



ILLINI SCIENCE POLICY PROGRAM: *SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT 2022*



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



DR. SUSAN A. OGWAL, PH.D.

- A native of Uganda, resettled with her family in Champaign many years ago.
- Earned doctorate in Education Policy, Organization & Leadership with a concentration in Global Studies Education from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 - *Her research interests: higher education, immigration, international education, workforce development, diversity, equity and Inclusion , and policy.*
- 15+ years of experience in social services, teaching, training, and collaboration of published research. In addition, a champion of community programming with a strong social justice ethic, she is the co-founder of the C-U Black and African Arts Festival and serves as a local international transition navigator and mentor.
- Enjoys traveling, reading, music, trying new restaurants, spending time with family and long walks on the beach.



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON

HOST MENTOR: BOBBY MANNIS, POLICY DIRECTOR

Worked team members, Nick Davis, Janelle Gurnsey and Kirsten Davis, and lent her talents to the Legal, Legislative & Policy(LLP) & External Affairs(EA) teams(*COMMS).

Continued her passion for community-centered public service with agricultural equity & food insecurity, along with development of the education initiative - addressing the state teacher shortage and teacher diversity pipeline.

- 2020- Ag Equity & Food insecurity work began and led by Nick Davis & Janelle
- Joined listening & learning tour- engaging 60+ stakeholders (Oct 2021- May 2022 touring all regions of IL.) This includes food pantries, farmers, emerging farmers, farmers markets, and other individuals and organizations.
- Assisted in development of Agricultural Equity & food insecurity Council
- In 2020, Lieutenant Governor Stratton was named a Hunt-Kean fellow.
- Partnered events w/the Hunt Institute -3-part webinar series on rural post-secondary education in 2020, a legislator summit in August of 2021, and a legislative policy dinner in February 2022 focused on diversity in the teacher pipeline.
- Education- visited 11 public universities; 3 listening sessions & food pantry tours(Jan-May 2022)



FORWARD MAPPING: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE USAGE OF THE POVERTY SIMULATION ACTION PLAN GUIDE

EXTENSION MENTOR: ANNE SILVIS, ASSISTANT DEAN, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- With Extension Coordinator, Nancy Ouedraogo-conducted Poverty Simulation Workshop at Windsor School District(Oct 2021)
- In collaboration w/Evangeline, Nancy and Anne-developed Poverty Simulation Action Guide Study (Dec 2021- Feb 2022)
- Administered Poverty Simulation Action Guide Study (March 2022- May 2022)
- Results, Analysis , Conclusion(May 2022)
 - Superintendent and Staff interested
 - 1 actual completed guide

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

2022 POVERTY SIMULATION ACTION GUIDE STUDY



DID YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW RECENTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE POVERTY SIMULATION WORKSHOP? WERE YOU MOVED TO ACTION OR HAVE BEEN STUCK AT WHAT TO DO? IF SO, WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR POVERTY SIMULATION ACTION GUIDE STUDY, CONTACT SUSAN OGWAL AT SOGWAL@ILLINOIS.EDU OR NANCY OUEDRAOGO AT ESAREY@ILLINOIS.EDU

ISP REFLECTIONS & IMPACT

- Learned a lot about policy work; working in a highly collaborative, team-centered approach
- Communication: communicate often, remain humble, show appreciation. Everyone plays a vital role in the work
- Life beyond traditional academic career- community centered engagement. Meet people where they are and listen
- Remain confident your skills to organize and /or to put together initiatives that directly impact or influence IL residents. Ex. Listening tour produced major connections and networks being develop to lift up underserved and under-resourced communities. (Cairo and Englewood, Windsor)
- It's not about us! This is ongoing-life long work beyond us. The work doesn't stop here.



LESSONS LEARNED

- Give yourself a chance to learn something new.
- Yes-you've got what it takes!
- Someone is always watching, and you never know how you will be connected for your future.
- Stay focused, communicated often and remain humble.
- Enjoy the ride!



DR. SUSAN A. OGWAL , PH.D.

ISP Scholar 2021-2022 , incoming Policy Director, Office of Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton

Susan. [Ogwal@Illinois.gov](mailto:Susan.Ogwal@Illinois.gov)

And welcome next to the podium, my colleague, Monserrat.

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MONSERRAT CARRILLO

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

I am a recent graduate from UIUC who joined the ISP program early this year. My passions are chronic disease prevention through education and addressing health disparities among minority communities. I am also a Chicago native!



ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS/FOUNDATION

*HOST MENTOR: LAYLA SULEIMAN, PH.D., ESQ.,
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ILCF*

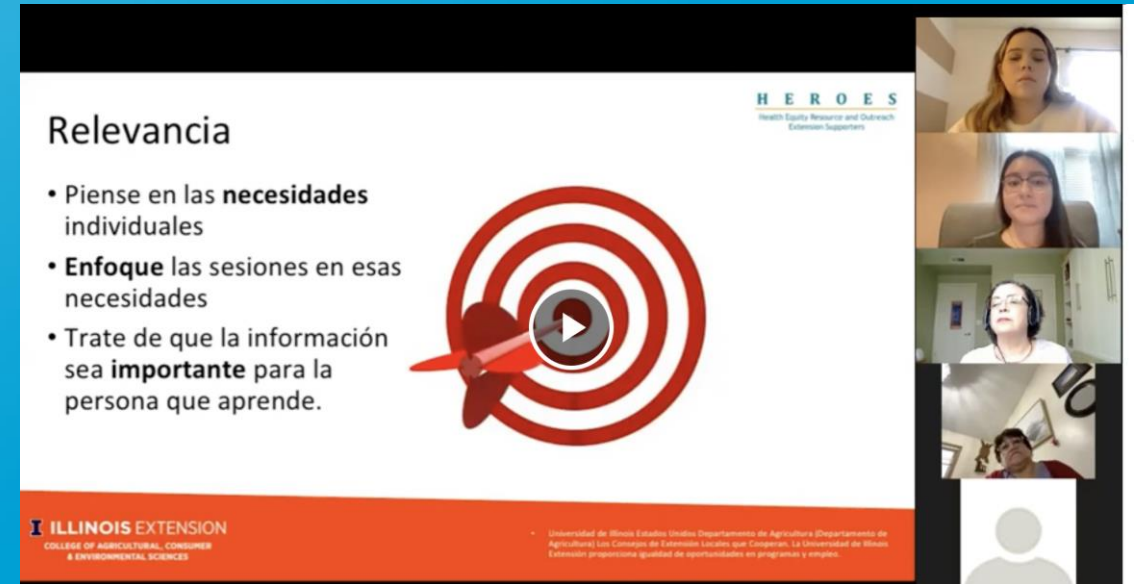
- Push forward an Urban Farming initiative tailored for the Humboldt Park neighborhood in Chicago, a predominantly Puerto Rican community



LANGUAGE FIRST, TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EXTENSION MENTOR: MARGARITA TERRAN-GARCIA, ASSISTANT DEAN INTEGRATED HEALTH DISPARITIES

- Facilitate a cohort of the HEROES program, which aims to train Spanish speaking Latina mothers on various health topics to become community health workers



The screenshot displays a video conference interface. The main content is a presentation slide titled "Relevancia" (Relevance) under the HEROES logo. The slide lists three bullet points: "Piense en las **necesidades** individuales", "Enfoque las sesiones en esas necesidades", and "Trate de que la información sea **importante** para la persona que aprende." A red target icon with a play button is positioned to the right of the text. The bottom of the slide features the Illinois Extension logo and text in both English and Spanish. On the right side of the screen, there are five small video thumbnails of participants, with the bottom-most one being a grey placeholder.

