GOAL 2: ENSURE COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND TAXPAYERS

RECOMMENDATION: Make Illinois one of the five most affordable states in the country to get a college education.

The University meets the needs of low-income students and provides funded opportunities through the provision of scholarships and endowments. Starting in Fall 2017, out-of-state domestic undergraduate students will now be charged the resident (in-state) tuition rate. Additional opportunities are also available through the Legacy Alternate Tuition Rate, the Active Duty Military Alternate Tuition Rate, and the Graduate Student Higher Achievers Alternate Tuition Rate (http://tuition.siuc.edu/alternatetuitionrate.html).

SUCCESS: SIU Carbondale has been and continues to be an affordable four-year public research university among its peer institutions in Illinois. The chart above is based on the rate for an incoming first-year student taking 15 credit hours a term and base fees. It does not include additional fees such as medical insurance, course fees, room and board or differential tuition. SIUC is one of three public universities in Illinois classified as an R2 Doctoral University (higher research activity), the others being Illinois State University and Northern Illinois University. University of Illinois Urban Champaign and University of Illinois Chicago are classified as an R1 Doctoral University (highest research activity). Tuition and fees at SIUC are below the R1 Institutions, but higher than Illinois State and Northern Illinois.

CHALLENGE: While remaining affordable, the University must find ways to attract a top-flight research faculty and to sustain its service to first-generation students, despite a historical decrease in state appropriations and a lack of certainty about future state appropriations. It is, in fact. The national norm is for research universities to depend on undergraduate tuition to support a full array of graduate programs and the research that underlies their quality. SIU Carbondale is no exception to this trend in higher education, even as the University continues to balance its two competing commitments -- to support faculty research and to provide student access -- in the midst of a challenging fiscal environment.
SUCCESS: Ninety-three percent of our students receive financial aid. The national trend of declining state and federal support requires that we leverage additional sources of financial aid to our students. This can only be done through the efficient use of resources and a current fundraising campaign that focuses in part on scholarships.

CHALLENGE: Acknowledging our mission of access, meeting the financial needs of our students is critical. Our current HLC Quality Initiative focused on using data to identify barriers to first-generation students. The data considered financial aid and financial need. The University is facing a challenging fiscal environment, with demands for staffing in all units ranging from student support to faculty.