

## IHL Spin In Perspective

Bill Crawford's opinion piece in [July 10, 2012 Hattiesburg American](#) asks readers to understand that "Tuition fuels university spending."

Mr. Crawford cut through IHL statistical tomfoolery by observing that, although "the percentage of the IHL budget covered by state appropriations" has declined since 2000, the state appropriations in terms of dollars during that period has increased from \$636.7 million to \$669.8 million. An important observation, Mr. Crawford. It provides perspective on the IHL statistical spin.

The IHL claims that the decline in the IHL budget covered by state appropriations warrants increases in tuition, year after year after year. Mr. Crawford is offering that cost control at the states public universities is an alternative to increasing tuition.

Mr. Crawford concludes that "... tuition must go up ... unless the College Board and the Legislature find the gumption to break the spending cycle and implement transformative changes [at the state's public universities]."

Okay, so far as it goes. But does Mr. Crawford really think he can encourage the IHL or state legislators to control costs at universities without a detailed plan? Especially when the IHL members or state legislators lack in-depth understanding of higher education? Or when IHL members are part-timers and state legislators boast about leaving the details to university administrators who buy airplanes with state money and tuition dollars and fly IHL members on freebie junkets to sporting events?

Mr. Crawford, you've got to get serious.