HEROES
Health Equity Resource and Outreach
Extension Supporters

Relevancia

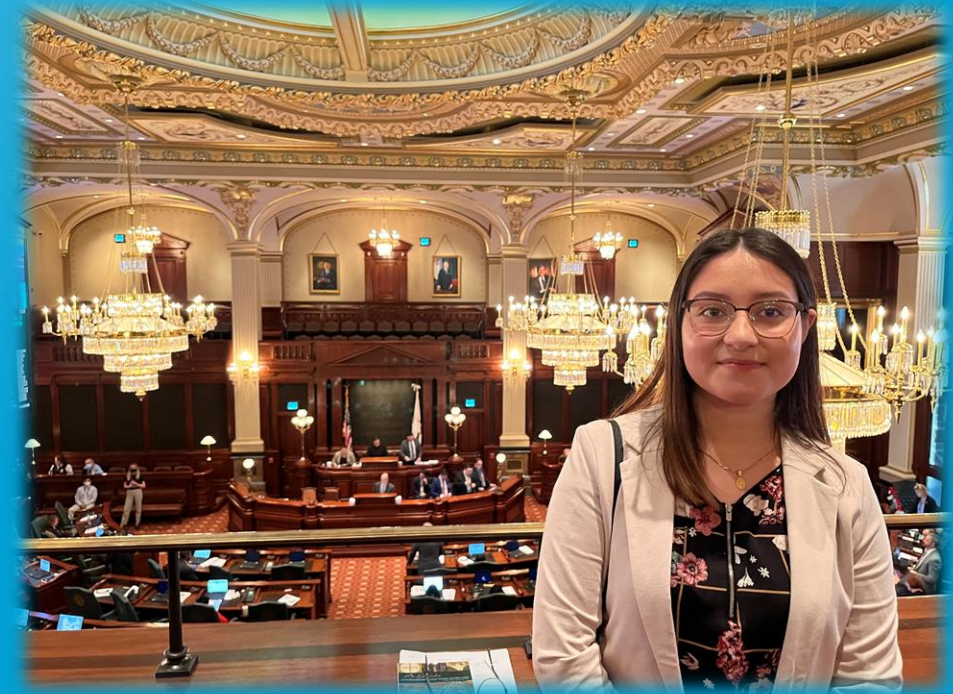
- Piense en las **necesidades** individuales
- **Enfoque** las sesiones en esas necesidades
- Trate de que la información sea **importante** para la persona que aprende.

ILLINOIS EXTENSION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Universidad de Illinois Estados Unidos Departamento de Agricultura (Departamento de Agricultura) Los Comités de Extensión Locales que Cooperan, La Universidad de Illinois Extensión proporciona igualdad de oportunidades en programas y empleo.

ISP REFLECTIONS & IMPACT

- Expanded health equity efforts to Latino communities in Chicago
 - Urban agriculture efforts for Humboldt Park, where access to affordable healthy foods is limited
 - Empowered Latina mothers through “Promotora” training to become CHW in their communities



LESSONS LEARNED

- Policy plays an integral role in public health efforts
- Representation in legislation is important to achieve health equity
- Health education that is culturally tailored and relevant to target audiences is essential
- Be open to situations outside of your comfort zone!



MONSERRAT CARRILLO-RODRIGUEZ

mcarri35@illinois.edu

And welcome to the podium, my colleague, Skye.

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Skye D. Lewis

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
College of Applied Health Science (2x) Alumni**

BS Community Health - May 2019

Master of Public Health - December 2020



ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS/ ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION

Past Projects

- Representation Matters: Health Edition
*Virtual Education Forum & Townhall
Discussion via FB Live*
- Dr. Rebecca Crumpler Health Summit

Current Projects

- Brain Trust on Health
- Grant Application: Reducing medical school debt for African American Illinois doctors

Executive Director
Tiffany D. Hightower



EXPANDED FOOD & NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (EFNEP)

EXTENSION MENTOR: SHERRI A. AMBROSE,
EFNEP NORTH LEADER

Family Development Credential

Provided by the Center for the Study of Culture, Health, and Human Development at the University of Connecticut.

8 Core Skills

- Family Development: A Sustainable Route to Healthy Self-Reliance
- Communication with Skill & Heart
- Presence & Mindfulness: Cornerstones of Healthy Relationships
- Taking Good Care of yourself
- Our Diverse World
- Strength-Based Assessment
- Helping Families Set & reach Their Own Goals Home Visiting
- Helping Families Access Specialized Services, Collaboration & Community Support

EAT.MOVE.SAVE.

Making Healthier Choices on a Budget

Get started today

EAT

Healthier choices made easy! Find foods that taste great and are easy to prepare.

MOVE

Fun activities to get the whole family moving. No gym equipment? No problem!

SAVE

Smart shopping tips to keep more money in your pocket.

ILLINOIS SCIENCE POLICY SCHOLAR REFLECTIONS & IMPACT

- My ideas and thoughts were valued and were important to my mentors.
- My community depends on my knowledge and passion for service to fight for effective positive change.
- I would not have been blessed with this opportunity if I was not meant to make a difference.
- Go BRAVELY!
- I AM the change I want to see in the world!



LESSONS LEARNED

- ❖ This year, representing UIUC as an Illinois Science Policy Scholar has been a beautiful experience overall. I have been stretched out of my comfort zone, battled & begun the process of conquering the imposter syndrome that lies deep within. I have proved to myself, my family, and ISP mentors that I am committed to continuing to walk in my passion of service to my community with integrity, determination, and grace.

Advice for 2022 – 2023 ISP Scholars:

- ❖ Know that you are chosen for this opportunity due to your drive, passion, and uniqueness.
- ❖ Your voice matters! You are viewed as a colleague, not a subordinate.
- ❖ Enjoy every moment. Build your network! Always rise to the occasion with dignity, humbleness, grace & respect. Your name will be brought up in rooms and conversations of those working diligently to change the world!



SKYE D. LEWIS

MPH

- ❖ Illinois Science Policy Scholar, 2021-2022
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Illinois Extension
- ❖ Illinois Legislative Black Caucus / Foundation Fellow
Email: Skyedl2@illinois.edu; skyedlewis@gmail.com

And now welcome to the podium, my colleague, Adrienne.

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ADRIENNE PICKETT PH.D.

