March 4, 2015

The University of Illinois (UI) is a global leader in research, discovery, and innovation. With academic strengths across all disciplines, UI is the state’s best and most comprehensive public university. Through our three main campuses at Urbana-Champaign (Urbana), Chicago (UIC), and Springfield (UIS), our regional health care campuses in Rockford and Peoria, hospital and clinics, and extension services—UI has a profound impact on the State of Illinois, the nation, and the world. With support from the federal government, we are helping our state engineer a more prosperous future, develop human capital, and unleash its full potential.

By conducting innovative research to solve grand challenges in complex areas such as energy, health care, agriculture, and national security, UI generates significant return on this federal investment. Federal funding for research and development catalyzes many breakthroughs at UI. From military infrared night vision technology, the first graphical Internet web browser, the HIV-blockbuster drug PREZISTA, LED technology, plasma display panels—and many more innovations—federally-funded discoveries at Illinois are improving lives, protecting the country, creating jobs, and spawning entirely new industries.

More than 78,500 students are enrolled at our three campuses. Urbana—our state’s land-grant institution—is a world leader in teaching, research, and engagement that educates more than 45,000 students. UIC is Chicago’s largest university and operates the state’s major public medical center. It boasts the largest college of medicine in the United States and enrolls 28,000 students. With 5,400 students, UIS is a recognized leader in online education and a primary pipeline of talent for leaders into our state government.

The federal government is a primary partner in our research enterprises, providing more than $750 million in federal grants and contracts to UI in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 for research and education. UI is grateful for the support it receives from the Illinois delegation in advancing its educational, research, and economic development missions. Given today’s difficult fiscal climate—particularly in our state—we recognize the challenging decisions you will have to make in determining federal spending for FY 2016. At the same time, if the United States is to retain its role as a world leader in innovation, there needs to be robust support for scientific research. The President’s FY 2016 budget request provided an energizing baseline for the kinds of investments that our nation should be making to bolster our economy and increase our global competitiveness. As you consider spending priorities, we hope that you will support strong federal investments in the following research and education programs.
In Urbana’s College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), more than 250 scientists carry out fundamental and applied research, with strengths in biotechnology, sustainable crop and animal production, food safety and nutrition, renewable energy, water and land use, risk management, and more. ACES is the home of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, which supports scientific capacity, as well as research and education centers located throughout the State of Illinois, that provide vital experimental capabilities where research can generate fundamental knowledge and practical applications to benefit consumers, producers, and various public, private, and business interests. Hatch and other related formula funds support capacity for this applied science to benefit Illinois, totaling about $7.2 million annually.

USDA’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) supports competitive research programs that are essential to the research being carried out in ACES. Scientists in ACES compete for grants from AFRI and other programs administered by NIFA to accomplish transformational research. ACES is currently launching an initiative called International Food Security at Illinois (IFSI), which will position Urbana to compete even more effectively for research funding from AFRI and other related programs. NIFA also supports cooperative extension through land-grant universities, including educational outreach programs that reach all 102 counties of Illinois. UI Extension educates Illinois residents in areas related to agricultural and natural resources, community and economic development, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development. NIFA provides formula support of $9.7 million to UI Extension through Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c), and about $2 million through Smith-Lever 3(d) funding, for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) in Illinois. **We encourage you to support the President’s FY 2016 budget request of $1.5 billion for NIFA, including increased funding for AFRI ($450 million).**

Additionally, the President’s FY 2016 budget request included funding to support the establishment of two USDA public-private Innovation Institutes, one of which would focus on advanced bio-manufacturing. With Urbana’s IGB strengths in using synthetic biology for advanced bio-manufacturing, UI supports this institute.

