

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

April 4, 2008

[A moment of silence, a standing ovation, red-and-black ribbons](#)

In a poignant tribute to the Northern Illinois University family over the tragic events of February 14, members of the Board of Higher Education, all wearing red-and-black ribbons, bowed heads in silence, then stood to applaud [President John Peters](#) after a moving and insightful presentation to the Board and higher education community April 1 at Illinois State University.



NIU President John Peters talks with IBHE Vice Chair Lucy Sloan (standing), ISU President Al Bowman, and NEIU President Sharon Hahs. (Bloomington Pantagraph photo by Steve Smedley)

IBHE Chairwoman [Carrie J. Hightman](#) said, "We mourn the loss and share the pain of the NIU family, even as we celebrate the courage and the resolute spirit displayed by the students, families, faculty, administration and staff, particularly those emergency responders whose quick action, professionalism and efficiency without doubt saved lives on that horrific day."

The Board received a briefing from the [Campus Security Task Force](#) on various aspects of its work, including preparedness and planning, mental health services, legal issues, and training sessions conducted for college and university security personnel.



[Senate President Jones stars in Diverse Magazine focus on Illinois higher education](#)

Diverse Magazine, a national biweekly publication examining diversity issues in higher education, has focused its latest edition on Illinois with several articles on various programs and institutions and a profile of "A 'Patron Saint' for Chicago State University" – Senate President

Emil Jones. Other articles include:

- [Diversifying faculty in Illinois](#)
A feature about the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Higher Education (DFI), a \$2.8 million grant program administered by

UPCOMING

April

8 House Higher Education Committee, 5:30 p.m., 122B Capitol

9 Higher Education Lobby Day, Springfield

11-12 [Student African American Brotherhood Conference](#), Matteson

15 Community College Student Lobby Day, Springfield

26 Briefing on Public Agenda for public university trustees, Naperville

29 ICCTA, Council of Community College Presidents, Springfield

May

1 Task Force on Illinois Higher Education Public Agenda, Chicago

the IBHE.

- [Thinking About Their Future in a Different Way](#)
Roosevelt University partners with a local high school and promises its students full financial support if admitted.
- [Finally taking root](#)
As scholars try to get university administrators across the country to understand how distinct Filipino American studies are, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign program continues to expand.
- [A 'Historical Problem'](#)
Southern Illinois University Carbondale fares well on its hiring of minority administrators, but it is being taken to task for the lack of women in its executive ranks.
- [Empowering Hispanic Scholars To Navigate the Academy](#)
A Northeastern Illinois University program seeks to fill the pipeline with Hispanic faculty, administrators.
- [The Heart of the Mission](#)
As a top producer of minority health practitioners, a University of Illinois at Chicago program seeks to improve the quality of medical care in communities of color.

[NCHEMS consultants continue dialogue on educational needs](#)

Dennis Jones and
Aims McGuinness,
consultants from the
National Center for



A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR
COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

Higher Education Management Systems, briefed the IBHE on their research into Illinois' educational needs, and met with public university presidents and chancellors, representatives of the community college system, researchers from the University of Chicago, officials of Chicago Mayor Daley's office and the postsecondary office of the Chicago Public Schools. "Please get involved," [Chairwoman Hightman](#) told the higher ed community at the IBHE meeting April 1. "We want and need your participation to build a strong, lasting, relevant, dynamic Public Agenda for Illinois higher education."

[Utopia: Faculty report shows social gains from higher ed](#)

"Illinois cannot afford chronic underinvestment in higher education." So concluded a report by Curtis White, a professor at Illinois State University and chair of the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, in a special presentation to the Board April 1. Dr. White presented research showing that the college educated are less likely to draw on public assistance, such as Medicaid or food stamps, while their college degree yields an annual per capita return of social benefits amounting to nearly \$25,000.

ICCB submits adult ed state plan for FY09

The Illinois Community College Board recently submitted the FY2009 State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy to the United States Office of Vocational and Adult Education. The plan describes activities for Adult Education during the FY2009.

- the need for Adult Education in Illinois,
- the eligible population and those most in need of services,
- how equitable access to funding is achieved,
- allowable Adult Education activities,
- procedures for funding providers,
- an annual evaluation of literacy activities,
- provision of services to persons in correctional facilities,
- integrated activities with the one-stop career centers (Illinois Employment and Training Centers), and
- proposed leadership and professional development activities.

[Textbook report notes steps to save students money](#)

At Chicago State, bookstore employees contact faculty when the price of a textbook is outside a “reasonable” window. Publishing book lists so students can shop online can produce savings, such as at Northeastern Illinois where a \$100 accounting textbook was purchased used online for \$9. These are among the cost-saving devices detailed in a report from IBHE and ICCB to the General Assembly in response to Senate Resolution 298, sponsored by Senator Mattie Hunter.

[Coalition gears up for lobby day](#)



Flyer extols virtues of higher education for lobby day

The Higher Education Legislative Coalition will hold its annual Lobby Day rally at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 9, at the Illinois Education Association parking lot at 100 W. Edwards in Springfield. Key legislators, including the chairs and minority spokespersons of higher education committees, have been invited. Several university presidents, and hundreds of students, and faculty are expected to attend. The 2007 lobby day drew more than 800 participants from around the state. Unions representing faculty and other higher ed employees include the Service Employees International Union, Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Illinois Education Association, the University Professionals of Illinois, and AFSCME.

