

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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March 7, 2008

R.S.V.P NOW for public briefings on Public Agenda. Please

A series of briefings have been scheduled for legislators, higher education stakeholders, and others to discuss Illinois' educational needs. A draft Public Needs Report has been prepared by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, the consultant for developing a Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education. The report will examine Illinois' demographic changes, workforce and economic trends, and educational attainment strengths and gaps. Please R.S.V.P. to Linda Oseland at PublicAgenda@ibhe.org. Public meetings to discuss the report include:



March

- 11** Public Agenda General Briefing, 2 p.m. Roosevelt University, Chicago
- 12** Joint House Higher Education/Appropriations- Higher Education Committees Briefing, 5 p.m.
- 13** Public Agenda General Briefing, 10 a.m., ICCB, Springfield
- 13** Education Caucus, 3 p.m., Springfield
- 20** Public Agenda Task Force meeting, 9 a.m., DePaul University, Loop Campus, Chicago

April

- 1** Briefing, Illinois Board of Higher Education, 9 a.m. Illinois State University



President Peters calls for healing

Dr. John Peters, President of Northern Illinois University, has formed the February 14 Memorial Committee, comprised of students, faculty, staff, families, and alumni to explore ways to memorialize those who lost their lives in the campus shooting on Valentine's Day. Peters also is soliciting views through a confidential e-mail link for the ultimate fate of Cole Hall, where the shootings occurred.

Growing gains for community college system

The Illinois Community College System Foundation has completed most of the planning to add two floors to its downtown Springfield building. The Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Community



UPCOMING

March

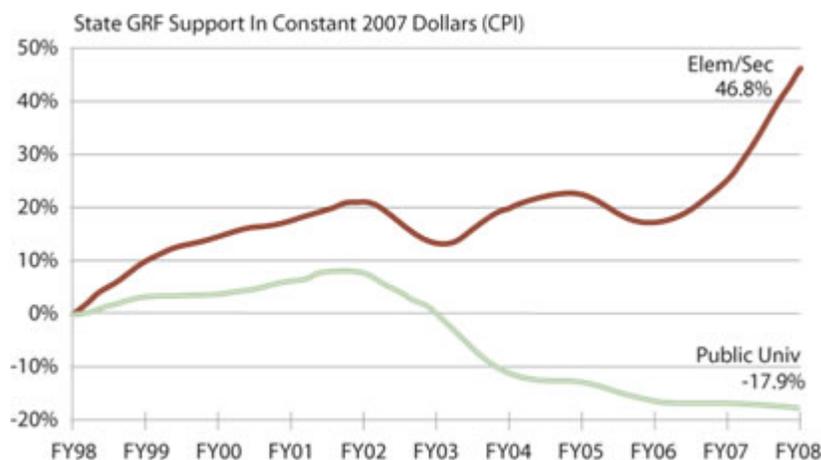
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 - 12** Joint House Higher Education Appropriations- Higher Education Committees Briefing on Public Agenda, 5 p.m.
 - 13** Public Agenda Briefing, 10 a.m., ICCB, Springfield
 - 13** Education Caucus Briefing on Public Agenda, 3 p.m.
 - 14** Illinois 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**, 9 a.m., DePaul University, Loop Campus, Chicago
 - 28** Regional AAT meeting, Kaskaskia Community College
 - 31** ICCB meeting, Sugar Grove
- April**
- 1** IBHE meeting, Bloomington-Normal
 - 1-3** ICCB campus security

College Trustees Association, and the Foundation are currently housed in the building.

Taking Illinois' temperature

The Illinois Report 2008, published by the Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) at the University of Illinois, provides an in-depth portrait of the state – from the economy and healthcare to energy and higher education. This signature publication of the IGPA is designed to bring a nonpartisan, evidence-based assessment of the state's condition to lawmakers and policy decision-makers as the legislative session begins.

From the chapter on higher education, this portrait of the ups and downs of education funding:



UIC leadership program seeks nominees, applicants

The Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is partnering with the Conference of Women Legislators (COWL) in the NEW Leadership Illinois program. This is a non-partisan, week-long residential program for college women designed to increase women's representation in all elements of public life, including elected office.

Legislation on the move in General Assembly

Legislative activity continues to intensify as both the House and Senate approach deadlines for moving bills from committee next week. These bills have advanced to Second Reading recently:

[SB 1982](#) (Sen. Frerichs) – Targets Work-Study Grants administered by IBHE toward areas of high employment demand, including STEM fields, healthcare, nursing, and education.

[HB 5109](#) (Rep. Miller) – Creates the MAP Challenge 21st Century Scholars pilot program to encourage low-income students to take a rigorous, college-prep high school curriculum by offering financial aid incentives to college.

[HB 4625](#) – (Rep. Stephens) – Gives veterans, in addition to tuition and fee waivers at public colleges and universities, a 50 percent break on textbook costs.

[HB 4890](#) (Rep. Myers) – Requires universities (and by amendment, the General Assembly and all constitutional officers other than the Governor) to be responsible for cleaning all surplus electronic

conference, Bloomington

2 Private College
Student Lobby Day,
Springfield

equipment of data and software on their campuses. Universities say the present requirement to use a state contractor for hard drive cleaning is more costly than doing it themselves.

[HB 5493](#) (Rep. Watson) – Encourages school districts to incorporate American Sign Language (ASL) courses into their foreign language curriculums and provides that ASL constitutes a foreign language for purposes of admission to public universities.



