr>
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<th>U of I Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB5111</td>
<td>Behavioral health taskforce</td>
<td>Creates the Behavioral Health Education Center, administered by a teaching or research State university, or both.</td>
<td>Lang/Steans</td>
<td>Signed by Governor</td>
<td>Amended to allow U of I to organize board and make appointments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Admissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB3142</td>
<td>Ban the Box</td>
<td>Require universities to remove any questions regarding criminal history on admissions applications.</td>
<td>Wheeler/McGuire</td>
<td>Senate 3rd Reading</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Budget

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB3137</td>
<td>U of I Appropriations</td>
<td>Appropriates money to the University of Illinois System</td>
<td>Bennett</td>
<td>Senate Appropriations II</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB109</td>
<td>FY19 Budget</td>
<td>2% increase in state funding to all public universities, from FY18 funding, $500 million for DPI, and Capital funding</td>
<td>Cullerton/Harris</td>
<td>Signed by Governor</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB3342</td>
<td>Budget Implementation Bill</td>
<td>Clean up language for FY19 Budget and directions for spending money and changing programs</td>
<td>Harris/Steans</td>
<td>Signed by Governor</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Campus Specific

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<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB4914</td>
<td>Greek housing non-profit</td>
<td>Would exempt all non-profit housing from local property taxes.</td>
<td>Pritchard</td>
<td>House Rules</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Financial Aid

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB5122/ SB2856</td>
<td>DCFS tuition waivers</td>
<td>Provides that qualifying youth shall receive a tuition and fee waiver to assist them in attending and completing their post-secondary education (rather than a waiver of all tuition and fees to attend and complete their post-secondary education).</td>
<td>Castro/Welch</td>
<td>Signed by Governor</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB4503</td>
<td>In State Student Aid</td>
<td>A student who is an Illinois resident for tuition purposes is eligible to apply or receive consideration for student aid or benefit funded or administered by the state</td>
<td>Hernandez/Thapedi</td>
<td>House Rules</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Higher Education Working Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>U of I Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB4103/ SB2234</td>
<td>Higher Ed Centers of Excellence</td>
<td>Requires IBHE to create a uniform admissions process for Illinois public universities, and Illinois high school student with at least a 3.0 GPA is guaranteed admission to a public university, instructs IBHE to prioritize academic programs at campuses of public universities</td>
<td>D. Brady/Rose</td>
<td>House Rules/Senate Assignment</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB440</td>
<td>IBHE membership increase</td>
<td>Increases membership of IBHE from 16 to 18, requires board membership include 2 full-time faculty members selected by the advisory council of faculty</td>
<td>McGuire</td>
<td>Senate 3rd Reading</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Signed by</td>
<td>Position</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB2354</td>
<td>Degree Advising</td>
<td>Requires that a student attending a public university must indicate to the institution his or her degree program of interest, and the institution will try to conduct an advising meeting with that student</td>
<td>McGuire/Rose Cullerton/Rooney</td>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB2358</td>
<td>Reverse Transfer of Credits</td>
<td>IBHE and ICC will develop a policy to foster the reverse transfer of credit for any student who has completed 15 hours of academic credit at a community college and a sufficient number of hours of academic credit at a state university to meet a community college's requirements to be awarded an associate degree</td>
<td>McGuire</td>
<td>House Higher Education</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB3566</td>
<td>Universal Application</td>
<td>Creates a uniform online admission process which must be used by all public institutions of higher education</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>Senate 2nd Reading</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB3567</td>
<td>4 Year MAP</td>
<td>In 2021, first-time full-time students will be guaranteed MAP funding until the recipient completes a bachelor's degree or 135 credit hours if recipient meets grant renewal requirements and stays enrolled in the same institution</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>Senate 2nd Reading</td>
<td>Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB3569</td>
<td>Unlimited Tuition Waivers</td>
<td>IBHE may not limit the amount of tuition revenue a public institution may waive</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>Senate 2nd Reading</td>
<td>Support</td>
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**Human Resources**

