Illinois Board of Higher Education

Eleventh Annual Public University Trustee Training Leadership Conference

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



Emily Goldman
First Assistant Deputy Governor for Education
Illinois' Future: Attainment, Talent and Economic Opportunity
Part I – Illinois' Next Attainment Goal

Emily Goldman serves as First Assistant Deputy Governor for Education in the Illinois Office of the Governor, advancing the state's education agenda from early childhood through postsecondary. Previously, she led the Postsecondary Success portfolio at the Joyce Foundation, supporting state and federal policies to improve college outcomes across the Midwest. She also directed state policy for the Partnership for College Completion, helping pass legislation to expand higher education access and affordability. Emily holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law.



Tejus Kothari
Managing Director and Partner
Illinois' Future: Attainment, Talent, and Economic Opportunity
Part II - Illinois Economic & Workforce Outlook

Tejus Kothari leads BCG's Education, Employment and Economic Development team in North America. He works with governors' offices, state agencies, business civic CEO groups, and university presidents on their most complex priorities: setting strategic direction, structuring the institutions and agencies that have to deliver on it, getting to an executable plan and delivering results. In higher education, he has advised presidents, systems, and governing boards on differentiation, financial sustainability, and large-scale transformation. For states, he has worked on economic growth strategy, sector and cluster development, workforce and talent pipelines, and agency structure and operating models.

Based in Chicago, Tejus also leads BCG's Public Sector practice in the Great Lakes. He serves on the Emeritus Board of BCG's Center for Illinois' Future and is a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow.



Scott E. Rice
University Counsel for University of Illinois
Trustee Legal Presentation and How Illinois Higher Education Fits Together

Scott Rice is general counsel for the University of Illinois System and leads the Office of University Counsel. The Office of University Counsel is a System unit embedded at each of the University's three campuses (Urbana-Champaign, Springfield and Chicago), providing comprehensive legal services and managing all legal matters pertaining to the University and seven of its University Related Organizations. The office provides advice and counsel to the board, president, chancellors, vice presidents and all other university administrators. As a general officer of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees and the Board's parliamentarian, Scott has a dual report to the Board of Trustees and the President.

Scott joined the Office of University Counsel in 2005 and was announced as University Counsel in 2023. He has served in multiple capacities within the office, including Deputy University Counsel and Campus Legal Counsel for the Urbana-Champaign university. In addition to his administrative duties, Scott maintains an active legal practice on a broad range of topics and

	is a leader or member with numerous organizations, including the National Association of College and University Attorneys, Big Ten general counsels' roundtable, Sports Lawyers Association and Illinois State Bar Association. Prior to joining the University, Scott had significant experience working in all three branches of Illinois state government and at a national architecture and engineering corporation. Scott is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and earned his law degree at Southern Illinois University.
	**Rhonda Perry** **Deputy University Counsel for University of Illinois** ***Trustee Legal Presentation and How Illinois Higher Education Fits Together*** Rhonda joined the Office of University Counsel in the Urbana office in 2006 and became campus legal counsel for the University of Illinois Springfield in 2014. Over her years of service, Rhonda has provided legal advice to university administrators, faculty, and staff on a wide range of topics. In her role as Deputy University Counsel, she provides representation and advice and assist the University Counsel with management of legal services for the Board, the President, University officers, and all three campuses of the University. Her current areas of focus include employment law, litigation management, and regulatory compliance. Prior to joining the University of Illinois, Rhonda also gained valuable experience working as assistant city attorney for the City of Champaign, in private practice, and in the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office.
	**Dr. Patrick T. Harker** **Rowan Distinguished Professor, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania** ***Anchor Institutions and the Illinois Regional Economy*** Patrick T. Harker is Professor of Operations, Information, and Decisions at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Director of Academic Engagement for Penn Washington, and Co-Academic Director of the Wharton Future of Finance Initiative. From 2015 to 2025, he served as the 11th president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, helping to shape U.S. monetary policy as a member of the Federal Open Market Committee. He previously served as president of the University of Delaware and as dean of the Wharton School. A recognized authority in management science, financial services, and economic policy, Harker has authored or co-authored more than 100 scholarly articles and has served on numerous corporate and nonprofit boards. Earlier in his career, he was a White House Fellow and special assistant to the director of the FBI. He holds a BS, MS, and PhD in Engineering and a Master of Arts in Economics, all from the University of Pennsylvania.