

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 11, 2008

[Hastert, Poshard meet with Governor, leaders on capital program](#)

[Illinois Works Coalition](#) Co-chairs Dennis Hastert, former U.S. House Speaker, and Southern Illinois University President Glenn Poshard met April 10 with Governor Rod R. Blagojevich and Legislative Leaders at the Governor's office in Springfield to discuss the need for a capital infrastructure program. Hastert and Poshard asked for the meeting to report on the findings of the Illinois Works Coalition's meetings around the state. The group agreed to continue meeting and working on passing consensus legislation for a comprehensive capital plan for Illinois.

[ISAC briefed on changing student loan environment](#)

The past year has been rough in the student loan industry. So at their recent meeting, ISAC Commissioners were briefed on the impact of the "Student Loan Scandal," the "Student Loan Credit Crunch" and a new federal law affecting Illinois students and schools. Executive Director Andrew Davis reaffirmed the agency's commitment, in this rapidly changing environment, to its mission of making college affordable for Illinois students.

[Coalition rally draws 400 seeking higher ed funding increase](#)

Advocates for increased higher education funding convened in Springfield April 9 for a rally sponsored by the Higher Education Legislative Coalition (HELC). Several legislators, university presidents, and labor leaders addressed the crowd of faculty, staff, and students. Participants chanted "Right Here! Right Now!" in response to rousing remarks from both Representative David Miller and SIU President Glenn Poshard.

[\\$456 million in State financial aid an all-time high, but so is demand](#)

The State of Illinois pumped a record \$456 million into various college student assistance programs in 2007. The total payout of Monetary Award Program (MAP) awards - the State's successful need-based grant program - was \$383 million, an all-time high, while the number of MAP applicants - 576,557 students - was also unprecedented.

[Nationwide safety survey provides snapshot of campus reactions to Virginia Tech tragedy](#)

Nearly nine out of 10 respondents to a recent survey indicated that their college or university had conducted a comprehensive review of

UPCOMING

April

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

15 Community College Student Lobby Day, Springfield

16 House Appropriations-Higher Education Committee, 9 a.m., C-1, SOB

16 House Higher Education Committee, 5 p.m., C-1, SOB

26 Briefing on Public Agenda for public university trustees, Naperville

29 ICCTA, Council of Community College Presidents, Springfield

29 Capitol Showcase, exhibit of NCLB projects, Capitol, Springfield

May

1 Task Force on Illinois Higher Education Public Agenda, Chicago

campus safety and security in the wake of the mass shootings at Virginia Tech in April of last year, and a similar proportion indicated that changes had been made to policies, procedures or security systems as a result of the tragedy, according to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC).

### **Wright College gets grant for training in homeland security**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate awarded a 3-year, \$200,000 grant to the Wilbur Wright College Emergency Management degree program. The primary purpose of the grant is to provide tuition support for students preparing for careers in Emergency Management/Homeland Security related disciplines. The grant will allow up to 20 students to complete full A.A.S. degrees and another 20 students to earn one of the three Basic Certificates offered in the program. Wilbur Wright College is one of the City Colleges of Chicago.

### **[AASCU report offers recommendations for curbing institutional spending](#)**

Public colleges and universities rank the identification and implementation of cost containment strategies among their top institutional priorities, according to a study by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and SunGard Higher Education. Based on a survey of 114 AASCU member institutions, the study also provides insight into highly replicable “best practices” that could produce effective cost savings and thus increase academic affordability, access and institutional accountability.

### **[Governor advises students to begin search for summer jobs](#)**

School is just about out for the summer and according to Northeastern University’s recently released 2008 Teen Job Outlook the summer job outlook for teens and young adults is pretty bleak. “Start now, if you haven’t begun looking already,” said Gov. Blagojevich. “Summer employment is a way for high school and college students to explore different work settings and help them decide on their future careers.” And the state has a [website](#) to help.



## *Washington Corner*

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### **[DOE announces new energy research centers program](#)**

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science is seeking proposals for Energy Frontier Research Centers under a new program aimed at speeding scientific breakthroughs needed for advanced energy technologies. Awards for this first group of centers are likely to be in the range of \$2–5 million a year for an initial five-year period.

