

Agenda Item 5.2a
January 24, 2020

Illinois Community College Board

SPRING 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Illinois Community College Board is requested to approve the Spring 2020 Legislative Agenda.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the following motion be adopted:

The Illinois Community College Board hereby approves the following Spring 2020 Legislative Agenda: Apprenticeships Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

The Board's External Affairs Committee discussed potential legislation for the Spring 2018 legislative session and reported out to the full Board for discussion on November 30th. The legislative agenda before the Board for approval reflects priorities identified by ICCB staff and incorporates the adopted Board goals.

Apprenticeship Grant Program.

The proposed legislation creates a new community college grant program that will provide the resources necessary to adequately and appropriately meet the needs of business and industry providers that are interested in partnering with community colleges across Illinois to provide apprenticeships. The grant funds would be prioritized to expand apprenticeship programs to new populations, develop apprenticeships in new, non-traditional sectors, and identify ways to promote greater inclusion and diversity in apprenticeships that include, but are not limited to, individuals who are veterans, minorities, persons with disabilities, or displaced workers

Community college apprenticeship programs bring the classroom and career together. In Illinois, 53 percent of jobs require more training than a high school degree but less than a four-year college degree, yet only 43 percent of the workforce is trained at that level. Apprenticeships are proven effective at educating and training individuals for careers at middle skills positions.

As apprenticeship as a workforce development tool continues to flourish across the country, the roles for many community colleges are also growing. Community colleges can develop the curriculum and provide the classroom instruction portion of an apprenticeship. They can provide college credits leading toward, or even completion of, an associate degree.

Illinois is poised to be a leader in the development of a statewide apprenticeship. In fact, a \$4.0 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, announced September, 2019, is allowing the ICCB to develop and expand apprenticeship programs in partnership with ten Illinois community colleges. Over the next four years, community college partners will serve more than 1,600 apprentices in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that will lead to employment in the information technology sector.

The proposed state grant will expand support for apprenticeships across the state and into additional employment sectors. Currently, over half of the 48 community colleges in the state provide some form of apprenticeship training or curricula. However, according to the 2017 report, *Scaling Up Registered Apprenticeships at Community Colleges*, lack of funding and resources was the most widely mentioned challenge to scaling up apprenticeships at community colleges.

The ICCB has requested \$10 million to adequately fund the proposed grant program and provide the resources necessary to adequately and appropriately meet the needs of business and industry and community college partners. The substantive legislation will be **subject to appropriation**.

This legislation was introduced in the Spring 2019 Legislative Session in both the House and Senate, but was not advanced. SB 2122 (Ellman / Costa Howard) – Senate: Passed 56-0-0; House: Assigned to committee but not called. HB 3592 (Burke) – House: Assigned to committee but not called.