

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

August 8, 2008



A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR  
COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

[Public Agenda Task Force to review Consultants' Report](#)

The Task Force to create a Public Agenda for College and Career Success will meet August 12 in Chicago to review the Consultants' Report from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) and begin the process of drafting a preliminary Public Agenda. The NCHEMS consultants have undertaken extensive research of the demographics of Illinois, examined its educational and economic trends, and conducted a series of 34 regional forums across the state to gain insights from, elected officials, business leaders, educators, and other stakeholders. Their report explores principles to guide the final stages of the planning process, and outlines a series of draft strategies and performance measures for implementing the four goals of the Public Agenda. The Task Force will decide how it wishes to proceed with preparing a draft Public Agenda for public comment. The [meeting](#) begins at 1 p.m. at Kendall College.

[IBHE to consider endorsing American Diploma Project](#)

The Board of Higher Education will meet at 9 a.m. August 12 at Kendall College in Chicago. Highlighting the Board's agenda is a proposal to endorse Illinois' participation in the American Diploma Project, a national P-20 network of states created by Achieve, Inc., to strengthen the link between the P-12 system and higher education. The goals of the project are to align high school curriculum with expectations for the demands of the workforce and rigors of college, to test skills and knowledge required by employers and college faculty, and hold schools and colleges accountable for student success. The Board's [agenda](#) also includes a discussion of the state's fiscal temperature as the FY 2010 budget process gets underway.

[Higher ed leaders applaud congressional approval of Higher Education Opportunity Act](#)

Congress passed a comprehensive and far-reaching reauthorization of the Higher Education Act July 31, and higher education leaders praised the

UPCOMING

August

12

IBHE Meeting, 9 a.m.  
Kendall College,  
Chicago

Public Agenda Task  
Force Meeting, 1 p.m.,  
Kendall College

15-16

ICCTA Executive  
Committee  
Meeting, Chicago

September

2-4 [IEMA 2008  
Conference,  
Springfield](#)

12

Illinois Community  
College  
Presidents' Council  
Meeting,  
Springfield

12-13

ICCB Student Advisory  
Committee Meeting,  
Springfield

12-13

Illinois Community  
College  
Trustees Association  
Meetings, Springfield

19

Illinois Community  
College  
Board Meeting, Rend

legislation, which President Bush is expected to sign. “The programs authorized in this legislation are increasingly vital to opportunity and prosperity in the United States,” Paul Lingenfelter, president of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) organization, wrote in a [letter](#) to congressional leaders. However, Lingenfelter noted concerns about new reporting requirements being burdensome, and offered SHEEO’s aid in drafting rules to implement the legislation. Constantine Curris, President of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), said in a [news release](#), “This legislation is a positive acknowledgement that higher education is striving to answer the national imperative for accountability and transparency.”

**[ISAC to honor Silas Purnell in annual Billiken parade](#)**

The late Silas Purnell – the onetime Tuskegee Airman who helped 60,000 African-American students from Chicago to attend college – will be honored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) during the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Bud Billiken Back-to-School Parade on Saturday, August 8, 2008. “Illinois lost a giant five years ago. Silas Purnell’s legacy is a better life for the thousands of Chicago high school students who attended college due to Purnell’s unrelenting encouragement and tenacious fundraising,” said ISAC Executive Director Andrew Davis.

**[Governor says training will make campuses more secure](#)**

In a continuing effort to enhance student safety at colleges and universities in Illinois, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich noted that more than 40 college representatives and emergency response officials from throughout Illinois were in Palatine this week to learn how to develop Campus Community Emergency Response Teams (Campus CERTs) at their schools. The Campus CERT program was one of several initiatives outlined by the governor’s Campus Security Task Force in its comprehensive report released in April.

**[Focus on Grants: CAHMCP links minorities to healthcare professions](#)**



*Pictured left to right: Trish Fenton, IBHE; James Forstall, former IBHE grants administrator; Senator Mattie Hunter; Rich Jachino, IBHE grants administrator; Reggie Jones, CAHMCP Executive Director; and Darryl Pendleton, UIC*

IBHE staff recently visited the Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program (CAHMCP) at the Illinois Institute of Technology. CAHMCP pursues an intervention

strategy for enhanced academic and counseling

supports to minorities seeking to be professionals in medicine, osteopathy,

Lake College, Ina

**19** Illinois Student Assistance Commission Meeting, Liberty Middle School, Edwardsville

**Dog Days**



*The FM will appear biweekly through July and August.*

*Have a happy summer. Next edition: August 22*

dentistry, veterinary science, optometry, pharmacy, podiatry, and public health. CAHMCP provides continual academic reinforcement in mathematics and science; standardized test preparation; focused clinical, research and public policy internships; and highly-individualized career counseling for all program participants at grade levels extending from middle school through the post-baccalaureate years. CAHMCP has required all participants to obtain health and safety certification through its Good Health Place (GHP) project.