People in the News

[Leticia Peralta Davis](#) and Dr. [Mrinalini \(Meena\) C. Rao](#) have been appointed by the Board of Higher Education to the program board of the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Higher Education. Ms. Davis is the owner and principal of Peralta Garcia Solutions, LLC, a financial consulting and executive management firm, based in Chicago. Dr. Rao serves as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois.

Jerry Thor, a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has been elected by the IBHE Student Advisory Committee as the new student board member, succeeding **Matt DeRosa**, who was selected as alternate board member. **Ashley Dearborn**, who now attends Northwestern University, was re-elected as the nontraditional student member. The new SAC chair is **William Obuchowski**, a student at Moraine Valley Community College.

[Amy Brehm](#), a Western Illinois University senior law enforcement and justice administration student from Macomb, has earned a unique distinction during her academic career: being the 10 millionth person to board a Go West bus.

[Sandra Meister](#), the Northern Illinois University graduate student in nutrition and dietetics who last year created a guide to healthy eating in DeKalb restaurants, has been named the state's outstanding dietetic intern.

Campus News

[U. of I. to host international marketing symposium](#)

Five pioneers will be honored for their contributions to the field of marketing during an international symposium April 17-19 at the University of Illinois.

[NIU community gets hands dirty to thank DeKalb, Sycamore](#)

NIU Cares Day, a campus-wide day of service, is back for its second year.

[Illinois College Residence Hall wins LEED certification](#)

The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) awarded LEED Silver Certification to Illinois College's newest residence hall, the first college or university building in downstate Illinois to achieve LEED Silver certification.

[Economic Development Expert to Speak on Global Chicago](#)

Paul O'Connor, founder of the nonprofit economic development corporation World Business Chicago, will speak on "Cooking Up a Global City" at the University of Illinois at Chicago on April 15.

[More Campus News](#)

News from Higher Education

[Getting Them In, Getting Them Back](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

A quick word association: "underrepresented students." What comes to mind? The smart money's on "racial minority students from urban areas," or some form of that answer. Often forgotten, but most often included in such definitions, is the subgroup rural students.

[The Changing Face of Student Aid](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

A recent flurry of announcements from some of the wealthiest and most competitive private colleges brought welcome news to lower- and middle-income families.

[More News from Higher Education](#)

Edlines from AASCU

[FL: Constitutional amendment passes Florida Senate](#)

The Florida State Senate passed a constitutional amendment stripping the Florida Board of Governors of most of its authority, including setting tuition rates. In addition, the amendment would again make the state's education commissioner an elected post. If passed by the House and Florida voters, this would be the third overhaul of higher education governance in ten years. *Miami Herald*

[OH: State chancellor unveils 10-year plan to improve state higher education](#)

This week Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut unveiled a 10-year plan for the state's public colleges and universities that aims to lower college costs and increase the number of residents with college degrees. The chancellor's plan promises access to bachelor's degrees in certain fields within 30 miles of every state resident by using the network of community colleges and four-year campuses and allowing each school to set its own tuition rates. Also, Fingerhut calls for free college classes for high school students, developing a "specialization" for each four-year campus, certification from training programs to count toward a college degree, and the creation of a common academic calendar for all universities. *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*

[WA: State develops new scholarship program](#)

Washington has developed a scholarship program designed to encourage college attendance for the state's low-income students. The scholarship, called College Bound, promises middle-school students a college scholarship if

they maintain at least a minimum GPA of 2.0 in high school. To be eligible, students must sign up for the program and qualify for the state's free-or-reduced lunch program. Lawmakers have earmarked \$8.1 million in seed money for the program, which will see its first students enrolled in college in 2013. Washington currently spends \$180 million on need-based grants, and the University of Washington and Washington State University waive tuition for low-income students. The state will join Indiana and Oklahoma in offering such a program. *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

[IL: Editorial: State should fully fund tuition grants for veterans](#)

The editorial board of *The Pantograph* (Bloomington, IL) believes that state tuition grants for veterans are beneficial to Illinois students, institutions of higher education, and communities. They argue that this benefit should be continued, but maintain that the state should not pass the program's cost on to state colleges and universities and, ultimately, to tuition-paying students. The editors contend that the state legislature should fully fund the program, as full funding has not happened since 2001. State higher education institutions now carry 40 percent of the cost of the program and have witnessed a collective \$326 million funding reduction in state support since 2003. *The Pantograph*

[SD: Board raises tuition 8 percent for next year](#)

Last Thursday the South Dakota Board of Regents raised tuition at the state's colleges and universities by 8 percent. The increase will translate into a \$463 tuition increase, raising tuition prices to \$6,295 for the state's undergraduate students taking 32 credits. Some of the revenues generated from the increase will be used to upgrade and build new science facilities and research labs on the state's campuses. *Argus-Leader*

[RI: State leaders examining big changes for higher education](#)

Two powerful Rhode Island lawmakers have proposed changes to the governance structure of the state's college system. One lawmaker wants to eliminate the state's Office of Higher Education and Board of Governors and, in turn, establish campus-level governing boards appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature. The president of the University of Rhode Island has welcomed the idea. *The Providence Journal*

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