As part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), significant grant funding is allocated through cooperative extension to provide recipients of SNAP benefits with nutrition education. Through evidenced-based research, SNAP-Ed directly supports over 700,000 Illinois residents with education to be physically active and make healthy food choices. UI Extension receives approximately $11 million of SNAP-Ed grant funding to benefit Illinois citizens, the largest single grant in ACES. **We encourage you to support the Nutrition Education Grant Program, budgeted for $411 million in FY 2016, as part of the overall SNAP budget authorization.**

**Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**

NSF is a vital partner for UI, providing more than $190 million across the three campuses. Urbana is the top national university recipient of NSF funding, receiving more than $169.8 million in competitive grants in FY 2014.
NSF’s **Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)** supports Blue Waters, one of the world’s most powerful supercomputers, at Urbana’s National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). Blue Waters provides massive computing and data analysis power to researchers across the country, enabling them to advance our understanding of complex phenomena from the formation of galaxies to the interaction of molecules. Blue Waters has already delivered groundbreaking science, including unlocking the chemical structure of the HIV capsid. In the past year, scientists have used Blue Waters to study Alzheimer’s disease, earthquakes, the fluid mechanics of blood flow in the human body, tornadoes, and more. Urbana students used Blue Waters to compete in the Global Trajectory Optimization Competition, which challenges aerospace engineers to solve a “nearly impossible” problem in interplanetary trajectory design.

NSF also supports the national **Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE)** project, which is led by NCSA. XSEDE brings together computing and data resources at multiple sites across the country and provides training and educational opportunities, all designed to make computing and data-driven research more accessible to more researchers. Among the thousands of scientific projects XSEDE has supported in the past year are a study of the aerodynamics of hummingbird wings, supernova research that began on XSEDE-allocated resources and then migrated to Blue Waters for larger simulations, and research on the effects of the BP oil spill of 2011.

At UIS, a NSF Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant funds research at the Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon, which is monitoring floodplain restoration and conservation efforts. UIC’s Electronic Visualization Laboratory (EVL) is home to CAVE2™ — a hybrid reality environment that enables the visualization of BIG DATA—which is largely supported by NSF funding. Additionally, an NSF grant supports Urbana’s CompGen Initiative, which aims to design a new computer optimized for genomics. The CompGen Initiative has the potential to revolutionize genomic research by facilitating more accurate and efficient genomic data analysis.

The **NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Site** in Urbana’s Research Park is vital because it fosters entrepreneurship and helps commercialize technology, a key function in the University’s economic development mission. Over the past 18 months, more than 40 teams have participated in our program and then gone on to raise more than $4 million from private sources.

As you know, there is a growing demand for a workforce with much-needed cyber skills that necessitates robust support for training and education at institutions like UI. UIC received a NSF CyberCorps Scholarship for Service award which trains students in cyber security and information assurance. UIS also has strong capabilities in helping develop the nation’s cyber workforce.

**In order to support basic research in all disciplines across the three campuses, we urge the delegation to request funding of at least $7.7 billion for NSF in FY 2016.**

**U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Partnership Planning Program and Regional Innovation Strategies Program**

EDA’s Partnership Planning Program and Regional Innovation Strategies Program support projects that help economic development planning efforts, and foster entrepreneurship and innovation. Additional flexible dollars available for competitive bid would support local regional innovation strategies, including many that benefit UI.
U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

NCSA is a member of a team that was selected to receive a $20 million award from NIST to establish a Community Resilience Center of Excellence. The Center will develop computer tools to help local governments decide how each can best invest resources intended to lessen the impact of extreme weather and other hazards on buildings and infrastructure and to recover rapidly in their aftermath. The Ergo hazard assessment software developed at NCSA will be key to this effort.

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Regional Climate Center Program

Urbana hosts the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC), one of six regional climate centers funded by the Regional Climate Center Program within NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center. MRCC provides high-quality climate data for the nine-state Midwest region on climate-sensitive issues such as agriculture, energy, the environment, human health, transportation, and water resources. We encourage you to support the Regional Climate Center Program at $4.8 million for FY 2016.