- Artist
- Thinker
- Nurturer
- Writer
- Advocate
- Educator



ILLINOIS DCEO | OFFICE OF BROADBAND

HOST MENTOR: MATT SCHMIT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

- Illinois Broadband Lab: Collaboration between Illinois Office of Broadband and Benton Institute for Broadband & Society
- Computer Equity Network: Illinois Office of Broadband Partner with PCs for People and DCEO Comms team
- Broadband READY (Regional Engagement for Adoption + Digital Equity) Grant Program: Facilitator for Illinois regions awarded broadband access funds
- Illinois Connected Communities: Researcher for Benton Institute responsible for the collection and analysis of Illinois ACS data on barriers to broadband access, adoption, and use
- Accelerate Illinois: Illinois Office of Broadband Liaison to a community developing a strategic plan to improve access and adoption of broadband
- Illinois Classroom Connectivity: Representative for interagency project to collaborate and network with DoIT, ICN, and ISBE education representatives



ILLINOIS WOMEN IN BROADBAND

EXTENSION MENTOR: NANCY OUEDRAOGO, EXTENSION STATE SPECIALIST, CED

- With a background in qualitative research and analysis and a love of listening to stories, I decided to develop a podcast.
- For Illinois Women in Broadband, I interviewed women doing broadband equity and inclusion work throughout the state.
- I purposefully recruited women from diverse backgrounds (ethnic, class, education, age, linguistic, etc.) to discuss their roles in promoting broadband.
- My working idea that the digital divide is a human rights issue is not new and is supported with evidence from the data I generated from my interviews.
- The theme across the episodes is, like many basic human rights causes, women are central to closing the digital divide, performing much of the labor, and making invaluable contributions toward achieving lasting change.



ISP REFLECTIONS & IMPACT

- Through my work with the Illinois Office of Broadband, I was inspired toward advocacy and research.
- I proposed to my mentor, Director Matt Schmit, creating a Center for Excellence in Broadband Equity and Inclusion on the Illinois campus, borne out by the Illinois Broadband Lab.
- I researched other university-related centers for excellence to determine the feasibility of establishing a center at Illinois.
- I also found Illinois has a long-standing commitment to digital equity and inclusion through the iSchool and its faculty initiatives.
- As I continue my broadband work with the Illinois Innovation Network as a Visiting Coordinator for Broadband, one hope is to help establish this center.






LESSONS LEARNED

What are some take aways from being an ISP Scholar?
Know yourself and be proud of who you are and what you've achieved. Embrace your brand! It is imperative to re-establish and promote yourself and your unique skill set in this new work setting.



And as well as any encouraging tips you'd like to pass on to the incoming Scholars. **Be open, available, and willing to learn new things. Ask questions.**



ADRIENNE PICKETT

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Welcome to the podium, my colleague Shubhika

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SHUBHIKA AGARWAL

MASTER OF URBAN PLANNING

Passionate about contributing to building of equitable and sustainable communities through participatory planning and active community engagement- representative of all voices.

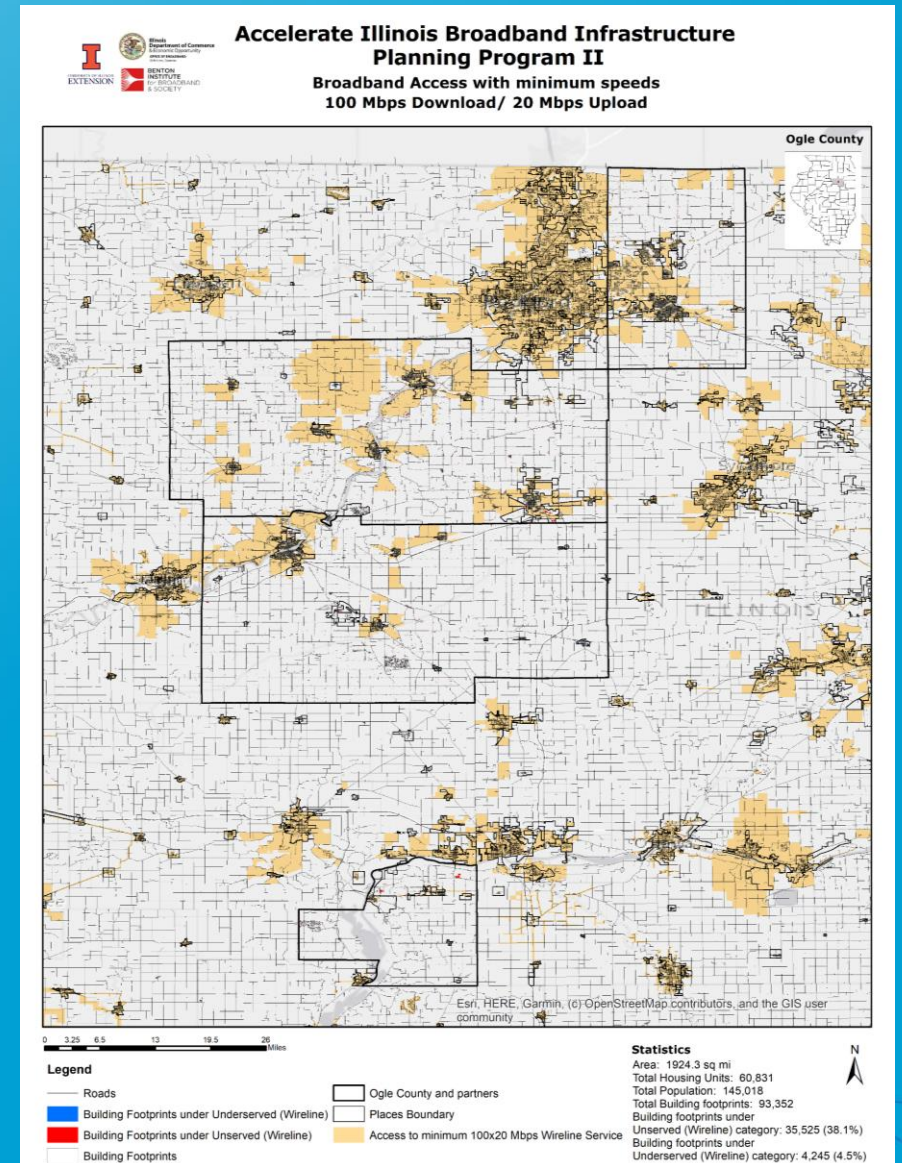


DCEO, OFFICE OF BROADBAND

HOST MENTOR: MATT SCHMIT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF BROADBAND

Broadband Mapping and Capacity Building

- Demonstrated the Illinois Broadband Map to Illinois Connected Communities Rd II, READY II, and Accelerate Broadband Infrastructure Program Rd I and Rd II grantees.
- Prepared Broadband and related socio-economic data maps to share existing status of broadband access in participating ICC and Accelerate Communities.

