

REMARKS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 13, 2025

Tim Killeen, President



 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM
Altogether Extraordinary™

- Thank you, Chairman Ruiz.
- At this time, I would like to introduce our treasurer, HOWARD ENGLE.
- Also:
- Chancellor and Vice President CHARLES ISBELL JR. from Urbana;
- Chancellor and Vice President MARIE LYNN MIRANDA from Chicago;
- Chancellor and Vice President JANET GOOCH from Springfield.
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- And the Other University Officers and Staff:
- University Counsel SCOTT RICE;
- Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller PAUL ELLINGER;
- Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs NICHOLAS JONES;
- Vice President of External Relations and Communications ADRIENNE NAZON;
- Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation JAY WALSH;
- And Secretary of the Board of Trustees and the University JEFFREY STEIN.
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- Representing the Academic Professional Staff: TIM SULLIVAN, Director, Graduate Education in Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine, and Director of Registrar, Academic Affairs, College of Dentistry, Chicago.

- Representing the University Senates Conference, KATE FLOROS, clinical associate professor, political science, Chicago.
- Representing the Urbana Senate, CHAYA SANDLER, experiential learning coordinator and academic advisor, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, Urbana.
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- Representing the Chicago Senate, SANDRA DE GROOTE, professor and head, assessment and scholarly communications, University Library, Chicago, and chair of the UIC Senate Executive Committee.
- And representing the Springfield Senate, KRISTI BARNWELL, professor, Department of History, Springfield.
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- We talk often about the many ways to measure our performance across the U of I System: rising enrollment, research spending, graduation rates, even rankings.
- They're all important.



- But the ultimate measure of the University of Illinois System is our impact.
- What are we doing for the people of our state, to improve lives and build stronger, more resilient communities in every county and every corner of Illinois?
- That is the ultimate measure of what I believe, deeply and sincerely, is a noble and enduring mission.
- We know all too well that we as a system and all of higher education face uncertainties right now. The headwinds are real and significant. People are anxious.
- Whatever challenges we face, people all over Illinois depend on us to be both a stable force and, as we've always been, a light helping point the way to the future.
- They're counting on us to steer this world-class university system forward with a steady hand — to remain the powerful platform that has educated, innovated and created for Illinois and its citizens since 1867.



- We can never lose sight of how important we are to the 101,000 students enrolled in our universities and the parents and families who have entrusted us to provide these students with a high-quality, life-changing education.
- All of you here in this room and our roughly 900,000 alumni know how powerful, how meaningful that knowledge, those connections and all of those experiences are in shaping lives and creating possibilities.



- We know, too, that we are counted on to be a vital engine for our state's economy.
- Our new economic impact report makes that abundantly clear.
- We contribute almost \$25 billion in overall impact and support 275,000 jobs.
- I've said this before but it's remarkable to me and worth repeating — that's almost equivalent to the economic contributions of our state's important and productive construction industry.



- You all know I could go on. There are so many ways that we meet the needs of people all over Illinois.
- We take all of these responsibilities very seriously.
- Part of our responsibility is knowing that the work is never done and that the needs all over Illinois evolve in ways that we can't fully understand — or in some cases know about at all — from our campuses.
- To know, we have to be there, in the communities where the needs arise.
- We have go, ask questions and, above all else, listen.
- For five years now we have been heading out on our State Leadership Tour to do those things.
- Be there, listen and learn.
- The most recent tour was just last month.
- I want to thank Chair Ruiz, Trustee Craig Schilling, Trustee McKinney, Trustee Phalen and Trustee Basta for joining us at stops along the way, all over the state.
- As always, we returned with new connections, ideas for what we can do or do better.
- As always, we blanketed the state. I am proud to say that our partners, our alumni and the students we want to see enrolled in our universities are

everywhere.

- From Mt. Vernon and Olney to Rockford and, of course, here in the incredible city of Chicago.
- We even got our hands dirty picking a few turnips – every state tour offers new adventures.
- And we learned a great deal about our impact – what it means to people all over Illinois when we go to their communities and listen to them.
- Today I want to let them speak for themselves, to give you all a chance to see the power of the U of I System to be there for the people of Illinois.
- I think this video will give you an idea of just what I mean.





- Meeting the moment.
- Presence.
- Partnership.
- It all equals impact — making tangible differences in the lives of people and communities, all over Illinois.
- Thank you.