

Symposium Bios



Dr. Daniel Mahony, President, SIU System

Unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees at its December 2019 meeting, Dr. Daniel F. Mahony began his tenure as the 10th president of the Southern Illinois University System on March 1, 2020. Before coming to the SIU system, Mahony served as President of Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina from 2015 to 2020.

Dr. Mahony also spent 13 years as a faculty member and administrator at the University of Louisville where his positions included sport administration program director, department chair, associate dean, assistant provost, and associate provost. He is an active researcher in the areas of sport consumer behavior and intercollegiate athletics and has published more than 60 articles in various refereed journals, several book chapters, and one book.

Dr. Mahony is 2020 recipient of the Charles Whitcomb Service Award given by the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA) which acknowledges individuals who foster diversity and inclusion within the intercollegiate athletics community.

Originally from Clinton, New Jersey, Mahony, who earned a B.S. in accounting from Virginia Tech, an M.S. in sport management from West Virginia University, and a Ph.D. in sport management from Ohio State University, has been married for more than 25 years to wife Laura, with whom he has two children, son Gavin and daughter Elena.



Dr. Sheila Caldwell, Vice President of Antiracism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Chief Diversity Officer, SIU System Office

Dr. Sheila Caldwell currently serves as the Vice President of Antiracism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Chief Diversity Officer for the Southern Illinois University System in Springfield, Illinois. She works across the campuses in Springfield, Carbondale, Edwardsville and East St. Louis to strengthen equity and ensure a level playing field for all students, staff, and faculty members. During her tenure, she has collaborated with SIU team members to develop a system-wide Land Acknowledgement Statement, Antiracism Vision Statement, Inclusive Language Guide, and conduct a system-wide campus climate survey. Prior to joining Southern Illinois University in July 2021, Dr. Caldwell served as the inaugural Chief Intercultural Engagement Officer for Wheaton College. She collaborated across the college to create the first Christ-Centered Diversity Commitment Statement, Flourishing for All Diversity Strategic Plan, and Gender Equity Vision Statement. During her tenure she also implemented, expanded, and sustained faculty mentoring programs, inclusive hiring training, and employee strategic advisory councils for Asian, African American and Latinx faculty and staff members.

Most recently, she has received notable awards for championing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. The SIU System is the only system in the country to receive the 2022 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award. She has been honored by the Quad County Urban League as a 2020 Women of Power Honoree and by SHE Chicago for Strong, Humble and Empowering leadership. Caldwell earned a Doctorate in Education from the University of Georgia. She completed Harvard Kennedy School Strategies for Building and Leading Diverse Organizations Executive Education program.



Dr. Nia Haydel, Vice President for Alliance Engagement and Institutional Transformation, Complete College America

Growing up in New Orleans, grounded Nia in understanding and appreciating the value of the moment, as well recognizing that life is not a dress rehearsal. Unsurprisingly, gumbo runs through Nia’s veins and enjoying good food and good times is her most treasured past time. She finds joy in hanging out with her husband and children, exchanging jokes, watching movies, cooking New Orleans favorites, and making memories.

A product of a Catholic school upbringing and surrounded by New Orleans public school educators, she learned that all schools were not equal, but the standards to succeed were universal. Couple this with a chance encounter with two 1960s civil rights trailblazers, and a new age social justice warrior (or so she would like to consider herself) was born. Keeping with the meaning of her name, the Kwanza Principle Purpose, she has centered justice as her core principle. She believes systems should create equitable opportunities for all regardless of whose they are and where they reside. The unfairness she has observed across all aspects of society shapes how she walks through this world influencing her life choices both



Ginger Ostro, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education

Ginger Ostro brings extensive policy and finance leadership to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. She previously served as interim Chief Financial Officer and Vice-President of Financial Operations at Chicago State University. Earlier in her career, she served as Deputy Executive Director at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and as Director of the Office of Budget Planning at Governors State University. Ginger served as Executive Director of Advance Illinois as it helped architect the successful effort to fix the nation’s least-equitable K12 funding formula. She played a lead role as budget director and CFO at Chicago Public Schools in developing and implementing a more equitable system of allocating funding across schools as well as managing the district’s \$6 billion operating budget

and the capital budget. Ginger also served in several roles in state government, including over six years at the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget, where she rose to director.

