

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

January 4, 2008

[Happy New Year!](#)

[DFI applications posted](#)

Applications for fellows in the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Higher Education (DFI) program are now available for the 2008-09 academic year. The program provides \$14,000 annual stipends for graduate students with the intent of deepening the pool of qualified minority candidates for faculty positions at Illinois colleges and universities.

[Illinois Cooperative Work Study Proposals due January 23, 2008](#)

The Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program provides grants to both public and independent colleges and universities and is designed to expand opportunities for students to pursue internships, clinical placement, cooperative programs with business and industry, and other work opportunities linked to a student's academic program. Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 23, 2008.

[Spending means savings for college](#)

State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias has announced an initiative to enable families enrolled in the Bright Start College Savings Program to earn money toward their children's college tuition whenever they shop with the new Bright Start Futuretrust MasterCard. "This is like a frequent-flyer program geared toward families saving for college," Giannoulias said.

[ICCB continues technology training institutes](#)

The IT-Working Connections technology training for community college faculty was held this week in Springfield. This is a program developed to assure that information technology training for community college instructors is equal and competitive with the commercial sector. The program began when Illinois received a grant from Microsoft for developing this training. The program has continued through a fee-collection from participating colleges. Several dozen faculty members attend these twice-yearly sessions.

[ISAC: Time to file those FAFSAs](#)

Students need not move to Kalamazoo or other cities promising college aid to get a great deal on helping to finance a college education. In a [letter to the editor](#), Andrew Davis, Executive Director of ISAC, reminded readers of the Chicago Tribune that Illinois residents qualify for up to \$9,278 in grants, depending on income, by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

**NAMES IN THE NEWS**

[Bogdan Dabrowski](#), a distinguished research professor in the Department of Physics at Northern Illinois University, has been named a fellow of the American Physical Society (APS) in recognition of his outstanding research in the area of materials science.

**UPCOMING**

**January**

**9**

House Higher Education Committee, 11 a.m.  
Springfield

**25**

ISAC meeting, Loyola University Chicago

**28**

ICCB meeting, Springfield

**February**

**5**

IBHE meeting, Springfield



The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has awarded a Nurse Educator Fellowship to Illinois Wesleyan University Professor of Nursing [Connie Dennis](#). The competitive Fellowship is a \$10,000 award recognizing those who make significant contributions to nursing education.

President Bush has nominated six people for seats on the 23-member National Council on the Humanities, which reviews grants by the National Endowment for the Humanities, including [Gary D. Glenn](#), professor of political science at Northern Illinois University.

[Kendall Thu](#), an anthropologist at Northern Illinois University, has been appointed editor of "Culture and Agriculture," a national peer-reviewed journal.

## CAMPUS NEWS

### [City Colleges Partnership Helps Minority Nurses Earn Bachelor's Degrees](#)

The University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing and the City Colleges of Chicago have entered into a partnership to encourage minority nurses to advance their education beyond an associate degree.

### [Illinois economic growth slows for sixth consecutive month](#)

Urbana – The pace of economic growth in Illinois slowed in December for the sixth consecutive month, but the state's economy remains positive despite talk of a possible recession, according to the University of Illinois Flash Index.

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

On January 10, at noon, CT, Secretary Spellings will kick off the new year with a major address at the National Press Club. She will highlight states' progress on core principles of No Child Left Behind and lay out her policy goals for 2008. The text of the speech will be available at <http://www.ed.gov/> shortly after it is delivered. Also, excerpts from the speech will be streamed on the web site. [Other news](#) from the U.S. Department of Education.

## NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION

### [New Rockford leader has local ties](#) (Daily Herald)

Rockford – Rockford College has announced a new president for the four-year liberal arts school.

### [UI's Global Campus program readies for launch](#) (News-Gazette)

12:01 a.m., Jan. 2: Zero hour for the University of Illinois Global Campus. More than two years since UI President B. Joseph White posed the idea of creating a fourth, virtual campus, and over a year since an administrative and faculty report put the proverbial stake in the ground and outlined a possible structure for the initiative, prompting numerous debates about how online education should be done at the University of Illinois, the UI's Global Campus will formally launch Wednesday.

### [Minority Enrollment Is Up, Particularly at 2-Year Colleges, Report Says](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

More minority students are enrolling in college, and they're increasingly choosing two-year institutions, according to a new report by the Government Accountability Office.

### [Federal Budget Blahs](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

What seemed a promising budget year for most federal programs important to colleges ended in relative disappointment this month, as Democratic leaders in Congress blinked in a stare-down with President Bush.

[U of C creates professorship in Bobins' name](#) (Crain's Chicago Business)

With \$3 million donated by Bank of America Corp. and others, the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business has created its largest endowed professorship ever in the name of former LaSalle Bank Corp. Chairman Norman Bobins.

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