

**ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES**

**Report No. 2017.07/1100.01**  
**Educating Illinois 2017**  
**Progress Report**

**Executive Summary**

*Educating Illinois 2013-2018: Individualized Attention, Shared Aspirations* guides Illinois State University and provides a road map for the institution through its vision, values, goals, and strategies. Over the past four years, *Educating Illinois* has led the University to many achievements and demonstrated Illinois State's position as a leader and first-choice institution among students, faculty, and staff.

Highlights from 2016–2017

- Enrolled a strong freshman class and increased the percentage of students from underrepresented populations
- Maintained strong retention and graduation rates that are within the top 10 percent nationally
- Received national rankings as a university as well as in academic colleges and programs, including several that recognized Illinois State or its colleges as being among the best in the nation, including the Phi Theta Kappa's Transfer Honor Roll for a second consecutive year
- Recognized for the second consecutive year as a Great College to Work For by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*
- Developed numerous partnerships, including internationally, relating to teaching, research, and public service
- Appointed a Campus Climate Assessment Task Force that developed recommendations on diversity and inclusion
- Opened the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning
- Initiated the process to update the University's strategic plan
- Developed new academic programs, including new online graduate programs
- Increased opportunities for alumni engagement
- Addressed high-priority, deferred maintenance needs and planning to enhance facilities
- Surpassed the \$21 million fundraising milestone for the third consecutive year

Looking forward

- Continued focus on recruiting and retention of high-quality, diverse students, faculty, and staff
- Further development of academic programs that meet the needs of the workforce
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Campus Climate Assessment Task Force
- Expansion of activities designed to enhance the globalization of the University
- Additional opportunities and partnerships for the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning
- Increased philanthropy through the launch of the next university campaign
- Enhancement of the Bone Student Center, College of Fine Arts facilities, Watterson Commons, and Milner Library