Since joining IBHE in February 2020, she has led the agency’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic; worked with other agencies and stakeholders to develop a strategic plan for Illinois higher education, [A Thriving Illinois](#); and is currently working on multiple new initiatives, including the Equitable Public University Funding and the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity.

Ginger holds a BA in Politics, Economics, Rhetoric, and Law from the University of Chicago and a Master's in Public Policy, Health, and Human Services from Harvard's Kennedy School. She lives in Chicago.



Brian Durham Executive Director, Illinois Community College Board

Brian is the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). In this role, he works with an eleven-member board of gubernatorial appointees on the development of policy and oversight of the state’s 39 community college districts, and 48 colleges. This role involves a strong partnership with the Governor’s Education Team, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois State Board of Education, and members of the Illinois General Assembly. Dr. Durham also works closely with the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, and the community college trustees, among many other community college constituent groups at the state and national level.

Dr. Durham first joined the ICCB in 2003 and over the years as served in varying roles in the agency. Prior to his role as the Executive Director, Dr. Durham served as the agency's Chief Academic Officer where he regularly interfaced with the system's instructional leaders and faculty. Dr. Durham has also worked in the workforce development field and taught at both the community college and university levels. Dr. Durham holds an Ed.D. in Education Policy, Organization and Leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, an MA in Political Science from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and a BA in Political Science from the University of Evansville. As a first-generation college student, Dr. Durham worked his way through college, including by serving as a member of the United States Army Reserves.



Zaldwaynaka (“Z”) Scott, Esq., President, Chicago State University

President Z Scott was unanimously elected by the Board of Trustees to serve as the 12th permanent president of Chicago State University and assumed the role on July 1, 2018. President Scott oversaw the development and advancement of the CSU Strategic Plan 2020-2025, ensuring that the institution will lead with the mission of transformation for students' lives through innovation and excellence in ethical leadership. She also supervised the launch of a historic re-brand of the University, putting into motion new brand assets and campaigns to revitalize the institution's reputation and raise awareness among new stakeholders.

President Scott is also a well-known advocate for equity in higher education, having formed and co-chaired the Illinois Equity Working Group, a body of leaders from across the education, public, private, philanthropic, and community development sectors to formulate an action plan for addressing Black student access and success in Illinois higher education. She has also positioned Chicago State University as a national leading voice for higher education equity and advocacy on behalf of Predominantly Black Institutions.

A true servant leader, President Scott currently serves on the Boards of Directors at:

- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital Medical Center
- The Shedd Aquarium
- The United States Coast Guard Academy
- and Just the Beginning—a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the diverse pipeline in the legal field

Prior to her current role, President Scott was an equity partner in a national law firm with an international practice that focused on corporate internal investigations, counseling clients on regulatory compliance and crisis management. She also spent more than 16 years as a federal criminal prosecutor in the position of Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, where she served as Chief of the General Crimes Section. Upon leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Illinois State Senate confirmed her appointment as Illinois' first Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Governor and its Public Universities. In this role, she created an independent executive branch state agency from its inception, developed the United States' first statewide ethics training platform for state government employees, and created a protocol for the investigation of claims of misconduct, waste, fraud, and abuse.

President Scott is a highly sought-after speaker and lecturer on topics related to leadership, crisis management, trial advocacy, ethics, and compliance, and has taught at some of the nation's most competitive law schools.

Her extensive service has been honored by several organizations including the American Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Cook County Bar Association, La Rabida Children's Hospital, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, the American Constitution Society, and the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Chicago. In 2018, President Scott was recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as one of the Most Powerful Women in Chicago Business.



Dr. James Minor, Chancellor, SIU Edwardsville

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's 10th chancellor, Dr. James T. Minor, assumed the University's senior leadership position on March 1, 2022. A visionary leader, Dr. Minor brings great enthusiasm and bold aspirations for the collective advancement of SIUE.

Dr. Minor comes to SIUE from California State University where he served as the assistant vice chancellor and senior strategist for the Division of Academic and Student Affairs in the Office of the Chancellor. He has advocated for hundreds of millions of dollars in support of graduation initiatives and served as principal investigator for more than \$7.5 million in funded programs and research.