### **[Work continues on Senate patent reform bill](#)**

Leaders of the Senate Judiciary Committee continue to consider changes to the committee-passed patent reform bill (S. 1145) in an effort to gain the widest possible support before taking the measure to the Senate floor. The five higher education associations working together on patent reform are continuing to convey their views to the committee, as described in a [letter](#) of February 5.

### [House committee approves bill to increase student loan borrowing limits](#)

The House Education and Labor Committee on April 9 approved by voice vote the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (H.R. 5715), which would increase borrowing limits for federal graduate and undergraduate student loans. The bill is expected to be considered on the House floor next week. The bill aims to ensure that students and families have greater access to low-cost federal student loans even if the turmoil in national credit markets leads to more expensive and harder-to-obtain private loans.

### [Higher ed groups urge caution on international student learning outcomes](#)

Six higher education associations have sent comments to the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) expressing reservations about the OECD proposal to assess student learning outcomes on an international scale. OECD officials hope to develop a way to measure the skills and abilities of graduates as a means of determining if and how higher education systems are meeting expectations of quality.

### [Spellings promises steps on uniform dropout data](#)

On April 1, at a press conference hosted by America's Promise Alliance, Education Secretary Margaret Spellings announced she will take "administrative steps" to ensure all states use the same formula to calculate how many students graduate from high school on time. As evidence of the extent of the dropout crisis, the alliance released a new report, ["Cities in Crisis,"](#) that documents large disparities between graduation rates in urban districts and neighboring suburban districts. The alliance is sponsoring a campaign which will feature summits in all 50 states and 50 key cities over the next two years.

## *[People in the News](#)*

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[Lucy Sloan](#), Vice Chair of the Board of Higher Education, was honored recently by [Project Hope and Opportunity](#) as a "Trail Blazer, Leader, Mentor, and Role Model," during a special Night of Elegance at the Carbondale Civic Center. Project Hope and Opportunity is a scholarship campaign to aid traditionally underrepresented populations.

Two University of Illinois at Chicago faculty, [Leon Fink](#), distinguished professor of history, and [Ben Russell](#), visiting assistant professor of moving image, are among 190 artists, scholars and scientists awarded Guggenheim Fellowships.

Sigma Beta Delta, McKendree University's honor society for business, management or administration, awarded its first School of Business Service Award to senior [Jarid Schulte](#), an accounting and economics/finance major from Mt. Olive.

UCLA neonatologist [Dr. J. Usha Raj](#) has been named head of pediatrics at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine.



[Lucia Matos](#), a native of Brazil, will serve as conductor of the Northern Illinois University Philharmonic and music director of the NIU Opera Workshop. Matos also will teach conducting. She has conducted orchestras in the United States, Brazil, and Europe and has served as an opera music director across the Midwest. She recorded a CD with the Czech Philharmonic Chamber

Orchestra that was released in 2006.

[Toni Tollerud](#), of the Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education; [Dan Gebo](#), of the Department of Anthropology; and [Dave Changnon](#), who teaches meteorology in the Department of Geography, are winners of the Presidential Teaching Professorships at Northern Illinois University.



Former First Lady of Illinois [Brenda Edgar](#) will present "Her-story on His-story: A Conversation with Brenda Edgar" when she delivers the second speech in the newly established Edgar Lecture Series at Eastern Illinois University. Her talk will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 17, in the Buzzard Hall Auditorium, and is open to the public.

## *Campus News*

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### [Daley family, UIC host 4<sup>th</sup> annual Urban Forum](#)

Mayors from more than 50 cities spanning the globe will weigh the social and economic effects of this mass urbanization at the Fourth Annual Richard J. Daley Urban Forum at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) April 29.

### [Moraine Valley makes history for community colleges](#)

Moraine Valley Community College students will have the opportunity to participate in the summer study abroad program at Oxford University's Centre for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, thanks to the efforts of two assistant professors of Humanities.

### [WIU to Hold 33rd Annual History Conference April 26](#)

Western Illinois University's history department will host the 33rd Annual History Conference, "Putting the 'Story' Back in History," on Saturday, April 26. James Willbanks, director of the military history department at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS, will be the featured speaker.

### [UIC wins NASA innovation award](#)

A team of University of Illinois at Chicago M.B.A. students won the NASA Earth/Space Life Science Innovation Award at the 2008 Rice Business Plan Competition.

### [Huskies for Hokies candlelight vigil set for April 16](#)

All members of the DeKalb County community are invited to participate in the Huskies for Hokies Candlelight Vigil at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, in the Martin Luther King Commons.



