**Illinois State**

**University**

Board of

**Trustees**

**Report No. 2015.07/1100.02**

***Educating Illinois* Progress Report**

**Executive Summary**

Illinois State University’s mission, vision, values, goals and strategies presented in *Educating Illinois* have provided a road map for the University that has led it to its current level of distinction. This report reflects how the University community embodies the strategic plan as highlighted through the programs and activities initiated and the recognitions received during the second full year of implementation of *Educating Illinois 2013-2018: Individualized Attention, Shared Aspirations*.

**Highlights from 2014-15**

* Enrolled the largest first-time-in-college class in 25 years, while maintaining quality and increasing the diversity of the student population
* Continued to graduate students at rates within the top 10 percent nationally
* Improved retention of new tenure-track faculty and implemented a new orientation and onboarding process for new employees
* Increased internationalization of the campus through new partnerships
* Hosted the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) site visit team in what resulted in an exceptional experience for the team and campus community
* Implemented the new academic information environment through the LEAP*Forward* initiative
* Experienced the highest fundraising productivity levels in the University’s history
* Enhanced campus facilities through installation of new instructional technologies in classrooms, renovations to Capen Auditorium and Edwards Hall, the creation of a new culinary laboratory in Turner Hall, and initiation of plans for the development of the new and renovated College of Fine Arts facilities and revitalization of the Bone Student Center

***Looking Forward***

* Complete the HLC reaccreditation process with a successful affirmation for the University
* Continue recruiting strength in enrolling strong first-time-in-college and transfer students
* Continue expansion of activities designed to enhance globalization of the University
* Implementation of *Information Technology Strategic Plan 2015-2018: Innovative Technologies, Engaged Partners,* including continued implementation, enhancements, and upgrades of instructional and administrative technologies
* Development of proactive measures for addressing racial, gender, religious, or other identity-related issues
* Continue development of a Center for Civic Engagement and related programming
* Development of a long range financial plan that ensures the University’s continued financial strength and sustainability
* Work to enhance College of Fine Arts facilities, the Bone Student Center, Milner Library, Fell Hall and Felmley Hall