

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

June 6, 2008

**[Shrinking the nursing shortage: Illinois' Job 1](#)**

The shortage of nurses is the state's most pressing workforce problem, and one that will worsen without a multifaceted approach to solving it. That was the conclusion of a panel of experts who described state and campus efforts to attack the chronic and acute workforce challenge in a presentation to the Board of Higher Education this week.

**[Independent institutions bring diversity to higher education](#)**

Illinois' private, not-for-profit colleges and universities add a dimension of diversity to the higher education landscape, David Tretter, President of the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities told the IBHE this week. The Federation's 58 members enroll more than a quarter of all students in Illinois, employ more than 56,000 faculty and staff throughout the state, and generate more than \$13 billion in economic activity annually.

**[Hightman says Public Agenda is collaborative enterprise](#)**

IBHE Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman said the Public Agenda initiative is making progress toward identifying state education needs and



A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR  
COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

setting goals for an action agenda that will be presented to the Board of Higher Education and General Assembly later this year. She cited the partnerships and collaboration that have guided the planning process as the key to its success.

**[IBHE votes to impose fees for academic program reviews](#)**

Acting on a recommendation of its Academic Affairs Committee, the Board of Higher Education approved a proposal to impose fees on Illinois proprietary institutions and all out-of-state institutions seeking approval of new academic programs or degree authority. No Illinois public or not-for-profit colleges and universities will be affected. Elmer Washington, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, noted that 24 other states charge fees to for-profit schools applying for new degree programs. The proposal will require legislative action.

**["Get involved," Senator Maloney tells student leaders](#)**



He started out as a social studies teacher who wanted to show his students how to take political science out of the classroom. So, he walked up to the ward office on the south side of Chicago and became a precinct captain. Now he is the Honorable Ed Maloney, state senator.

"I encourage you to get involved," Maloney told a group of about 30 students at the 2008 Student Leadership Institute, sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Committee this week in Springfield. "You can learn more about politics hanging around a campaign office than reading a whole textbook." The Chairman of the Senate Higher Education

**UPCOMING**

June

- 5-7 [2008 Student Leadership Institute](#), ICCB Student Advisory Committee, Springfield
- 9, 17 [Academic Application E-Submission Orientation](#)  
Oakton Community College & Southwestern Illinois College
- 9-24 [Public Agenda Regional Forums](#)
- 20 Public Agenda Meeting  
Robert Morris College, Chicago
- 27 ISAC Commission Meeting  
Carl Sandburg College, Galesburg

Committee, Maloney said one of the chief issues facing the state's system of colleges and universities is getting adequate resources. "I tell people that dollars spent on higher education is an investment, because the payoff is so immediate in jobs and the other benefits that go with a college degree."

The ICCB Student Leadership Institute is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year and is the premier training ground for community college students to be engaged in community college governance.

### **Grant allocations approved by Board**

The IBHE approved several grant program allocations at its June meeting. Endorsed by the Board were:

- \$16.7 million to 59 private institutions and hospitals under the [Health Services Education Grant Act](#).
- \$4 million to 19 renewal and 6 new projects under the Higher Education Cooperation Act [Innovation Grants](#) program.
- \$2.8 million to 153 fellows in the [Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois](#) (DFI) program. The Board also authorized expenditure of \$112,000 for [supplemental grants](#) to DFI fellows for FY08.

## *Statehouse Review*

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### **General Assembly passes budget**

The General Assembly adjourned Saturday, May 31, after passing a \$59 billion state budget that includes a 2.8 percent increase for public universities, a 5.3 percent jump for community colleges, and an \$18 million boost for the need-based Monetary Award Program grants.

### **Lawmakers approve campus security planning, MAP grant hike**

Although action on substantive higher education legislation was limited, the General Assembly did approve some noteworthy measures before leaving Springfield. Passed by both chambers were:

**Senate Bill 2691**, requiring all public and private higher education institutions to develop an all-hazards emergency response plan compliant with the National Incident Management System standards, and an interdisciplinary and multi-jurisdictional campus violence prevention plan with training and exercises for the plan annually. The bill, sponsored by Senator John Sullivan and Representatives Bob Pritchard and Kevin McCarthy, implements a key recommendation of the Campus Security Task Force.