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<th>Bill Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB4781</td>
<td>Veterans Service Act</td>
<td>Requires a public university to use best efforts to hire a veteran of the armed services as Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services</td>
<td>K. Burke</td>
<td>Signed by Governor</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB2546</td>
<td>RA to unionize</td>
<td>Would allow research assistants to join graduate student union.</td>
<td>Biss/ Guzzardi</td>
<td>Vetoed</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pensions**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Overview</th>
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<th>Status</th>
<th>U of I Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB5137</td>
<td>Defined Contribution Plan</td>
<td>In the State Universities Article, provides that the System shall offer a defined contribution benefit to active members of the System.</td>
<td>Martwick /McConchie</td>
<td>Signed by Governor</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB2954</td>
<td>Pension fix</td>
<td>Clarifies what is defined at “over the Governor’s salary.”</td>
<td>Aquino/ Martwick</td>
<td>Signed by Governor</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB4045</td>
<td>Pension Code Reform</td>
<td>Makes funding changes to pension code, and shifts certain costs to employers</td>
<td>Martwick</td>
<td>Senate 3rd Reading</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following section provides an overview of OGR’s federal achievements and milestones in 2018.

GREW U OF I IMPACT—IN WASHINGTON AND ILLINOIS

OGR made the most out of the time that Congress was in session by getting U of I System leaders and faculty in front of the Illinois delegation to advance our legislative priorities and interests. OGR planned several U of I System events in Washington and arranged for our experts to participate in opportunities to showcase our strengths and assets. Then, during both regular and extended district work periods, OGR seized opportunities to bring legislators to campuses by proactively coordinating in-district or campus events.

DC ACTIVITIES/MEETINGS

Demonstrated U of I System Leadership in the Nation's Capital

- In conjunction with the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, OGR organized a two-day seminar in DC in early September for the 2018-2019 cohort of the President’s Executive Leadership Program (PELP), which included 16 administrators and faculty from across our three universities. The seminar involved interactions with Congress, national associations, federal agencies, and engagement with DC-area alumni. Highlights included meeting with two national higher education associations; a series of sessions with members of the Illinois delegation and their staff; a trip to the National Science Foundation, where the fellows met with various officials; a session with the Department of Homeland Security; and a reception with prominent U of I System alumni working in the federal government.

- The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has tremendous strengths in the emerging area of quantum information science, an area that Congress and the administration have identified as a national research and development priority. OGR worked with campus leadership and faculty to promote our capabilities. In September, Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation Ed Seidel and Urbana physics professor Brian DeMarco participated in a quantum summit at the White House that convened experts from academia, industry and the federal government. In December, DeMarco participated in Illinois delegation staff briefings that included quantum experts from the University of Chicago, Argonne, Fermilab and Northwestern University. DeMarco outlined Urbana’s strengths in this space and plans for its new, $15 million center, IQUIST (the Illinois Quantum Information Science and Technology Center).
Supported Profile-Raising Events/Activities

- Secured the participation of Urbana’s National Center for Supercomputing Applications in the annual Coalition for National Science Funding exhibit. Bill Kramer and Kristin Williamson showcased the Blue Waters Petascale Supercomputer.
- David Nicol, director of the Information Trust Institute at Urbana, participated in an interactive technology demonstration on Capitol Hill on behalf of the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Institute, a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence that Urbana leads.
- Sarah Taylor Lovell, Anthony Yannarel, and Hannah Holscher represented Urbana’s College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) in the annual Agricultural Research Congressional Exhibition and Reception, which showcases research funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Secured Participation/Supported U of I Faculty in Testimony Opportunities

The U of I System had six faculty members who testified during Congressional committee hearings:

