Cultivating Stakeholders and Changing the Conversation

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About Our Office

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Issue:

Elevating the conversation of higher education in Illinois
Coalition Building

• Internal Stakeholders

• External Stakeholders

• Students
Council on Government & External Relations (COGER)

Chair
• Jennifer Creasey, U of I System Office of Governmental Relations, State Relations

Members
• Paul Weinberger, U of I System Office of Governmental Relations, Federal Relations
• Melissa Haas, U of I System Office of Governmental Relations, Federal Relations
• Nolan Drea, U of I System Office of Governmental Relations, State Relations
• Marissa Brewer, U of I System Office of Governmental Relations, Advocacy
• Tom Hardy, U of I System Office of University Relations
• Ben Taylor, U of I System Office of Economic Development and Innovation
• Marty Guitierrez, UIC Chancellor’s office
• Bob Flider, UIUC Chancellor’s office
• Joan Sestak, UIS Chancellor’s office
• Emily Gibellina, Director of Government Relations for Healthcare, UI Health
Coalition of public and private institutions

- Public Universities
- Private Universities
- Community Colleges
- Labor organizations
- Local government
- Business advocates

All worked to support and defend higher education in Illinois
Illinois Coalition to Invest in Higher Education

• During the Illinois state budget crisis, we brought together an informal coalition of the Public Universities, Private Universities, Community Colleges, Labor organizations, and Business advocates to form the Illinois Coalition to Invest in Higher Education.

• This third party validation is important. Sometimes unlikely partners have came together around a common message. We joined together on regional press events, petitions, and state house rallies. Having business and labor speak on behalf of higher education was and continues to be powerful.
Illinois Public higher education goals

• Twelve public institutions came together to fight for higher education

• Mobilization of alumni
• Increase higher education voice in the capitol
• Move the needle on funding for higher education
Public Universities Alumni Association Consortium

• In 2017, for the first time the public institutions’ alumni associations came together to fight for higher education. They did this by mobilization of alumni to join together and increase the voice of higher education in the capitol. They were able to move the needle on funding for higher education

• Focus on shared advocacy efforts

• Annual receptions

• Spring call to actions
Advocacy consortium of public Illinois alumni associations

• University of Illinois – Chicago, Springfield, Urbana
• Chicago State University
• Governors State
• Northeastern Illinois University
• Illinois State University
• Northern Illinois University
• Western Illinois University
• Eastern Illinois University
• Southern Illinois University – Carbondale, Edwardsville
STUDENT ADVOCACY

- Student Advocacy Coalition
  - Campus Letter Writing
  - Issue Phone Banking
  - Event Volunteers
  - Campus Coalition Building

Gubernatorial Forum
Facebook.com/sac.champaign
“SAC gave me the opportunity to have a more direct impact on the advancement of support for higher education in Illinois. Through my involvement, I have found purpose, family, and friendship.”

OBIOMA AZIE

“SAC has been such an important part of my college career. It has given me so many unique opportunities and allowed me to grow in many different ways. It’s a group of students who come together from many different backgrounds because we are passionate about advocating for the University of Illinois System.”

BRENNA MOLINARE