

**PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS**

July 22, 2015

Contact: Lynne Baker  
847.831.8024  
Lynne.Baker@isac.illinois.gov

**FIVE ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES HONORED AS LEADERS IN WORKING TO IMPROVE COLLEGE ACCESS AND COMPLETION**

**Communities in Peoria, Aurora, East St. Louis, Northwest Chicago Suburbs and Lake County Receive College Changes Everything™ Champion Award**



Photo credit: Chris Pierson, ISAC



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Aurora Regional Pathways to Prosperity receives the College Changes Everything™ Champion Award. Pictured left to right: Teresa Ramos, Director of Outreach, Advance Illinois; Ross Truemper, Pathways Consultant, Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce; Joseph B. Henning, President/CEO, Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Lourdes Blacksmith, Director of Governmental and Multicultural Affairs, Waubensee Community College; Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Jonathan Furr, Executive Director, Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University; Sam Nelson, Director of Outreach Development, Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

East Side Aligned receives the College Changes Everything™ Champion Award. Pictured left to right: Teresa Ramos, Outreach Director, Advance Illinois; Kelli Hawkins, Chief Information Officer, East St. Louis School District 189; Jody Lauf, Director of Community Education, Southwestern Illinois College; Amanda Guinn, Director of Dual Credit, Southwestern Illinois College; Fred Clarke, Executive Transformation Officer, East St. Louis School District 189; Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Jonathan Furr, Executive Director, Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University; Sam Nelson, Director of Outreach Development, Illinois Student Assistance Commission.



Photo credit: Chris Pierson, ISAC

Health Professions Education Consortium (HPEC) of Lake County receives the College Changes Everything™ Champion Award. Pictured left to right: Teresa Ramos, Outreach Director, Advance Illinois; Dr. Afina Lockhart, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services, North Chicago Community School District; Suzy Peterson, Coordinator of Instructional Practice, North Chicago Community High School; Trendelle Vaughn, Post-Secondary Coach, North Chicago Community High School; Elyse Danckers, Executive Director, Waukegan to College; Amanda Pabon, HPEC, Project Manager, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science; Christine M. Lopez, Executive Director of Community Relations and Stewardship, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science; Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Jonathan Furr, Executive Director, Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University; Sam Nelson, Director of Outreach Development, Illinois Student Assistance Commission.



Photo credit: Chris Pierson, ISAC

Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS) receives the College Changes Everything™ Champion Award. Pictured left to right: Teresa Ramos, Outreach Director, Advance Illinois; Maria Moten, Dean of Enrollment Services/Dual Credit, Harper College; Dr. Lazaro Lopez, Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, High School District 214; Dr. Brian Harris, Superintendent, High School District 214; Cynthia Garcia, Executive Director, Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS); Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Jonathan Furr, Executive Director, Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University; Sam Nelson, Director of Outreach Development, Illinois Student Assistance Commission.



Photo credit: Chris Pierson, ISAC

Peoria Pathways to Prosperity receives the College Changes Everything™ Champion Award. Pictured left to right: Teresa Ramos, Outreach Director, Advance Illinois; Judy Dietrich, College and Career Readiness Coordinator, Illinois Central College; Paula Davis, Community Advocate, Peoria Mayor's Office; Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Jonathan Furr, Executive Director, Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University; Sam Nelson, Director of Outreach Development, Illinois Student Assistance Commission.