



Illinois Dental School Issues

Overview and Background Facts:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) issued a Report on Dental Education to the Illinois General Assembly in October 2001 in response to HR-334 (2000).

IBHE report confirmed the existence of a significant nationwide shortage of dental school faculty and the extreme competitiveness in the market for faculty. It also stated that, over the long-term, it would be necessary to refurbish physical facilities, update technology and find ways to attract qualified dental students into the teaching profession.

UIC College of Dentistry still has 6 vacant faculty positions that were lost in state funding reductions in 2003. The building is 31 years old and would require over \$60 million to modernize the physical plant, dental clinics space, labs and classrooms and to acquire new dental equipment.

SIU School of Dental Medicine has 10 vacant faculty positions. The dental school is housed on a historic campus consisting of 17 separate buildings in various states of repair. The average age of the campus buildings is 65 years old. The cost to modernize these buildings would be prohibitive. A new building to replace them would cost \$72 million.

Comments:

Funding is needed to maintain the current class size and teach dental students with up-to-date dental equipment in modern clinical settings.

Funding is also needed to continue specialty care programs and GPR programs.

ISDS Position Statement:

The major problems facing Illinois dental schools are the recruitment and retention of qualified faculty and funding for infrastructure and operating costs.