

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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ICCB
Chairman Guy Alongi
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ISAC
Chairman Don McNeil
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September 12, 2008

[Governor announces deal with credit unions to ensure low-interest loans for Illinois students](#)

Eight Illinois-based credit unions will invest \$100 million in securities issued by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to finance low-interest, federally secured loans to Illinois students and their families. These Stafford loans will be easily available to Illinois students at a time when students living in other states have been hard-pressed to find willing lenders.

“We have responded creatively and quickly to a problem that has crippled student lending in other states,” said Governor Blagojevich. “This financing package will enable thousands of students to attend college this year, knowing that they can pay their tuition. I salute the participating credit unions for investing in the young people of Illinois.”

[African American Task Force hosts series of town hall meetings](#)

Building on its commitment to raise awareness and address the challenges facing the African American community in Illinois, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and the Task Force on the Condition of African American Men In Illinois are hosting a series of town hall meetings across Illinois. The town hall meetings are dedicated to exploring the concerns and issues that face African American men around the state. Last August, Governor Blagojevich signed [legislation](#) establishing the Task Force. Based in part on the outcome of the town hall meetings, the Task Force will develop an inventory of state programs and initiatives aimed at improving the lives of African American men, and will develop benchmarks that measure its progress. Task Force findings and recommendations will be sent to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2008.

[Leadership Conference targets African American youth](#)

The Paul Simon Leadership Conference will host approximately 40 African American young men for a program aimed at increasing career awareness education. The keynote speaker on Saturday, Sept. 13, is Carbondale native and SIUC graduate the Rev. Archibald Mosley, one of the first African Americans in the U.S. Marine Corps to fight at Iwo Jima in World War II. Mosley is featured in the PBS film, “The Marines of Montfort Point: Fighting for Freedom,” which tells the story of nation’s first African American Marines training from 1942 to 1949 in segregated facilities at Montfort Point, N.C. The high school students will also hear from James E. Scales, director of SIUC’s Career Services, about career planning and from current SIUC students about the importance of planning for college and staying in school. The leadership conference, first held in November 2003, honors institute founder and former U.S. Sen. Paul Simon.

UPCOMING

September

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 Lake College, Ina

19

Illinois Student Assistance Commission Meeting, Liberty Middle School, Edwardsville

25

[Textbook Affordability Town Hall Forum](#), Chicago

October

6

Public Agenda Task Force, Chicago

7

IBHE Board Meeting, Kennedy-King College, Chicago

IBHE grant applications coming soon

Go to the [IBHE website](#) on Monday, September 15, for announcements concerning three grant applications:

- 1) the renewal grant application for **Nursing School Expansion Grants**, which supports high-performing nursing schools to expand nursing program capacity and increase the number of students preparing for careers as registered nurses, has an Oct. 31, 2008 deadline;
- 2) the **Nursing School Grant Program: Improvement Grants** application to help institutions improve the pass rate for the national licensure examination for registered nurses required by Illinois (NCLEX-RN) and increase nursing student retention, has an Oct. 31, 2008 deadline also; and
- 3) the **Cooperative Work Study** (CWS) grants application is to expand opportunities for students to pursue internships, clinical placement, cooperative programs with business and industry, and other work opportunities linked to a student's academic program, has a deadline of November 14, 2008.

People in the News



Dr. Santos Rivera, a Northeastern Illinois University leader, will be honored at a retirement dinner celebration on September 27 in Chicago, for 34 years of "Building Futures for Latino Higher Education." Founder of Engaging Latino Communities for Education (ENLACE) initiatives, the proceeds from the retirement celebration will establish the ENLACE Leadership Endowment at NEIU to continue Dr. Rivera's legacy. Rivera was serving as senior executive director for affirmative action and institutional outreach initiatives in the Office of the President.

Western Illinois University faculty member [James La Prad](#) has been selected to receive the National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE) 2008 Experiential Education Higher Education Leader of the Year in Florida later this month. La Prad is an associate professor in the department of educational and interdisciplinary studies in Western's College of Education and Human Services (COEHS).

Campus News

[New Center for Latino Mental Health at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology](#)

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology has started a new Center for Latino Mental Health which was introduced on September 5 at the school's annual Cultural Impact Conference. The center will work to bolster understanding of and access to culturally competent mental health services through scholarly research, community service and education.

[Call for entries: 32nd Bradley International Print and Drawing Exhibition](#)

Artists working in print, drawing, book arts, or experimenting with mixed media hybrids are encouraged to enter the 32nd Bradley International Print and Drawing Exhibition. The Bradley International is the longest continuously-running juried print and drawing competition in the country, with thousands of dollars in awards and purchase prizes available. All work accepted is reproduced in a color catalog and on the exhibition website. Deadline for entries: October 17, 2008. This year's juror is Lynwood Kreneck, founder and director of Colorprint, USA.

[UIC receives \\$10 million gift for Polish studies](#)

A \$10 million gift to the University of Illinois at Chicago to enhance studies in Polish history, language and literature will

transform the study of that country and its culture in the city with the largest Polish population outside of Warsaw. The donation, a bequest from the late Romuald Hejna, is the second-largest gift from an individual that UIC has ever received and the biggest single gift to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

[Loyola University Chicago adds final touch to historic Madonna dell Strada Chapel renovation](#)

Loyola University Chicago began the finalizing a four-year renovation of its iconic Madonna della Strada Chapel with the installation of an impressive, custom-designed pipe organ. Built by Goudling & Wood of Indianapolis, Indiana, the organ, standing more than 23 feet tall, weighing an estimated 23,000 pounds, and containing 3,848 pipes that range from over 27 feet in length down to the size of a pencil, will immediately become the focal point within the beautifully remodeled Chapel. To celebrate the historic renovation of the Chapel and to introduce the Loyola community to the Chapel's newest treasure, the University will host an organ dedication week from October 19 through 24, 2008.