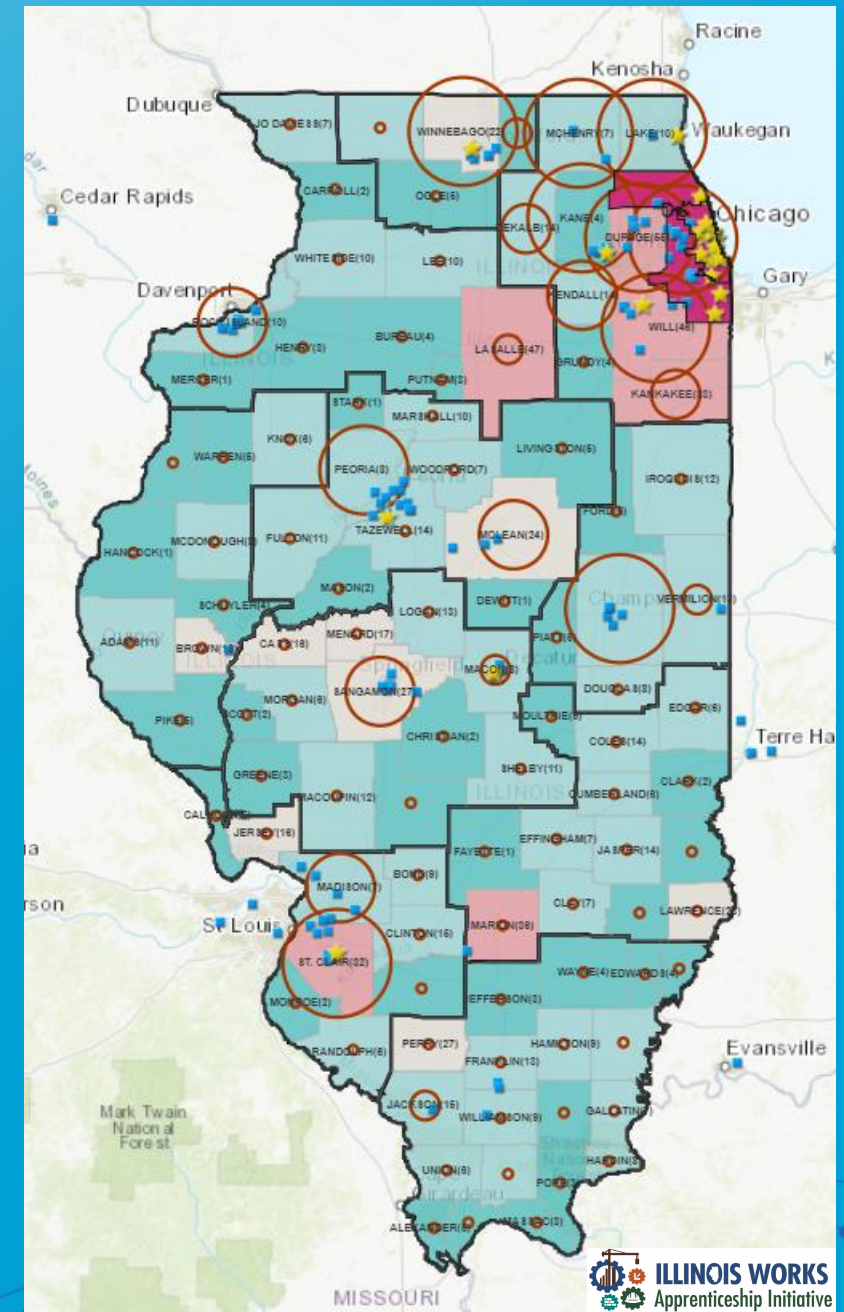


DCEO, OFFICE OF ILLINOIS WORKS

NORMAN RUANO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative

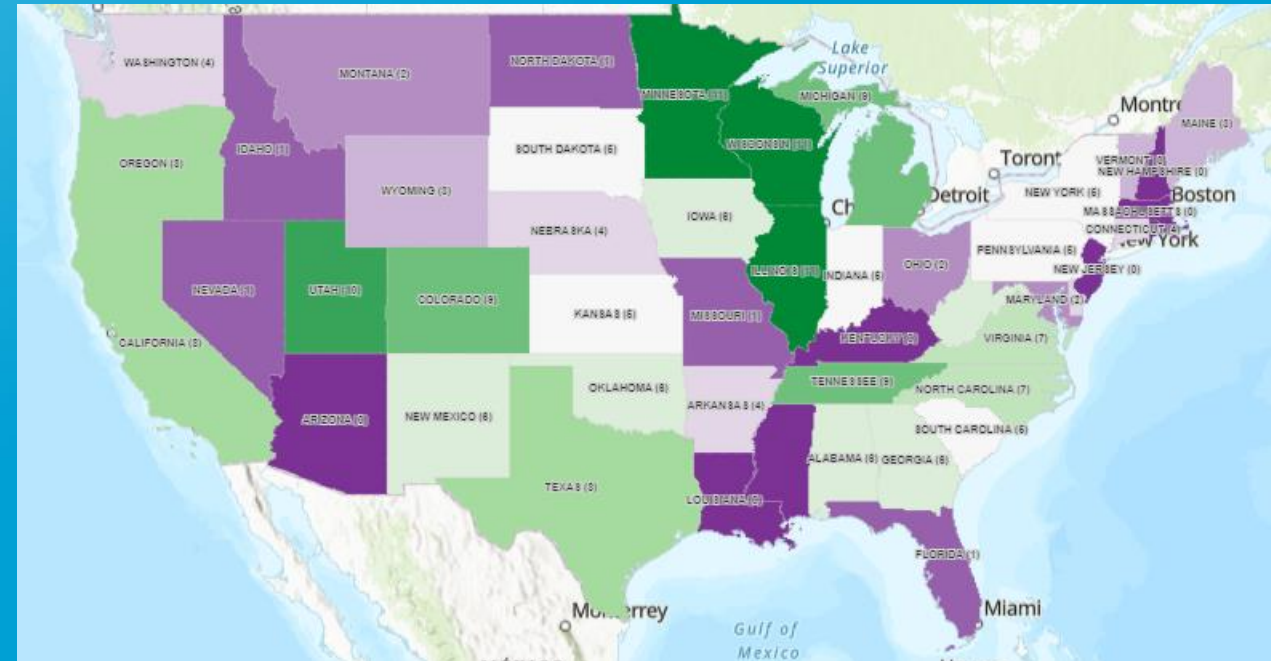
- Illinois Works- Aims to increase the representation of women and people of color in the construction industry.
- Created the [Pre-Apprenticeship Program heat map](#)
 - Referring interested candidates to nearest Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (creates supply of target population pre-apprentices)
 - Identifying areas with high target population
 - Assessing demand and supply gaps by mapping the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative (creates demand) eligible projects
- Collaboration with State Agencies to assess needs, customize forms and compliance processes, and monitor compliance with the 10% Apprenticeship goal



