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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**STATE SUPERINTENDENT AND LEGISLATORS TO SPEAK ON FUTURE OF  
EDUCATION FUNDING IN ILLINOIS AT CTBA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

*Discussion Comes as CTBA Releases New Report Highlighting  
"Return on Investment" to Education Funding*

CHICAGO – Tuesday, September 20th, at 9am, at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson, **State Superintendent of Education Tony Smith**, along with **Rep. Will Davis (D-30)**, **Sen. Toi Hutchinson (D-40)**, **Sen. Kimberly Lightford (D-4)**, **Sen. Karen McConnaughay (D-33)**, and **Rep. Robert Pritchard (R-70)**, will speak at the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability's Annual Symposium.

The topic: How the state can change its inefficient, inequitable education funding system to give Illinois schools the resources they need to be successful--even in the context of profound budget uncertainty.

Underscoring the importance of this question to the broader state economy, **CTBA will release a report at the Symposium: "The Value Propositions Associated With Funding Research-Based K-12 Education Practices."** Among other findings, the report shows:

- Over the last 30 years, states that have made the greatest investment in building the capacity of their public schools to meet educational needs of all students, from the poorest up, have experienced stronger economic growth and greater increase in worker wages than states that did not.
- If Illinois could increase its high school graduation by eight percentage points, and its college graduation rate to that of Massachusetts, **total state wages would increase by nearly \$450 million annually.**
- This in turn would generate **approximately \$1.19 billion more in annual Illinois tax revenue.**
- Eliminating the achievement gap between white and African American students in Illinois could add \$264 million annually to the state's economy.

A copy of the report is attached for your information.

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The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, established in 2000, is a bi-partisan 501(c)(3) research and advocacy think tank that promotes fair, efficient and progressive tax, spending and economic policies.