

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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Friday, November 30, 2007

**Mixed bag in Underrepresented Groups Report**

The annual Underrepresented Groups Report, to be presented to the Board of Higher Education on December 4, shows solid gains in enrollments and degrees for minority students. But it also reveals troubling findings as well, including the shortage of black males in postsecondary institutions, the education attainment levels of the Hispanic population, and the employment of diverse faculty.

**MAP grant buying power declines**

College has become less affordable since 1997, according to a recent study by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The study, presented to the Commission on November 16, reported that Monetary Award Program grants now cover about two-thirds of tuition and fees at community colleges and public universities for students in the lowest 20 percent of family income.

**Task Force reviews analysis of gaps on school leader prep**

The third meeting of the School Leader Task Force was held at the Illinois Principals Association office on November 27. The Illinois Council of Professors of Education Administration gave a presentation on a [gaps analysis](#) survey they conducted on principal preparation. Innovative principal [preparation programs](#) in Illinois was the subject of another presentation.

**Encore for campus security trainings**

On November 27 the last of 5 planned All Hazard Training Sessions for colleges and universities was held at Moraine Valley Community College. The success of these training sessions has prompted the addition of a sixth "encore" session on December 5 at Columbia College Chicago. To date, the 5 sessions have served 172 individuals representing 81 colleges and universities and 7 agencies.

**Cooperative Work Study RFP released**

The FY 2008 RFP for the Illinois Cooperative Work Study has been released. The grant is designed to enhance public-private sector partnerships, expand internship opportunities, encourage permanent employment of Illinois graduates in Illinois, and provide links between academic programs and employment. Public and independent colleges and universities are eligible for the grant.

**NAMES IN THE NEWS**

[Dr. Charles R. Middleton](#), President of Roosevelt University, has been selected as the new Chairman of the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities. Middleton, president since 2002, succeeds Father Michael Garanzini, President of Loyola University Chicago, as Chair of the organization that represents 58 independent colleges and universities in Illinois.

[Dr. Sylvia Manning](#) will retire as Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago at the end of the year. She was appointed interim chancellor in September 1999 and named Chancellor nine months later.

**UPCOMING**

**December**

**1-2**

IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Illinois State University

**3**

Diversifying Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Board meeting, Chicago

**4**

IBHE meeting, Northeastern Illinois University

**5**

All-Hazard Training, Columbia College Chicago

**6**

La Presencia Latina – Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Conference, Rosemont

**13**

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

**January**

**25**

ISAC Commission meeting, Loyola University Chicago

**28**

ICCB meeting, Springfield

## CAMPUS NEWS

### [NIU researchers get \\$2 million grant to create online game teaching scientific inquiry](#)

The U.S. Department of Education awarded \$2 million to NIU over four years for development of an educational game to create a learning tool that will teach scientific inquiry and critical thinking skills to students by leveraging the so-called "thumb generation's" passion for video games.

### [Saint Xavier University signs Teacher Education Transfer Articulation Agreement with Joliet Junior College](#)

Chicago (Nov. 30, 2007) –The presidents of Saint Xavier University and Joliet Junior College signed an agreement yesterday that allows education majors from JJC to more easily transfer to Saint Xavier to earn an undergraduate degree and teacher certification.

### [DePaul Accounting Professor's Generous Bequests Will Benefit Tax And Art Programs At DePaul](#)

Both future accountants and art majors studying at DePaul University will benefit from bequests made this fall by Ron Marcuson, a longtime faculty member at DePaul's School of Accountancy and Management Information Systems.

### [Public Safety Institute Grants Exceed \\$1 Million](#)

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Institute for Public Safety Partnerships was awarded almost \$1.2 million in grants to support public safety programs.

[More Campus News](#)

## NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION

### [Minority Students Increasingly Cluster at Minority-Serving Institutions](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Undergraduates who are members of minority groups are increasingly concentrated at colleges that are classified as "minority-serving," according to a U.S. Education Department report released on Tuesday.

### [\\$2.5 million gifted to Eureka College](#) (Peoria Journal Star)

EUREKA - A New Jersey woman with no ties to Eureka College has endowed the university \$2.5 million, the largest gift in the college's history, allowing for expansion of the Ronald W. Reagan Leadership Program.

### [Inviting States to Innovate](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

With the project they launched 18 months ago, the Lumina Foundation for Education, Jobs for the Future, and the other groups involved in "Making Opportunity Affordable" have set themselves a difficult (and that may be an understatement) task: prodding higher education to become more productive — by increasing the number of students educated without spending significantly more or diminishing quality. No sweat.

### [How to Get Into Harvard](#) (The Wall Street Journal)

A WSJ study finds that certain high schools have a remarkable record of sending their students to elite colleges.

[More News From Higher Education](#)

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