



# (IWERC) INSIGHTS

Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative

Part of the University of Illinois System

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## A Note From Director Meg Bates

{salutation}

Happy Summer! Congrats to all our educator friends on another successful school year. As the mom of a preschooler and a 2nd-grader, as well as the wife of a college professor, I truly appreciate the hard work of educators at all levels! Thank you!

May was a big month for IWERC. We were delighted to host our **3rd annual Research Advisory Council meeting** in May. This meeting allows us to update key stakeholders on our progress and get feedback on the relevance of our research agenda. If you have any thoughts on our research agenda—what we should prioritize, what’s missing, and how we get our work “out there”—please don’t hesitate to email me. We welcome all criticism, wild ideas, and partnership proposals.

We also launched exciting new research. Please read more below about our **college decision-making study** (a great collaboration with the Governor’s Office and IBHE), the launch of the Latino Policy Forum’s **Illinois Latino College Landscape Study** (on which IWERC was a research partner), and new research on **districts with chronic teacher shortages** (with our fabulous colleagues at IARSS, ROE Lead HUBS, and Goshen Education Consulting).

Hope you all will have time to relax, travel, and enjoy the summer months.

With gratitude

*Meg Bates*

# Research Insights

## Research Advisory Council

May 22, 2023

The Research Advisory Council (RAC) meeting, organized by IWERC, recently took place to discuss and refine our research agenda. The meeting featured engaging breakout sessions covering various topics, such as Computer Science Education Research, Effective Schools, the Socio-Demographic Mapping of Illinois, and the Teacher Workforce. Attendees participated in presentations and fruitful discussions to provide feedback and generate ideas for disseminating research findings. As always IWERC has four essential criteria to guide our research agenda: **potential impact, equity focus, novelty**, and the ability to foster **collaboration and cooperation statewide**.

By joining our collaboration, we can drive meaningful change and improve education and the workforce for all in Illinois.

Join the RAC



## Chronic Teacher Shortages Continue Districts Struggle to Find Qualified Teachers

Data from the annual Educator Shortage Survey conducted by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools indicate that the burden on public schools to find qualified teachers was significantly more challenging during Fall 2022 than in previous years. This has also been confirmed by data from the Illinois State Board of Education.

Read Now

A major implication of teacher shortages is inequitable student access to high-quality teachers. Targeted strategies are greatly needed to bolster the supply of qualified teachers in areas with deep and persistent shortages. Click to understand the scope of the issue and explore potential solutions.



## Illinois College-Going Survey Series

### How Illinois high school seniors decide on a 4-year college

Nearly half of Illinois high school seniors who go to four-year colleges choose to **attend colleges out of state**. Our latest report highlights key differences between students who chose to stay in-state for college and those who leave for college. **Students who attend colleges out of state** are more likely to be White, from the suburbs or downstate, children of parents with high educational attainment levels, and feel very prepared for college. Our findings show that the top factors for leaving the state are tuition cost, perceived quality of colleges, social environment, and the importance of job placement after college. **Students who attend colleges in the state** are more likely to be Black or Latinx, from the city of Chicago, be children of parents with lower educational attainment levels, and feel less prepared for college. The main influence for attending colleges in the state was cost and location - staying close to home. For a more thorough breakdown of the survey findings and to read about potential solutions, read our full report or our key takeaways.

[Read Full Report](#)[Key Takeaways](#)

# IWERC IN THE NEWS

## Putting Research into Practice

### Pritzker Tech Talent Lab utilizes IWERC research in designing effective programs

When Discovery Partners Institute's Pritzker Tech Talent Lab (PTTL) kicked off its Full-Stack Software Development Apprenticeship Program last year, the team drew on research from their sister entity – IWERC – to ensure that the program was as effective as possible. This quick read explains how IWERC's analysis of what works to increase representation in STEM fields is now implemented by PTTL.

[Read Now](#)

## OpEd – Meg Bates & Mariana Barragán Torres

### How to keep students in Illinois for college

This OpEd article asserts that this exodus of college-goers affects everyone in Illinois. With fewer potential college students, keeping more of them in the state is critical in order to avoid significant consequences for our state's education system and local economies.

