



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ICCB Executive Director Anderson Announces Plans to Retire

Springfield — Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Executive Director, Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, has announced her plans to retire effective November 30, 2018.

Dr. Anderson joined the ICCB in 1999 and became the first ICCB staff person to be selected for the permanent position of Executive Director in 2013. Dr. Anderson has provided leadership and has served as an administrator of nearly all of the Board's functions in divisions related to workforce, adult education, career and technical education, academic affairs, student services, minority affairs, education technology, and institutional research.

"It has truly been a joy to spend the last 20 years at the Illinois Community College Board and to serve as executive director," said Dr. Anderson. "I am proud of the progress the community college system has made to increase certificate and degree completion and provide students with opportunities for college and career success. Advocating for the best community college system in the world has been the highlight of my career."

"I am grateful for the guidance and support of the Board and the dedication and commitment to excellence shown by the ICCB staff," said Dr. Anderson. "I am also grateful for the strong partnerships between the ICCB and the Council of Community College Presidents and the Illinois Community College Trustees Association."

Under Dr. Anderson's leadership, the ICCB has reduced remediation through the implementation of co-requisite mathematics instruction, adopted new strategic plans for adult education and workforce education, and developed an Integrated Career & Academic Preparation System (ICAPS) to transition adult education students into post-secondary vocational programs.

Dr. Anderson serves as a commissioner to the Midwest Higher Education Compact and a member of the Governor's Cabinet for Children and Youth. She is a founding member of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System Governance Committee. Dr. Anderson also recently served as the Chair of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges.

"Karen's many years of service, her commitment to student success and her dedication leave a lasting legacy of effective leadership at the agency and throughout the state of Illinois," said ICCB Chair Dr. Lazaro Lopez. "Karen inspired excellence during a time of unprecedented uncertainty. I join the entire board in wishing Karen well in her retirement and expressing our appreciation for the agency's readiness to continue its focus on student success."

Dr. Anderson has received numerous leadership awards, including the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators 2010 Outstanding Service Award, the Illinois Community College Trustees Association 2016 Meritorious Service Award, and the Chinese Mutual Aid Association 2017 Visionary of the Year Award. In addition, under Dr. Anderson's leadership the ICCB received the College Changes Everything 2017 Champion Award. Dr. Anderson has also represented the State's community college system through her participation in three White House Summits, including the White House College Opportunity Day of Action in 2016.

Prior to coming to the Illinois Community College Board, Dr. Anderson was the principal and president of Ursuline Academy in Springfield; provost, registrar, and acting president of Springfield College in Illinois; assistant professor of English at Milliken University; a trustee of St. John's College of Nursing; and a professor and coordinator of the Bilingual Business Studies Program at Midway College in Kentucky.

As the third largest community college system in the country and the leading public workforce development trainer in the state, Illinois community colleges serve over 600,000 residents each year in credit, noncredit, and continuing education courses. Illinois is home to 48 colleges in 39 community college districts which provide high quality, accessible, cost-effective educational opportunities to the entire state. The Illinois Community College Board is the state coordinating board for community colleges and has statutory responsibility for administering state and federal grants to community college districts and adult education providers and managing high school equivalency testing for Illinois.

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