

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

May 23, 2008



Statehouse Review

Common denominator in House, Senate budgets: More \$\$\$ for higher ed

The budget bills that moved through the House and Senate this week represent a mixed bag for higher education, although both included overall increases. [HB 6485](#) includes a 3.7 percent increase for higher education; [SB 1130](#) contains a 2.8 percent boost. The House version passed at essentially the Step 3 investment level recommended by the Board of Higher Education for public universities, and increases above that for community colleges and student financial aid. It also transfers \$16 million to the University of Illinois to take over the state research surveys. But the Senate budget contains no increase in funding for community colleges or ISAC.

Bills pass by the bushel as legislators faces adjournment

Bills were flying across the rotunda this week as though the General Assembly might actually adjourn by its end-of-May deadline. Some legislation of importance to higher education includes:

[HB 5059](#) – Provides for nurse educator scholarships to increase the number of nursing faculty in the state, which is a significant barrier to increasing capacity to train nurses. The bill will be heard in the Senate Higher Education Committee on May 28.

[SB 1982](#) – Directs the IBHE to consider areas of high priority workforce need when awarding grants under the Cooperative Work Study program. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the House Higher Education Committee on May 27.

[HJR 36](#) – Directs the IBHE to establish a task force to study issues related to dual credit programs. The resolution is at passage stage in the Senate.

[HB 1334](#) – Provides that each year a minimum of 200 scholarships awarded through the Illinois Future Teacher Corps program go to the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program.

UPCOMING

May

27 House Higher Education Committee, 4:30 p.m., 114 Capitol

28 Senate Higher Education Committee, 10:30 a.m., 409 Capitol

29-30 [School Leadership Reform Conference](#), Bloomington

30 “Why Go Bio?” Summit, Kankakee Community College

June

3 IBHE meeting, St. John’s College, School of Nursing, Springfield

5-7 [2008 Student Leadership Institute](#), ICCB Student Advisory Committee, Springfield

9, 17 [Academic Application E-Submission Orientation](#) Oakton Community College & Southwestern Illinois College

9-23 [Public Agenda Regional Forums](#)

20 Public Agenda Meeting Robert Morris College, Chicago

27 ISAC Commission Meeting Carl Sandburg College, Galesburg

[SB 1908](#) – Increases the maximum statutory grant under the Monetary Award Program (now \$4,968) by \$500 per year for 3 years, subject to appropriation. The bill has passed the Senate and is in House Rules Committee.

[HB 5905](#) – Provides that military personnel (and their dependents) who were stationed in Illinois for 3 years before being reassigned out of state are eligible for in-state tuition rates. The bill is on 3rd Reading in the Senate.

[SB 2691](#) – Implements recommendations of the Campus Security Task Force, mandating that each higher education institution prepare an all-hazards emergency response plan and exercise the plan at least annually. The bill has passed the Senate and has been assigned to House Rules.

[Call her *Doctor* Senator: Hunter delivers commencement address at alma mater](#)



“Don’t spend your life dreaming about what you want to do or the kind of person you want to be. Go out and be your own person.”

Those were among the [words of wisdom](#) given to graduates at Monmouth College by Senator Mattie

Hunter during the 151st commencement May 18. Hunter (Class of '76) returned to her alma mater as commencement speaker and received an honorary doctorate, recognizing her achievements in public service.



[Consultant briefs legislators, ICCB, ISBE on state needs](#)

Carrying the message that Illinois must improve education attainment among ethnic and racial minorities, Aims McGuinness briefed a variety of stakeholders on progress in developing a Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education. McGuinness is senior associate for the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), and addressed the Senate Higher Education Committee, met with several legislators individually, spoke to the Illinois Community College Board and Illinois State Board of Education to explain six major issues facing the state. He highlighted two themes – eliminating achievement disparities between minority students and whites and luring adults back into higher ed to obtain a postsecondary credential or degree.

[Regional forums to put local stamp on Public Agenda](#)

NCHEMS and IBHE staff will conduct a series of regional forums at community colleges throughout Illinois during June to gain insights and perspectives of local business, labor, civic, political, and education leaders. Two sessions will be held at each site, a morning meeting with employers, labor, and civic leaders to discuss workforce issues, and an afternoon gathering of educators. NCHEMS will present economic, demographic, and educational data for each region and will ask two questions:

- Do these data paint an accurate picture of your region?
- What state policies, regulatory mandates, or financing structures are barriers to achieving state education goals?

[Panel to brief IBHE on steps to alleviate nursing shortage](#)

Illinois needs thousands more nurses each year than graduate from college. How Illinois is trying to fix its nursing shortage will be the subject of a special briefing by experts at the Board of Higher Education meeting June 3 in Springfield. Participating in the panel discussion will be Bob Sheets of the state Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; Jeri Lynn Else, manager of Strategic Healthcare Partnerships at the College of DuPage; Mary Pat Olson of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council; and Dr. Gayle Roux and Dr. Phyllis Ann Solari-Twadell from the Loyola University school of nursing.

