

 I N S T I T U T E O F  
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**Emerging leaders from throughout Illinois named 2014 Edgar Fellows  
Initiative strives to foster leadership on state's future challenges**

URBANA— Forty emerging leaders from throughout Illinois have been chosen as 2014 Edgar Fellows in the third year of an initiative to stimulate cooperation across regional, political and ethnic lines as the state continues to face major challenges in the years and decades ahead.

The group of outstanding women and men who have demonstrated their potential in communities ranging from Chicago to deep southern Illinois will join dozens of Edgar Fellows inspired through participation in 2012 and 2013.

Like their predecessors, the 2014 Fellows were chosen from a highly competitive pool of nominees – nearly 160 of them this year. They include elected and appointed officials from all levels of government, as well as Illinoisans who have distinguished themselves in the business world and civic activities.

“In the first two years of our effort, we have seen emerging leaders reflecting the state’s political, regional and ethnic diversity form friendships and bonds that will serve Illinois well when it comes to addressing major challenges. I fully expect the 2014 Fellows also will realize they have much more in common than they might have thought while they gain a greater understanding of different perspectives,” former Gov. Jim Edgar said.

The fellows will gather from Aug. 3-7 in Urbana-Champaign for an extensive and intense executive training program fashioned and hosted by Edgar and the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA). The Fellows will engage with each other, experienced practitioners and scholars in major policy areas, such as health care and economic development.

Subsequently, they will join the 2012 and 2013 Fellows in periodic gatherings designed to further their education and build their professional networks.

The program, organized by IGPA's Office of Public Leadership (OPL), is funded primarily by donations from a diverse group of individuals, organizations and companies interested in promoting competent and well-motivated leadership in Illinois.

"If we are to solve the multitude of thorny, long-term problems facing Illinois, we must develop our leaders from an early point in their careers to be ethical, thoughtful, empathetic, and with an eye to the entire state, not just their own piece of it," said IGPA director Christopher Z. Mooney. "This is the goal of the Edgar Fellows program, and we at IGPA and the University of Illinois are very proud to host it."

The advisory board for the initiative is chaired by Alexander Lerner, chief executive officer of the Illinois State Medical Society. Other board members are:

- Attorney General Lisa Madigan
- MarySue Barrett, president of the Metropolitan Planning Council
- Mark Boozell, government policy advisor in the Dykema law firm
- Kirk Brown, a director of Hanson Professional Services and former Illinois secretary of transportation
- Kevin Callis, vice president for operations of State Farm
- Miguel del Valle, former state senator and Chicago city clerk who now serves on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and Illinois P-20 Council
- Julian D'Esposito, partner in the Mayer Brown LLP law firm
- Jason Francque, director of corporate affairs, John Deere Public Affairs Worldwide
- Allen Grosboll, senior policy adviser, Environmental Law and Policy Center
- Carter Hendren, Hendren Taylor Consulting, who was chief of staff for the Illinois Senate Republicans
- Felicia Norwood, former president of the Mid-America region for Aetna
- Howard A. Peters III, HAP Incorporated, who was the first secretary of the Department of Human Services
- Mark Peterson, president of Business Development for Bridgeview Bank
- Sylvia Puente, executive director of the Latino Policy Forum
- Gene Reineke, president of Hawthorne Strategy Group
- Robin Steans, executive director of Advance Illinois
- John Varones, managing principal of Systima Capital Management

#### **ATTACHMENT: List of 2014 Edgar Fellows**

**The Institute of Government and Public Affairs** seeks to improve public policy and government performance by producing and distributing cutting-edge research and analysis of public policy issues and providing public engagement that enlightens and educates elected officials, students and the general public. It is distinct among premier policy research units because of its dedication to public service.

# EDGAR

## *Fellows Program*

### The 2014 Edgar Fellows

**Tom Alexander**, chief operating officer for 1871, a Chicago technology incubation effort and former deputy communications director for Mayor Rahm Emanuel

**State Representative John Anthony**, Plainfield

**Patrick Barry**, Springfield, senior policy analyst, Illinois Senate Republican staff

**Ryan Blitstein**, Chicago, president of Change Illinois/Yes for Independent Maps

**Emily Burke**, Murphysboro, Jackson County board member

**Cristina Castro**, Elgin, Kane County commissioner

**William R. Daley**, Chicago, managing director, Morgan Stanley, Municipal Securities Division, and previously office of intergovernmental affairs, Clinton administration

**State Representative Christopher "C.D." Davidsmeyer**, Jacksonville

**Theresa Eagleson**, Springfield, state Medicaid director

**Tyler Edmonds**, Anna, state's attorney of Union County

**Ramon Escapa**, Rushville, state's attorney of Schuyler County

**Ricardo Estrada**, Chicago, president and CEO of Metropolitan Family Services and member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees

**John Evans**, Mahomet, assistant vice president, Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Kathleen Fernicola**, Chicago, director of policy and programs, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

**Kimberly Foxx**, Westchester, chief of staff for Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle

**State Senator Michael Hastings**, Tinley Park

**Katelyn Hotle**, Rock Island city council member

**State Representative Frances Hurley**, Chicago

**John Kamis**, Chicago, head of Illinois Public Policy Group for Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP and former senior adviser to Gov. Pat Quinn

**State Representative Stephanie Kifowit**, Oswego

**Kerry Lester**, Springfield, supervisory correspondent for the Associated Press

**Theresa Mah**, Chicago, senior policy adviser and director of Asian American Outreach for Gov. Pat Quinn.

**Janet Mathis**, Geneseo, executive director of Renew Moline and former trade director for the Illinois Department of Agriculture

**State Representative Emily McAsey**, Lockport

**Karen McDonald**, Peoria, political director for Congressman Aaron Schock

**Stanley Moore**, Chicago, Cook County commissioner

**Philip Nevels**, Chicago, executive director of ChicagoNEXT, World Business Chicago

**State Senator Sue Rezin**, Morris

**Lee Roupas**, Chicago, DuPage County assistant state's attorney

**Jay Rowell**, Chicago, director of the Illinois Department of Employment security

**State Representative Ron Sandack**, Downers Grove

**Nicholas Sauer**, Lake Barrington, Lake County board member

**Ryan Spain**, Peoria city council member

**State Senator Steve Stadleman**, Rockford

**Kari Steele**, Chicago, commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

**State Representative Silvana Tabares**, Chicago

**Alysia Tate**, Chicago, policy analyst and speech writer, Office of Attorney General Lisa Madigan

**Laura Taylor**, Fairview Heights, director of communications for Congressman William Enyart

**Lance Trover**, Chicago, senior communications advisor, Citizens for Rauner

**Scott Waguespack**, Chicago city council member

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Learn more at [igpa.uillinois.edu/content/edgar-fellows-program](http://igpa.uillinois.edu/content/edgar-fellows-program)

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