

Brian Durham, Ed. D.  
Executive Director



Ginger Ostro  
Executive Director



The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) are excited to welcome you to the 2025 HOUSE Summit! This conference boasts an array of sessions focused on how colleges and universities are supporting both students experiencing homelessness and youth in care. We know that this Summit will assist colleges with implementing new approaches to serve this targeted population. Throughout this Summit, you will learn how community colleges and universities are working to remove barriers for these students.

Today, you will hear from experts from many different areas of this work, including a keynote address from Christine Haley, the State Homelessness Chief, who has led so much of this work and is a passionate advocate. For the first time at a HOUSE Summit, you will hear directly from students who have experienced homelessness while attending college or university. In addition, you will have a chance to network with your peers and cross-pollinate your best practices and innovative solutions, improving the delivery of support for your students who face these tremendous hurdles.

On behalf of the ICCB and the IBHE, we want to thank you for your continued commitment to student success. Your dedication to improving Illinois education makes our communities stronger. We hope you enjoy the HOUSE Summit and utilize this time as an opportunity to partner and collaborate. We know that you will leave the Summit filled with new ideas you can bring back to your campus to implement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Durham".

Brian Durham  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ginger Ostro".

Ginger Ostro  
Executive Director



Housing and Opportunities that are Useful for Students' Excellence

## *Agenda At-A-Glance*

8:30 AM	REGISTRATION - CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	Brown Ballroom III
9:00 AM	<b>SUMMIT WELCOME</b>	Brown Ballroom III
	<b>DR. MARCUS BROWN</b> Deputy Director Academic Affairs & Student Support Illinois Community College Board	<b>DR. VALERIE LYNCH</b> Senior Managing Director Illinois Board of Higher Education
9:15 AM	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b>	Brown Ballroom III
	<b>CHRISTINE HALEY</b> Chief Homelessness Officer State of Illinois	
10:15 AM	BREAK	
10:30 AM	BREAKOUT SESSION I	
11:15 AM	NETWORKING LUNCH	Brown Ballroom III
11:45 PM	<b>PLENARY SESSION: STUDENT PANEL</b>	Brown Ballroom III
	Facilitated by: <b>TERRI WILKERSON</b> President Rend Lake College	
	Student Panel: <b>BRIA GREGORY</b> Student Illinois Central College	<b>JEFFERY TODD HENSON, SR</b> Student Lincoln Land Community College
	<b>MAGNUS NOBLE</b> Nontraditional Student Board Member Illinois Board of Higher Education	<b>DENISE WILLIAMS</b> Nontraditional Student Board Member Illinois Board of Higher Education
1:00 PM	BREAKOUT SESSION II	
1:45 PM	BREAK	
2:00 PM	BREAKOUT SESSION III	
3:00 PM	<b>CLOSING PLENARY</b>	Brown Ballroom III
	<b>DR. STACY PRINISKI</b> Assitant Research Professor The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs	
4:00 PM	ADJOURNMENT	

## STATE LEADERSHIP



***Dr. Brian Durham***

Dr. Brian Durham, Executive Director for the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), began his career at the agency in 2001 in workforce development. He has provided leadership for and served as an administrator in adult education and family literacy, career and technical education, research and policy studies, and academic affairs. He has managed the state's top-rated transfer system, the Illinois Articulation Initiative, managed the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (now the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act), and led the program approval and program review process. Dr. Durham oversaw the implementation of transitional math pathways in the state and worked closely with college stakeholders to design a multiple measures placement policy for the community college system. He serves on the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB), the IWIB Executive Committee, the P-20 Council, and as the Board liaison to the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, among many other areas of service. Dr. Durham holds a B.A. from the University of Evansville in Political Science, an M.A. from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in Political Science, and an Ed. D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he focused on Education Policy, Organization and Leadership with a concentration in Higher Education.



***Ginger Ostro***

Ginger Ostro brings extensive policy and finance leadership to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. She previously served as interim Chief Financial Officer and Vice-President of Financial Operations at Chicago State University. Earlier in her career, she served as Deputy Executive Director at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and as Director of the Office of Budget Planning at Governors State University. Ginger served as Executive Director of Advance Illinois as it helped architect the successful effort to fix the nation's least-equitable K12 funding formula. She played a lead role as budget director and CFO at Chicago Public Schools in developing and implementing a more equitable system of allocating funding across schools as well as managing the district's \$6 billion operating budget and the capital budget. Ginger also served in several roles in state government, including over six years at the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, where she rose to director.

