

# REMARKS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

---



January 15, 2026

Tim Killeen, President



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Altogether Extraordinary™



*“A teacher affects eternity;  
he can never tell where his  
influence stops.”*

—Henry Adams, historian and grandson  
of John Quincy Adams

• are you who you think you are? how did you come to...  
find your answer?

• how have you been impacted by the people like & who...  
you are?

• when does it become hard to be someone as they...  
were?

11



**Scholars, mentors, innovators and more...**



“There is a whole world outside, beyond the gates of our campuses where we can really make a big difference.”

## Serkan Keradas

Associate Professor of Finance  
*University of Illinois Springfield*

- Co-leads high school stock-trading competition
- Frequent K-12 guest lecturer
- Public scholar with frequent news media citations

“I believe an important part of our role is to translate our findings to the world outside ... and in particular the next generation of scientists.”

## Tracy Lawson

Professor of Plant Biology  
*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

- Society of Experimental Biology trustee
- Focuses on community outreach
- Works with industry to spread use of plant science





“I’m here because the people and programs at UIC extended opportunities to me beyond what I could have accessed on my own. That creates a responsibility to do more, to give back, and to do better.”

## Jon Komperda

Clinical Associate Professor  
of Mechanical Engineering  
*University of Illinois Chicago*

- Society of Automotive Engineers chapter advisor
- First Lego League robotics competition judge
- Provided organizational seminars for Vietnamese Buddhist Youth Leadership Association

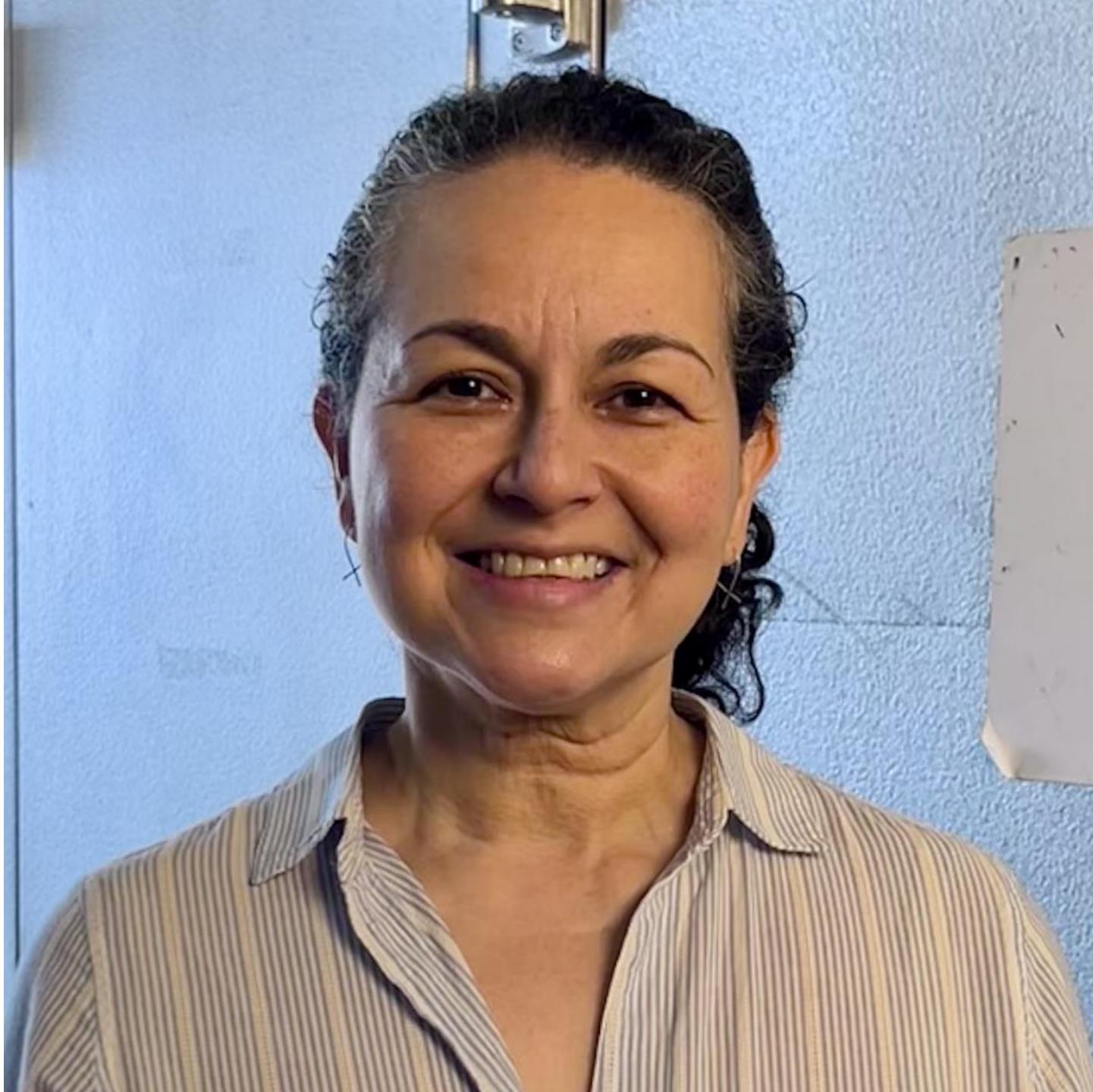
“Perhaps (my) most valued and memorable experiences have resulted in contributions to the success of non-artists engaged in the private sector ...”

## Barrington Coleman

Professor of Voice  
*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

- Artistic Director, New Awakenings Concert Series
- Director, Jazz Vocal Ensemble and Vocal Jazz Combos
- Director, Varsity Men's Glee Club





“The work I get to do at UIC allows me to pursue the issues I care about most.”

## Evelyn Figueroa

MD and Professor, Family and Community Medicine  
*University of Illinois Chicago*

- With husband, founded Figueroa Wu Family Foundation
- Co-founded Pilsen Food Pantry
- Led team providing pandemic care at Pacific Garden Mission

“Given the profound opportunity we have as U. Illinois faculty, I feel a deep sense of responsibility to make the most of it.”

## Martin Burke

May and Ving Lee Professor  
for Chemical Innovation  
and Professor of Chemistry  
*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

- Co-founder of Excelsior Sciences startup
- Director of the Molecule Maker Lab
- Elected member of the National Academy of Medicine





“To be most effective, it's important to be involved and actively engaged not just in the students' lives but in the community. I take a very holistic view to learning — it takes a village, and I consider it a joy to get to know, work with, and collaborate with the villagers!”

## Marisa Peacock

Senior Lecturer, Advertising  
*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

- Founder and chief strategist, The Strategic Peacock
- Leads the Social Media Lab at Urbana-Champaign
- Recognized for teach excellence and commitment to mentorship

A large, semi-transparent watermark of the University of Illinois seal is centered in the background. The seal is circular with a blue border. The outer ring contains the text "THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS" at the top and "CHARTERED 1867" at the bottom. The inner circle features a central figure, possibly a Native American, with a plow and a sheaf of wheat in front of a rising sun, with the words "CULTURE & LABOR" above the figure.

# Thank You



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Altogether Extraordinary™



UNIVERSITY  
OF ILLINOIS  
SYSTEM

**Altogether  
Extraordinary™**