[Chicago Tribune](#)

## DID YOU MISS OUR WEBINARS?



The Latino Policy Forum and the Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (IWERC) present the factors that influence Latinos' college preparation,

### Illinois Latino College Landscape Study Webinar

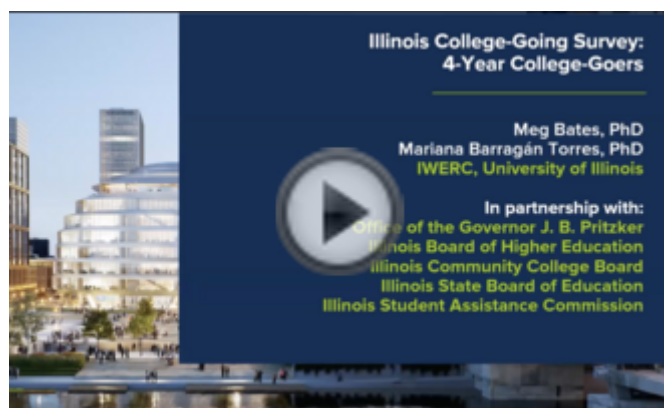
Transforming Educational Opportunities for Latinos. The Illinois Latino College Landscape Study webinar is here to shed light on the educational disparities faced by Latino students. Watch now to learn with the [Latino Policy Forum](#) and [IWERC](#) on how we can create a supportive and inclusive environment that empowers Latino students to thrive in higher education.

enrollment, retention, and completion and the status of Latinos along this pathway.



## [Webinar on the 22-23 Illinois Educator Shortage Study](#)

[IARSS](#) and [IWERC](#) presented a webinar on the pressing issue of educator shortages. Gain a deeper understanding and be part of the conversation.



Passcode: GTXevJ5=

## **CCAPS WEBINAR**

Watch this webinar to gain insights behind students' postsecondary education decisions in Illinois. [CCAPS](#) is a learning community focused on increasing postsecondary opportunities and outcomes for Chicago-area students. View [CCAPS](#)' recorded webinar, where we delve into the findings of the extensive [survey](#) we conducted in collaboration with state agencies.

# IWERC PRESENTS

- The IWERC team had a strong presence in several prominent conferences. **Mariana Barragán Torres** and **Shereen Beilstein** presented at the 48th Annual Conference of the [Association for Education Finance & Policy](#) (AEFP) in Denver, Colorado.
- **Ying Chen** and **Mariana Barragán Torres** represented IWERC at the [National Council on Measurement in Education](#) (NCME) Annual Meeting in Chicago.
- The entire **IWERC team** participated in the [American Educational Research Association](#) (AERA) Annual Meeting in Chicago.
- These conferences provided IWERC members with valuable platforms to share their research, engage with fellow professionals, and contribute to the advancement of education.



- **Stephanie Werner and Quetzalli Castro** will be representing us at the upcoming [NNERPP Annual Forum](#). This highly anticipated event brings together education research-practice partnerships, funders, policy experts, and advocacy groups for insightful discussions on challenges, successes, and opportunities in the field.

We are thrilled to congratulate Shereen Beilstein and Mariana Barragán Torres on their presentations at the AEFPP conference! Their dedication and hard work are an inspiration to us all, and we were happy to see them shine. #AEFP2023

# TO OUR PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

## THANK YOU

IWERC's research is possible due to our dedicated and invested funders. We thank them deeply. We also appreciate all our collaborators and friends -- including our Research Advisory Council, Advisory Committee, and the many wonderful folks working in local and state education agencies!

### Funders

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### Collaborators

- Illinois State Board of Education
- Latino Policy Forum
- Lopez Strategic Solutions
- Chicago Public Schools
- IARSS
- ROE LeadHUBS
- Goshen Education Consulting

- Anonymous
- Anonymous

- UChicago Consortium on School Research
- DPI's Pritzker Tech Talent Labs

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