

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Public Agenda Task Force to convene first meeting](#)

The Task Force
to develop a
Public Agenda
for Illinois Higher



A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR
COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

Education: Planning for College and Career Success will hold its first meeting on Thursday, March 20, at DePaul University. The principal business for Task Force members to consider will be a draft [Public Needs Report](#) prepared by consultants to the public agenda process. The Task Force also will be briefed on the next phase of the process – an audit and analysis of existing policies that help or hinder efforts to meet the educational needs of the state.

[Indiana Commissioner presents briefing on successful college readiness effort](#)

Stan Jones, Commissioner of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, visited Chicago March 7 to brief business leaders, Chicago Public Schools officials, educators, and state agencies on Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Program, which links college readiness and financial aid incentives for low-income students. 21st Century Scholars, are more likely

- to graduate high school than their peers,
- to take a college prep curriculum,
- to go to college, and
- to graduate from college than low-income peers.

HB 5109, sponsored by Rep. David Miller, seeks to set up a similar pilot program in Illinois.

[Students need help knowing how-to-go-to-college, to go to college](#)

There are many potholes that derail college aspirations for students who get little guidance on how to navigate the college admissions process, according to a new study by the Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago. Only 3 in 5 Chicago Public Schools students who wanted to go to college actually applied, and only 2 in 5 ultimately enrolled.

Adult ed officials lobby on Capitol Hill

Last week, the National Council of State Directors of Adult

UPCOMING

- 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 conference, Bloomington
- 2** Private College Student Lobby Day, Springfield
- 4** ISAC meeting, Springfield
- 15** Community College Student Lobby Day

Education (NCSDAE) Policy Committee sponsored a "Day on the Hill." The Illinois State Director for Adult Education, the ICCB Senior Director for Adult Education and Family Literacy, and a representative for the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association (IACEA) as well as other individuals from other states visited offices of their respective Senators and Representatives who sit on the appropriations committees. The purpose of this visit was to share information about Illinois adult education, the need for services, and the impact of adult education in each state.



Frances G. Carroll, member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, displays a framed article about her and her sister, Grace, in the fall 2007 issue of [Roosevelt Review](#). Frances and Grace are Roosevelt University alumni. Roosevelt President Charles Middleton presented the framed article at a gathering this week for a briefing on the Higher Education Public Agenda.

Community colleges share in job-training grants

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced the winners of the third competition for the President's Community-Based Job Training Grants. Three of the grants are coming to Illinois, including two community colleges. The Illinois grant winners are: Rend Lake College (Energy) - \$1.6 million; Elgin Community College (Healthcare) - \$1.9 million; Peoria Workforce Development Department (Healthcare) - \$2 million.



Statehouse Review

General Assembly, after busy week, takes two-week recess

Both the House and Senate adjourned this week with a flurry of committee action as deadlines expired for passing substantive bills to the floor. Bills of interest to higher

education include:

[HB 4903](#) (Rep. Jakobsson) – Requires publishers of textbooks to disclose retail price, revision history, and existence of alternative formats, and to offer textbooks “unbundled” from supplementary materials. 2nd Reading in the House.

[HB 4621](#) (Rep. Will Davis) – Provides automatic admission for high school graduates in the top 10 percent of their class to any state university. Defeated in Higher Education Committee.

[HJR 100](#) (Rep. Chapa LaVia) – Creates a bipartisan task force on the status of underrepresented minorities in higher education. Placed on order of resolutions in the House.

[SB 1908](#) (Sen. Maloney) – Increases the maximum award for Monetary Award Program grants by \$500 per year, with similar percentage increases for students not subject to the maximum award, such as community college students. 2nd Reading in Senate.

[SB 2736](#) (Sen. Halvorson) – Places conditions on contracts with non-instructional workers hired in emergency situations at public universities. 2nd Reading in Senate.

[SB 2043](#) (Sen. Koehler) – Permits community college districts spanning 8 or more counties to construct residential housing. Defeated in Senate Higher Education Committee, and the sponsor requested that the issue be raised in the Public Agenda planning process.



Washington Corner

[University leaders say NIH funding risks new generation of researchers](#)

Careers in biomedical research are jeopardized by proposed flat funding of the National Institutes of Health, a group of university leaders told a congressional committee. They issued a report, “A Broken Pipeline? Flat Funding of the NIH Puts a Generation of Science at Risk,” which concluded that the proposed NIH budget is a “ladder of discouragement” to young scientists.

[10 years later: Majority of college grads satisfied with jobs](#)

The U.S. Department of Education reports that a longitudinal

study of college grads from 1992-93 found that by 2003, most were happy with their pay, fringe benefits, job security, and opportunity for promotion.