[MORE CAMPUS NEWS](#)

News from Higher Education

[Who wants to be a teacher? A whole lot of people, a new survey finds.](#)

(Christian Science Monitor)

Forty-two percent of college-educated adults would consider teaching as a career.

[Why community college enrollments are rising](#)

(Daily Herald)

Not wanting to put himself into staggering debt, Conor Clarke enrolled at Elgin Community College instead. He plans to finish there this year and then go to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to complete a degree in advertising.

[State treasurer tells ISU students he wants to keep credit card companies away](#)

(Bloomington Pantagraph)

NORMAL -- For many college students, the beginning of the school year often means being enticed by credit card companies with offers of free gifts such as backpacks and T-shirts.

[Report Notes How 30 Nations Handle Higher-Education Costs](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

With enrollments booming, universities in some of the world's most developed nations face the daunting challenge of maintaining and increasing quality—in some cases with relatively fewer financial resources than in the past, says a new report from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

[Getting the loans](#)

(Chicago Sun-Times)

Who qualifies: Any student -- regardless of income -- can qualify for a federally backed loan from the lending arm of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

[Letters to the Editor: Aid for needy students](#)

(Springfield State Journal-Register)

On Aug. 26 an important update to Illinois' largest college financial aid program took effect. For the first time in eight years, the maximum need-based grant for Illinois' neediest college students was increased when Senate Bill 1908 became law.

[MORE NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION](#)

EdLines from AASCU

[FL: Editorial: Universities in slump](#)

The editorial board of the *Bradenton Herald* believes Florida isn't providing enough funding to its public higher education institutions. The editors cite insufficient funding as the cause of "larger and fewer classes in colleges and universities, a worsening student-teacher ratio and a brain drain of top professors." They state that Florida ranks last across the country in faculty/student ratio, with more students and fewer instructors. While the board of the Florida public university system has proposed funding increases to stem the flight of top professors, the outlook of it passing the legislature is "dubious" according to the board.

Bradenton Herald

[NY: Budget cuts take their toll on state universities](#)

Severe budget cuts are raising concern at the State University of New York (SUNY) system. After an initial round of budget cuts, universities are being asked to make an additional 10 percent reduction in their spending. One SUNY president referred to the new cuts as "almost impossible," while another SUNY president claimed the cuts will "hit hardest at those who can least afford it."

News 10 Now

[OH: Governor orders cuts, spares education](#)

Governor Ted Strickland has ordered a 4.75 percent cut to state agencies but will not make direct cuts to K-12 education, universities, Medicaid, prisons and other priorities. Strickland needs to fill an estimated \$540 million gap in the budget. Since July 1, state tax revenues have fallen \$167.3 million below estimates, and the state's unemployment rate in July was 7.2 percent. Earlier this year, Strickland called for state agencies to fill a \$733 million budget shortfall, resulting in hundreds of layoffs. Because of his efforts to spare higher education, Ohio State University has had its first back-to-back tuition freezes since 1965-66.

The Columbus Dispatch

[UT: Tight budget on the horizon in Utah](#)

Utah's higher education budget will witness a 3.4 percent increase over the current year's budget, an increase called "much more modest than usual." The increased funding will be largely focused on maintaining key faculty positions at the state's public universities. The board is reviewing a separate request of \$284 million for campus building projects.

Deseret News

[IN: Commission on Higher Education calls for an annual increase of 10,000 more college grads](#)

A new strategic plan put forth by the Indiana Commission on Higher Education outlines a proposal for the state's public colleges and universities to produce 10,000 more college graduates each year and put Indiana in the top 10 states in the nation for degree completion by 2012. To achieve these goals, the commission calls to link public funding with degree completion and provide extra funding to universities based upon higher on-time graduate rates, number of courses completed, degrees conferred and credits transferred. In addition, the plan calls for moving all remedial classes from four-year institutions to community colleges, providing two years of free education at community colleges and regional campuses for students from families making less than \$50,000 annually, raising admission standards, revising teacher standards, and doubling community college enrollment.

Chicago Tribune

[IN: Editorial: Accountability plan solid; free tuition has downside](#)

The editorial board of the *Indianapolis Star* agrees with most of a strategic plan for higher education offered by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education earlier this week. The board lauds the commission's commitment to increase on-time graduation rates by linking funding to degree completion, and supports the proposed expansion of the state's Twenty-first Century Scholars program (a program that provides students from low-income families with a tuition-free education at the state's universities). However, the editors warn that the proposed plan to allow any

student, regardless of income, to attend any of the state's Ivy Tech community colleges for free is a "financial risk" to state taxpayers, given the prospects of continued burgeoning enrollments.

Indianapolis Star

CO: University Board endorses Colorado Promise Scholarship

The Board of Trustees at Adams State College endorsed Ballot Initiative 113 last week, which would eliminate a tax credit for large oil and gas companies and double the amount of need-based scholarships available through the Colorado Promise Scholarship Program (eligible to students attending the state's public higher education institutions). The repeal of the tax credit will provide the state approximately \$300 million a year, with 60 percent going to the Promise scholarship fund and the remainder going to renewable energy efforts, wildlife habitat preservation, and water quality and transportation projects.

Colorado Higher Ed News

US: New higher education law may provide textbook price relief

The Higher Education Opportunity Act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Bush includes provisions that may alleviate the rising cost of textbooks. Among its provisions, the bill mandates that publishers share pricing information with professors who are reviewing textbook choices and requires them to unbundle packages of textbooks and supplementary materials, such as workbooks and CD-ROMs. The new law will take effect in July 2010.

The Kansas City Star

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