Definition of FAC and their purpose (http://fac-ibhe.ning.com/): A representative body of higher education institutions, meeting regularly to consider issues and provide feedback to decision makers in IL. Monthly meetings hosted by designated universities with agendas driven by the identified needs of universities as dictated by the fiscal and political climate.

1. Current focus is the loss of revenue from the state legislators and what can be done to address this.
   a. Legislators are asking higher education: What are we getting for our money?
      i. Will the money help us become more competitive in global market
      ii. Will it create new companies as spin offs if money spent at higher ed
   b. CHALLENGE: Higher education competes with public education for shrinking pot of money. Public education has more people and they live in the areas where these legislators live and these citizens VOTE!
   c. Focus on educating legislators and citizens as to the role higher education plays in the local and state-wide community.
   d. Educating all as to the impact higher education has in both areas could result in better understanding of higher education importance and stronger funding consideration when legislators make budgetary decisions.

2. High School (HS) education or less = no increase in real income since 1980

3. College education = 49% increase in real earnings since 1980
   a. 64% of Illinois residents have hs diploma or less
   b. This relates to loss of tax revenue
   c. 2/3 of time spent by each citizen is human capital (our jobs)
      i. Other time used for social benefits at home and within community
      ii. Working = improved society
   d. Readiness for college = improved revenues and improved citizenship
   e. 4% unemployment rate for college grads compared to nearly 10% nationally – a degree does pay

   a. 38% adults between 25-34 have associates degree of higher nationally
   b. US ranks 10th in OECD countries
   c. Illinois at 43%
   d. Of every 100 9th grade students in Illinois:
      http://www.completecollege.org/completion_shortfall/
      i. 6 enter college the fall after graduating from high school
      ii. 11 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in four years
      iii. 4 graduate with an associate’s degree in three years
   e. In 10 years, 60% of all jobs will require college degree
5. MAJOR FOCUS: What can FAC do to address the question of why students not ready for college and those entering need remedial classes when they enter college.
      i. The American Diploma Project (ADP) Network now includes 35 states that are dedicated to making sure that every high school graduate is prepared for college or careers. Together, Network member states are responsible for educating 85 percent of all U.S. public school students.

How Are States Closing the Expectations Gap? ADP Network states have committed to the following four actions:

1. Align high school standards and assessments with the knowledge and skills required for success after high school.
2. Require all high school graduates to complete a college- and career-ready curriculum so that earning a diploma assures a student is prepared for opportunities after high school.
3. Build assessments into the statewide system that measure students’ readiness for college and careers.
4. Develop an accountability system that promotes college and career readiness.

   a. Achieve* ([http://www.achieve.org/about-achieve](http://www.achieve.org/about-achieve)) has mapped out what students need to know and be able to do in [mathematics in grades K – 12](http://www.achieve.org/about-achieve), seamlessly connecting the expectations throughout the grades with those for the end of high school. These benchmarks outline a progression of mathematics content throughout grades K – 12 that will ensure that students master the content needed to succeed in college and careers.
   b. Similarly, in English language arts, Achieve has mapped out what students need in grades 4 – 12. Organized into grade spans, these benchmarks will show how English and communication content and skills progress and inter-relate with each other.
   c. States and districts can use these benchmarks as a tool to help align standards and curricula with the demands of the real world.

7. FAC GOALS for coming year:
   a. Increase completion and attainment (more ready for college)
   b. Ensure affordability (funding from state and federal government)
   c. Increase number of college graduates (more tuition)
   d. Raise Growth and Regional Development (what can local government and citizens do for higher education)

Democracy must be born anew with each generation and education must be the midwife.

- John Dewey
ACHIEVE:

Created in 1996 by the nation’s governors and corporate leaders, Achieve is an independent, bipartisan, non-profit education reform organization based in Washington, D.C. that helps states raise academic standards and graduation requirements, improve assessments and strengthen accountability. In 2006, Achieve was named by Education Week as one of the most influential education groups in the nation. Achieve is leading the effort to make college and career readiness a national priority so that the transition from high school graduation to postsecondary education and careers is seamless.