



January 14, 2016

The Honorable Governor Rauner, Senate President Cullerton,  
Senate Minority Leader Radogno, House Speaker Madigan, House  
Minority Leader Durkin, and Members of the General Assembly:

We are writing to let you know that if a state budget is not approved  
in the very near future, public higher education in Illinois will be  
damaged beyond repair and the consequences for the state will be  
severe.

University of Illinois  
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University  
President Thomas J. Calhoun, Jr.

Eastern Illinois University  
President David M. Glassman

Governors State University  
President Elaine P. Maimon

Illinois State University  
President Larry H. Dietz

Northeastern Illinois University  
President Sharon K. Hahs

Northern Illinois University  
President Doug Baker

Southern Illinois University  
President Randy J. Dunn

Western Illinois University  
President Jack Thomas

In the next few months, a number of public universities and  
community colleges across the state will no longer be financially  
viable. Funds that have allowed them to remain afloat through this  
the seventh month of FY2016 will soon be completely exhausted.  
When colleges and universities reach this point of no return - when  
bills cannot be paid and payroll cannot be met - they will close. The  
results will be catastrophic for the economy of the State of Illinois  
and it will shatter the dreams and lives of hundreds of thousands of  
Illinois students and families.

As the public higher education leaders of the state we are bound by  
our duty to let you know how urgent this situation is and how close  
we are to not being able to continue operations. We strongly  
reiterate the commitment we made last spring to accept our  
responsible share of providing solutions to Illinois' fiscal problems.

Public higher education transforms people's lives and our society; it  
provides businesses and industry with the human capital needed to  
survive and thrive; and, it is one of the most critical economic  
engines in the state. When colleges and universities close, regional  
economies will be permanently damaged and the state will face an  
unprecedented crisis.

It is imperative that funding for public higher education be provided  
so that we can avoid these dire consequences and salvage the future  
of the state.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration given to our  
request.