Prior to his role at California State, he was appointed by the White House to serve as deputy assistant secretary in the Office of Postsecondary Education for the United States Department of Education in Washington D.C. He was responsible for billions of dollars in federal higher education programming.

Minor has a noted resume of teaching and scholarship in educational policy, administration in higher education, academic governance and more.

He holds a doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as a bachelor's in sociology from Jackson State University and a master's in sociology from the University of Nebraska.



Dr. Charlotte Warren, President, Lincoln Land Community College

Dr. Charlotte Warren, the first female president of [Lincoln Land Community College](#) (LLCC), began in 2006. LLCC, a public institution, has a main campus in Springfield, IL and seven additional sites throughout fifteen counties in central Illinois.

Dr. Warren has held leadership and faculty positions in educational institutions, as well as practiced in the fields of nursing and psychology. She came to Springfield from Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio, where she was president of the Community College Alliance (CCA) and vice president of the university's Virtual Campus. She served as provost of the 7,000 student Lawrenceville campus of Georgia Perimeter College. Prior to that appointment, she was Assistant Academic Vice president for Continuing and Corporate Education, and Chair of the Department of Nursing at Georgia Perimeter College in the Atlanta, Georgia area. She has also been the Dean for Nursing at Georgia State University.

Outside of education, she served as Clinical Coordinator of Psychiatry at McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, and ran her own private practice in psychotherapy in the Atlanta, Georgia area. She served twenty-one years in the Georgia Army National Guard retiring as Deputy Commander for the Georgia Medical Command, with the rank of Colonel and Honorary Brigadier General.

Dr. Warren has served with a number of professional and community organizations, including local appointments as Past Chair of the [United Way of Central Illinois](#) and past board member of the [Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce](#). She currently serves as President of the [Medical District Commission](#) as well as on the [Land of Lincoln Workforce Investment Board](#) and on the board for the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance. Nationally she serves on the board of the [American Association for Community Colleges](#), and the Reserve Forces Policy Board of the Secretary of Defense Office.

Dr. Warren holds a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Virginia; a master's degree in psychiatric/mental health nursing and a bachelor's degree in nursing, both from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Illinois State Senator Doris Turner

Following a long and productive tenure on the Springfield City Council and Sangamon County Board, Senator Doris Turner was appointed to represent the 48th Legislative District in February of 2021. She is a past member of the Springfield /Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission, Springfield/Sangamon County Health Initiative Board of Directors, Voices for Illinois Children Springfield Leadership Team, Chamber of Commerce Q5 Initiative Diversity Council, Medics First Board of Directors, and a founding board member of the Southern Illinois University Federally Qualified Health Center. She is a current member of the Sangamon County Board of Health, Friends of Sangamon County Drug Court, and co-chair of the Springfield High Speed Railroad Community Advisory Commission. Senator Turner is a lifelong resident of Springfield.

A recent retiree after working 33 years for the State of Illinois with twenty-two of those with the Department of Public Health, she has spent her entire career working to enhance the lives of those around her and looks forward to continuing this work in the state Senate. Senator Turner is a member of Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ. She and her husband, Cecil, have three children, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



Representative William Davis

William Davis was born on July 2, 1968, in Harvey, IL. He graduated from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and a founding member of the Better Funding for Better Schools Coalition. He also served on the Foundation Board of South Suburban College. He received the "Legislator of the Year" by the Illinois Association of Code Enforcement.



State Representative Tim Butler

Representative Tim Butler (R-Springfield) joined the Illinois House of Representatives on March 3, 2015, replacing former Rep. Rich Brauer. Butler, a native of Peoria, is the fourth-great grandson of Lewis Barker, a State Senator from Pope County during the first four Illinois General Assemblies. Tim is the youngest of seven children and his parents owned a small manufacturing business.

Tim brings to the House more than 20 years of public service working for the people of Central Illinois. He has served as District Chief of Staff for both Congressman Rodney Davis and former Congressman Ray LaHood. He also served as the director of marketing for St. John's Hospital in Springfield. Butler began his professional career working on Capitol Hill for over three years.

