Approved by the Board of Trustees

March 20, 2025

**07**

 Board Meeting

 March 20, 2025

# APPROVE EXPANSION OF PILOT TUITION PROGRAM FOR LAKE, PORTER, AND LAPORTE COUNTIES IN INDIANA, MUSCATINE AND CLINTON COUNTIES IN IOWA, AND MARION COUNTY IN MISSOURI, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Approve Expansion of Pilot Tuition Program for Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties in Indiana, Muscatine and Clinton Counties in Iowa, and Marion County in Missouri

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois System, proposes expansion of the three-year pilot program approved July 20, 2023, to offer resident tuition rates to students from additional geographic markets: Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties in Indiana; Muscatine and Clinton counties in Iowa; and Marion County in Missouri.

Currently, nine of the 12 public universities offer resident tuition rates to select non-Illinois residents. This has an impact on University of Illinois Springfield’s (UIS) competitiveness for recruiting students in areas that are just across the border. While UIS is recognized as a regionally affordable option for in-state students, it is challenging to be competitive with other regional universities in the state that offer discounted rates to non-resident students.

By targeting these additional counties, UIS will be able to reach an additional 104 high schools with students who may have previously been unable to afford the UIS tuition rates for non-resident students.

The original benefits to the pilot tuition program have not changed, but with the additional counties, the scope of the pilot will take advantage of a larger catchment:

* Increased enrollment: By offering in-state tuition rates to select non-resident students, the University of Illinois Springfield can potentially attract more out-of-state students who may not have considered attending the university otherwise. This can help to increase enrollment and expand the university’s geographic reach.
* In the first year, UIS has seen an increase in applications and steady growth as staff now regularly attend high school and career recruiting events in the additional counties.
* Increased revenue: This pilot program has the potential to increase overall net revenue for the university.
* Increased diversity: Attracting non-resident students from a variety of backgrounds and regions can help to increase diversity on campus and provide students with opportunities to learn from peers with different experiences and perspectives.
* Expanded reputation: Offering in-state tuition rates to non-resident students can help to improve the university’s overall reputation as an institution that is committed to providing affordable education to students from a variety of backgrounds.
* Increased growth: Additional counties will increase applications in transfer students. Additional counties provide feeder areas based on population.
* Increased competitiveness: This pilot program will assist the university to claim more of the competitive marketplace with other institutions that offer similar programs.
* Increase brand awareness: This pilot program ensures development of working relationships across states and brand awareness.

Students who choose to participate in the pilot program will only be eligible for the in-state tuition rate at UIS. Students who decide to transfer within the University of Illinois System to Urbana or Chicago would be subject to the tuition rates set by those respective institutions as out-of-state students.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable state and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs and the vice president/chief financial officer and comptroller concur with these recommendations.

The president of the University of Illinois System recommends approval.