

## Illinois Higher Ed *The Friday Memo*

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Chairwoman Carrie Hightman  
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**ISAC**  
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TGIF, and welcome to The Friday Memo, a regular newsletter about Illinois higher education.

For some time we at the Board of Higher Education have been thinking about ways to better communicate with members of the General Assembly, other statewide policymakers, and education leaders about what is going on throughout Illinois higher education.

The Friday Memo is an attempt to inform policymakers of the major activities, events, and issues on the higher ed radar. Please note that, although this newsletter is prepared by the IBHE staff, it contains valuable information and useful contributions from our sister agencies - the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) - as well.

We hope you find The Friday Memo worth your time, and we invite your critiques and suggestions on ways to make this more informative and useful to you.

Chairwoman Hightman calls for [new direction for Illinois higher education](#)

IBHE Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman has urged state policymakers to raise the rank of higher education in state priorities. In a major address October 22 to the Illinois Association of Graduate Schools, Hightman said that higher education needs recognition for the pivotal role it plays in bolstering the state's economy and contributing to the "public good" of the state and its citizens. "We need an avowal of value that education - from preschool to graduate school - is a public good," she said. Hightman said that to reverse course from the path of "complaisance and the path of least resistance," policymakers need to expand the vision of education to embrace a "P-20" perspective that connects postsecondary schooling to preschool-high school education. She applauded Governor Blagojevich and the General Assembly for passing legislation setting up a P-20 Council in Illinois. She also praised a legislative resolution directing IBHE to prepare a master plan and public agenda for higher education in Illinois, noting such an endeavor will be the cornerstone in meeting the challenges of the changing demographic face of the state, the demands of the global economy, the rapidly changing higher ed landscape, and the disruptions and opportunities of new technologies.



### UPCOMING

#### November

- 5 ICCB meeting, Parkland College
- 6 All-Hazard Training, Elgin Community College
- 16 IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Lake Land College
- 27 All-Hazard Training, Moraine Valley Community College

#### December

- 1-2 IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Illinois State University
- 4 Board of Higher Education meeting, Northeastern Illinois University
- 6 La Presencia Latina - Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Conference, Rosemont

### [School Leader Task Force](#) organized

A task force created by HJR 66 to devise strategies for implementing changes to school leader preparation programs has been organized. The 28-member task force includes Senator Deanna Demuzio and Representative Michael Smith, who sponsored the resolution, and various stakeholders in school leader preparation programs. The task force has scheduled 6 meetings; the first was held in Bloomington on October 31.

### ICCB setting up new [College and Career Readiness Program](#)

A new pilot program designed to better prepare students for college and reduce the need for remedial coursework in community colleges is being launched by the Illinois Community College Board. Created by Senate Bill 858, sponsored by Senator Ed Maloney and Representative David Miller, the College and Career Readiness Pilot Program Act is designed to gauge high school students' readiness for common introductory college coursework. Five community colleges - Moraine Valley, South Suburban, Shawnee-John A. Logan, and Southwestern Illinois College - will pilot the program. ACT will analyze scores on the ACT portion of the Prairie State Achievement Exam and freshmen coursework at the colleges to determine high school students' readiness. The project then will offer remedial coursework and other assistance to students who need to strengthen skills for college and advanced academic opportunities, such as AP classes or dual enrollment, for those students whose scores indicate they are prepared for college.

### Campus Security Task Force sponsors [All-Hazard Training Sessions](#)

The second of five training sessions to help campus emergency personnel prepare for and respond to natural, technological, and manmade hazards was held October 16 at John A. Logan College. The trainings have been organized by the Campus Security Task Force, which was created in the wake of the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech in April.

### ISAC announces new pilot [Capstone Loan Program](#) to aid college seniors

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission announced October 19 a new loan program aimed at helping "college seniors cross the finish line." The College Illinois! Capstone Loan Program, the first of its kind in the nation, involves 7 Illinois colleges and universities and provides loans ranging from \$1,000 to the cost of attendance, minus other financial aid. The fixed annual percentage rate of 8% is reduced for graduates who work in Illinois or have typically lower paying jobs, such as teachers or social workers.

### [Summit](#) showcases critical role of innovation in global competition

The Second Annual Chicagoland Innovation Summit was held at Navy Pier on October 25. The Summit was presented by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the World Business Chicago. [Presenters at the Summit](#) included speakers from businesses such as Microsoft, Motorola, IBM, Kao and Company, Ford Motor Company, Sears, and Baxter Healthcare Corporation; and academics from universities

such as Harvard, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Chicago, and the Illinois Institute of Technology. The purpose of the Summit is to showcase, promote and emphasize the critical roles of many types of innovation to maintain and further empower Illinois and US businesses to be globally competitive. According to Dr. Lance Pressl, Foundation President of the Chamber, [Innovate Now](#) is to "make the Chicagoland region, and eventually the entire state of Illinois, a globally recognized center of innovation." Major topics covered in the sessions included Innovation in Business Models, Innovation in Processes, Innovation in Markets, and Innovation in Products and Services, Innovation Leadership, Open Collaborative Networks, Innovation Talent Pool, and Measuring Innovation.

#### **Staff news:**

Gary Alexander, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, served as a panelist for a session of the Illinois Association of Graduate Schools Conference at Loyola University Chicago on October 22. The session was entitled, "The Role of Graduate Education in American Competitiveness and Innovation."

#### **Campus news:**

##### **[Illinois universities cooperate](#) to increase, improve homeland security education**

DeKalb - Eight public universities from across the state have joined forces to create the Illinois Innovative Delivery of Education Alliance - Homeland Security, a step that pushes Illinois to the forefront of efforts to provide students and professionals with the education required to help America prepare for and respond to emergencies of all types.

##### **[Grant to ease transfer](#) of community college students to U. of I.**

Champaign - The University of Illinois has been awarded an \$899,000 grant by the Lumina Foundation for Education for a project that aims to help community college students transfer to Illinois and succeed academically.

##### **[Loyola University fall enrollment climbs](#)**

Chicago - This fall Loyola University Chicago enrolled 2,775 new undergraduate students (2,035 new freshmen and 740 transfers) to its lakeside campuses, increasing the University's total enrollment to 15,545 (15,194 in 2006).

##### **[Scholar to Lecture on Chicago's Race](#) and Class Geography**

Richard Greene, professor of geography at Northern Illinois University, will deliver the Pierre de Vise Memorial Lecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His presentation is titled "Chicago's Changing Race and Class Geography."

##### **[Campus Dining Sets to Break World Record](#)**

Macomb - Imagine a food drive that can collect nearly 221,028 pounds of food in a single day. Now imagine the number of people that could be fed with all those donations. In 2006, an event called Cans Across America

was introduced. Involving college campuses across the United States, including Western Illinois University, the objective of this event was to break the Guinness® World Record for the most nonperishable food collected in a 24-hour period.

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