- Kate Clancy, a professor in Urbana-Champaign’s Department of Anthropology, testified on Feb. 27 at a House Science Committee hearing on “Sexual Harassment and Misconduct in Science.”
- Bill Sanders, former department head for electrical and computer engineering and now interim director of DPI, testified on March 1 at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on cybersecurity and the electric grid.
- David Lange, a civil and environmental engineering professor from Urbana’s College of Engineering, testified at a April 18 hearing on the adoption of composite materials in strengthening infrastructure development at the invitation of Rep. Dan Lipinski.
- At the invitation of Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation Ed Seidel was in DC in July to present to members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce during their Innovation Forum and Showcase.
- Urbana Agricultural and Consumer Economics professor Craig Gundersen testified on Sept. 26 at a joint subcommittee hearing of the House Oversight Committee on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- Tim Yardley, senior associate director of technology and workforce development at Urbana’s Information Trust Institute, testified on Oct. 10 at a hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on blackstart, the process for returning energy to the power grid after a system-wide blackout.

Supported the “Fly-Ins” of Various U of I Stakeholders

Throughout the year, various faculty members visited DC to participate in advocacy days for their professional associations and societies. For instance, Urbana National Research Center leaders voiced support for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays, professors from Urbana and UIC advocated for the humanities, Urbana’s College of VetMed communicated academic veterinary medicine priorities, and doctoral students from Urbana underscored the importance of federal support for scientific research.
Several faculty members participated in panel discussions or spoke at briefings. For example:

- **Steve Wilson**, groundwater hydrologist with the Illinois State Water Survey at Urbana-Champaign’s Prairie Research Institute, took part in a congressional briefing on source water protection and drinking water wells.
- UIC associate vice provost for global engagement **Jim Hammerschmidt** participated as a panelist at a Capitol Hill briefing on employment-based immigration that discussed current challenges facing universities and the private sector relating to H-1Bs, as well as other related topics.
- **Randy Sandone**, executive director of the Urbana-led Critical Infrastructure Resilience Institute, presented at a June 25 briefing on Capitol Hill that highlighted the successes and achievements of Department of Homeland Security Centers of Excellence.
- At the invitation of **Rep. Dan Lipinski, Dr. Andy Singer**, associate dean for innovation and entrepreneurship within Urbana’s College of Engineering, participated in a congressional briefing on the National Science Foundation Innovation Corps program.

Senior leaders from across the U of I System also visited to engage with federal agencies and Congress.

- University of Illinois at Springfield **Chancellor Susan Koch** met with federal agencies to discuss the new UIS Center for Lincoln Studies and to host a “Chat with the Chancellor.”
- **Urbana Vice Chancellor for Research Susan Martinis** conducted meetings with the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health.

**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:

- **Promoted UI Health**
  - In May, **Sen. Dick Durbin** held a press conference at Mile Square Health Center to discuss a bill he reintroduced, the Addiction Prevention and Responsible Opioid Practices (A-PROP) Act.
  - The University of Illinois Hospital worked very closely with **Sen. Durbin** and other city hospitals to launch Chicago Hospital Engagement, Action, and Leadership (HEAL) — a new initiative Sen. Durbin is leading to reduce violence and improve health in Chicago’s most underserved neighborhoods. The action plan highlights UI Health’s [Better Health Through Housing program](#), which was created to reduce costs and provide stability to the chronically homeless.
    - A couple weeks later, **Sen. Dick Durbin** visited UIC to meet with **Michael Zenn**, CEO of UI Health Hospital, and **Steve Brown**, director of preventative emergency medicine, to further discuss the Better Health Through Housing program.
  - During the August recess, the College of ACES capitalized on opportunities to engage the delegation while they were back in Illinois. For instance, **Chancellor Robert Jones** and ACES Dean **Kim Kidwell** interacted with several Illinois delegation members during Ag Day at the State
Fair, including **Reps. Rodney Davis, Mike Bost**, and **Darin LaHood**. ACES faculty participated in the Ag Policy Forum hosted by those Members. **Rep. Cheri Bustos** also personally visited the Northwestern Illinois Agricultural Research and Demonstration Center—an off-campus research and education center run by ACES in the Congresswoman’s district—to learn about its work related to management of plant diseases and insects, crop nutrients, soil fertility, conservation practices, and variety testing.