Butler has been an active community volunteer for many years. He currently serves on the boards of directors for Downtown Springfield, Inc. and the Dirksen Congressional Center. He assists with the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, is a graduate of the Peoria Chamber of Commerce's Community Leadership School and was in Peoria's 1998 class of Forty Leaders Under 40.

For over a decade, Tim was involved with the Springfield Road Runners Club, serving as President, and directing two of the largest races in Central Illinois: the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon and Abe's Amble 10k. He is the 2007 recipient of the Rod Steele National Volunteer of the Year award from the Road Runners Club of America and is a 2011 inductee into the Springfield Road Runners Hall of Fame.

A 1990 graduate of Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, Butler has lived in Sangamon County since 1998 with his wife Wendy. He previously lived in Logan County for over three years and has family ties to Tazewell and Menard counties as well.



**Linda Renee Baker, University Professor
Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, SIU Carbondale**

Linda Renee Baker, who held key managerial positions under three Illinois governors, joined the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute on March 18, 2003, after stepping down as the secretary of Illinois' largest state agency, the Department of Human Services, a post she held for three years.

Her focus at the institute is to expand access to high-quality health care in partnership with the SIU School of Medicine and helping minorities and people with disabilities realize their full potential. She also teaches a course on leadership for SIU Carbondale.

During her career in public service, Baker held increasingly responsible positions in a variety of state agencies. As secretary of the Department of Human Services, she led and managed a comprehensive human services agency with about 20,000 employees and an annual budget of about \$5 billion. The agency provided services in the areas of community health and prevention, mental health, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and vocational rehabilitation. The agency also directed and implemented the state's nationally recognized welfare reform efforts.

She previously served as director of the Department of Employment Security, assistant director of the Department of Public Aid and as the first African American legislative liaison for an Illinois governor.

Baker earned a Ph.D. in public administration from the University of Illinois at Springfield in 2004. She also holds a bachelor's and master's degree in gerontology and health-care administration and public administration from that institution. She and her husband, G. Ronald Roby, are parents of two children.



Dr. Jerry Kruse, Dean, SIU School of Medicine

Jerry Kruse, MD, MSPH, is dean and provost of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and CEO of SIU Medicine, the faculty practice plan of SIU School of Medicine. He is a tenured professor of family and community medicine and medical education and served as executive associate dean of SIU School of Medicine from 2013-15.

Dr. Kruse joined the SIU School of Medicine faculty in 1984 and has served the organization in many leadership roles. He was chair of the Department of Family & Community Medicine (16 years), director of the Quincy Family Medicine Residency Program (12 years), director of Quincy Family Medicine's Clinical Operations and Complex Office Laboratory. He was chair of the SIU School of

Medicine curriculum committee, the Educational Policy Council (11 years) and served on the Tenure and Promotion Committee (4 years).

A national advocate for innovation in medical education and the advancement of health care systems, Dr. Kruse is a thought leader in family medicine. He has held major positions with many national organizations to represent primary care and graduate education, address quality issues and advance the health care workforce. These include the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (president 2012-13), Association of Departments of Family Medicine, the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors, and the North American Primary Care Research Group. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the American Board of Family Medicine and for Family Medicine for America's Health. Dr. Kruse was also a frequent member of a team that provided public health and acute medical care in Honduras.

He embraces the rapid changes in technology and communication, in health care delivery, in medical education, and in biomedical research. His focus is to fulfill the Triple Aim + 1: medical education and health care that are more effective, efficient, equitable and enjoyable for all. Another goal is to improve health for not just for individuals, but for populations, particularly for the 66 counties in Illinois that is the service area of SIU School of Medicine.

Dr. Kruse is a student of the interactions of biology and society. He has pioneered cooperative relationships between osteopathic and allopathic institutions and interprofessional systems of care. He has a special interest in cross-cultural and population health to inform effective policies and improve health care systems.

From 2007-11, he served on the Council on Graduate Medical Education, the leading healthcare workforce policy body that advised Health and Human Services Secretaries Michael Leavitt and Kathleen Sebelius and the health care legislation authorizing committees of Congress.

He has delivered many presentations to national and international bodies, including plenary sessions. In recent years, his presentations have focused on health care systems, authoritative knowledge, and ways of knowing.

Dr. Kruse completed his bachelor's degree, medical degree, public health degree, residency training and fellowship training at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He completed a two-year Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship in Academic Family Medicine. He is a native of Salisbury, Missouri.