THE D.C. CORNER

[Higher ed groups team up on HEA reauthorization](#)

The American Association of Universities reports that 14 higher education associations have sent U.S. House and Senate education committee leaders recommendations on key issues — accreditation, college costs, new reporting requirements, and others — to be considered during the conference on the House and Senate measures for the upcoming conference on legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA).

[Hearing underscores importance of NSF funding](#)

According to Council of Graduate Schools, Dr. Arden Bement, Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), stressed at a congressional hearing last week that NSF-funded basic research and workforce development are vital to America's economic security.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Northwestern University President [Henry S. Bienen](#), who has led the University to increased academic prominence, financial strength and athletic success, plans to retire from his position effective Aug. 31, 2009. Bienen took office on Jan. 1, 1995. During his tenure, Northwestern faculty and students received numerous academic awards, the endowment quintupled, applications for admission skyrocketed and the University's reputation grew both nationally and internationally.

[Jane Block](#), the head of the Ricker Library of Architecture and Art at the University of Illinois, will be honored by the Belgian government for her scholarship on the art and culture of Belgium.

Dr. [James K. Dittus](#) has been named the new associate dean of communications and behavioral sciences at Elgin Community College.

[Kory Atkinson](#), an attorney from Roselle, has been appointed to the College of

DuPage Board as an interim trustee.

[ChengXiang Zhai](#), a professor of computer science at the University of Illinois, is among 118 early career researchers from 64 colleges and universities who will receive grants of \$50,000 for a two-year period. [Michael Strano](#), who was in the U. of I. department of chemical and biomolecular engineering, also was awarded a fellowship. He now is at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

[John D'Emilio](#), a pioneering scholar, activist and historian at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will be honored by the Gerber/Hart Library with a 25th anniversary celebration of his book "Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970."

CAMPUS NEWS

Benefactors aid Loyola law school

Loyola University Chicago has announced two gifts from alumni to benefit its School of Law. Bernard J. Beazley, a 1950 graduate of Loyola's School of Law and a Loyola Board of Trustee member, has made a [\\$2 million gift](#) that will fund a fully endowed chair in children's law. Randy Lamm Berlin (JD '91) and her husband, Melvin, have given a [\\$500,000 gift](#) to establish the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Clinical Professor of Business Law.

[U. of I. library creates one-stop shopping site online for health information](#)



Mary Beth Allen, the applied health sciences librarian at Illinois, coordinated the Health Information Portal project that brings together health information from many disciplines and sources, making them available in one convenient, easy-to-access place.

Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

[WIU Board to Review Cost Increases for New Students](#)

The Western Illinois University Board of Trustees will consider a 7.4 percent increase in all costs (tuition, fees and room and board) for new undergraduate students entering the University in Summer and Fall 2008 at its Friday, March 7, meeting.

[Parkland program receives honors for its excellence](#)

CHAMPAIGN – A center at Parkland College that helps students develop their academic skills is one of eight programs in the nation being recognized as exemplary community college programs.

[More Campus News](#)

NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION

[Study Finds Sharp Math, Science Skills Help Expand Economy](#)

(The Wall Street Journal)

Increased years of education boost economic growth -- but only if students' cognitive skills, as measured by math and science tests, are improved as a result, a new study says.

[Employment and the Undergraduate Degree](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

During a period of economic uncertainty, it's not much fun seeing data from

generally more prosperous times. A new report from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics takes a look at employment trends over a 10-year span starting in 1993, and the outlook was positive for college graduates.

[More news from higher education](#)

Edlines FROM AASCU

[LA: Governor Jindal to fully fund higher education](#)

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal (R) announced last week that his budget fully funds higher education in the state. The budget includes a \$34.7 million increase for "operational needs" of colleges and universities, \$15 million for a new performance-based incentive funding pool, and \$9.2 million for a need-based financial aid program. Governor Jindal is the former president of the University of Louisiana System. *The Daily Reveille* (February 29, 2008)

[FL: Higher education leaders fight legislature's governance overhaul](#)

Higher education leaders in Florida are outlining the potential drawbacks associated with a legislative proposal that strips policy-making power from the Board of Governors and transfers it to the legislature. Further, the amendment would dismantle the state Board of Education and create an elected Cabinet-level position in its place. A key issue in the heated debate revolves around tuition-setting authority. *Orlando Sentinel* (March 6, 2008)

[LA: Regents seeks tuition-setting control from legislature](#)

Louisiana's Board of Regents is trying to gain control over tuition setting authority, which is presently controlled by the state's legislature. Currently, any tuition increase in Louisiana must be approved by the legislature by a two-thirds vote, and no increase has been approved since 2005. Last year marked the first time in 25 years that higher education has been fully funded by the state, and officials estimate that underinvestment in higher education has totaled \$4 billion over the past 25 years. *The Daily Advertiser* (March 3, 2008)

[AZ: Committee passes bill to allow concealed weapons on campus](#)

The Arizona Senate Judiciary Committee has passed legislation that would allow people with a concealed weapons permit-limited to those 21 and older-to bring weapons on campus. *The New York Times* (March 5, 2008)

[VA: Legislation barring undocumented student enrollment fails](#)

A legislative committee defeated a proposal last week that would have barred undocumented students from attending the state's public colleges and universities. Undocumented students, however, must pay out-of-state tuition rates. *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (February 29, 2008)

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