



# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Dr. Brian Durham named new ICCB executive director**

Springfield — At its October 2 meeting, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) named Brian Durham, Ed.D., as its new executive director. Dr. Durham will begin his new assignment on December 1.

“Dr. Durham has spent the last 16 years at the ICCB where he has been at the forefront of implementing policies to improve outcomes for community college students,” said ICCB Chair Dr. Lazaro Lopez. “The board unanimously selected Dr. Durham for his extensive community college experience and focused dedication to student success.”

Dr. Durham currently serves as Deputy Director for Academic Affairs at the ICCB. In this capacity, he leads baccalaureate/transfer education, Career & Technical Education (CTE), and remedial education responsibilities of the ICCB.

“I am honored that the Board chose me as its new executive director,” said Durham. “I am committed to ensuring that the community college system provides students with smooth transitions into and across higher education and the training they need for in demand occupations with economic value. Our community college system will continue to be the best in the country.”

Dr. Durham is a statewide leader in remedial education reform, the implementation of career pathways, the expansion of apprenticeship programs, and the design of transfer programs. “I am confident that he will build upon the agency’s work to reduce remediation, connect education to employment, and ensure that Illinois remains a national leader in bachelor’s degree completion rates for community college transfer students,” said Lopez. “As a fellow veteran, Dr. Durham has a deep understanding of the challenges faced by adults returning to the community college system to pursue new careers and opportunities.”

Dr. Durham maintains strong relationships with community college leadership, business and labor organizations, community-based organizations, educational advisory groups, and professional organizations to advance community college goals. He is the ICCB liaison to the Higher Learning Commission, the Illinois regional accreditor for all community colleges in the system. He also serves as staff to the Governor’s Cabinet on Children and Youth and sits on a number of P-20 Council committees. Dr. Durham led the adoption of a multiple measures common placement framework by the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents.

Last month the ICCB’s current executive director, Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, announced she was retiring effective November 30. “I have watched Brian tackle a number of complex issues

during his time at the agency with the utmost professionalism,” said Anderson. “His combination of educational background, innovative spirit, and leadership experience will serve the agency and the community college system well.”

Dr. Durham joined the ICCB in 2003. He has held positions of increasing responsibility in workforce development, adult education, career and technical education, and academic affairs. Prior to his work at the ICCB, Dr. Durham held positions in career and vocational training. He was a member of the U.S. Army Reserves and Indiana National Guard for a combined total of six years.

Dr. Durham received his Ed.D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he focused on Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership with a concentration on Higher Education. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Evansville and a M.A. in Political Science from Southern Illinois University—Carbondale.

The executive director reports directly to the board and serves as the chief community college system representative working with the Office of the Governor, the Illinois General Assembly and its various legislative committees, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and other state agencies.

The Illinois Community College Board is the state coordinating board for community colleges and has statutory responsibility for administering state and federal grants to community college districts and adult education providers and managing high school equivalency testing for Illinois. As the third largest community college system in the country and the leading public workforce development trainer in the state, Illinois community colleges serve over 600,000 residents each year in credit, noncredit, and continuing education courses. Illinois is home to 48 colleges in 39 community college districts which provide high quality, accessible, cost-effective educational opportunities to the entire state.

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