- **Facilitated campus visits by Members of Congress** throughout the year, including:
  - **Sen. Dick Durbin** visited Urbana-Champaign in April to speak at a conference regarding Cahokia – North America’s first prehistoric settlement - held by the Prairie Research Institute. While on campus, Sen. Durbin also held a news conference on net neutrality that included campus representatives.
  - In August, **Rep. Rodney Davis** met with leadership from the Carle Illinois College of Medicine to hear about its inaugural class of 32 future physician-innovators. He also toured the Jump Simulation Center, which has standardized patients, mannequin-based simulators and virtual reality simulators for student training.
  - In November, **Chancellor Koch** welcomed **Sen. Tammy Duckworth** to Innovate Springfield, the social innovation/business incubator that UIS recently acquired. While touring the incubator, Sen. Duckworth learned more about its current operations, UIS’ role, and what the future might hold for Innovate Springfield as part of the Illinois Innovation Network.

- **Supported campus visits by federal agency officials**:
  - In September, **Robert Bertram**, the chief scientist for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), visited Urbana-Champaign to announce that USAID would be awarding $6 million to extend funding for the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research (SIL). SIL, which was first funded by USAID in 2013, is the agency’s only comprehensive program dedicated to soybean research for development, and principally focuses on sub-Saharan Africa. Staff from the offices of **Sen. Dick Durbin, Representatives Cheri Bustos, Rodney Davis**, and **John Shimkus** attended the event.
  - In October, **Dr. Lawrence Tabak**, principal deputy director at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), spent a full day at UIC. He met with senior leadership, early career researchers, and with deans and other senior faculty to learn more about the research environment at UIC. He delivered a public talk on HEAL (Helping End Addiction Long-term), the NIH initiative to address the public health crisis of opioid abuse in the U.S.

- **Facilitated Congressional staff campus visits** throughout the year:
- **Rep. John Shimkus**’s legislative director, an Urbana alum who also serves as the president of the DC Illini (alumni) Club, visited the Urbana campus. He toured the Jump Simulation Lab and the Special Research Facility, in addition to meeting with campus leadership and Illinois Connection.

- **Rep. Mike Quigley**’s education advisor visited UIC to meet with the financial aid office and College of Education leadership.

- **Sen. Dick Durbin**’s science advisor and fellow for American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), visited the Urbana campus for a variety of speaking engagements and meetings. Two of her meetings centered around collaborations that our faculty have with Department of Energy national labs.

### PROMOTED U OF I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

There were a number of challenging federal issues this year that required the higher education community to mobilize, including appropriations, immigration and healthcare.

#### BUDGET/APPROPRIATIONS

In February, the Trump administration released its Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget request, which proposed a number of cuts to programs and accounts important to the research and higher ed communities. The request set the stage for an uphill FY2019 appropriations process, as our community had to vigorously defend the value of the agencies and programs that were targeted.

As part of our advocacy for the annual appropriations process, the U of I System submits “programmatic requests” to the Illinois congressional delegation to articulate the system’s support for line items in the federal budget that support our missions. In March, OGR submitted [U of I’s FY 2019 programmatic requests](#), then conducted numerous meetings and conversations to further discuss the significance of having robust funding for these agency 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 in the following chart:
Several Illinois members sent their own letters to appropriators expressing support for funding and report language.

**HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION**

At the end of 2017, House Education & Workforce Committee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx unveiled comprehensive legislation that would reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA), the major federal law governing higher education policies and programs. H.R. 4508, the PROSPER Act, included significant and generally problematic changes to financial aid, state authorization and for-profit regulations.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Federal Agency/Program</th>
<th>FY2018 “Dear Colleague” Letters</th>
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| **National Science Foundation (NSF)** | House: Requested that NSF receive “at least $8.45 billion” in funding for FY2019  
7 Total IL Signatories (of 163): Reps. Jan Schakowsky, Danny Davis, Brad Schneider, Robin Kelly, Bill Foster, Dan Lipinski, Bobby Rush |
| **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** | House: Requested an FY 2019 appropriation of at least $38.4 billion for NIH  
12 Total IL Signatories: Reps. Robin Kelly, Daniel Lipinski, Adam Kinzinger, Peter Roskam, Danny Davis, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Jan Schakowsky, Brad Schneider, Bill Foster, Mike Bost, Rodney Davis, Cheri Bustos |
| **Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science** | House: Led by Reps. Hultgren and Foster; Expressed “strong support for robust and sustained funding” for the DOE Office of Science  
8 Total IL Signatures: Reps. Randy Hultgren, Bill Foster, Jan Schakowsky, Dan Lipinski, Adam Kinzinger, Bobby Rush, Danny Davis, Raja Krishnamoorthi |
| **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Agriculture and Food Research Initiative** | House: Led by Rep. Rodney Davis; Requested “robust” funding for NIFA-AFRI  
4 Total IL Signatures: Rodney Davis, Mike Bost, Cheri Bustos, Danny Davis |
In February 2018, U of I Executive Vice President Barb Wilson sent a letter to all 18 House members of the Illinois delegation expressing concerns about how the PROSPER Act would make higher education less affordable and less accessible. Later that month, OGR worked in conjunction with Illinois Connection to issue a “Call to Action.” Over 700 U of I students, alumni and faculty/staff responded to that call, urging their members of Congress to oppose the House HEA reauthorization bill. This message was amplified on social media. President Tim Killeen also directly voiced concerns about the legislation with members of the delegation.

During the summer, there was increasing momentum behind bringing the bill to the House floor. However, largely due to strong pressure from the higher education community, the PROSPER Act was never called for a vote.

**IMMIGRATION**

Similar to last year, there were several active and proposed immigration policy and programmatic changes that were concerning for the U of I System and the higher education community at large, changes that could harm the System’s ability to recruit and retain high caliber international faculty and students. These policy changes included the Trump administration’s executive orders restricting entry into the U.S. by nationals of certain countries, H-1B Visa Program changes, delays in processing F-1 student visas, and the decision to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which protects from deportation certain undocumented individuals brought to this country as children.

Throughout the year, OGR participated in regular immigration-focused calls and strategy sessions with our higher education associations (AAU, APLU) to stay informed and strategize on advocacy. OGR was in communication with our Illinois peer institutions about joint efforts, and worked with Illinois congressional delegation offices to raise concerns, particularly to build support for legislation that, at a minimum, would codify DACA. In October, OGR Director of Federal Relations Paul Weinberger joined representatives of AAU, APLU and ACE at a meeting with the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) ombudsman to discuss concerns about the agency’s new and proposed rules and procedures regarding visas, particularly F-1 and H-1B visas.

**ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

In 2018, OGR continued working closely with UI Health to protect access to health insurance and vital services for UI Health patients. Several key programs and reimbursement methodologies faced ongoing threats, and UI Health worked to educate delegation members and staff about potential consequences and impact to UI Health.

- The 340B drug pricing program faced increased scrutiny this year, and UI Health spent time educating staffers about how the savings experienced from the program allows UI Health to invest in programs that address the social determinants of health that patients face. That included hosting a 340B roundtable to share patient stories which staff from both Sen. Dick
Durbin and Tammy Duckworth’s office attended. In addition, Sen. Durbin attended a meeting at UI Health to discuss the Better Health Through Housing program. UI Health reinvests its savings from the 340B drug program into its Better Health Through Housing program.

- UI Health submitted comments and engaged congressional offices about proposed regulatory cuts to Medicare reimbursement rates.
- We were pleased to see that Congress approved a two-year delay of cuts to Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments. UI Health advocated for this delay, as DSH funding allows UI Health to provide care to patients who are uninsured, underinsured or who cannot afford the cost-sharing under private plans.