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, OJJDP Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration Program

UI favors renewing funding for this vital program, which furthers DOJ’s mission by reducing violence involving youth in targeted communities. CureViolence, an initiative that began in UIC’s School of Public Health and applies principles of epidemiology to reduce gang and other violence, received more than $29 million between FY 2010 and FY 2013 to train community workers known as “violence interrupters” around the United States to stop shootings and killings by anticipating where violence may occur. Restoring this vital funding line will help make communities in Chicago and around the country safer.

Defense

Department of Defense (DOD), Basic and Applied Research

UI is the state’s leading recipient of DOD research funds, a number which will surely increase through the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute award, and the Urbana campus’ burgeoning Applied Research Institute (ARI).

UI is now poised to support DODs research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) portfolio at the highest levels of classification, thanks to the construction of a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF), an enclosed area within the Urbana Research Park to process classified information. Urbana has also had notable success in the DOD Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) program.

Looking to the horizon, it is imperative that DOD—even in a constrained funding environment—invests in the foundational science and technologies to confront these and other looming challenges. As such, UI supports sustained and robust funding for the 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 science and technology accounts across the services. For FY 2016, UI specifically recommends $2.432 billion for 6.1 basic research, robust funding for 6.2 and 6.3, and strong funding for DARPA.
Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies

Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Science

In FY 2014, UI received more than $53.9 million from DOE. Within DOE, the Office of Science is the single largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences in the United States, providing more than 40 percent of total funding for this vital area of national importance.

Urbana’s Prairie Research Institute is home to the Illinois State Geological Survey, which was recently awarded $10 million over four years to establish an Energy Frontier Research Center (EFRC) to conduct basic sequestration science based on the efforts of the Midwest Geological Sequestration Consortium (MGSC). This award was made by DOE’s Office of Science, Basic Energy Sciences Division. The EFRC is an important avenue for advancing basic scientific understanding in support of economic development and global competitiveness. Urbana is also a partner in several other EFRCs. Through these and other research projects, UI and DOE seek to discover answers and applications for our national energy needs.

UI has strong partnerships with national laboratories. A number of UI researchers are engaged in collaborative relationships with Argonne National Lab, in which both our researchers and Argonne mutually benefit from each other’s technological infrastructure. Additionally, Sandia National Laboratories is developing a new strategic model called the Academic Alliance Program (AAP) for institutional partnering with a select set of leading universities, including Urbana. Consistent with the objectives of the AAP, Sandia has committed to deepen its institutional relationship with Urbana and agreed to three high-level partnership goals: solving the nation’s big problems, sustaining and engaging human capital, and accelerating the adoption of new technologies. **We encourage you to support the President’s FY 2016 request of $5.3 billion for the Office of Science and the request of $1.85 billion for Basic Energy Sciences.**

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity

We also support efforts to make our smart grid more secure, such as the Trustworthy Cyber Infrastructure for the Power Grid (TCIPG), a multi-university consortium led by Urbana that examines cyber security and resiliency issues in the grid. The DOE Office of Electricity and Energy Reliability (DOE-OE) funds this unique national resource. Urbana is partnering with four different companies in another DOE program designed to move research out of the lab and into practice; the projects with Urbana partnership comprise over a third of the entire DOE program. **We encourage you to support the President’s FY 2016 budget request of $270.1 million for the Office of Electricity.**


ARPA-E plays a vital role in supporting high-risk, high-reward energy research. Urbana—especially its Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB)—is a leader in using synthetic biology for advanced bio-manufacturing. Combining plant breeding, genomics, systems biology and chemical engineering, IGB scientists are making significant progress developing environmentally sound and economical sources of energy. **We encourage you to support funding for ARPA-E at the President’s FY 2016 budget request of $325 million.**
Fossil Energy and Coal Research and Development Program

Urbana’s Prairie Research Institute is home to the Illinois State Geological Survey and the Midwest Geological Sequestration Consortium (MGSC), which is one of seven national research partnerships looking at reducing carbon dioxide in energy and industrial processes. At the Carbon Sequestration Project in Decatur, the MGSC is developing best practices in capturing and storing carbon dioxide safely underground. **We urge you to support the DOE Fossil Energy and Coal Research Development programs at the highest possible levels.**