[ISAC names new Investment Officer for *College Illinois!*](#)



Frank Bello has been appointed Chief Investment Officer of *College Illinois!*, the state's 529 prepaid college tuition plan, Andrew Davis, Executive Director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) announced. Bello, 48, comes to ISAC from the City of Chicago, where he served as Deputy City Treasurer, working with the management and reporting of a \$7 billion investment portfolio and four pension funds with assets totaling \$14 billion.

[Illinois urged to become ADP state](#)

Michael Cohen, president of Achieve, Inc., visited the Illinois State Board of Education this week to recommend that Illinois join the American Diploma Project Network (ADP), a coalition of 33 states that have committed to establishing a policy agenda to better prepare young people for postsecondary education and the workforce.

[ICCB, DCEO team up on Bio-Summit](#)

"Why Go Bio?" is the theme of a summit cosponsored by the Illinois Community College Board and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to be held May 30 at Kankakee Community College. The event is a collaborative venture exploring bio-pharma,

ag-bio, bio-energy, and the role of postsecondary education.



Federal Corner

[Federal plan to assure student access to loans unveiled](#)

On May 21, as part of its ongoing commitment to make sure students have access to federal student loans in the coming academic year, the Bush Administration announced a four-part plan aimed to improve the functioning of the student loan marketplace and provide liquidity and stability in the near term.

[NCLB pilot to study differentiated accountability](#)

Earlier this year, Secretary Spellings announced a differentiated accountability pilot program that would allow states to distinguish between low-performing schools in need of dramatic interventions and those that are closer to meeting the goals of *No Child Left Behind*. The law currently treats all schools in improvement alike. The pilot would allow states to vary the intensity and type of interventions to match the academic reasons that led to a school's identification for improvement.

Upcoming

Mark the Calendar: The National Center for Education Statistics will release ["The Condition of Education 2008"](#) report on May 29.

People in the News

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded Eastern Illinois University's [David Raybin](#) a grant for more than \$116,000, enabling the veteran English professor to represent the university abroad.

The Prairie State College Board of Trustees has selected [Eric Radtke](#), executive vice president of administration for Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland as new president of the Chicago Heights college.

Campus News

[CHAMPS!](#)



The Joliet Junior College men's baseball team won the National Junior College Athletic

Association (NJCAA) Division III World Series championship on May 21 in Tyler, Texas. The Wolves (49-11), making their third straight World Series appearance at this year's tournament, held steady through the weeklong eight-team, double-elimination series defeating the Gloucester County College (N.J.) Roadrunners 9-0.

[UIC College of Medicine leads in minority student research awards](#)

Four University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine students have been named 2008 participants in the American Society of Hematology's Minority Medical Student Award Program, which encourages minority medical students to pursue an interest in hematology research.

[DePaul University Is Awarded \\$1 Million Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant To Complete Its Science Campaign](#)

DePaul University has been awarded a \$1 million challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation to support construction of the Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Science Building on the university's Lincoln Park Campus. The new environmentally friendly facility is the centerpiece of DePaul's \$20 million Campaign for Excellence in Science.

[30 Filipino leaders will visit NIU to learn about, experience American democracy](#)

Northern Illinois University will welcome a diverse group of 30 adult leaders from the Philippines who will arrive on campus Saturday, May 31, for a month-long institute on the American democratic process. The institute, known as the Cultural Citizens and North-South Dialogue project, will focus on majority-minority relations in the Philippines and the responsibilities of citizens in a democratic, plural society.

[More Campus News](#)

News from Higher Education

[U.S. Aims to Buoy Student-Loan Market](#)

(The Wall Street Journal)

Hoping to bolster a shaky student loan market, the Bush Administration will use U.S. Treasury funds to buy loans from private lenders and invest in special loan-backed trusts.

[Government to buy some student loans](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

Student loan companies, squeezed by the credit crisis, are receiving some help from the federal government. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings told lenders in a letter that the government will

purchase some loans, freeing up capital.

Major Expansion of Veterans' Tuition Aid Clears Big Hurdle

(Inside Higher Ed)

Despite a veto threat from President Bush and with the presumptive Republican candidate to replace him in absentia, the U.S. Senate on Thursday approved legislation that would dramatically enhance educational benefits for veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On the Hill, New Hands Refashion Key Law

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

More than three decades ago, when Congress was renewing the Higher Education Act for only the second time, Rep. Carl D. Perkins, chairman of the House education committee, sat down with his colleagues from the House and Senate and combed through a document comparing the chambers' bills, line by line.

More News from Higher Education

Illinois Board of Higher Education
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404
Phone: (217) 782-2551
<http://www.ibhe.org>
FridayMemo@ibhe.org