Since joining IBHE in February 2020, she has led the agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; worked with other agencies and stakeholders to develop a strategic plan for Illinois higher education, A Thriving Illinois; and is currently working on multiple new initiatives, including the Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding and the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity.

Ginger holds a BA in Politics, Economics, Rhetoric, and Law from the University of Chicago and a Master's in Public Policy, Health, and Human Services from Harvard's Kennedy School. She lives in Chicago.

## STATE LEADERSHIP



***Dr. Marcus Brown***

Dr. Marcus Brown has worked in higher education and with community colleges for 30 years. At ICCB, he oversees the overall administration of the Academic Affairs and Student Success Division, including the approval of new units of instruction, the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) and other transfer related issues, teacher preparation, early childhood education, student services and supports, policy issue related to these program areas. His previous experience at colleges includes areas of academic administration, student services, grant programs, diversity, equity and inclusion, new student orientation, admissions and records, counseling and student accommodations. He has been a tenured faculty member and is a board certified counselor (NCC).



***Dr. Valerie Lynch***

Dr. Valerie Lynch serves as Senior Managing Director at the Illinois Board of Higher Education, where she leads cross-agency initiatives focused on academic affairs/ approvals, student success, equity, and workforce alignment. Prior to joining IBHE, she served as Vice President for Student Services at Lake Land College. With over two decades of experience in education leadership, Dr. Lynch has championed programs supporting first-generation students, basic needs navigation, and institutional transformation. She is also a certified K-12 teacher in both regular and special education and has taught at every level from kindergarten through college. Dr. Lynch has also been involved in federal TRIO programs, including serving on the implementation team for the inaugural TRIO Talent Search program at Lake Land College. In addition, she has served on the federal commission for small and rural colleges through the American Association of Community Colleges as well as various other positions within multiple professional organizations.



***Christine Haley***

Christine Haley is the Chief of the Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Christine works with 16 state agencies to implement a strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness for Illinois residents. Christine chairs of the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and co-chairs the Community Advisory Council on Homelessness. Before joining the state, Christine was the Director of Housing for Cook County Health (CCH), one of the nation's largest public safety-net health systems. Together with Housing Forward, she was the clinical administrator of a 19-bed medical respite center in Oak Park. Before joining CCH, Christine worked as an administrator in the housing sector with the CSH, Housing Opportunities for Women and Heartland Alliance. She previously served in health equity positions within the Massachusetts and Cleveland Departments of Public Health. She was the founding Executive Director of the Chicago Torture Justice Center. Christine holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Science in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University. Christine lives in Chicago with her husband, Peter, and three children.

## **Trauma Informed Mental Health Engagement & Resource Navigation** *(Repeated Session)*

### **Brown Ballroom I**

*Anita Sego, Illinois Campus Cares Technical Assistance Center*

*Brittany Tolar, Illinois Campus Cares Technical Assistance Center*

This presentation will discuss how to identify common mental health warning signs in students to assist them in accessing appropriate resources. Participants will learn strategies to support student mental health in higher education settings, utilizing a trauma informed framework. The presentation will provide practical strategies to support student engagement during the housing navigation process, including motivational interviewing and strengths-based approaches as well as provide best practices for informing students about local community resources and the referral process to access those resources.

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## **Working with Your CoC: Strategies, Housing Resources, and Community Engagement** *(Repeated Session)*

### **Brown Ballroom II**

*Deshea Meely, All Chicago*

This session will provide an overview of the Continuum of Care (CoC), the local planning body charged with addressing homelessness in a specific community, and an overview of the types of housing interventions that may be available via the CoC. In addition, this session will include strategies for building partnerships with your local CoC.

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## **View From the HOUSE**

### **Circus Room**

*Kim Wilkerson, Rend Lake College*

*Terry Wilkerson, Rend Lake College*

*Sarah Draper, Rend Lake College*

This session delves into the strategic use of data to identify, support, and improve outcomes for students experiencing homelessness and youth in care, as mandated by the Higher Education Housing and Opportunities Act. Participants will understand reporting requirements and examine best data collection and utilization practices. The presentation will also highlight the importance of interdepartmental collaboration and community partnerships in creating a supportive environment that fosters student success.

