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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, According to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, two-thirds of all jobs created this decade will require some form of postsecondary education; in Illinois, 80% of employers say they need employees with postsecondary training; and

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WHEREAS, In response to current and projected workforce demands for Illinois, the State has set a target goal of increasing the number of adults holding a college degree or credential to 60% by 2025; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Lumina Foundation, while 51% of adults in Illinois hold college credentials, significant gaps in attainment exist between Black and Latino adults and White adults; in Illinois, only 30.7% of Black and 20.4% of Latino adults hold college credentials, compared to 50.3% of White adults; and

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WHEREAS, There are persistent, and in some cases increasing, racial and socioeconomic gaps in completion in most of our two and four-year public and private institutions; and

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WHEREAS, Only 37% of low-income students in Illinois complete college in six years compared to 75% of their wealthy

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1 peers, and only 33.7% of Black students and 49.3% of Latino  
2 students who start at a four-year institution earn a bachelor's  
3 degree in six years, compared to 66.4% of White students; and

4 WHEREAS, Despite wide gaps in attainment and college  
5 completion along racial and socioeconomic lines, and the  
6 Illinois Board of Higher Education's (IBHE) recommendation in  
7 the Public Agenda for College and Career Success to eliminate  
8 all achievement gaps along the P-20 education pipeline,  
9 Illinois has not set clear targets for eliminating college  
10 achievement gaps; and

11 WHEREAS, During the last decade, the percentage of  
12 low-income and Black and Latino students in Illinois has  
13 increased; it is projected that by 2032, 45% of high school  
14 graduates in Illinois will identify as a student of color; and

15 WHEREAS, In order to meet its 2025 target, Illinois will  
16 have to accelerate progress at all critical benchmarks,  
17 including increasing degree completion rates for low-income,  
18 first generation, African-American and Latino students, and  
19 adult learners; and

20 WHEREAS, There is a growing body of evidence on what works  
21 to improve college graduation rates for low-income and first  
22 generation students and students of color, and there are many

1 promising programs and initiatives across our campuses, but not  
2 currently at the frequency or scale required to affect  
3 significant change; and

4 WHEREAS, To meet its current and projected workforce  
5 demands and truly realize the goal of equal opportunity,  
6 Illinois must implement and scale new and existing  
7 evidence-based best practices and policies that improve  
8 outcomes for low-income and first generation students, adult  
9 learners, and African-American and Latino students from Pre-K  
10 through postsecondary education; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize there are  
13 significant disparities in college degree completion rates for  
14 low-income and first generation college students and students  
15 of color at institutions across the State; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we are committed to closing statewide racial  
17 and socioeconomic degree attainment gaps and institutional  
18 achievement gaps and will help support and encourage  
19 institutions of higher education to implement and expand  
20 existing student success efforts that have evidence of  
21 improving educational outcomes for low-income and first  
22 generation college students and students of color; and be it  
23 further

1           RESOLVED, That the State's P20 Council is urged to update  
2           the State's 60 by 25 goal to include equity-focused targets  
3           aimed at closing institutional racial and socioeconomic  
4           achievement gaps.