He and his wife, Lois, have three grown children and two grandchildren. Among many pastimes, Dr. Kruse enjoys golf, wine, trumpet, and humorous poetry.



Lingling Liu, MA, MTI, CDP
Memorial Health, Community Health & Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Lingling Liu is a Community Health and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Program Coordinator at Memorial Health. She serves Sangamon County in implementing community health improvement plans through Springfield Memorial Hospital and supports Memorial Health's EDI initiatives by conducting cultural integration trainings and hosting panel discussions to educate and raise awareness of EDI issues.

Lingling has worked in a variety of industries and positions throughout her career in China and in the U.S., from public opinion research to international business development, and most recently in the field of her passion – serving the community with an equity lens.

She completed her master's degree in Communication as well as a certificate in entrepreneurship from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She also earned a master's degree in English Translation and Interpretation from the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, China and a bachelor's degree in Business English at Tianjin University of Science and Technology in Tianjin, China.

Lingling is a Certified Medical Interpreter in Mandarin Chinese and English. She serves the Chinese community in central Illinois both professionally and in her spare time. She is an avid advocate for mental health and access to health. She is also involved in anti-racism and social justice work, including increased anti-Asian, Pacific Islander hate since the beginning of the pandemic.

Lingling serves on several community health committees and boards and helps advance the public's understanding of community health and health equity issues. She serves on the board of Springfield Citizen's Club, UIS Community Health Roundtable and is on the Heartland Continuum of Care committee.



Jen McGowan-Tomke, MPH, Chief Operating Officer
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Jen McGowan-Tomke has led the NAMI Chicago team since May 2016, initially serving as Associate Director, and transitioning to Chief Operating Officer in September 2020. Jen oversees all daily operations of NAMI Chicago, building processes and policies, and ensuring our stability and growth. Jen also leads NAMI Chicago's legislative advocacy and provides key support for NAMI Chicago's role in the Williams Consent Decree.

Jen's advocacy efforts in Chicago and Springfield include coordinating and crafting legislation and building relationships with policy stakeholders. Jen is one of Chicago's experts on the relationship between mental health and insurance coverage, as well as the impact of individual mental health within the criminal court system. She served as co-chair of the Illinois Mental Health Task Force for Youth Mental Health, which focused on youth diversion from the criminal court system and early mental health intervention and continues to advocate for the implementation of the Task Force recommendations.

Jen worked for 3 years as a policy analyst in former Governor Pat Quinn's administration, where she served as a lead on implementing the Affordable Care Act in Illinois and specialized in health care reform for the Illinois Governor's Office of Health Innovation and Transformation. Prior to joining NAMI Chicago, Jen served as a Health Planning Coordinator at UIC MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice on the Illinois State Health Improvement Plan.

Jen is originally from Skokie, IL. She earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a master's degree in Health Policy and Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Public Health. Jen is committed to working with community leaders, passionate lived-experience individuals, and policy experts to tackle a system in need of significant reform.



Dr. Marcia Liu, The Steve Fund

Marcia Liu, Ph.D. is a Licensed Counseling Psychologist. She was born in NY before moving to Maryland. She received her BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her MA from NYU, and her doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Boston College. As part of her clinical training, she has practiced at the South Boston Behavioral Health Center and the Brookline Community Mental Health Center, working with children, adolescents, adults, and families. She completed her psychology internship at the Brooklyn Campus of the Veterans' Affairs Hospital, and her postdoctoral fellowship in Clinical Psychology at Columbia University's Counseling and Psychological Services.

Dr. Liu serves as the Mental Health Coordinator for the Hunter College AANAPISI Project ([HCAP](#)), working to increase awareness and understanding of the many mental health needs of Hunter's diverse Asian American/Pacific Islander student body. Outside of Hunter, she works as a clinician at The Brooklyn VA Hospital and in her private psychotherapy practice. Her research and clinical interests focus on mental health policy, acculturative stress, gender and race-related stress, sibling relationships, racial identity, trauma, psychodynamic processes and race, and Asian American/Pacific Islander community mental health. She is an active member of the Asian American Psychological Association, and an alumni member of the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture, under the direction of Janet E. Helms.