

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

December 14, 2007

[Hightman urges State Chamber to back new direction for higher ed](#)

IBHE Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman addressed the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce Executive Board December 7 with an appeal to embrace her vision for a new direction for Illinois higher education. In her speech to about 45 corporate executives, Hightman said business leaders have a large stake in a well-trained workforce and an effective and efficient P-20 education system, and encouraged the Chamber members to be vocal participants in helping create a public agenda for higher education and develop an integrated system of school from preschool through grad school.

[Study links economic growth with education attainment](#)

Illinois has the fifth largest state economy, but the rate of economic growth ranks the state 26th in the nation, according to a new study, The State of Working Illinois. The report documents the critical link between education and economic health in the global labor market, and notes: “. . . higher education is now a virtual requirement for landing a high-paying job.”

[New program to lower loan cost for students in critical shortage fields](#)

Governor Blagojevich has announced a new program to be administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to lower interest rates on student loans for borrowers in fields needing professionals in critical industries, such as social workers, teachers, and healthcare. College grads can shave up to 1.8 percent from interest on Stafford loans by working in Illinois and earning less than \$50,000 a year.

[Attorney General hosts Campus Safety Summit](#)



On December 13, 2007, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan hosted the Campus Safety Summit at Northeastern Illinois University. The purpose of the summit was to train college, university, and law enforcement professionals to conduct threat assessment in schools, including how to identify, assess, and manage individuals who might pose a risk of school violence. The training is part of the Safe School Initiative, a collaborative of the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education. Approximately 215 individuals from Illinois colleges and universities and law enforcement agencies attended the summit.

[ISAC salutes 'best and brightest'](#)

There are 18,178 of them – but it still is a select group. The list of Illinois' best and brightest grew this week as ISAC announced the 2008 class of Illinois State Scholars. The number of students designated as State Scholars grew by 6 percent from 2007. Even more impressive was an 18.5 percent increase in the number of Hispanic scholars. The number of Asian American and African American scholars also outstripped the overall increase, indicating efforts to reach ethnic minorities and first-generation high school students are paying off, according to ISAC.

UPCOMING

December
17

House Higher Education
Committee, 4 p.m.
Springfield

January
25

ISAC meeting, Loyola
University Chicago

28

ICCB meeting, Springfield

February
5

IBHE meeting, Springfield

[IFA helps in financing supercomputing facility at Argonne](#)

Governor Blagojevich has announced a partnership involving the Illinois Finance Authority, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the private sector to build the new Theory and Computing Sciences Building at the Argonne National Laboratory in DuPage County. The \$70 million in IFA bonds will assist in financing the project, which is aimed at research into nanotechnology, climate change, protein modeling, and other scientific advances.

[Saint Xavier recognized as leader in nursing education](#)

The National League for Nursing has recognized Saint Xavier University's School of Nursing as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education, a designation enjoyed by only 11 institutions nationwide. Saint Xavier was selected "for creating an environment that enhances learning and professional development."

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Illinois State University President Al Bowman has appointed [Sheri Noren Everts](#) as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

[Paul Kreider](#), dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication and professor of music at Western Illinois University, was recently elected to the board of directors for the Illinois Arts Alliance (IAA) and the International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD).

[Robert Gervasi](#) has been selected President of Quincy University, the first lay executive to run the institution in its 147-year history.

CAMPUS NEWS

[Loyola University Chicago Introduces New School of Communication](#)

Chicago – Loyola University Chicago has announced that its Board of Trustees has approved the formation of a new School of Communication (SOC). The school will begin independent operations in the summer of 2008, and will be headquartered on the first three floors of The Clare at the University's Water Tower Campus beginning in January 2009.

[Saint Xavier Graham School of Management Disaster Preparedness Program Approved for Homeland Security Defense Education Consortium](#)

Chicago – The Homeland Security Defense Education Consortium (HSDEC) has granted membership to the SXU Graham School of Management Disaster Preparedness and Management (DPM) Certificate Program. The HSDEC is a network of teaching and research institutions focused on promoting education, research and cooperation supporting the homeland security/defense mission.

[Smoke free](#)



Photo by Brian Stauffer

A looming ban that will snuff out smoking in public places across Illinois lit up a fiery debate that rivaled abortion, gun control and society's other hottest-button issues, Scott Hays, a University of Illinois research scientist, says. But the fiery passions over the statewide smoking ban will likely blow over quickly once the new Illinois state law kicks in Jan. 1

[More Campus News](#)

NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION

[Most Parents of Middle-School Students Plan Too Little for College](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Far too few parents of middle-school students are doing what they need to do to ensure their children can go on to college, with the parents of minority and disadvantaged students being especially likely to lag in such preparation, according to a report being released here today by the Institute for Higher Education Policy.

[Debates Persist Over Subsidies for Immigrant College Students](#) (The New York Times)

Go to college, we urge our children. College is the new high school, and without an undergraduate degree, they will be doomed to low-earning, second-rate lives.

[Shining a Spotlight on 2-Year Colleges](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Community colleges have been slowly creeping into more and more policy discussions at the state level, with governors and legislators increasingly recognizing the key role that two-year institutions play in developing workers, educating adults and, to a larger extent every day, serving as an entry point for traditional age students.

[More News from Higher Education](#)

The Friday Memo will take a break for the holidays and return to your mailboxes on Friday, January 4. Have a safe and joyous holiday.

Illinois Board of Higher Education
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404
Phone: (217) 782-2551
<http://www.ibhe.org>
FridayMemo@ibhe.org