

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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October 3, 2008



A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR  
COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

[Task Force, IBHE to review preliminary Public Agenda](#)

The Task Force to create A Public Agenda for College and Career Success will meet October 6 at Harold Washington College in Chicago, discuss a preliminary Public Agenda. The next day, members of the Board of Higher Education will offer their perspective on the draft goals for the Public Agenda at their regular meeting to be held at Kennedy-King College in Chicago. After revision of the draft agenda precipitated by the Task Force and Board deliberations, the preliminary Public Agenda will be released on the IBHE website for a 30-day public comment period. Comments are welcome through a special website portal as well as by e-mail ([publicagenda@ibhe.org](mailto:publicagenda@ibhe.org)). In addition, [public hearings](#) have been set up at several public universities throughout October.

[Governor Blagojevich Announces Illinois Innovation Talent Program](#)

Recognizing the need for students to become globally competitive, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich has announced a public-private partnership to work with 23 Illinois high schools on a pilot project designed to promote innovation-centered education and to increase student achievement in math, science, and engineering. Illinois Innovation Talent creates a unique learning environment where students work as teams alongside industry, government, and community experts to solve real-world problems. "We must prepare students today to ensure a strong workforce for tomorrow. Innovation Talent will challenge students to think innovatively and become problem-solvers at a young age, helping Illinois remain competitive in an increasingly global economy," said Governor Blagojevich.

[D.C. Update](#)

**Year-end Federal Appropriations Bill**

With the new fiscal year beginning October, 1, the President will sign a massive year-end spending bill that will keep the federal government funded through early March 2009. Congress did not pass any of the dozen appropriations bills for fiscal year 2009. Instead, Congressional leaders opted to fully fund military construction and Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs at fiscal year 2009 requested levels and level-fund domestic spending at fiscal year 2008 levels-- leaving domestic funding decisions until the new President takes office. The "continuing resolution" (CR), as this type of measure is known, provides \$2.5 billion

UPCOMING

October

- 6 Public Agenda Task Force, Harold Washington College, Chicago
- 7 IBHE Board Meeting, Kennedy-King College, Chicago
- 6-7 ICCB Dual Credit Summit, Springfield
- 8 Dual Credit Task Force, Governors State University
- 9-10 Teaching and Learning Excellence Conference, Illinois Community College Faculty Assn., Springfield

Public Agenda Hearings

- 17 SIU-C
- 20 NIU
- 22 EIU
- 27 WIU-Quad Cities
- 28 UIS
- 24 [AAT Regional Conference:](#)  
Dare to Communicate, Cooperate, Collaborate  
Heartland Community College, Bloomington

November

- 6 [Illinois Campus Compact Gala Dinner,](#)  
Chicago

to cover a shortfall in the Pell Grant program. The shortfall is due to the increase in Pell-eligible students attending college. (From AASCU)

### **President Signs Extension to Ensure Access to Student Loans**

On September 17, President Bush signed into law a one-year extension of the “Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008” (H.R. 6889), extending the program until July 1, 2010. The law, which was passed earlier this year, authorizes the U.S. Secretary of Education to purchase student loans from lenders in the Federal Student Loan Program in the event those lenders were unable to access the needed capital. It also increased loan limits for unsubsidized Stafford undergraduate loans and delayed repayment for parent borrowers of PLUS loans. (From Illinois D.C. Office)

### **HECA Spotlight: Building a Hovercraft and Taking a Ride**

Lewis and Clark Community College, in collaboration with East Alton Wood



River High School and Roxana High School, sponsored a hovercraft competition between teams of the two high schools. Each team built a hovercraft in a week's time for a competition held September 19. The hovercraft competition was the culminating event of an IBHE Innovation Grant funded through the Higher Education



Cooperation Act (HECA). During the summer, Lewis and Clark partnered with SIU-Edwardsville's School of Engineering to involve high school students in science and engineering activities.

### **Governor proclaims Graduate Education Week**

Recognizing the value of graduate education, Governor Blagojevich has proclaimed October 20-24 as Graduate Education Week in Illinois. The Governor's proclamation notes that graduate schools play a vital role in economic competitiveness and innovation and that Illinois universities have attracted \$5.4 billion in federal research grants and contracts over the past five years. "Illinois Graduate Schools play a vital role in developing the best and brightest domestic and globally recruited talent, evidenced by the fact that 46% of the Illinois legislature have received an advanced degree from an Illinois university, and 48% of certified elementary and secondary school teachers in Illinois have earned graduate degrees," the proclamation stated.