Math education -- The National Mathematics Advisory Panel released its final report on the best use of research to advance the teaching and learning of mathematics, with a specific focus on preparation for and success in algebra (grades PK-8). Why algebra? It is a "demonstrable gateway to later achievement," needed for higher math in high school. Also, completion of Algebra II correlates significantly with success in college and future earnings.

NCLB Update -- Secretary Margaret Spellings visited three more states to discuss critical issues in K-12 education. Next week, using feedback from these visits, the Secretary will announce a series of assessment and accountability actions.

American Stars of Teaching -- The Department is still accepting nominations for its 2008 American Stars of Teaching awards, which recognize educators who are boosting student achievement -- using innovative instructional strategies -- and making a difference in the lives of their students.

Higher Education -- Secretary Spellings testified before the House Committee on Education and Labor on the availability of federal student loans.

Funding Opportunities -- The School Leadership Grant Program assists in the development, enhancement, or expansion of innovative programs to recruit, train, and mentor principals and assistant principals for high-need schools. The competition is open to high-need districts and institutions of higher education in partnership with districts.

People in the News

Dr. S. Alan Ray, senior vice provost at the University of New Hampshire, has been named the 13th president of Elmhurst College.

Loyola University Chicago student, **Ashley Viager**, has been awarded the Scholar of Promise Service Award by The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS).

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has selected three University of Chicago scholars to receive 2008 Sloan research fellowships -- **Aaron Dinner**, Assistant Professor in Chemistry; **Margaret**

[Gardel](#), Assistant Professor in Physics; and [Andrej Zlatoš](#), Assistant Professor in Mathematics, are among 118 scholars named Sloan research fellows from colleges and universities in North America.

Newsweek Editor [Jon Meacham](#) will discuss the influence of religion on American politics at 7 p.m., April 8, at McKendree University.

Campus News

McKendree Hosts Time Trials for Special Olympics Athletes

McKendree University will welcome nearly 200 Special Olympics athletes on March 29, as the campus hosts track and field time trials for Special Olympics Illinois Southwestern Area 12.

Novelist to be WIU writer in residence

Rick Bass, a writer and environmentalist from Montana, will be the Western Illinois University Lola Austin Case Writer-in-Residence for Spring 2008 during the week of March 17.

Roosevelt receives \$300,000 for Social Justice Institute

Roosevelt University's Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation has received a \$300,000 grant from the Albert & Anne Mansfield Foundation that will enable it to integrate social justice into the University's curriculum.

[More campus news](#)

News from Higher Education

CPS students fail to navigate college maze

(Chicago Sun-Times)

More than 40 percent of Chicago public school seniors who say they want a bachelor's degree don't even apply to a four-year college on time, and Latinos students are the least likely to apply, a new study indicates.

Promising Path on Remediation

(Inside Higher Ed)

Remedial education remains a struggle for many community colleges, which are expected to help students who received inadequate high school educations get ready for college-level

work. Legislators hate paying for remedial education; community colleges hate being defined by remedial education; students hate being unable to get into the college-level courses that attracted them to higher education in the first place.

[States balk at higher-ed mandate](#)

(Christian Science Monitor)

Efforts to make higher education more affordable are on the threshold of becoming law. The House and Senate have both passed versions of a bill that would increase federal grants for students and crack down on problems in the college loan industry.

[More news from higher education](#)

Edlines from AASCU

[AL: Crowd rallies against higher education budget cuts](#)

More than 2,000 students, faculty, and staff rallied in front of the Alabama Statehouse last week to protest higher education budget cuts proposed by Governor Bob Riley. *The Birmingham News*

[NJ: Holding the line on higher education cuts](#)

New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine's (D) FY 2009 executive budget recommendation calls for a 10.2 percent cut to the state's higher education institutions. *New Jersey Times*

[FL: Business leaders oppose legislature's power grab](#)

The Florida Council of 100, a group of the state's top business leaders, has taken a position against the legislature's attempt to gain control over tuition-setting authority from the Board of Governors. The group claims the legislature will politicize state education, erode its quality, and eventually hurt Florida's business climate. *The Palm Beach Post*

[SC: State's colleges and universities brace for budget cuts](#)

South Carolina's House Ways and Means Committee proposed an across-the-board 2.3 percent decrease for all state agencies in South Carolina for the next fiscal year, including higher education. *The Times and Democrat*

[UT: Students get sales tax exemption passed for textbooks](#)

Students in Utah have successfully lobbied the Utah Tax Commission to exempt textbooks from the state's sales tax. The commission based the decision upon the fact that the universities are 501(c)(3) organizations, and textbooks are parts of their regular, religious, or charitable functions and activities. It is estimated that Utah students will save about \$4.7 million annually, or \$60 per student. *The Salt Lake City Tribune*

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