FARM BILL

Ahead of the Farm Bill’s scheduled expiration on Sept. 30, 2018, OGR worked closely with Urbana's College of ACES and the Illinois congressional delegation to advance the university’s priorities for agricultural research, education, and extension at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Farm Bill is the primary federal legislative authority for cooperative programs with land-grant universities.

Over the course of deliberations in 2018, representatives of the College of ACES provided timely information to members of Congress. In October, ACES participated in an agriculture listening session that Rep. Rodney Davis hosted in Champaign with a special guest, Sonny Perdue, the secretary of the Department of Agriculture. ACES shared comments on key provisions in the proposed Farm Bill.

We were pleased to see that the final Farm Bill -- the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 -- provides strong support for land-grant universities, including an increase of $630 million in mandatory funding for research and extension. The Farm Bill was signed into law by President Donald Trump on December 20, 2018.

LEVERAGED MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

During 2018, OGR Director of Federal Relations Paul Weinberger served as the International and Immigration Team Lead for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities’ Council on Governmental Affairs. This position enabled him to lead on strategy discussions surrounding DACA and high-skilled immigration. He also served as a member of the APLU-AAU science and security working group, which consists of select export control officers, VPRs and government relations officers, and is spearheading the higher ed community’s response to concerns about foreign engagement.

INTERNAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Federal relations was able to add an additional staff member to its team. We hired Emily Tuttle as a federal relations specialist for the DC office. A 2018 Urbana-Champaign graduate, she previously served as OGR’s inaugural fellow.
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Deon Thomas joined OGR in November 2017 when the position of community relations coordinator within OGR was created to focus on integrating the university system with the public.

Public schools are pillars of our communities, so it is important for OGR to build strong relationships with Illinois public schools. Through these partnerships, more students will see the U of I System as a viable option to pursue their goals and aspirations. Community relations also works to build partnerships with community leaders, non-profits and other key external groups to grow awareness of the U of I System and its programs.

ENGAGED STUDENTS IN THE CHICAGOLAND AREA

- Visited with principals, school counselors, and students at 22 high schools in Chicago and the surrounding areas to spread awareness of the system’s commitment to its in-state student population.
- Attended Chicago Public Schools board meetings to represent the U of I System.
- Identified community organizations to continue outreach to students outside of school environments.
  - Worked with Build Chicago to explore partnerships with the university system.
  - Met with the director of Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) to discuss connecting their students with our universities.
- Attended events and camps to connect with high school students.
  - Joined state Sen. Kimberly Lightford to represent the system at her back-to-school event.
  - Attended the Project Pipeline camp to represent the system and discuss its programs.
  - Toured the Chicago High School for Agricultural Science with President Tim Killeen and President emeritus Robert Easter to promote the U of I System.

BUILT STRONG RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR UNIVERSITY AND THE COMMUNITY

- Connected with 12 state representatives at in-district meetings to discuss ways to work together to accomplish their objectives and those of the U of I System.
- Met with six of Chicago’s aldermen to better connect the community and the system.
- Attended in-district events hosted by state legislators and Chicago’s aldermen to foster relationships between OGR and representatives of the city and state.
  - Attended a Health and Resources Fair hosted by Senators Don Harmon and John Mulroe.
- Engaged in coalition building with community organizations dedicated to advancing educational development. Some of the community organizations that have been contacted include:
  - 3 Seeds, an educational and mentoring program in the south suburbs of Chicago.
Gloria S. Taylor Foundation, an organization focused on the economic and educational development of the communities on the west side of Chicago.

A Better Chicago, a funding source for non-profits dedicated to educating the children of Chicago.

Common Ground Foundation, created by actor and musician Common for the purpose of reaching underserved students through mentoring and college preparatory programs.

GOALS FOR 2019:

- Establish higher education and the U of I System as a strong partner on community based initiatives.
- Represent the University of Illinois System in the community.
- Partner with additional community groups to identify ways to work with the U of I System.
- Attend legislator community events on behalf of the U of I System.
- Build community support for student access initiatives.
- Attend local business development events in targeted communities.
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