

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

IBHE  
Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman  
Executive Director Judy Erwin

ICCB  
Chairman Guy Alongi  
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC  
Chairman Don McNeil  
Executive Director Andy Davis

Friday, November 16, 2007

[DFI conference seeks to bolster job opportunities](#)

Representatives throughout Illinois higher education gathered November 16 for the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Conference at the University of Chicago. The conference theme, *Building a More Diverse Academy*, reflects the goal to improve opportunities for Fellows who are seeking employment at colleges and universities through networking and sharing scholarly presentations.

[Symposium focuses on developing talent for economic growth](#)

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact and the Council of State Governments cosponsored a Midwest symposium on *Economic Growth and the Seamless Development of Talent* in Des Moines, Iowa, November 6-7. Representative Bob Flider was among the Illinois delegation that also included officials from IBHE, ICCB, and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

[Nurses in veterans homes get help paying for college](#)

ISAC and the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs will begin administering the new \$1.22 million Veterans' Home Nurse Loan Repayment Program. The grant funds are available to help nurses working at Illinois Veterans' Homes pay off their student loans. Nurses who provide care in the state's four Veterans' Homes are eligible to have as much as \$5,000 of their student loans repaid by the state.

[Chairwoman Hightman joins NEIU in supporting capital program](#)

IBHE Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman joined Northeastern Illinois University President Sharon Hahs and Dean Maureen Gillette of the College of Education on November 16 in support of a new capital program in order to fund much-needed infrastructure improvements at Illinois' colleges and universities.

[Ed Trust conference focuses on 'tough choices' to raise student achievement](#)

The Education Trust held its 18<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Washington, D.C., from November 8-10. Workshops included in-depth case studies of failing schools that were turned around, methods for improving teacher preparation, and P-20 approaches to improving college graduation rates.

[IBHE releases report on compensable sick leave](#)

In 1998, accumulation of compensable sick leave - leave that employees would be paid for if it was unused - was eliminated due to cost concerns. This year's annual report on the issue documents the cost savings of this change. The report concluded that accumulated liabilities for sick leave payouts continue to decrease in comparison to 1998, and that expenditures and liabilities should continue this downward trend.

[Opening the Door to College: New Options for Students with Disabilities](#)

The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities will invest in initiatives proposed by Illinois community colleges or 4 year institutions of higher education with the desire to expand access and support services to allow all students,

UPCOMING

**November  
20**

Illinois State Board of Education FY09 budget hearing, Thompson Center, Chicago

**28**

Illinois State Board of Education FY09 budget hearing, Belleville

**December**

**1-2**

IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Illinois State University

**4**

IBHE meeting, Northeastern Illinois University

**6**

La Presencia Latina – Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Conference, Rosemont

**13**

Campus Safety Summit hosted by Attorney General Madigan, Northeastern Illinois University

including those with developmental disabilities/cognitive disabilities, to attend, learn, and grow from postsecondary education participation. Proposals for this funding opportunity are due 2/26/08. An informational session will be held on 12/11/07.

### **Agency News**

NiSource, Inc., a Fortune 500 energy firm, has announced the appointment of [Carrie J. Hightman](#), Chairwoman of the Board of Higher Education, as its new Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer.

IBHE Executive Director **Judy Erwin** participated in the installation ceremony for President William Perry at Eastern Illinois University on November 9.

### **Campus News**

#### **[Loyola, Harper College to offer satellite degree completion program](#)**

Loyola University Chicago and its School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) have announced a strategic partnership with Harper College that will allow the SCPS to offer its Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Management degree completion program at Harper's Northeast Center in Prospect Heights, Illinois.

#### **[Lumpkin, Foundation Pledge \\$2 Million for Doudna Arts Programs](#)**

The Lumpkin Family Foundation and Richard Lumpkin have pledged \$2 million to support new community arts programs that will be housed in Eastern Illinois University's renovated Doudna Fine Arts Center.

#### **[Lewis University Receives FAA Approval for New Air Traffic Controller Program](#)**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has selected Lewis University as one of nine new colleges and universities to prepare students for careers as air traffic controllers. The University was recently notified of its acceptance into the FAA's Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative (CTI) program, which is part of a larger effort by the FAA to train and hire air traffic controllers as current professionals in the field reach retirement.

### **News from Higher Education**

#### **[IBM invests \\$5 million in ISU information technology program](#)** (Bloomington Pantagraph)

NORMAL — Illinois State University senior Joe Ksiazek is among those who say IBM's estimated \$5 million investment in the campus's information technology program could open doors to more 21st century jobs for him and his classmates.

#### **[College-bound GIs get extra help](#)** (USA Today)

Concerned, and in some cases angry, that the federal GI Bill no longer covers the cost of college for many veterans, philanthropists are stepping forward to fill in some of the gaps.

#### **[Lake Land College looks to series of energy-saving projects over five years](#)** (Journal Gazette and Times-Courier)

MATTOON — Lake Land College is not generating hot air about energy savings. The board of trustees on Monday voted to complete negotiations with a performance contractor for a series of energy-saving projects over the next five years.

**Next Friday is a holiday, and the Friday Memo will take a holiday as well. We'll be back November 30. Have a happy Thanksgiving.**

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