**Illinois State**

**University**

Board of

**Trustees**

**Report No. 2014.07/1100.01**

***Educating Illinois* Progress Report**

**Executive Summary**

This report summarizes the University’s progress and accomplishments in implementing its strategic plan, *Educating Illinois 2013-2018: Individualized Attention, Shared Aspirations*. While not an exhaustive list of activities, it provides an overview of initiatives from the first full year of the plan’s implementation and shows positive gains since the inception of this iteration of *Educating Illinois*.

**Highlights from 2013-14**

* Continued strength in recruiting and retaining high-achieving, diverse, and motivated students
* Graduation rates that continue to outperform the national average
* Record-breaking fundraising, with a fiscal year fundraising productivity total of more than $19.5 million
* Significant progress toward the implementation of a new academic information environment through the LEAP*Forward* project
* A steering committee, representing over 40 administrators and faculty members from all four University divisions, as well as contributions from units across the campus has completed the first draft of the University’s request to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for reaccreditation
* Facility improvements including; remodeling projects on the first floors of Hovey Hall and Edwards Hall that will be ready for occupancy in summer 2014, the initiation of planning for the new Fine Arts Complex, a new culinary laboratory in Turner Hall, phase I renovation to the Bone Student Center, and completion of the Hancock Stadium project

#### Looking Forward

* Completion of the final reaccreditation report to HLC and the peer-review team site visit scheduled for April 2015
* Activation and initial roll out of the new academic information environment (admissions, financial aid, records, student financials, and customer relations management) and business intelligence tool through the LEAP*Forward* project
* Expansion of wireless internet access throughout the campus
* Completion of the next University Information Technology Strategic Plan
* Continued expansion and implementation of the new International Strategic Plan and coordination of related initiatives
* Continued work on facility enhancements, including the Fine Arts Complex, Bone Student Center, and Capen Auditorium