### **JJC to join project to help Baby Boomers retool skills**

Joliet Junior College is one of ten demonstration colleges for a three-year program, sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and funded by a \$3.2 million grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies, aimed at baby boomers who want to retool or refocus their careers to contribute to their local communities. The program will assist colleges to develop and revise their educational offerings to target the needs of plus-50 students. Joliet Junior College will offer workforce-skills certificate programs to student over the age of 50 for new careers in the high-growth job areas of health care and education. This grant program was recently featured in an article in the June/July edition of *Community College Journal*, "Plus 50 Initiative Puts Focus on Older Learners."

### **[Michigan worst, Illinois not much better in study of how well black males fare in high school](#)**

A new report by the Schott Foundation for Public Education ranks the states on the graduation rates of black males in their high schools and calls for new efforts to close achievement gaps. The report lists Michigan as the state with the lowest high-school graduation rate for black males. As of 2006, 33 percent of the black males in its high schools graduated on time, compared with 74 percent of the state's non-Hispanic white male students. Also on the report's list of the 10 states with the lowest high-school graduation rates for black males (in order of lowest to highest) were Wisconsin, South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, New York, Nevada, Illinois, Georgia, and Wyoming. "The worst problems are concentrated in a few large metropolitan areas," the report says. "Specifically, New York City, Chicago, Detroit, and Dade County [Miami] fail to graduate the great majority of their black male students with their peers."

### **[FY2009 Nurse Educator Fellowship Program application materials online](#)**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is seeking nominations for the ***Nurse Educator Fellowship Program***. This is the third year that the IBHE has administered the program. The purpose of the Nurse Educator Fellowship Program is to ensure the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty. Awards supplement the salaries of the nursing faculty selected for the Fellowship. Additional program details can be found on the IBHE website: [www.ibhe.org](http://www.ibhe.org). Application deadline is September 30, 2008

### **[Ameren offers free workshops for energy efficiency](#)**

Ameren Illinois Utilities and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity are conducting a series of free workshops to promote energy efficient programs to Ameren electric customers. DCEO

will provide incentives grants and training opportunities to public entities, including public universities and community colleges. Three workshops are scheduled for August 19, 20, and 21 in East Peoria, Bloomington and Urbana, respectively.

### [Energy efficiency grants available for colleges and universities](#)

Public universities and community colleges located in ComEd and Ameren electric service territories in Illinois are eligible to apply for funding for projects that implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures, enhance economic development and provide rebates, incentive grants and technical assistance aimed at increasing electrical efficiency. More information can be found at the [Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#).

### [Get yours today!](#)

Want to know which community college had a 224 percent rise in degrees conferred since 1998? Or, which university has the smallest gap between male and female faculty salaries? Check the 2008 *Data Book on Higher Education*. This year's edition has a new format designed to be more informative, and many tables have been redesigned to accommodate a new, condensed book. Readers seeking more detailed information on enrollments and/or degrees conferred may now [generate their own tables](#), exportable as Microsoft Excel files. "The primary objective of the *Data Book* is to provide useful information about higher education in Illinois," stated Judy Erwin, IBHE Executive Director upon its release this week. "Suggestions for improvements that will make this publication more useful are welcome."

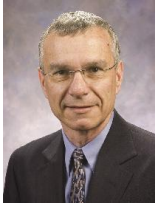
### [Filling out the FAFSA at the State Fair...and more](#)

Thanks to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), fairgoers will have a chance to learn more about Illinois' higher education opportunities. Each day of the fair, the ISAC booth in the Campus Town tent will offer games, giveaways, and a daily trivia question to qualify for a chance to win a "back to school bag of goodies" just in time for the upcoming school year.

On "Future for Kids Day," Friday, August 15, the booth will feature a visit from the 2008 Illinois State Fair Queen, Molly Reeves of Danville. Queen Molly, who attends Illinois College in Jacksonville, will address the importance of education beyond high school. During her visit, ISAC will present information about the *College Illinois!* Prepaid Tuition Program and urge early college awareness for students in elementary and middle school. Other highlights include help with the FAFSA federal financial aid form, programs for veterans and teachers, and the basics of student financial assistance. This year, the Campus Town tent is located northeast of the Ethnic Village near the Hometown Pride tent.