Homeland Security


HSARPA produces cutting-edge, next-generation technologies for the homeland security community. The innovative research performed through HSARPA grants results in new technologies which in turn lead to stronger protections for the U.S. against terrorism and natural disasters—challenges on which no other federal agency focuses. Specifically, the Cyber Security Division (CSD) within HSARPA generates crucial research and technologies that help protect our nation’s critical information and physical infrastructure from growing and ever-changing cyber threats. Urbana is an active performer in CSD projects aimed at tech transfer, with Urbana producing both open source software tools, and commercial enterprises in the cyber security space. As you know, cyber security threats become a larger challenge every day, and investments in cyber programs like this one will help bolster our nation’s defenses from these threats. **UI supports the highest possible funding level for HSARPA and CSD.**

*Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)*

The Illinois State Water Survey at Urbana’s Prairie Research Institute receives grant funding from FEMA through the **Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program** to support the Illinois floodplain mapping program. The Illinois State Water Survey is a Cooperating Technical Partner and produces flood risk identification maps that assist Illinois communities and citizens in understanding and taking measures to reduce flood risk. **We encourage you to support Risk MAP at the highest possible level.**

Since 2007, the UI Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has received more than $6 million in funding from DHS and FEMA through the **Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program** - Fire Prevention and Safety Grants. In 2014, IFSI was awarded a $1.49 million grant to study cardiovascular and carcinogenic risks in modern firefighting, focusing on pressing health and safety vulnerabilities, including sudden cardiac event and occupational exposure to carcinogens.

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

*National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)*

NEH is the single most important source of federal funding for research and scholarship in the humanistic fields, including history, literature, and foreign languages. With a limited federal budget, NEH is able to expand cultural and historical scholarship into the K-12 classrooms, sponsor humanistic research and scholarship, and support preservation efforts at local museums. Last December, it was announced that five Urbana scholars were awarded NEH fellowships for 2015. The NEH has also funded the research on the Papers of Abraham Lincoln on our Springfield campus.
Faculty at Urbana are regular applicants to NEH programs, including an award this year to allow Art Historians to help increase cultural understanding of Islam through a Summer Institute. The NEH proposed budget also includes crucial support for Humanities scholarship that reaches outside the academy to educate and inform the general public—a direction Urbana has also turned through recent programming from the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities. **UI encourages you to support funding at the President’s FY 2016 budget request level of $147.9 million for NEH in FY 2016.**

**National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**

Funding from the NEA has helped ensure that our communities—especially underserved or rural communities—receive support to enhance their cultural, artistic, and innovative opportunities in the arts. At Urbana, two of the most recognized performers across the system, and the only performing artist at Urbana to be inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, benefitted from NEA grants at pivotal times in their paths to current renown. The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts—a university-based performing arts complex housed within Urbana’s College of Fine and Applied Arts—has benefitted from NEA funds to advance sustainable creativity through culturally emblematic performances. Krannert Center also receives support from NEA through Illinois Arts Council, Arts Midwest, and New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA). **We respectfully ask for your support of the President’s FY 2016 budget request of $147.9 million for the NEA.**

**U.S. Geological Survey, National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program**

The Illinois State Geological Survey at Urbana’s Prairie Research Institute is a partner with the Great Lakes Mapping Coalition, which supports high level geologic mapping for water and natural resource assessments for states, counties and municipalities in economic development planning. Grants from the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program are matched with state and local funds for these efforts. **UI encourages you to support $25.5 million in funding for the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program.**

**Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Taking into account biomedical research inflation, NIH’s funding is 20 percent lower today than in 2003. As Congress seeks to optimally allocate limited resources, investing in medical research should be a priority. NIH medical advances yield a strong return in Illinois and bolster our health and our economy.

