

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

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[IBHE adopts FY2009 investment spending plan](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education this week approved 2009 budget recommendations that take a [new, innovative approach](#) to establishing priorities and documenting needs for higher education.



Carrie J. Hightman

The recommendations create five investment levels for the Governor and General Assembly to consider, depending on available resources and funding priorities.

"I view this proposal as our best effort to present to the Governor and General Assembly an independent, thoughtful analysis of investment options that will assist elected leaders in their often-difficult budget decisions as they weigh competing claims – all worthy – for public resources," Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman said ([written](#) and [audio](#)). "This approach best fulfills our role and our obligations as a coordinating board: defining the needs, explaining the options, and demonstrating what each new dollar invested in higher education will buy."

[Community colleges 101](#)

Did you know?  
That the typical community college student in Illinois is female, white, 31 years old, enrolled part-time to improve job skills or obtain new skills for a different career. Or, that nearly two-thirds of all minority students in Illinois higher ed attend community colleges. Or, that 8 of 10 Illinois employers hired a community college student within the past 10 years. Jerry Weber, President of Kankakee Community College, and Bob Mees, President of John A. Logan College, painted an in-depth portrait of the Illinois community college system for the Board of Higher Education at its

UPCOMING

February

- 13-14 Senate in session
- 13-15 House in session
- 14 House Higher Education Committee, 3 p.m.
- 20 Governor's Budget Address, Springfield
- 26 2008 Statewide [CAS](#) meeting, Decatur

March

- 14 Illinois Community College Presidents Council, Oak Brook
- 14-15 Illinois Community College Trustees' Association, Oak Brook
- 20 Task Force on **A Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education**, Chicago

- 31 ICCB meeting, Sugar Grove

April

- 1 IBHE meeting, Bloomington-Normal

meeting this week.

### **[Public Agenda process moving forward](#)**

Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman reported progress on several fronts in the development of a Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education at the IBHE meeting February 5. Hightman noted that the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, a nonprofit organization widely recognized as the nation's premier consultant on creating state plans, has been commissioned to assist with the plan. The Task Force that will oversee the Public Agenda process will be formed soon, she said.

### **[932,388 and counting](#)**

During fiscal 2007 Illinois community colleges provided education and training to 932,388 individuals or about 1 out of every 10 adult Illinoisans, according to a recent report of the Illinois Community College Board. Credit courses account for three-quarters of the community college coursework. Nearly a quarter of a million students participated in noncredit courses in FY2007. There were 51,322 graduates in FY2007, up from last year (3.4%) and from 5 years ago (13.2%).

### **[General Assembly gets down to business](#)**

Several bills of importance to higher education have been assigned to committees, including:

- [HB 4528](#), creates In God We Trust license plates with part of the proceeds appropriated to scholarships for community college students.
- [HB 4621](#), requires public universities to admit applicants who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class.
- [HJR 85](#), sets up a task force on the status of underrepresented minorities in higher education.
- [SB 1908](#), increases Monetary Award Program Grants by \$500 per year for 3 years.
- [SB 1923](#), provides for loan repayment for attorneys who practice public interest law, such as legal aid and public defenders.

### **[Report finds economic trends reduce buying power in Illinois households](#)**

DeKalb — Declines in the manufacturing sector, growth in the service sector and the not-as-yet-understood impacts of the global economy are transforming the Illinois economy, altering the employment landscape and reducing the buying power of Illinois households. Those were among the conclusions of the annual State of Working Illinois report by Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies and the NIU Office for Social Policy Research.



### [Honor roll: ISBE, NIU recognize nearly 1,200 schools for academic excellence](#)

Springfield — The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Northern Illinois University (NIU) have announced that 1,177 schools made the *Illinois Honor Roll* and are being recognized for their continued academic progress. The 2007 honor roll includes 97 schools that are being recognized for the fourth or fifth consecutive year. All of these outstanding schools are being honored for their accomplishments in making progress toward or maintaining academic excellence.

### **NAMES IN THE NEWS**

Dr. [Alice Jacobs](#), President of Danville Area Community College, has been honored as the recipient of the 2007 Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Officer Award for the central region by the Association of Community College Trustees.

DePaul University Management Professor [Raman Chadha](#) of Chicago has won a national teaching award inaugurated this year by the Texas-based Acton Foundation to recognize superior entrepreneurship educators.

[Carol Moseley Braun](#), former senator from Illinois and U.S. ambassador to New Zealand and a 2004 candidate for president, will discuss the experience of being a presidential candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago Alumni Politics Forum on February 16.

[Dr. Michael R. Pranzatelli](#), professor of neurology

\$578,362 as the principal investigator for projects involving pediatric opsoclonus-myoclonus syndrome (OMS), a disease that causes a sudden inability in a child's capacity to talk, sit or walk.

[Dr. Sara Rusch](#) is the new head of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, the first female regional dean in the university's statewide medical school system.

## **CAMPUS NEWS**

### **[Northwestern to Replace Student Loans with Grants for Neediest Students](#)**

Evanston -- Northwestern University will eliminate student loans and replace them with grants for undergraduate students with the greatest financial need, starting in fall 2008, the University has announced.

### **[IBHE Approves WIU Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies](#)**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has approved a Western Illinois University request to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies degree, beginning Fall 2008.

### **[Grant Helps Underserved Illinois Children Receive Oral Health Care](#)**

More underserved Illinois children will receive oral health care through a \$1.5 million grant to the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry.

[More Campus News](#)

## **NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **[Pipeline to College Presidencies Carries Few Members of Minority Groups](#)**

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Women represent a significant share of the senior campus administrators whose jobs are most likely to lead to a college presidency, according to a new survey by a leading higher-education group. But when it comes to members of racial minority groups, the supply of such potential leaders is much smaller.

[McKendree to mark its 180th anniversary](#)

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

LEBANON — McKendree University will celebrate its 180th anniversary on Feb. 19 with a celebration that includes music, hors d'oeuvres and a State of the University address by President James M. Dennis.

**[Colleges Prepare for Fiscal Downturn](#)**

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

A recession is likely to increase enrollments at 2-year institutions

**[Online Schooling Grows, Setting Off a Debate](#)**

(The New York Times)

MILWAUKEE — Weekday mornings, three of Tracie Weldie's children eat breakfast, make beds and trudge off to public school — in their case, downstairs to their basement in a suburb here, where their mother leads them through math and other lessons outlined by an Internet-based charter school.

[More News from Higher Education](#)

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