

Dear Campus Community

I am writing you to respond to today's story in the Chicago Tribune regarding admissions policies at Illinois.

Let me state at the outset that I have full confidence in our Office of Undergraduate Admissions and its professional and dedicated staff led by Associate Provost Keith Marshall and Director Stacey Kostell. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has an admissions process based on integrity and fairness, one that produces an incoming class that ranks among the best academically in the nation. Our graduates go on to do great work in the world and, in turn, they reward us through their support and loyalty as Illinois alumni.

It is no secret that competition for admission at Illinois is stiff. Thousands of people contact University administrators and others with ties to the university every year in regard to the admissions process—2,300 calls alone are received by the admissions office on the first decision day. This year, the university received 26,000 applications for only about 7,000 seats in the incoming class. For the Class of 2013, the average ACT score was 28 and the average high school class rank was in the 88th percentile. We are proud of this tradition of academic quality.

As a land grant university we remain committed to be inclusive and accessible in our pursuit of academic excellence. We seek to represent as closely as we can the full demographic of the state. With that in mind, we will continue to look at academic qualifications and other pertinent

information included in each application while asking whether we believe the student will succeed at our university.

Admissions is not a science. However, we welcome the challenge the Tribune story presents to make every possible effort to ensure the integrity of our admissions process.

But given our high retention rate and the many successes of our graduates, we believe we mostly get it right.

Richard Herman

Chancellor