NIH is a leading federal funder of research at UI across our three campuses, receiving more than $199 million in FY 2014. UIC’s College of Nursing ranks second in the nation in NIH funding, and its College of Pharmacy ranks 7th in the nation. UIC’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) receives significant support through the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program and aims to move the research ideas from the lab to the bedside to the clinic and to the public. Additionally, UI has unique research capabilities in computation and biology. Through the Beckman Institute (physical sciences, computation, engineering, biology, behavior and cognition); the Institute of Genomic Biology; a joint partnership with the Mayo Center (individualized medicine, focusing on computational medicine, genomics, and point-of-care nanotechnologies); and the CCTS, the University is using cutting-edge technology to make major advances in health sciences.
NIH recently awarded funding to Urbana to join with Mayo Clinic researchers to create a Center of Excellence in Big Data Computing, one of 11 Centers funded under NIH’s Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Initiative.

In large part due to NIH support, UI is able to carry out groundbreaking research that improves the health and health care of patients in Illinois and across the country. **UI supports no less than $32 billion in funding for NIH**, which is critical to help prevent the further loss of promising research. Providing $32 billion in FY 2016 would help NIH’s budget catch up with biomedical inflation, which had lagged over the past few years.

**U.S. Department of Education (ED)**

Federal student aid expands access for the more than 78,500 students who attend UI. Along with the Direct Loan program, the most important piece of federal student aid is the Pell Grant, which provides critical financial aid to low-income students. UI students received nearly $73 million in Pell grants last academic year. UIC received $38.3 million in Pell funding, UIS received $4.4 million, and Urbana received $30.1 million. The Pell grant is a cornerstone of student aid because UI also provides institutional dollars to many of these Pell recipients to make postsecondary education accessible. This academic year, UI is expected to provide more than $78 million in supplemental financial aid. This figure has more than doubled over the past five years. **We urge Congress to support the maximum Pell Grant at $5,915.**

UI also uses the other federal campus-based aid programs, including federal work study, the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), and the Perkins Loan Program to provide additional aid dollars to our most needy students. Although the Perkins Loan Program requires campuses to cancel portions of a student’s Perkins Loan upon completion of public service by the borrower, campuses have not been provided federal reimbursement for these cancellations since 2008. **We encourage Congress to provide federal reimbursement for loan cancellations—as they are a significant benefit for Perkins borrowers—and work to provide sustainable funding for campus-based aid programs.**

Many of these Pell-eligible students are able to attend UI through the outreach performed by our GEAR UP and TRIO programs, which work to encourage and support access for low-income and first-generation students to higher education. UIC and Urbana have had remarkable success with their TRIO programs in improving the retention and graduation of this population of students. **For FY 2016, UI urges the delegation to support GEAR UP at the FY 2015 level of $302 million and TRIO at $860 million.**

In addition, ED funds important international and foreign language research and outreach through the Title VI international and foreign language education programs. Currently, Urbana operates six National Resource Centers (NRC) in the areas of East Asian Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Global Studies, Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, European Union Studies, Center for African Studies, as well as the Global Studies Center. These centers provide our students with important international and foreign language skills and strengthen research initiatives of our faculty in the respective regions. The Fulbright-Hays program has had tremendous impact on our nation over the years by developing a strong foundation in international education, research, and foreign language studies, especially in the less-commonly taught languages of U.S. strategic interest. Urbana was recently named a top producer of U.S. Fulbright Students and Scholars by the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. **We urge Congress to support the President’s FY 2016 budget request of $76.2 million for ED’s International Education and Foreign Language programs.**
Across its campuses, UI has had talented graduate students, studying in areas of high need, supported by ED’s graduate programs. We urge Congress to support funding for the Graduate Assistant in Areas of National Need (GAANN) at $31 million, which is the pre-sequester (2012) funding level.

We look forward to working closely with our delegation during the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), which may consider changes to many of these important programs.