BROADBAND MAPS REVIEW

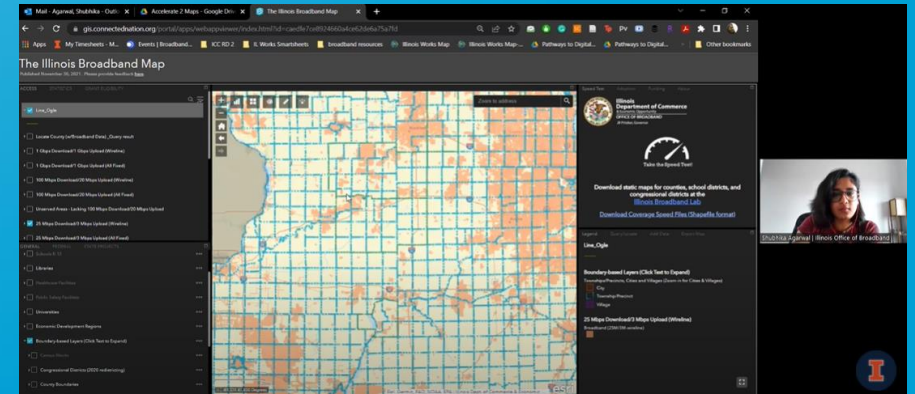
NANCY OUEDRAOGO, EXTENSION CED STATE SPECIALIST

- Repository for all state broadband maps in the country
- Scored maps based on data layers made available
- Collaborative space to learn more about how people use their broadband maps and what else they would like to see included in the maps
- Website (Under Development) can be accessed [here](#).



ISP REFLECTIONS & IMPACT

- Assisted with broadband planning for 20 communities across the state
- As the construction workforce in the state is aging, created a good base for the Illinois Apprenticeship Initiative and now it is about following through and ensuring maximum compliance, so we can drive up the demand for apprentices in the state






LESSONS LEARNED

True learning curve with both Broadband and Illinois Works- Webinars, Advisory Council Meetings, Review Panel Meetings can be really good sources of information

There's always something unique and useful you can bring to the table



SHUBHIKA AGARWAL

shubhikaagarwal@gmail.com

Visiting Coordinator for Broadband, Illinois Innovation Network

And welcome to the podium, my colleague, Yasamin.

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YASAMIN KHOSHPOUR

M.S URBAN PLANNING

- Recently graduated Master's student
- Passionate to learn more about institutional research, community development and intersectionality studies



ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

ERIC LICHTENBERGER

DEPUTY DIRECTOR - INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

Developing Program Measures for Graduate and Professional Students

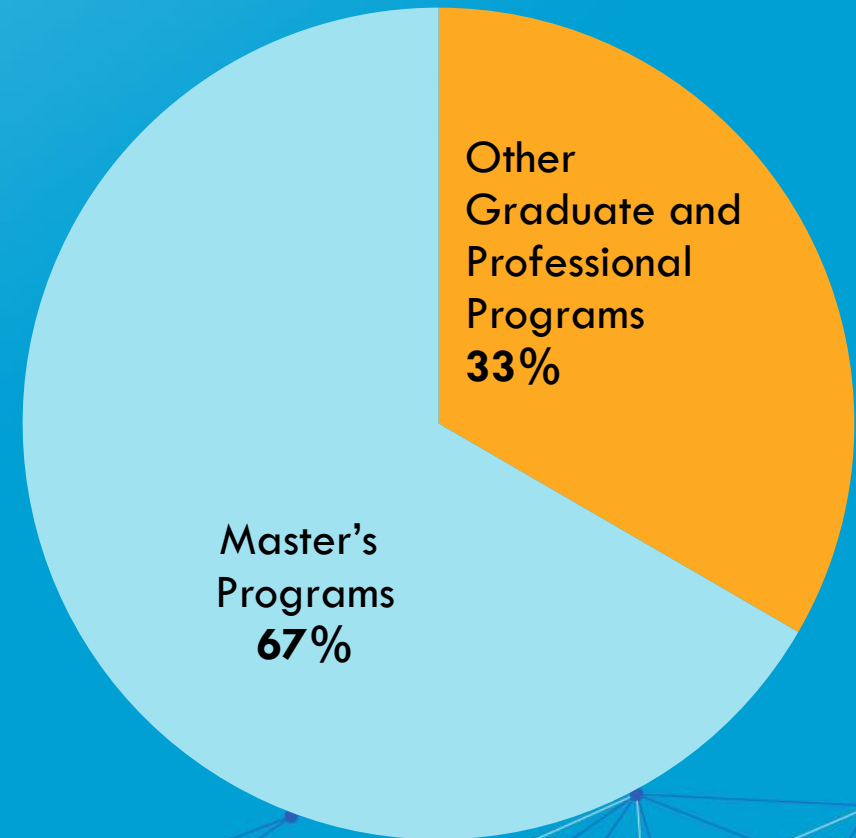
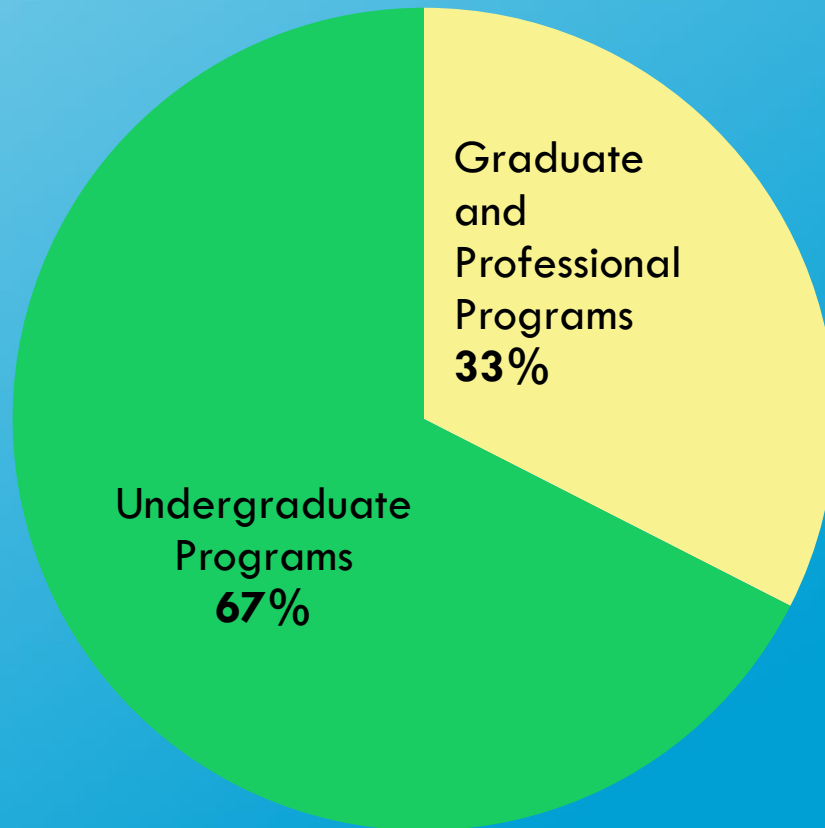
Graduate and professional students comprise at least **one third of hired staff** in the higher education institutions of Illinois.