**Senate Bill 1908**, raising the maximum award under the need-based Monetary Award Program by \$500 annually for the next three years, to \$6,468 by fiscal 2011. The maximum award has not been increased since 2001. However, appropriations to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission in recent years have been inadequate to actually support the statutory maximum grant for any student. The bill was sponsored by Senator Edward Maloney and Representative David Miller.

**House Joint Resolution 36**, which directs the Board of Higher Education to establish a task force to study issues related to dual credit programs and report its findings to the General Assembly by December 1, 2008. Members of the task force are to include legislators, representatives of state education agencies, and education labor unions. It was sponsored by Representative Roger Eddy and Senator Dale Righter.

**House Bill 4216**, creating the Illinois Science and Technology Commission to coordinate efforts on behalf of the state and local governments and higher education institutions to attract, retain, and promote scientific endeavors and research facilities within Illinois. The 10-member commission, to be appointed by the Governor, would be comprised of members with expertise in engineering and scientific disciplines, labor and business, higher education, and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. It was sponsored by Representative Michael Fortner and Senator Michael Bond.

Left for another day were:

[Senate Bill 2288](#) would increase income taxes in exchange for property tax relief and increased funding for education, including \$300 million annually for higher education.

[House Bill 5059](#) would have created a nurse educator scholarship program to provide up to three years of scholarships for nursing faculty who work in Illinois.

[Senate Bill 1982](#) would have mandated that grants under the Illinois Cooperative Work Study program be targeted to students in disciplines that address critical workforce shortage areas.

[House Bill 5109](#) would create a new student financial aid program modeled after a highly successful initiative in Indiana, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program. Under the program, students in eighth grade agree to take a rigorous, college-prep curriculum and then are provided specialized mentoring and other academic supports and the guarantee of financial aid when they enter college.

[House Joint Resolution 100](#) would have established a bipartisan task force on the status of underrepresented minorities in higher education.

[Senate Bill 326](#) would have created the Textbook Consumer Information Act, requiring publishers to reveal information regarding price, revision history, and alternative formats to faculty who select textbooks for college courses. The measure also required that textbooks bundled with supplementary material be offered in unbundled formats as well.

[House Bill 1434](#) would have granted permission to Harper College to offer baccalaureate degrees in two fields of study for a four-year pilot.

### [Conference examines next steps in school leader reforms](#)

More than 100 educators from across Illinois attended a conference late last month to discuss recommendations of the [School Leader Task Force](#) and chart next steps in the effort to improve school leadership training in Illinois. The two-day gathering, "Working Together to Prepare Illinois School Leaders Conference," drew representatives from the vast majority of institutions with school leader preparation programs. The Task Force plans a follow-up conference in August.



## *Federal Corner*

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### [‘Diploma Counts’ documents P-20 growth](#)

*Education Week's* third-annual "Diploma Counts" report explores the rapid growth of state-level P-16 or P-20 councils and how they seek to create a more seamless schooling continuum. The report also updates a unique, online mapping tool that allows users to zoom in on each of the nation's school districts and access graduation rate data for that district or its high schools.

### [NCLB progress](#)

In a June 3 letter to Chief State School Officers, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Kerri Briggs commended states for the work they have done to implement high-quality standards and assessment systems and furnished a fact sheet with information on the Department's standards and assessment system status designations and implications of those designations.

## [More students in school, more minorities in poverty, more women in college](#)

On May 29, the Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released its annual report on the condition of education in the U.S. "The Condition of Education 2008" includes 43 indicators in five major areas -- participation in education, learner outcomes, student effort and educational progress, elementary and secondary education contexts, and postsecondary education contexts. (Later this summer, NCES will release a special analysis on community colleges.) Among the findings: in 2009-10, public school enrollment is expected to top 50 million students for the first time in history; in 2005-06, about one-third of African-American students and one-third of Hispanic students attended high-poverty schools, compared with 4% of white students; and, since 1970, women's undergraduate enrollment has increased more than three times as fast as men's.

## ['Last Bite at the Apple' on Accreditation?](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

A year after Education Secretary Margaret Spellings abandoned plans to propose new federal rules governing higher education accreditation, under heavy pressure from members of Congress, the Education Department is reportedly contemplating issuing such regulations when legislation to renew the Higher Education Act becomes law. That possibility is being met with astonishment by college leaders and many on Capitol Hill, who describe it as both practically difficult and politically foolhardy.