### [SIU debate team captures national championship](#)

There is no argument: the Southern Illinois University Carbondale debate team is the best in the nation. Their win at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence verifies it.

### [Gift to build new forensic center at Chicago School](#)

Students studying Forensic Psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology this fall will have access to a unique teaching venue thanks to a significant gift from Transwestern and Mr. and Mrs. Philip R. Utigard.

### [SIU Med School Offers Agricultural Occupational Health Training](#)

A unique partnership of medical, environmental, safety and public health experts are presenting an extended training conference in May and June focused on important health care needs of rural areas. "Agricultural Occupational Health Training" is the topic of a medical education conference.

### [WIU Honors Students Present Research](#)

Two Western Illinois University students presented their research projects at the 2008 Honors Council of the Illinois Region (HCIR) Spring Student Research Conference held in March at the WIU-Quad Cities campus.

### [UIC receives \\$2.25 million to build nonprofit network](#)

The University of Illinois at Chicago has received a three-year, \$2.25 million grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation to create a network

to help Illinois nonprofits and small municipalities access federal grants and build partnerships for community improvement.

### [More Campus News](#)

## *[News from Higher Education](#)*

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### [University advocates protest flat funding](#)

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

Illinois government is strangling universities throughout the state with stagnant funding, forcing ever-higher tuition rates and threatening to price a college education out of reach of many families, faculty and students around the state warned in a rally Wednesday.

### [U. of I. Extension may cut 450 jobs](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

The University of Illinois Extension, which pays for educational programs in 102 Illinois counties, may have to cut 450 positions because state funds allocated to the organization for fiscal year 2008 may not be released.

### [OPINION - Don't shortchange higher ed](#)

(Peoria Journal Star)

Earlier this year the governor unveiled a state budget plan that flat-lined higher education funding. Lawmakers predicted that public universities would respond by hiking tuition. They were right. In March the University of Illinois jacked tuition on all three of its campuses. Illinois State and Southern Illinois universities have hinted they may follow suit.

### [Rend Lake receives check to help fund coal technology center](#)

(The Southern Illinoisan)

State Rep. Kurt Granberg made good on a previously announced intention when he delivered a \$1.073 million check Monday to help fund a new coal mining technology center at Rend Lake College.

### [Lawsuit Accuses U. of Texas of Illegally Reintroducing Race-Based Admissions](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

A federal lawsuit filed here on Monday accuses the University of Texas at Austin of improperly considering an applicant's race when more-effective, race-neutral, ways of achieving diversity were available.

### [More News from Higher Education](#)

## *[Edlines from AASCU](#)*

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**[VA: Mental health and campus safety legislation signed by Governor](#)**

Virginia Governor Tim Kaine has signed legislation Wednesday to broaden the state's power to send individuals to mental health treatment and to upgrade the monitoring of mental health patients. The legislation requires colleges to develop crisis and emergency management plans, campus "threat assessment teams" and notification systems. The bill appropriates \$41.7 million to meet the prescribed changes. *The Roanoke Times*

**[AZ: Campus construction plans garners support](#)**

Business and community leaders in Arizona are rallying behind a \$1.4 billion construction plan for the state's public colleges and universities. Officials in the state argue that investing in higher education will help diversify the state's economy. *The Arizona Republic*

**[CO: Legislative proposal: Energy revenues to be earmarked for higher education](#)**

Colorado legislators plan to introduce legislation reserving \$1 billion in energy revenues for higher education and construction projects for communities in drilling areas. *Forbes*

**[KS: Governor Sebelius forms K-20 panel](#)**

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius (D) has signed an executive order calling for a K-20 panel that will look at generating a streamlined, benchmark-based state education system. *Kansas City InfoZine*

**[MD: University officials believe tuition freeze can be extended](#)**

University of Maryland System Chancellor Brit Kirwan will recommend that the tuition freeze at the state's colleges and universities be extended for a third year. He suggests it is feasible because of a very minor reduction in funding from the state legislature and the governor, combined with several tax increases passed last year. *The Diamondback*

**[NV: Tuition hikes approved](#)**

The Nevada Board of Regents approved a 5 percent tuition increase in the next biennium for undergraduate students attending community colleges, state colleges, and universities. *Reno Gazette-Journal*

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