More than 33% of higher education students in Illinois are at graduate and professional level

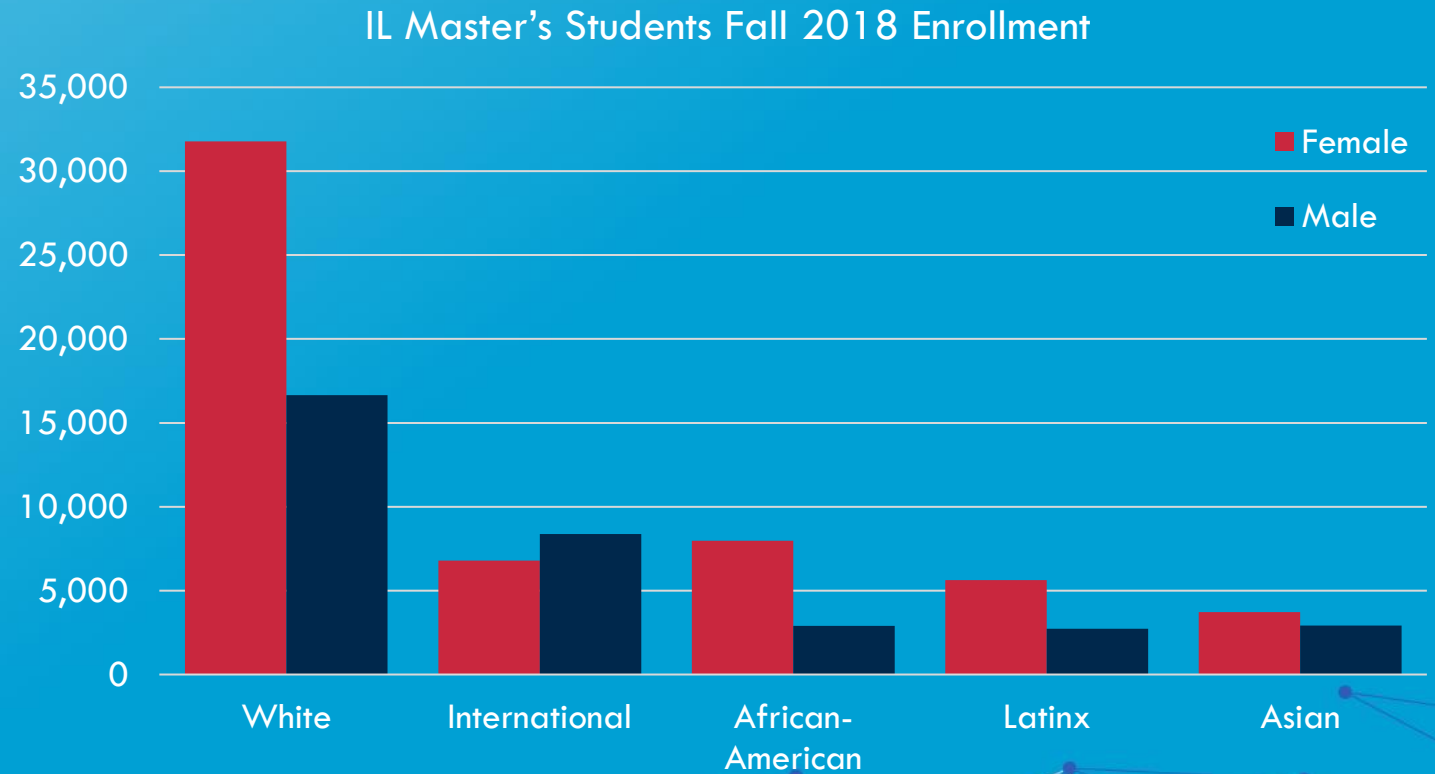
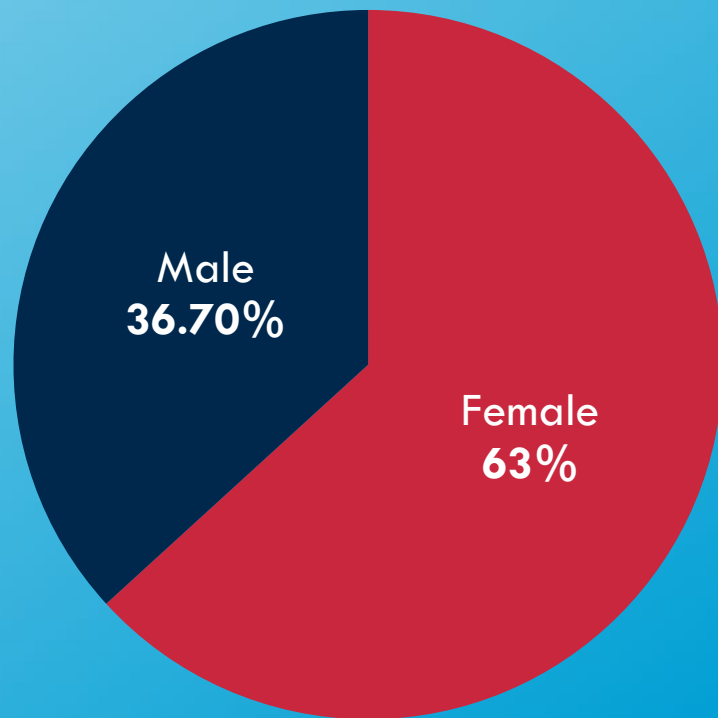
There are limited measurements available to do analysis on this group of students