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)

Urbana has been the national leader in serving people with disabilities since 1948, when it was the first and for many years the only higher education institution that provided accommodations and educational support services to veterans who had been injured in World War II. Building on the University’s unrivaled record of success, the Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education, which broke ground in November 2013, will be a national resource for those veterans who survived recent conflicts with the most grievous injuries. The center will provide comprehensive, customized academic and rehabilitative support services that these most vulnerable wounded veterans and their families will need in order for them to successfully pursue their next career and reintegrate into the community. Opening in August 2015, the center will be a place of affiliation, identity and respite for wounded veterans and their families. Federal funding for programs that provide support for academic accommodations and career and employment services for disabled veterans is critical to the activities of the center. This includes support for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Through the VR&E VetSuccess on Campus, Urbana receives important support services to help veterans transition to academic life. We urge you to support the VR&E program at the highest possible level.

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Development Assistance, Feed the Future

UI asks for continued support of the Feed the Future initiative in USAID. Urbana’s College of ACES has successfully competed for Feed the Future’s signature programs.

Over the last four years, USAID development assistance has awarded $12 million to fund the Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services (MEAS) project, led by UI. MEAS serves to define and disseminate good practice strategies and approaches to establishing efficient, effective, and financially sustainable rural extension and advisory service systems in selected developing countries. The MEAS project has conducted comprehensive extensive assessments in 10 countries. As a result of the MEAS project’s assessments and other significant work, the MEAS team has been granted three associate awards, the most recent of which provided $7 million to strengthen gender and nutrition integration within and through agricultural extension and advisory services and ultimately reduce poverty, improve food security, and reduce malnutrition.

Urbana is also a key partner in the Feed the Future Innovation Labs, formerly called the Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSP). This program supports multi-disciplinary research and training opportunities that promote innovative solutions to issues such as food, security, health, agricultural growth, trade expansion, and sustainable use of natural resources in the developing world. In 2013, Urbana received a $25 million grant from USAID to establish the Soybean Innovation Lab (SIL). This project will help African countries build their soybean research infrastructure and address
In conclusion, the University of Illinois is committed to addressing global challenges through its research and development initiatives. The Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation, University Transportation Center (UTC) Program support strong pioneering transportation research that will advance U.S. technology and expertise in transportation through education, research, and technology transfer. UI urges the delegation to support the Feed the Future initiative, which accounts for $900 million of the development assistance provided through USAID.

Cross-Cutting Initiatives

UI prides itself on its multi-disciplinary research and supports the following cross-cutting initiatives being undertaken by multiple federal research agencies.

BRAIN Initiative

UI has strong research strengths in neuroscience, and is committed to taking a leading role in advancing the Administration’s “BRAIN” Initiative, which aims to unlock the mysteries of the human mind. Urbana’s IGB, Center for Nutrition, Learning, and Memory, the Beckman Institute, and NCSA are all collaborating amongst themselves and with other institutions to advance work that will help us better understand Alzheimer’s, traumatic brain injury, and other neurological ailments.

These strengths are evident by Urbana receiving a $12.7 million research contract last year from IARPA. The Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology supports this interdisciplinary collaborative project to develop and validate "brain training” protocols with the aim of improving human adaptive reasoning and problem solving abilities.
Advanced Manufacturing

UI strongly supports additional federal investment for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI). As you know, UI LABS successfully led the competition to secure a $70 million NNMI grant from DOD, which established the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute (DMDII) in Chicago on Goose Island. DMDII will help revolutionize American manufacturing by developing digital technologies that will make American firms more globally competitive and reduce costs to the Pentagon. DMDII’s value to Illinois and the nation will only grow with additional institutes because it will serve as the digital “nerve center” in the network.

Again, thank you for your continued support for UI. As you submit FY 2016 programmatic requests, please feel free to contact Melissa Haas, Acting Director of Federal Relations (mshaas@uillinois.edu), with any questions regarding UI priorities.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Easter
President, University of Illinois

Timothy L. Killeen
President-elect, University of Illinois