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UNIVERSITY ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN RECEIVES *INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY* 2014 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY (HEED) AWARD

**Urbana, IL, September 15, 2015.** The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign received the 2015 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. As a recipient of the annual HEED Award—a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion—University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will be featured along with 91 other recipients in *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine’s November 2015 issue. This is the third year Illinois has been named as a HEED Award recipient. Associate Chancellor Menah Pratt-Clarke notes that “Illinois is a very diverse campus and large strides have been made in the past few years to increase the diversity and create an inclusive and welcoming campus.”

Inclusive Illinois: one campus, many voices is about creating one campus of many voices. It is the campus’ commitment to valuing and respecting the many voices, ideas, and perspectives that faculty, staff, and students bring to Illinois. It is about creating, building, and sustaining spaces, places, and environments that are welcoming, inclusive, and affirming, whether in the classroom, the office, the lab, or the athletic field. It is about building communities, relationships, and friendships that cross the traditional boundaries of identities. Illinois’ goal is to work towards an image of Illinois as a multi-patterned quilt -- weaved together cohesively, yet incorporating and respecting the distinct cloths and pieces of our unique identities.

*INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine selected the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign based on our institution’s exemplary diversity and inclusion initiatives, our ability to embrace a broad definition of diversity on our campus, and our institutional commitment as reflected for the Diversity Value Statement and Inclusive Illinois.

“The HEED Award process consists of a comprehensive and rigorous application that includes questions relating to the recruitment and retention of students and employees — and best practices for both — continued leadership support for diversity, and other aspects of campus diversity and
inclusion. We take a holistic approach to reviewing each application in deciding who will be named a HEED Award recipient. Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being accomplished every day across a campus,” said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

For more information about the 2015 HEED award, visit www.insightintodiversity.com.
For more information about the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, visit www.illinois.edu.

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Since its founding in 1867, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has earned a reputation as a world-class leader in research, teaching, and public engagement. The university has a fundamental commitment to undergraduate education. More than 32,000 undergraduate students are enrolled in nine undergraduate divisions, which together offer some 5,000 courses in more than 150 fields of study.