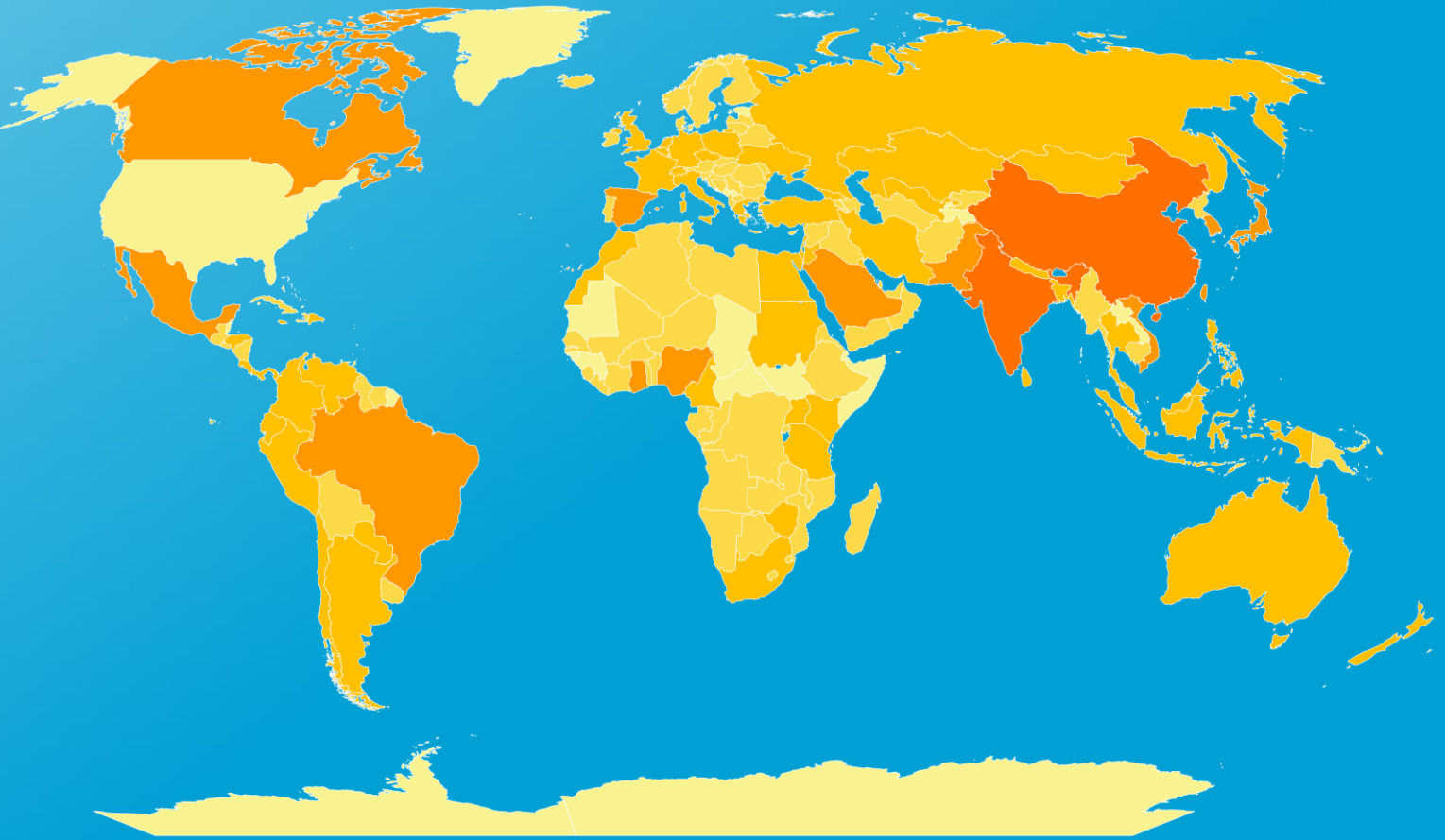
- **33%** of all higher education students in Illinois are at graduate and professional level
- About **two-third** of graduate students are at Master's degree (Fall 2018 Enrollment)



- White students are the largest racial group
- International students are the second largest racial group
- More than 60% of Master's students in Illinois are female



- Illinois institutions admit international students from **166 countries** (according to the United Nations there are 193 countries in the world)
- Almost 30% of international students are from China
- Indian students are the second largest international student group

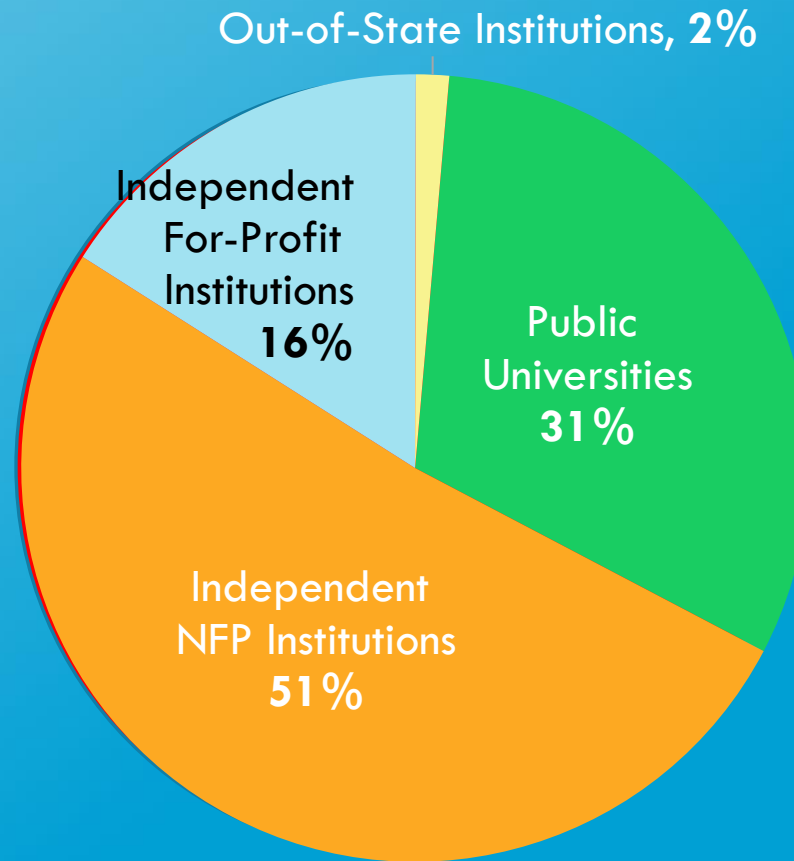


Rates are for Master's Cohort Fall 2018

- More than 75% of Illinois Master's students are from Illinois
- Florida, California, and Ohio are the first three states where Illinois Master's students come from

