



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

James T. Meeks  
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

April 2, 2018

Dear Educators,

The Illinois Bicentennial offers us a unique opportunity to engage Illinois students in learning about our collective history. The Illinois State Board of Education is excited to provide new educational resources to help students, educators, families, and communities identify “homegrown heroes” and learn the rich history of the state from many perspectives. *The Illinois Chronicles*, a historical timeline book that tells the story of Illinois’ first 200 years, is the first of its kind to be produced as a curriculum resource in the United States.

ISBE is facilitating the distribution of two **complimentary** copies of *The Illinois Chronicles* to each public school. This remarkable resource can be used in a variety of different classrooms and subjects areas ranging from fourth to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. ISBE content specialists created the [Illinois Chronicles Educator’s Guide](#) to assist you in incorporating lessons into your curriculum. We are excited to share this **free, downloadable guide** with you!

Also, please check out ISBE’s [Bicentennial Education webpage](#), which is loaded with suggested classroom activities aligned with stories in the book and with the Illinois Learning Standards by grade level. ISBE content specialists plan to provide additional professional development opportunities for educators that relate to the Bicentennial this spring and fall. Keep checking the Bicentennial Education webpage and ISBE social media for more information.

We want to know how you are using *The Illinois Chronicles* in your classrooms. Please share photos with us on social media by using #IllinoisProud. We also encourage you to submit your own innovative ideas, activities, and lesson plans to the [Bicentennial Education webpage](#) or send them directly to [IL200ed@isbe.net](mailto:IL200ed@isbe.net). Information about acquiring additional books at a reduced price is also available on ISBE’s [Bicentennial Education webpage](#).

ISBE, the Governor’s Office of the Illinois Bicentennial, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and What on Earth Publishing worked in partnership to produce *The Illinois Chronicles*, funded entirely by generous donations through the Illinois Bicentennial Commission.

We genuinely hope you and your students enjoy this unique resource. Together we can empower students to engage with Illinois history and imagine their own roles in shaping the future of our state. Thank you for all you do on behalf of Illinois students!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Smith".

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education