## *People in the News*

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Longtime Western Illinois University Theatre [Professor David Patrick](#) has been appointed chair of the University's theatre and dance department.

Governors State University has announced the appointment of [Dr. Ellen Foster Curtis](#) as dean of the university's College of Business and Public Administration. Curtis most recently served as Academic Division Head for the Management Division at the Penn State Great Valley School of Graduate Professional Studies.

[Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles E. Tucker Jr.](#) has been named the new executive director of the International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI) at the DePaul University College of Law. Tucker will manage the day-to-day activities of the institute, which has earned a global reputation for human rights law advocacy. He brings to the job more than 25 years of experience that includes progressing human rights recognition, especially in post-conflict situations.

## *Campus News*

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### [Illinois College awarded \\$100,000 Wal-Mart grant](#)

Illinois College has been selected by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) to receive the Wal-Mart College Success Award – a \$100,000 grant to help build on Illinois College's demonstrated successes in enrolling, retaining and graduating first-generation college students.

### [NIU increases efforts to boost P-20 performance in science, technology, engineering and math](#)

Northern Illinois University is stepping up efforts to boost the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills and interests of students in the region, even before they reach college age.

### [New survey ranks U. of I. 'iSchool' No. 1 in U.S., Canada](#)

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been ranked the number one library and information science program – also known as information schools or "iSchools" - in the U.S. and Canada, according to data from a recent survey of academic libraries.

### [Western Illinois University Art Gallery Receives Historic Donation](#)

More than 100 artworks of America's past captured along historic Route 66

and other cross-country highways created by the late Western Illinois University alumnus Warren H. Anderson were recently donated to the WIU Art Gallery Permanent Collection.

### [UIC Awarded \\$4.25 Million for Aging and Disabilities Research](#)

The University of Illinois at Chicago will receive \$4.25 million from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research to study lifespan health and function of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The five-year award funds research at UIC's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities, directed by Tamar Heller, professor and head of disability and human development. Heller said the new grant will allow the research to "take a lifespan approach, starting with early adulthood through old age."

### [MORE CAMPUS NEWS](#)

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

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### [Enrollment Expert Gives Top 5 Reasons Why Student-Retention Strategies Fail](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Retention is the issue that has led to the creation of a thousand campus task forces. Despite the time and money many colleges spend to improve their graduation rates, however, administrators often describe those rates as an intractable problem. Why?

### [On Accountability, Consider Bologna](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Impressed by American higher education's embrace of accountability?

### [It's Robert Morris vs. Robert Morris](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

Chicago's Robert Morris College has added so many degree programs that it plans to change its name to reflect its status as a full-fledged "university."

### [Bogus diploma ring busted with help from U. of I. professor](#) (Chicago Tribune)

The network of bogus universities was a family-run venture based in rural Washington state, but the criminal enterprise spanned the globe, with its operators allegedly paying bribes to Liberian officials and selling fake PhDs and MDs as far away as Iran.

### [MORE NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION](#)

## [\*EdLines from AASCU\*](#)

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### [AZ: Board approves \\$50 million in cuts to Arizona universities](#)

The Arizona Board of Regents recently approved \$50 million, or 3 percent, in budget cuts for the state's three public universities. At the same time, however, the board discussed how to spend \$1 billion approved for construction projects by the state legislature. The money to pay for the



construction projects will come from state lottery revenues and is not available for operating expenses. *Arizona Republic*

**FL: Chancellor recommends fund to keep faculty from leaving state**

State University System of Florida Chancellor Mark Rosenberg is recommending to state lawmakers a \$65.4 million fund be allocated to stem the state's "brain drain" of faculty. The amount requested by Rosenberg would translate to a 4 percent raise for all faculty across the state. The state's Board of Governors estimates the university system loses 8 percent of its faculty each year to other states. *Florida Sun-Sentinel*

**US: State budget gaps collectively increase from \$13 billion to \$40 billion**

State tax revenues across the country have declined more than expected, according to a recent report issued by The National Conference of State Legislatures. Rising energy costs and the changing dynamics in the housing market are being cited as the cause for declining revenues and tighter budgets. States have largely avoided responding with tax increases, instead choosing to cut spending, tap "rainy-day" funds, and utilize tobacco settlement money. *Stateline.org*

**VA: Tuition to increase an average of 7.3 percent**

Students attending Virginia's public colleges and universities will pay an average of 7.3 percent more for tuition this fall. While many of the state's public institutions chose to keep tuition increases below 4 percent and thus take advantage of \$17.6 million in annual shared incentives, others—including the University of Virginia and George Mason University—opted out of the incentive deal to cover increased costs associated with new buildings, salary increases and higher energy costs. *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

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