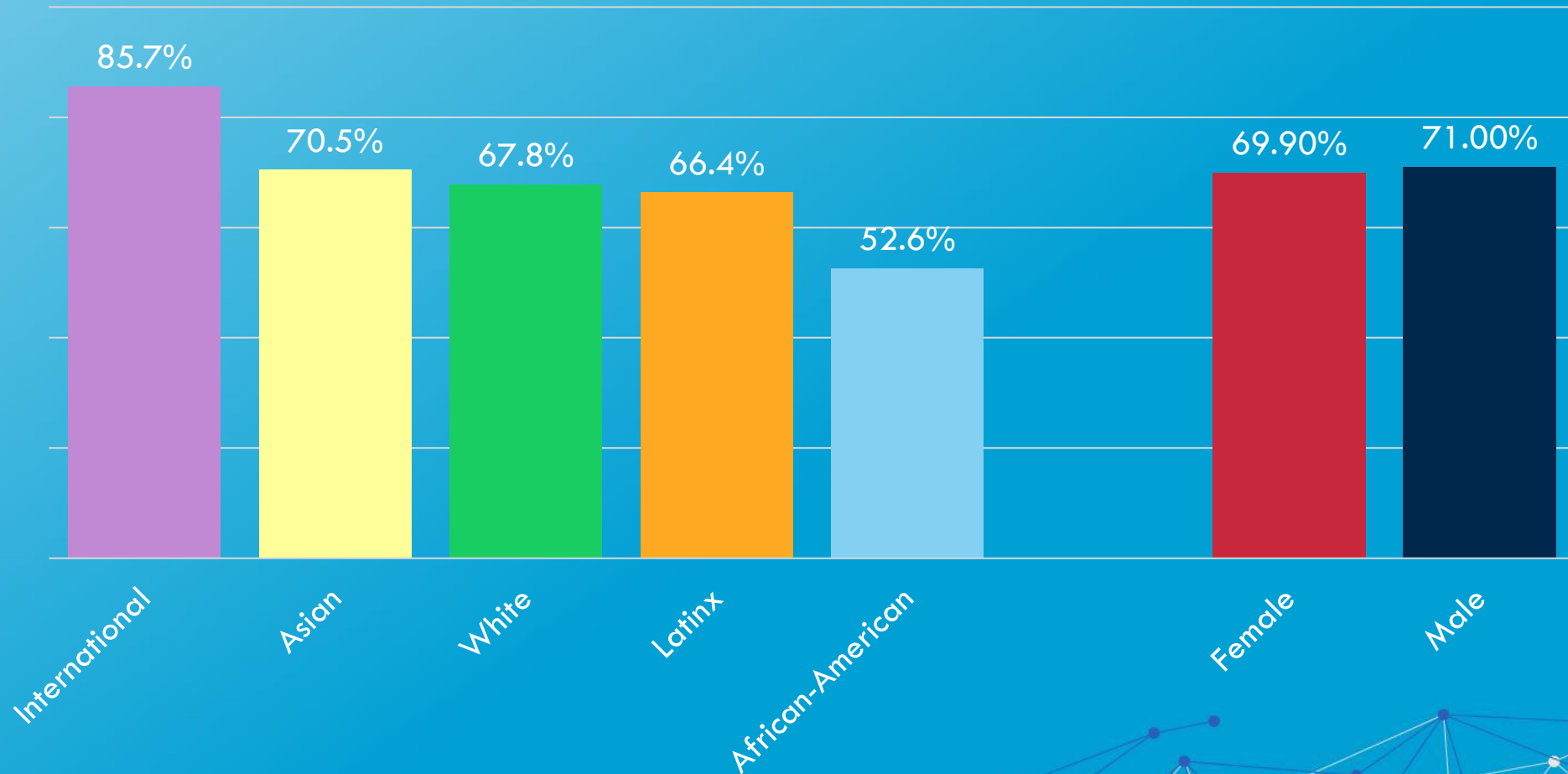


- **31%** of Master's students in Illinois go to public institutions
- There are **12 public** institutions and **75 private** institutions in Illinois that offer Master's programs



- Master's students' graduation by the 3rd year rate is **70%**
- Females and males have similar rates of graduation

Graduation Rate in 150% of Time



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

DURRIYYAH KEMP

ACTING COUNTY DIRECTOR AND SOCIAL &
EMOTIONAL LEARNING EDUCATOR

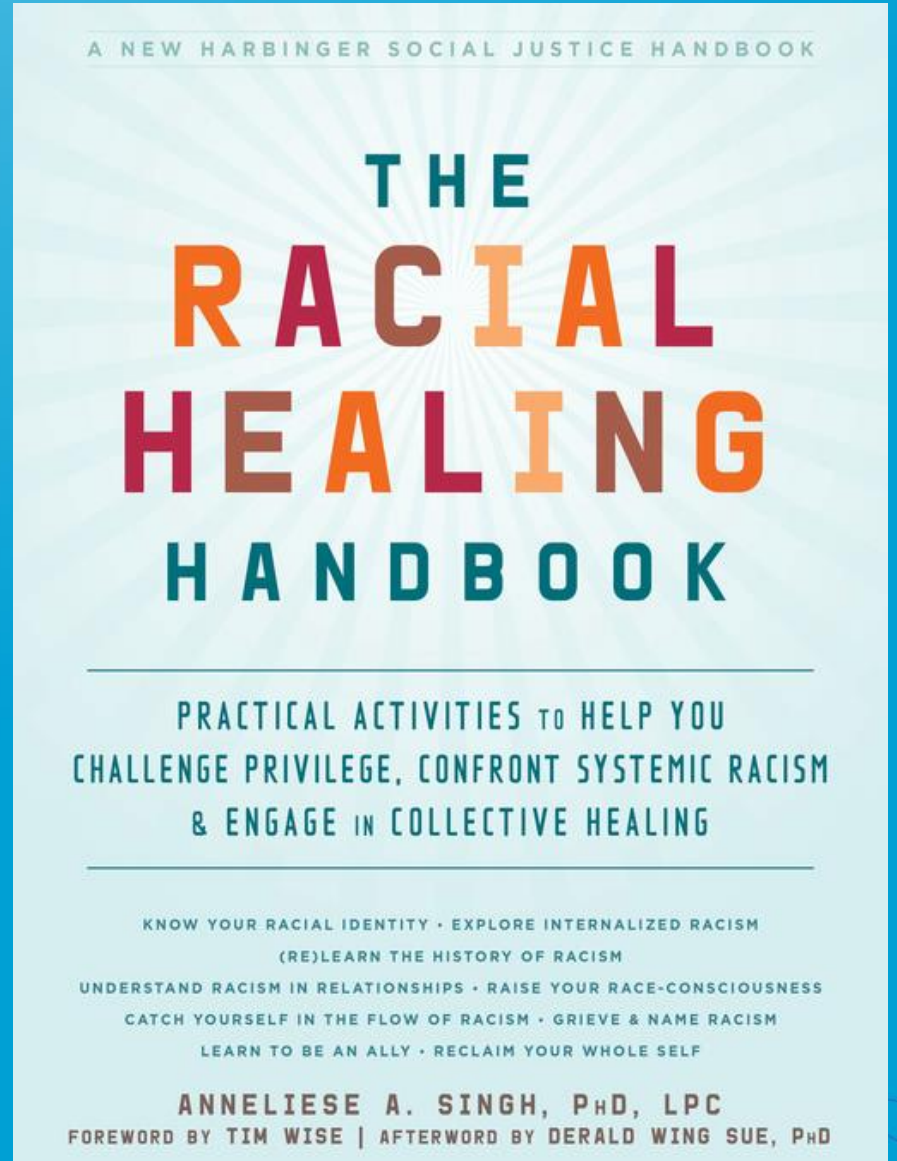
Racial Healing Circles: Training the Trainer

Why racial healing circles?

- Raise of consciousness about diversity equity and inclusion by providing the community more access to social emotional development resources

What happens at the circles?

- Collective healing process takes place through facilitated group conversations





ISP REFLECTIONS & IMPACT

- Community transformation through the social emotional development awareness strategies and skills
- Present more actionable information on underrepresented groups in higher education
- Doing what resonates many of my personal and professional passions and concerns





LESSONS LEARNED

Takeaways

- It's important to identify the issues before trying to find solutions for them. Therefore, I'm learning that studying and identifying equity gaps are the first and most important step in the process of closing them
- The skills I'm gaining as an ISP could be also implemented in other contexts than my current community

Tips

- Don't be disappointed if things don't make sense at first, beginnings can be confusing
- Don't be shy or afraid to ask questions



YASAMIN KHOSHPOUR

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Thank you!

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