



**UPDATE**  
**to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees**  
November 2015

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ACTIVITY**

- UI Alumni Association's Illinois Connection advocacy network has worked in strategic collaboration with UI governmental relations and presidential office staff to issue various calls to action among alumni and students to support stable and reliable higher education funding from the state. Recent initiatives include:
  - A call upon advocates to contact their elected officials and local media in support of higher education funding.
  - The promotion of a statewide [online petition](#) to protect higher education funding in Illinois, to date, has more than 7,700 supporters. It will continue until the budget impasse is resolved.
  - The coordination of a mass call-in to district offices called "Light Up the Lines," on Oct. 19, the day before the veto session.
- The UI Alumni Association has reached out to the alumni associations of the other eight public universities in the state to coordinate on the two latter advocacy initiatives. The alumni executives of the eight partner associations have been very supportive and grateful to the UI Alumni Association and Illinois Connection for providing leadership on this front. President Loren R. Taylor has called for the formation of an ongoing advocacy consortium of these associations to develop future strategies for FY2017 and beyond.
- On Oct. 20, the Alumni Association helped with the coordination of a student lobby day in Springfield, in which more than 300 participated.
- Since the budget impasse, Illinois Connection has worked with UI governmental relations and the presidential office staff to organize three legislative receptions and 17 in-district meetings with state legislators. Two recent events in the Chicago area were hosted by UI Alumni Association Board members and had approximately 75 in attendance at each. Collectively, they included the following legislators: Sen. Bill Cunningham and Reps. Mike Zalewski, Lou Lang, Mark Batinick, Ron Sandack and Jeanne Ives.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO MEET IN WASHINGTON NEXT YEAR

- The Association is planning its next Board of Directors meeting to take place in Washington, D.C., during April 5 and 6, 2016, as part of a broader strategy to engage more alumni in the area, meet with federal legislators, and collaborate with University partners and the local alumni club to continue to increase recognition of the institution and the UIAA.

## NEW ALUMNI WEBSITES LAUNCHED

- Reflective of a strong, campus-branded marketing approach, examples of the Association’s newly designed, campus-focused websites follow:

