Illinois Must Improve College Participation and Credential Attainment Rates to Remain Competitive

- To remain globally competitive, the U.S. and each state should ensure that at least 60% of adults ages 25 to 64 have an associate or bachelor’s degree by 2025. In Illinois, the current rate is 41.3%.
- Illinois ranks 38th among 50 states in the size of the degree gap it needs to fill. To meet the 60% goal, it will need to produce an additional 595,296 degrees by 2025.
- By achieving rates of the top-performing states, Illinois can produce about 335,000 bachelor’s degrees, 330,000 associate degrees and 300,000 certificates by 2025.

Meeting Credential Goal Produces Significant Personal Economic Return

**Per capita income increases when the state meets 60% credential attainment goal**

- Under current postsecondary investment patterns, annual personal per capita income in Illinois is projected to decrease by about $100 in 2025.
- By meeting the 60% credential attainment goal, annual per capita income would increase significantly more, by approximately $1,400 in 2025.
Meeting Credential Goal Produces Significant Economic Returns to the State

Status quo produces negative returns
Under current postsecondary investment patterns, Illinois’ state revenues will decrease by about $140 million in 2025.

Meeting 60% credential goal pays off
By meeting the 60% credential goal, Illinois will generate more annual revenue, topping approximately $1.9 billion in 2025.

State revenues exceed costs when credential goal is met

Status Quo: Revenues are lower than costs
Under current postsecondary investment patterns, Illinois’ revenues are about $40 million below costs in 2025.

Meet 2025 goal: Revenues exceed costs
By meeting the 60% credential attainment goal, Illinois’ revenues exceed postsecondary costs by approximately $1.3 billion by 2025.

This analysis was prepared using the CLASP-NCHEMS Return on Investment Dashboard tool. See www.clasp.org/ROIDashboard