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March 23, 2016

Dear Scholar,

I am writing to follow up with you regarding the current state of the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP). You may recall that I last communicated with you concerning MAP by a letter dated December 10, 2015.

As I explained then, the State of Illinois had yet to pass a budget for the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2015, and MAP awards are subject to appropriation by the Illinois General Assembly. The state agency that administers MAP (the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)) had informed Illinois Tech in December, and continues to inform it now, that without an approved state budget ISAC is legally prohibited from making MAP awards.

All of us here at Illinois Tech had hoped that the Governor and the General Assembly would, by now, have resolved their disagreements over the budget. Unfortunately, as of today, they have made no real progress.

As detailed in my December letter, because Illinois Tech recognized that students who were expecting to receive MAP grants in the Fall 2015 semester might not readily be able to replace these funds, we credited the accounts of MAP-eligible students in the estimated amount of their MAP grant awards for that semester. We did so hoping that the state would pass a budget and that your grant award would be paid to Illinois Tech. As I also explained, the estimated amounts that were credited to student accounts in Fall 2015, although remaining due, would, for a period of time, remain as pending credits in anticipation that funds for MAP would be appropriated.

Since my letter, Illinois Tech has continued to monitor the budget stalemate and to urge elected officials to resolve their differences and to fund MAP. However, after careful reevaluation of the situation, because no resolution to the continuing budget impasse is in sight, the university can no longer maintain the pending MAP credit that was issued to your student account for the Fall 2015 semester, and this credit will be removed from your account effective as of March 23, 2016, which will automatically trigger our system to place a registration hold on your account.

The university continues to appreciate that the failure of the state to fund MAP may cause a significant financial burden to you and your family, especially as we near registration for the Summer 2016 and Fall 2016 terms, for which registration opens on Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to minimize this impact and to allow you to continue your education at Illinois Tech uninterrupted, the university has developed and is able to offer you a MAP Grant Replacement Loan. In sum, if you elect to accept the MAP Grant Replacement Loan, you will be allowed to pay your outstanding balance in twelve monthly installments, beginning September 1, 2016; no

interest will accrue on the loan principal until the beginning of the repayment period. Complete details on the MAP Grant Replacement Loan are provided in the attached document. Of course, you retain the option to pay your balance in full if you so choose.

To accept the MAP Grant Replacement Loan, you can log into the MyIIT portal and accept the loan under “Financial Aid Awards.” Once you accept the loan, you can visit the Student Accounting Office, Office of Financial Aid, or the University One Stop to complete the master promissory note in person (you will need a state ID or license to complete the master promissory note). Beginning April 4<sup>th</sup>, the master promissory note will be available online. Once the master promissory note is completed, the loan will disburse and the registration hold will be removed within one hour after loan disbursement.

We here at Illinois Tech remain hopeful that our elected officials will, at some point, pass a budget that funds MAP. And, in the event that MAP funds are received by Illinois Tech after you have paid your balance (or after you have started making payments on the MAP Replacement Loan), Illinois Tech will issue you a refund for the difference between the MAP funds received and the amount that you have paid on your loan.

If you have further questions about the MAP Grant Replacement Loan, I encourage you to visit the One Stop Student Service Center in the MTCC. One Stop staff will assist you in connecting with the appropriate business office on campus. You can also contact the One Stop by email at [onestop@iit.edu](mailto:onestop@iit.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Gosz", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mike Gosz