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Panel: Higher Education Scorecards, Performance Based Metrics & Faculty Compensation

Jonathan P. Blitz
University Professionals of Illinois

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Funding of higher education allocated on the basis of performance based metrics has reached higher education. Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and now Illinois have subjected varying percentages of their higher education budget allocations to performance based funding formulae utilizing related measures of student progress and success. This presentation gives an on-the-ground account of bargaining in the fledgling environment of this potentially new era of performance based funding in Illinois.

In Illinois, 0.5% (or approximately $6.5 million dollars of general fund allocations) is subject to the performance based funding model. For my regional comprehensive institution of Eastern Illinois University, this amount equates to slightly less than $250,000. Based on the results of data input into the funding formula from EIU the 250 thousand dollars base allocation may increase or decrease by some amount.

Funding of state higher education is not good anywhere; Illinois has more problems than most. In 2014 general fund allocations from the state for EIU are about the same dollar amount as in 1999 which, after inflation, represent a reduction in purchasing power of approximately 28%. Less than one month ago, the state rescinded 2.25% of its FY15 appropriation (for EIU about $1 million) and the state’s proposed appropriation for FY16 recommends an additional 31% cut ($13 million).

For these and other similar reasons to be discussed, the performance based funding model in Illinois has not yet been a factor at the bargaining table. Future legislation increasing the impact of performance based funding could alter the bargaining landscape. Unions are unlikely to be willing partners should this come to pass.