



SUSANA A. MENDOZA  
ILLINOIS STATE COMPTROLLER

# SECA 2021



Dear friends,

It is my distinct honor and privilege to serve as director and statutory chair of the 2021 State and University Employees Combined Appeal, or SECA.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Give Dollars, Make Change."

Public employees have long had a deep connection with their communities and neighbors, and at no time has this connection been stronger or more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You've made meals for people in need, helped secure breakfasts and lunches for schoolchildren learning at home, and shopped for groceries for older neighbors so they could remain in the safety of their homes during the worst days of the pandemic.

You've joined grassroots mutual aid groups, ready and willing to help people with nowhere else to turn.

You participated in drive-by birthday parties for children you didn't know, tipped food delivery workers extra generously, learned to sew face coverings for health care workers, and donated whatever you could to food banks, homeless shelters, and other coronavirus relief efforts.

Your compassion and selfless dedication to community service in a time of such great national crisis has been nothing short of breathtaking.

But there's still work to do. Charitable organizations need your help more than ever.

You can continue sharing your generosity through SECA by financially supporting one or more charities that are important to you. It's as simple as signing up and committing a few dollars to be automatically deducted from your paycheck.

Perhaps there is a charity you wish to support that you believe can help our world heal after the difficult times we've been through together. The Black United Fund of Illinois; the Southern Poverty Law Center; Covenant House, a place for homeless teens that I've seen change lives – they're all in there, and you can personally earmark a few dollars a paycheck or whatever you can spare. Your contribution, no matter how big or small, WILL make a difference.

That's where SECA and the power of combined giving can play an important role. I hope you will find it in your heart to join other Illinois state and university employees in supporting this worthy endeavor. Local, state and national charities could use your support.

To those of you who have contributed to a SECA drive in the past, thank you. And to those of you who will be participating for the first time in this year's drive, welcome and thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Susana A. Mendoza  
Illinois State Comptroller  
SECA Director and Statutory Chair