

Approved by the Board of Trustees
September 10, 2020

1

Board Meeting
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RESOLUTION TO HONOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois is immensely proud of the heroic efforts by our dedicated leadership, faculty, and staff to safeguard not only our three university communities but the people of our state and nation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U of I System has been at the forefront of this historic health crisis from the very beginning. Weeks before the virus was widely known in the U.S. and while there were only a handful of confirmed cases in Illinois, the U of I System and its three universities had already created teams that brought together administrative leaders and our world-class experts to monitor the outbreak and map our response.

Since then, the U of I System has fulfilled its land-grant mission with unparalleled distinction and further cemented its standing as a global leader in scholarship and innovation that is focused squarely on the public good.

It has been a true team effort, supported by faculty, staff, students, and alumni across the U of I System and by donors, friends, elected officials, and many other stakeholders across the spectrum.

The lifesaving work includes pioneering new saliva-based testing and surveillance developed by researchers in Urbana-Champaign that has attracted national and international attention since it was launched this summer.

The groundbreaking SHIELD program produces rapid results at costs that allow large-scale testing. That combination is a key to curbing the virus, allowing widespread surveillance with isolation early enough to limit spread of the infection, particularly among people with asymptomatic cases.

Led by Urbana-Champaign chemistry researchers Martin Burke and Paul Hergenrother, the university's brilliant SHIELD team has added to the U of I System's legacy of world-changing innovation and given our nation an important new weapon in the battle against COVID-19.

There have been countless other contributions by our three, best-in-class universities, including:

- From UIC, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Dr. Robert Barish was asked by President Killeen to lead the University of Illinois System's COVID-19 Planning and Response Team. Additionally, Chief of Infectious Disease Dr. Richard Novak, Associate Vice Chancellor for Population Health Sciences Dr. Jerry Krishnan, and others have been leading seven clinical trials to test several medications and biological therapies that might lessen the impact of COVID-19 infection.
- Also at UIC and under the direction of Dr. Novak, UI Health has been selected as the only Chicago site for an important national Phase 3 clinical trial of a potential vaccine against COVID-19.
- UIUC faculty, led by physics professor Nigel Goldenfeld, played a key role in epidemiological models cited by Governor J. B. Pritzker as a factor in his decision to invoke statewide stay-at-home orders. These scientists have continued to provide up-to-date research to guide the state's prevention efforts.

- At UI Health, our dedicated health-care teams have been battling COVID-19 from the start, working around the clock to provide lifesaving treatments and comfort for both patients and their loved ones.
- At UIUC, engineering professor William King led a research team that produced a prototype emergency ventilator to help fill a surge of demand for respiratory care as a result of the virus.
- Also at UIUC, the College of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Lab, led by professor Tim Fan, has processed tens of thousands of COVID-19 samples, providing rapid turnaround time for results.
- UI Health also has been at the forefront of providing community-based care especially in Chicago's West and South sides, including setting up food pantries, delivering more than 7,000 mask and hand sanitizer kits to neighborhoods, and providing infirmary care for more than 200 individuals experiencing homelessness.
- UIS, at the state's request, shared its expertise as a pioneer in online education to help colleges and K-12 schools across Illinois transition to virtual learning when the virus sent students home to study last spring.
- Also at the state's request, our SHIELD Illinois, led by Gies College of Business Associate Dean for Strategic Innovation professor Ron Watkins, helped to coordinate efforts to expand saliva-based SHIELD testing across the entire state of Illinois.
- Many other faculty and staff, too numerous to name, across the UI System have worked diligently and gone above and beyond normal expectations in implementing new initiatives to ensure the safety and continued success of the University of Illinois students, faculty, and staff.

The Board of Trustees hereby recognizes and commends the devoted faculty and staff who have helped guide these crucial initiatives and so many others as our universities rose up on behalf of the citizens of our state and nation. For providing invaluable advice and expertise these past few months, a special thanks goes to members of our three university senates and to those on the University Senates Conference. These

partnerships demonstrate the strength of our shared governance model during times of crucial decision making.

We also thank our leaders:

- at the System level: President Timothy Killeen, Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara J. Wilson, Interim Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation Jay Walsh, and Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Avijit Ghosh
- at UIUC: Chancellor and Vice President Robert Jones, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Andreas Cangellaris, Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Susan Martinis, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Danita Brown Young, and Senior Associate Chancellor for Administration and Operations Mike DeLorenzo
- at UIC: Chancellor and Vice President Michael Amiridis, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Susan Poser, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services John Coronado, Vice Chancellor for Research Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Innovation T. J. Augustine, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Rex Tolliver; and Dean Wayne Giles of the School of Public Health
- at UIS: Interim Chancellor and Vice President Karen Whitney, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Dennis Papini, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Van Vieregge, and Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Lucia Vazquez
- at UI Health: Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Robert Barish, Chief Executive Officer of the UI Hospital and Clinics Michael Zenn, and Interim Chief Quality Officer Susan Bleasdale
- at Discovery Partners Institute: Interim Executive Director Bill Jackson

The Board of Trustees directs that this resolution be incorporated into the minutes of today's meeting to become a part of the official public record, recognizing the many people who helped write this important new chapter in our long, rich history.