

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

IBHE
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Executive Director Judy Erwin

ICCB
Chairman Guy Alongi
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC
Chairman Don McNeil
Executive Director Andy Davis

March 21, 2008

[Public Agenda Task Force reviews Illinois educational needs](#)

“What surprised you?” asked Carrie J. Hightman, Chairwoman of the Task Force to create A Public Agenda for College and Career Readiness.



A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR
COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

Illinois’ economic diversity, replied Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS). “On the negative side,” he added, “is the lack of economic energy, the dependence on mature firms and industry.”

The exchange occurred at the initial meeting of the Task Force created to design A Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education: Planning for College and Career Success March 20 at DePaul University. The Task Force focused on Jones’ presentation of the draft Public Needs Report, showing significant disparities in economic wellbeing and educational attainment among races and regions of the state, discrepancies Chairwoman Hightman described as a “[prosperity gap](#)” in Illinois.

[Sylvia Manning named President of Higher Learning Commission](#)



Dr. Sylvia Manning, who retired in December as chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago, has been appointed President of the Higher Learning Commission. She assumes her duties July 1, succeeding Steve Crow. Manning spent 14 years at the U of I where she was vice president for academic affairs before taking the helm at UIC for the past 8 years. She has served on several accreditation teams, including as a public member of an accrediting agency for nursing

degree programs.

[Conference to focus on campus climate](#)

“Race, Diversity, and Campus Climate” is the focus of a major conference scheduled for April 10, 2008, at the Illinois Union on the

UPCOMING

- 28** Regional AAT meeting, Kaskaskia Community College
- 29-30** IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Urbana
- 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 www.federationedu.org
- 4** ISAC meeting, Springfield
- 9** Higher Education Lobby Day, Springfield
- 15** Community College Student Lobby Day, Springfield

campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The goal of the conference is to present information the U of I and similar universities can use to make the campus more diverse and inclusive.

[ISAC trains volunteers to help low-income taxpayers complete FAFSA, qualify for more financial aid](#)

Chicago teenager Mercedes Williams dreamed of attending college in pursuit of a career in advertising. She was the first in her family to consider college, but funds were tight and Mercedes wasn't sure where to turn. Her life changed, however, when she sat down to discuss her aspirations with a volunteer from the not-for-profit Tax Assistance Program (TAP).

[Chamberlain College opens new nursing school in Addison](#)

The gap in trained nurses may narrow a bit with the opening last week of a new campus by Chamberlain College School of Nursing, expected to enroll 15 students in its BSN program. The new facility will offer a variety of lab settings that mimic not only a hospital room, but a doctor's office, specialty care for children and babies, and a critical care unit.



People in the News

[Keith Boeckelman](#), co-author of the new book "Barack Obama, The New Face of American Politics," published in December 2007 by Praeger Press, will sign copies of his book Saturday, March 22 at New Copperfield's Book Service in Macomb.

McKendree University Assistant Professor of Management Dr. [Peter Will](#) and first-year student [Miranda Linneman](#) and sophomore [Sarah Monical](#) have been selected to participate in the annual Technos International Educational Week in Japan.

[Byron Hurt](#)—a self-proclaimed hip-hop head, former star college quarterback, documentary filmmaker and gender violence prevention worker—will visit Northern Illinois University to screen his film exploring gender roles in hip-hop and rap music.

An expert on the history of modern Europe will address the Illinois College community next month as a part of the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program. Dr. [James Sheehan](#) will present, "Why the European Union Will Not Become a Superpower" on April 7.

Campus News

[GSU President Signs Climate Commitment](#)

Governors State University president Dr. Elaine P. Maimon recently signed the "American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment." In doing so, Maimon joined nearly 500 other presidents nationwide in recognizing the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale, adverse health, social, economic, and ecological effects.

[Unique website puts early childhood programs on the map and online](#)

For individual parents, finding the right child care or preschool program is tough enough. In Illinois, however, the information is now integrated and available in one online system, available to policymakers, legislators, advocates, businesses – anyone who needs a clearer picture of what is available and the population to be served.

[Loyola joins "I Know I Can College Awareness Day" Targeting Third Graders at CPS](#)

Loyola University Chicago's School of Education (SOE) is teaming up with the Illinois College Access Network (IllinoisCAN) to host the fourth annual "I Know I Can College Awareness Day" on Tuesday, March 25.

[NIU scientists playing role in development of CERN's LHC detector](#)

Physicists at NIU are watching with great anticipation as construction of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, nears completion. The project reached an important milestone recently, when the final piece of the ATLAS particle detector was lowered into the underground collision hall.

[Business Week Magazine Ranks COB One of Nation's Best](#)

Business Week magazine has once again listed Illinois State University's College of Business as one of the best undergraduate business schools in the nation. The College of Business was ranked 79th overall, and 38th among public universities, in the publication's 2008 nationwide ranking of undergraduate programs.

[More campus news](#)

News from Higher Education

[New Data Predict Major Shifts in Student Population, Requiring Colleges to Change Strategies](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Colleges and universities know that the composition of the nation's student body is headed for a major change. They've been seeing the evidence for years. And an analysis of population data released on Wednesday confirms that major shifts are under way.

[Letter to the Editor: Helping CPS students get to college](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

This is in response to "Study: More teens could enter college; but many try vocational, 2-year schools instead; report says city high schools should do more to help them apply" (Metro, March 13). Your story on the Consortium on Chicago School Research's recent report, "From High School to the Future: Potholes on the Road to College," raises important questions.

[Southern Illinois chancellor put on leave after 'serious concerns'](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

The chancellor of Southern Illinois University's flagship campus in Carbondale was put on paid leave Monday following concerns about his job performance, President Glenn Poshard said in a statement.

[The Mental Health Squeeze](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

For years, college counselors have seen increasing numbers of students arrive to campus with serious mental health problems and prior treatment histories. The reasons are still partly a mystery, but the fact persists. The real question is what to do about it, but many counseling center directors have found themselves limited in their options by tight budgetary constraints.

[More news from higher education](#)

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