

Published on *News-Gazette.com* (<http://www.news-gazette.com>)

[Home](#) > Governor keeps one UI trustee, replaces two others

---

# Governor keeps one UI trustee, replaces two others

By *Julie Wurth*

Created 01/19/2011 - 6:03pm

Wed, 01/19/2011 - 6:03pm | [Julie Wurth](#) [1]  [2]

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. Pat Quinn has replaced two University of Illinois trustees, including one he appointed just 16 months ago and another who refused to resign after the Category I admissions scandal.

Quinn appointed Ricardo Estrada, former member of the Illinois Admissions Review Commission, and attorney Patricia Brown Holmes, a former prosecutor and judge, to six-year terms on the board Wednesday afternoon, according to papers filed with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

He also reappointed Trustee Karen Hasara, a Springfield Republican.

The governor chose not to reappoint Democrats Carlos Tortolero and Frances Carroll, both of Chicago. Their terms expired on Sunday.

The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Illinois Senate.

Tortolero and Hasara were initially appointed in September 2009, along with five other trustees, to replace board members who resigned following the "Category I" admissions scandal.

Carroll and Trustee James Montgomery refused to step down at the time, saying they had done nothing improper, and Quinn opted not to force the issue. Carroll, a veteran of the Chicago public school system, was first appointed by Gov. Rod Blagojevich in 2003 to fill the unexpired term of Tom Lamont, who became vice chairman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Estrada was a member of the 2010 Illinois Admissions Review Commission, appointed by Quinn to investigate admissions irregularities at the university highlighted in a series of media reports. The panel found that, over a five-year period, trustees and other politicians pressured UI officials to admit scores of politically connected applicants over more qualified students.

Following its investigation, the commission recommended that all nine non-student trustees resign.

Estrada is executive director of Erie Neighborhood House, a community service agency serving primarily Latino families, and president and chief executive officer of Erie Elementary Charter School in Chicago. He received his MBA from the UI Chicago in 1997.

Holmes is a former federal, state and local prosecutor and former state court judge who has conducted high-profile investigations of public and private corporations, government entities and nonprofit organizations.

She chaired the governor's Cemetery Oversight Task Force, appointed to investigate improprieties at Burr Oak Cemetery in Alsip, which led to new legislation on cemetery oversight and the funeral industry. She was also appointed by Quinn to chair the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission to investigate claims of torture, and investigated allegations of sexual harassment against the city of Chicago's fire commissioner.

She received a bachelor's degree from the UI's Urbana campus in 1983 and a UI law degree in 1986.

Hasara, a former Republican state legislator and Springfield mayor, holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the UI-Springfield.

UI spokesman Tom Hardy said the university was pleased that Quinn had filled the three seats before Thursday's meeting in Chicago, which includes the election of a new board chair and university officers.

"It's good to be able to have a full house for that," he said.

He said Hasara has been "a very hard-working, dedicated trustee who loves the university."

"We have two new trustees, both of whom are alums, and the three of them represent very diverse backgrounds, expertise and knowledge of all of our three campuses. We're looking forward to working with them. We have a lot of challenges ahead, and we share Gov. Quinn's confidence that they'll be up to the task."

He also expressed appreciation for the work done by Tortolero and Carroll during their tenure.

[News](#) <sup>[3]</sup> [Education](#) <sup>[4]</sup> [Politics and Government](#) <sup>[5]</sup> [University of Illinois](#) <sup>[6]</sup>  
[Champaign](#) <sup>[7]</sup> [Champaign County](#) <sup>[8]</sup> [Local](#) <sup>[9]</sup> [Chicago](#) <sup>[10]</sup> [Urbana](#) <sup>[11]</sup> [Springfield](#)  
<sup>[12]</sup> [State](#) <sup>[13]</sup> [Julie Wurth](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

---

**Source URL:** <http://www.news-gazette.com/news/education/2011-01-19/governor-keeps-one-ui-trustee-replaces-two-others.html>

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.news-gazette.com/author/julie-wurth>

[2] [http://www.news-gazette.com/contact\\_author/456936](http://www.news-gazette.com/contact_author/456936)

[3] <http://www.news-gazette.com/category/news>

[4] <http://www.news-gazette.com/category/news/education>

[5] <http://www.news-gazette.com/category/news/politics-and-government>

- [6] <http://www.news-gazette.com/category/news/university-illinois>
- [7] <http://www.news-gazette.com/location/local/champaign-county/champaign>
- [8] <http://www.news-gazette.com/location/local/champaign-county>
- [9] <http://www.news-gazette.com/location/local>
- [10] <http://www.news-gazette.com/location/state/chicago>
- [11] <http://www.news-gazette.com/location/local/champaign-county/urbana>
- [12] <http://www.news-gazette.com/location/state/springfield>
- [13] <http://www.news-gazette.com/location/state>