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## **Understanding & Advocating for Students in Foster Care and Experiencing Homelessness** *(Repeated Session)*

### **Founders Suite**

*Manuel Talavera, Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

Attendees will better understand the unique challenges youth in care and students experiencing homelessness face. Attendees will also receive current critical updates on financial aid policies and resources. Regardless of your role in college access, this session will provide you with the knowledge and resources to advocate for and assist youth in care and students facing homelessness, ensuring they have access to the support they need to succeed academically and beyond.

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## **Undocumented Student Access in Illinois**

### **Prairie III**

*Tanya Cabrera, Illinois Dream Fund*

This session will share resources and best practices on how to work with undocumented and mixed status families within higher education under current political climate. We will share updated information on current immigration climate and how institutions are supporting students and families navigate their options under current administration in D.C.

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## **From Data to Action: Leveraging HOUSE Reporting for Institutional Impact**

### **Circus Room**

*Deana Schenk, Illinois Community College Board*

*Ashley Lewis, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

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Regardless of your role in college access, this session will provide you with the knowledge and resources to advocate for and assist youth in care and students facing homelessness, ensuring they have access to the support they need to succeed academically and beyond.

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## **Youth in Care- College Advocate Program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**

### **Prairie III**

*Abisola Smith, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

The Youth in Care College Advocate Program (Y-CAP) provides students with foster care experience ongoing support as they navigate the college environment. This presentation will highlight the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's role in establishing Y-CAP on campus, focusing on the intersection between students and campus staff, the program's progress since its implementation, and its impact on student success, well-being, and sense of belonging

## **Caring Without Crashing: Managing Compassion Fatigue and Secondary Trauma**

### **Brown Ballroom I**

*Lynn Mackey, Zuccarello & Associates*

Working with students in crisis can be deeply rewarding—but it also takes a toll. This session explores the realities of secondary trauma and compassion fatigue, offering practical strategies to recognize, prevent, and manage their effects. Join us for an honest discussion on sustaining your well-being while continuing to support others

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## **Supporting College Students Who Are Parents: Navigating Resources and Strategies for Success**

### **Brown Ballroom II**

*Amy Martin, Joliet Junior College*

*Jessica Contreras, Moraine Valley Community College*

This presentation will provide an in-depth overview of the unique challenges faced by college student-parents and the resources available to support them. Attendees will learn about the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grant and how it helps student-parents succeed. The session will also explore on-campus and community resources, including counseling, childcare referrals, and educational programs. Key topics include the mental health impacts of parenting while in college, the effects of financial and housing insecurities, and practical strategies for supporting student-parents academically and emotionally. Special attention will be given to innovative support programs like lactation spaces, the YMCA STEM initiative, and evening programs for school-aged children.

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## **HOUSE Handbook Highlights**

### **Circus Room**

*Patty Zuccarello, Zuccarello & Associates*

Get an inside look at the HOUSE Handbook, a must-have resource for community college HOUSE Liaisons navigating this critical work. Originally unveiled in the fall, this handbook outlines key legislative requirements, best practices, and real-world insights from City Colleges of Chicago, Moraine Valley Community College, Rend Lake College, and Waubensee Community College.

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## **"They made it as hard as possible:" Removing Barriers to Accessing Basic Needs Supports**

### **Founders Suite**

*Dr. Stacy Priniski, The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs*

Students are humans first and must have their basic needs met in order to fully engage in higher education. HOUSE liaisons are a crucial part of the basic needs support ecosystem on campus, and their efforts are more efficient and more effective when they are integrated with other formal and informal student supports as part of an overall ethic of care. In this session, we will discuss barriers that students experience in seeking basic needs supports and how members of the campus community can address those barriers. Dr. Priniski will provide data insights and a toolkit based on her work with colleges and universities across the country.

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## **Making Landlord Partnerships Work: Lessons from a Housing Navigator**

### **Prairie III**

*Nick Dodson, Helping Hands of Springfield*

How do you turn landlord hesitation into housing success? This session offers a real-world look at how to build real relationships with landlords, designing, funding, and implementing a Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund (LRMF) to reduce barriers for renters and build confidence with property owners. Attendees will walk away with policy, insights into workflows, community partnerships, common pitfalls, and real tools used to support stable housing outcomes.

# ISU BONE STUDENT CENTER MAP

## First Floor



# ISU BONE STUDENT CENTER MAP

## Second Floor