## [People in the News](#)

Recent NIU student newspaper editor, [John Puterbaugh](#), was named among nation's most promising student journalists by the college journalism association UWIRE. Puterbaugh graduated May 17 and guided the student newspaper through NIU's Feb. 14 tragedy. He learned of his honor on his first day of work at the *DeKalb Daily Chronicle*.



IBHE student board member, [Ashley Dearborn](#) of Northwestern University is among 16 college-age women who will participate in leadership exercises that include a mock legislative hearing during the third annual NEW Leadership Illinois program in Chicago June 3-8.

Chicago Library Commissioner [Mary A. Dempsey](#), a DePaul University College of Law graduate and a trustee for the past decade, has been elected to chair the board. When she calls her first meeting to order next October, she will become the first woman in DePaul's history to chair the university's top governing body.

An Eastern Illinois University chemistry major whose very first research project yielded significant findings in her field has now earned the distinction of being named a 2008-2009 Barry S. Goldwater Scholar.

[Rebecca C. Grove](#) is one of only 321 students in the country to be

honored by the scholarship program, which is the premier undergraduate award of its type in science, math and engineering.

**John Bennett** has been elected Chair of the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council. He is full-time faculty member at Lake Land College, teaching courses in English, arts appreciation, and journalism.

**Peter Nelson**, an expert in artificial intelligence, has been named dean of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Engineering.

The chair of Northern Illinois University's School of Nursing and Health Studies, **Brigid Lusk** will help to represent Illinois this month at a national workshop organized to examine the nursing shortage and explore ways to expand nursing education. Lusk is among nine members of Team Illinois, one of 18 states chosen to participate in the Nursing Education Capacity Summit, scheduled for June 26 and 27 in Arlington, Va.

## *Campus News*

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### [Japanese Garden Dedicated at UIS](#)

The Japanese Garden was given by Eileen Ensel as a living tribute to her late husband, Lee Ensel, who was interested in the culture of the university. The Japanese-style garden at UIS serves to provide public awareness of the bond between UIS and Springfield's sister city, Ashiga, Japan.



### [UIC Team Takes Top Prize in Biomedical Business Plan Competition](#)

HeartSounds, Inc., from UIC, beat out six other teams affiliated with the consortium's three member institutions -- the University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago -- to win the \$10,000 prize. The company utilizes patented sound-separation technology to provide more accurate, non-invasive, diagnostic cardiac devices.

### [New Laser Technique Fights Cancer with Light](#)

When Sammie Bush mentioned to his doctor that he sometimes felt something in the back of his throat, he didn't expect to learn that he had cancer or that he would be the first patient at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago to undergo photodynamic therapy -- a new procedure that uses light to destroy cancer.

### [More Campus News](#)

## *News from Higher Education*

### **Inflated Assessment by Phoenix?**

(Inside Higher Ed)

In a new, first annual report on academic outcomes, the nation's largest private university — and the largest for-profit — makes a case for value-added education. The University of Phoenix reports that on the Educational Testing Service's Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP) test, "University of Phoenix seniors score significantly higher than their University of Phoenix freshmen counterparts in all areas."

### **Transforming Inner-City Schools To Train Tomorrow's Work Force**

(The Wall Street Journal)

CHICAGO -- One day in August 2005, Dan Swinney went to the Chicago public schools for help in his crusade to revive manufacturing here. Instead, Mr. Swinney left his meeting with some homework: design a new high school to train the workers needed to make that revival happen.

### **Report Details Latest Data on Graduation Rates and Student Aid**

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Thirty-six percent of first-time, full-time undergraduates at four-year colleges who intend to earn a bachelor's degree attain their goal within four years, and 58 percent achieve it within six years, the U.S. Education Department said in a report released on Tuesday.

### **UI in top 5 of schools sending grads to Teach for America**

(News-Gazette)

SAVOY – When she graduated with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology last month with a 4.0 grade-point average and Bronze Tablet, Chelsey Kallembach of Savoy had her pick of graduate schools. But Kallembach, 23, doesn't want just to make the grade; she wants to change the world in a greater way.

### **Harper, Northern Illinois to discuss bachelor's degree program**

(Daily Herald)

Northern Illinois University and Harper College have agreed to negotiations that could end the Palatine school's controversial four-year quest to offer bachelor's degrees.

### **More News from Higher Education**

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