University of Illinois Names Its 19th President  
By Dr. Mark Kabins  
  
In March 2012, Robert A. Easter was appointed President of the [University of Illinois](http://www.illinois.edu/) (UI). Easter, who is himself a UI graduate, spent close to 40 years working at the university’s Urbana-Champaign campus as a faculty member and senior administrator.   
  
Easter brings a rich and varied career in education to his recently appointed role at the University of Illinois. For several years before accepting the position of UI President, Easter served as Interim Chancellor at the Urbana-Champaign campus. An expert in livestock feeding, Easter spent eight years as Dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at UI. Before that, he worked as head of the Department of Animal Sciences. Former president George W. Bush appointed Easter to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development in 2006, and in 2007, he was named chair of that board.  
  
Easter has been honored with numerous awards throughout his career. He is a recipient of the Paul A. Funk Award for contributions to Illinois agriculture.  
  
About the Author  
  
[Mark Kabins](http://markkabins.org), MD, specializes in neurosurgery, orthopaedics, and rehabilitation at his practice in Las Vegas. A graduate of the University of Illinois, he enjoys keeping up with news from his alma mater.