



THE FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT  
ILLINOIS COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Founded in 1904



Adler School of  
Professional Psychology  
Augustana College  
Aurora University  
Benedictine University  
Blackburn College  
Bradley University  
Chicago School of  
Professional Psychology  
Columbia College Chicago  
Concordia University  
DePaul University  
Dominican University  
East-West University  
Elmhurst College  
Eureka College  
Greenville College  
Illinois College  
Illinois College of Optometry  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
Judson University  
Knox College  
Lake Forest College  
Lewis University  
Lincoln College  
Loyola University of Chicago  
MacCormac College  
MacMurray College  
McKendree University  
Midwestern University  
Millikin University  
Monmouth College  
National University of Health Sciences  
National-Louis University  
North Central College  
North Park University  
Northwestern University  
Olivet Nazarene University  
Principia College  
Quincy University  
Robert Morris College  
Rockford College  
Roosevelt University  
Rosalind Franklin University  
Of Medicine and Science  
Rush University  
Saint Anthony College of Nursing  
Saint Augustine College  
Saint John's College  
Saint Xavier University  
School of the Art Institute  
Shimer College  
Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies  
Springfield College in Illinois  
Trinity Christian College  
Trinity College of Nursing  
University of Chicago  
University of St. Francis  
West Suburban College of Nursing  
Wheaton College

February 9, 2009

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Assistant Majority Leader  
309 Hart Senate Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for taking time to meet with our group in your office this past Tuesday. We truly appreciate and applaud your efforts to protect the Pell Grant award increases in the economic stimulus bill. We believe that the Pell program is both a valid economic stimulus priority and vital for our nation's economic future.

As you and the Congressional leadership continue to negotiate the final package, we urge you to restore funding for colleges and universities in the infrastructure stimulus spending as well. With some Federal assistance – Congress could help fund immediate job creating activity on college campuses in towns large and small across the state.

On independent college campuses across Illinois, there are nearly 200 appropriate, valid and necessary projects that can help employ workers of all kind. However, due to the credit crises and losses of equity, many institutions face severe challenges accessing loan capital and private funds as well. All of these projects are "ready to go," but remain idle due to credit and financial challenges.

The inclusion of infrastructure improvement needs of colleges and universities (both public and private) in an economic stimulus package fulfills the objective of creating jobs quickly. Federal spending in this area will also help to build more energy efficient and modernized learning centers. The House version of the stimulus bill would have provided over \$100 million for projects on independent college campuses in Illinois.

We respectfully request campus modernization funds be once again included in the federal stimulus plan, creating jobs in the communities these colleges serve. We look forward to working with your staff and the members of the Illinois Congressional delegation in the weeks ahead on this important proposal, and as always we thank you for your continued support for Illinois' independent institutions and our students.

Regards,

David W. Tretter  
President