



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UPDATE to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees January 2016

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ACTIVITY

The UI Alumni Association hosted representatives from the nine state public alumni associations and university governmental relations teams on Nov. 30 in a first meeting of an informal consortium to discuss and coordinate collective advocacy strategies. This meeting was organized in response to a request President Tim Killeen made at the September UIAA Board meeting to gather a coalition of alumni associations around the state to advocate on the role of public higher education.

UIAA President Loren R. Taylor welcomed the group and introduced President Killeen, who spoke about the importance of coming together as one and building solidarity. A panel discussion about advocacy from an alumni and student perspective led to a productive conversation among participants, and State Sen. Scott Bennett shared some insights from a legislator's perspective. The advocacy consortium will reconvene in Springfield in March.



UIAA Board members Bridget Lamont and Randy Witter, former UIAA Board Chairman Tom Livingston, and Illinois Connection student intern Charlie Sterrett shared their advocacy insights and advice. Left to right: Witter, Livingston, Lamont, and Starrett.

UIAA BOARD MEETING

The next UIAA Board meeting will take place April 5-6 in Washington, D.C. Board of Trustees Representative Jill Smart is expected to provide a BOT update at the meeting.

In addition to the meeting, Board members plan to meet with the Illinois delegation. Washington, D.C. is a key market for UIAA alumni community development initiatives because it has a large, diverse market of U of I alumni and is home to an active alumni club. UIAA will host an alumni reception and invite key Washington, D.C. contacts.

BLACKBAUD (“TED”)

The launch of the Blackbaud CRM environment, now known as TED, in November 2015 was a successful step in the Advance Illinois initiative that is creating a new advancement IT infrastructure. The UIAA team has worked in conjunction with the University of Illinois Foundation to augment alumni records, create a more streamlined membership and giving process, and design a seamless interface between UIAA club and advocacy sites and TED. In addition, the team designed analytical dashboards that provide a tool for University advancement professionals to identify alumni in target markets when planning events, visits and other celebrations across the nation and internationally.

While the UIAA continues to work toward completion of the Blackbaud implementation, we are excited about the capabilities of this new tool to collect and mine alumni data.

WELCOME CENTER

Progress continues toward establishing a University of Illinois Welcome Center at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center. The project team, composed of a wide range of University stakeholders, has conducted or scheduled consultations with more than 20 colleges, departments and units from the Urbana campus to identify stories, photographs and artifacts that reflect their histories and achievements. The project’s interactive media components are expected to be transferable to other locations.

Fundraising for the \$4 million project will begin in earnest this year, and the Welcome Center is expected to be completed in fall 2017.



UI DAYS AT THE CAPITOL

The University of Illinois will host two Days at the Capitol in Springfield this spring:

March 2 – Student Day at the Capitol

May 18 – Alumni Day at the Capitol

These annual events bring students and alumni together to deliver a unified message to lawmakers on behalf of the University. Last year, nearly 200 U of I students and 120 alumni joined forces, respectively, to represent the University at the Capitol.

The Alumni Day at the Capitol is held in conjunction with the May BOT meeting in Springfield. UIAA looks forward to your participation.