### **Bison Gear appoints Chief Learning Officer**



To create a sustainable environment for organizational performance excellence and improvement, [Bison Gear & Engineering Corp.](#) has appointed Sylvia Wetzel Chief Learning Officer (CLO). The Bison Gear CLO is responsible for connecting business performance with human performance, through wide ranging programs and initiatives extending beyond traditional training.

*Sylvia Wetzel*

### **Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowships for Education Related Research**

The Dissertation Fellowship Program seeks to encourage a new generation of scholars from a wide range of disciplines and professional fields to undertake research relevant to the improvement of education. These \$25,000 fellowships support individuals whose dissertations show potential for bringing fresh and constructive perspective to the history, theory or practice of formal or informal education anywhere in the world. Applications are due by Tuesday, November 4.



State Rep. Chapin Rose

### [A star is born](#)

State Rep. Chapin Rose, who once had the lead in a Charleston High School musical, will return to the stage this weekend to help inaugurate The Theatre in Eastern Illinois University's new Doudna Fine Arts Center. Rose (R-Mahomet), a Charleston native who spent much of his youth on EIU's campus, will make a homecoming of sorts to play Teddy Brewster, a character who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt, in the classic comedy "Arsenic and Old Lace."

### [Illinois Campus Compact plans gala fundraiser](#)

Anna Deavere Smith, actress, professor, and playwright, will be the featured speaker for Illinois Campus Compact's Gala Dinner in the Red Lacquer Room at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 East Monroe Street in downtown Chicago, at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2008. This fundraiser, to benefit Illinois Campus Compact, also will feature the presentation of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Campus-Community Partnership Awards. Preceding the Gala Dinner will be *Rally for Tomorrow*. At this event, college presidents, students, faculty, staff and community partners will plan the future of service-learning and civic engagement in Illinois.

### [A-Maze-ing](#)

If you're caught with nothing to do some weekend, head to Macomb and get lost. The Corn Maze at Western Illinois University is open weekend afternoons through October, plus a frightful Haunted Maze the evening of October 31.



## *People in the News*

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Eureka College English professor [Loren Logsdon](#) has been selected to receive the 2009 MidAmerica Award from the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. The award recognizes distinguished contributions to the study of Midwestern literature, particularly the award-winner's body of criticism or scholarship. Logsdon will receive the award at the society's annual symposium in May.

[Preston Morgan](#), Senior Director for Workforce Development at the Illinois Community College Board, will receive the

National Council for Continuing Education & Training Regional Leadership Award at the NCCET national conference in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 6.

**[Steve Granick](#)**, Founder Professor of Engineering, and professor of materials science and engineering, of chemistry, of chemical and biomolecular engineering, and of physics, was awarded the Polymer Physics Prize of the American Physical Society. He was cited for his "pathbreaking and elegant experiments that elucidate the structure and dynamics of polymers and liquids confined by surfaces."

## *Campus News*

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### **The state of WIU**

Western Illinois University President Al Goldfarb presented his fourth State of the University address at Founders' Day celebrations on the Macomb and Moline campuses. (The Macomb Journal)

### **NSF funds new 'Center for the Physics of Living Cells' at Illinois**

The National Science Foundation announced this month that it is funding a new Physics Frontiers Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Center for the Physics of Living Cells is one of nine Physics Frontiers Centers in the U.S., and the second to explore the physics of biological systems.

### **New Grant to Train Scientists in Oral and Craniofacial Sciences**

The University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry has received a four-year, \$2.2 million federal grant to train researchers in oral and craniofacial sciences.

### **White wants Global Campus changes**

Less than nine months after the University of Illinois launched its Global Campus, the man who created it wants to turn it into an independent, accredited university to speed up development of degree programs and boost its disappointing enrollment. (Chicago Tribune)

### **Campus Child Care Center celebrates 30 years**

Thirty years after the Northern Illinois University Campus Child Care Center opened to make higher education more accessible to parents of young children, the center continues to remove obstacles to college.

### **MORE CAMPUS NEWS**

## *News from Higher Education*

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### **Government, Colleges Work to Cater to Veterans Under New GI Bill**

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

With less than a year remaining until the new GI Bill goes into effect, the federal government is rushing to execute the measure while educating veterans about changes in their tuition benefits.

**States work to avert nurse shortage**

(Stateline.org)

If America is to solve its nurse shortage crisis, health-care leaders will have to figure out a way to keep people such as Nancy Burtis in the profession.

**Panel Proposes Broad Changes in Federal Financial Aid for College**

(The New York Times)

A panel of education experts and researchers has proposed a broad reconfiguration of federal policies on financial aid for college, including a simpler application process, Pell grant maximums linked to the consumer price index and, most radically, federally financed college savings accounts for children in low-income families.

**MORE NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION**

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