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**A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR
 COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS**

Final Public Agenda hearing scheduled at Chicago State

The planning process to create a Public Agenda for College and Career Success is moving to a conclusion with a final public hearing to receive comments on the preliminary Public Agenda at Chicago State University on November 10th from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Hearings have been held at public universities in Carbondale, Moline, DeKalb, Charleston, and Springfield. In addition, comments on the draft agenda may be submitted through the special [web portal](#) on the IBHE website.

Study of Indiana P-20 efforts reinforces Public Agenda goals, strategies

A new study by the Institute for Higher Education Policy examining measures to improve college access and success in Indiana offers lessons learned that are instructive to Illinois' effort to build a Public Agenda for College and Career Success in Illinois. Among the achievements in Indiana – a nearly 6-fold increase in the number of students taking a rigorous high school curriculum since 1994; a rise in rank from 34th to 10th in the nation in college-going rates; an increase of 65,000 enrolled in college. The report offers a series of lessons learned from Indiana's experience, including a focus on academic preparation, the 21st Century Scholars Program that gets low-income students committed early to college, a differentiated higher education system with clear missions for institutions and sectors, and a commitment to student success in postsecondary education.

Lawrence steps down as chief of Paul Simon Institute



*Photo by Thomas Barker
 The Southern Illinoisan Newspaper*

Mike Lawrence, longtime Illinois journalist and former press secretary for Gov. Jim Edgar, has announced his retirement, effective today, as Director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Lawrence, a

UPCOMING

November

- 5** [Ill. HS to College Success Report Regional Forum](#), Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville
- 6** [Latinos in Illinois Community Colleges Summit](#), Harold Washington College, Chicago
- 7** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon
- 10** [Public Agenda Hearing](#), Chicago State University
- 17** IBHE Disability Advisory Committee, IBHE, Springfield
- 17-18** [Summit for Colleges of Education, IBHE & ISBE](#), Illinois State University, Normal
- 21** [Public Agenda Task Force](#), Robert Morris College Chicago

December

- 4** [Ill. HS to College Success Report Regional Forum](#), Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield
- 5** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Springfield
- 6-7** IBHE Student Advisory Committee Orientation, DeVry Univ.- Tinley Park

respected capital reporter, [government gadfly](#), and policy wonk, has been at the Simon Institute for 11 years, the last 4 as its director.

[ICCB hosts discussion of Latino issues in higher education](#)

A one-day summit to discuss opportunities and challenges facing Latinos in higher education will be sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board November 6, at Harold Washington College in Chicago.

The purpose of the Summit is to identify issues and barriers for Latino students and to recommend an agenda for the Illinois Community College Latino Advisory Committee. Participants of the Summit will examine higher educational concerns of Latinos, such as transitions between educational levels, support services, completion rates, and accessibility.

[Illinois State hosts summit on accountability](#)

Illinois State University (ISU) and the Illinois Association of Deans of Public Colleges of Education are hosting a Summit: "Building a Meaningful Educational Accountability System," on November 17. Illinois colleges of education, along with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Board of Higher Education are invited to participate in the session which will be held at ISU Alumni Center, Normal. Arthur Levine will join the summit, and also will be giving a public presentation at 7:00 pm on November 18 at the Alumni Center.

[College Illinois! opens enrollment with new affordable pricing](#)

In the midst of a national financial crisis, *College Illinois!*, the state's 529 prepaid tuition program, is introducing flexible new pricing options that feature both security and affordability. The program, which offers protection from future tuition inflation, announces SmartChoice, a new pricing structure that allows Illinois families to pick a college pricing option that best suits their individual education budgets. The program is also waiving all future application fees to make plans even more affordable.

[Learn about the Illinois High School to College Success Report](#)

Regional meetings are being held around the state to inform secondary and postsecondary educators about the Illinois High School to College Success Report, and the pilot scheduled to begin in 2009. There are three regional meetings scheduled in November and December (See the calendar for dates and places.) Teams from high schools, colleges, and universities are encouraged to attend.

People in the News

The head of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) will be leaving by the end of the year. [Dan Slack](#), who has been the SURS executive director since 2005, has accepted a job to be chief

9 IBHE meeting, National-Louis University, Chicago

16 [Ill.HS to College Success Report Regional Forum](#), Harold Washington College, Chicago

executive officer of the Colorado Fire and Police Pension Association.

[Brian Sajko](#) of Eureka College has been named to the national advisory council for The League of Cultural Towns Initiative. The initiative will identify “cultural towns” across the nation to form a league to meet annually to share successful programs, projects, and development strategies for maintaining community excellence. Eureka is among five communities in Illinois and approximately 165 communities in the nation to be identified as cultural towns.

[Benjamin Bradlee](#), executive editor of the Washington Post through more than two decades, during which the paper broke the Watergate scandal and won 18 Pulitzer Prizes, has been awarded the Illinois Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism.



WIU professor [Fetene Gebrewold](#) was recently awarded a Rotary Grant for University Teachers; he will use the award to teach public health courses in Ethiopia in Summer 2009, and when he returns to Western, he will share the knowledge he gains with the WIU community.

Campus News

[NSF funds research at Illinois on sustainable biofuels infrastructure](#)

The National Science Foundation announced this month that it is funding a new research effort at the University of Illinois aimed at understanding how – and whether it is possible – to build sustainable infrastructure to support the emerging biofuels industry. The \$2 million grant is one of six NSF awards this year to institutions engaged in engineering infrastructure research.

[Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work Receives Gift, Launches New Institutes](#)

With the support of a \$500,000 gift from Carol and the late Lucien Matusak (MD '46), Loyola's School of Social Work (SSW) has established three new institutes to focus on major issues facing not only the social work field but also the country as a whole. The institutes are: Institute for Migration and Global Studies and Practice; Institute of Intergenerational Studies and Practice; and Institute for Advanced Innovations in Social Work Practice and Research.

[MORE CAMPUS NEWS](#)

News from Higher Education

[Student Aid Is Up, but College Costs Outpace Family Incomes](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

College prices rose only slightly faster than inflation for the 2008-9 year, but that may say more about the steeper prices for everything in the American economy than it does about college costs. Tuition and fees rose 4.5 percent to 6.5 percent for various types of institutions, similar to previous years, but a 5.6-percent increase in the Consumer Price Index means that tuition growth was less than 1 percent in constant dollars.

[Harper chief to COD a done deal?](#)

(Daily Herald)

Harper College President Robert Breuder is in negotiations to become the new president of the College of DuPage.

[Retention program appears to be working in one SIUC college](#)

(The Southern Illinoisan)

CARBONDALE -- A program aimed at increasing retention among undergraduates and graduation rates within the College of Engineering at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is showing strong success just one year into its five-year lifetime.

[U of I president tells campus leaders to tighten belts](#) (Springfield State Journal-Register)

CHAMPAIGN - University of Illinois President Joseph White says he has directed school leaders to plan for economic adversity over the next 18 months as the global financial crisis continues.

[UI student trustees propose salary freeze for administrators](#)

(News-Gazette)

Student trustees from each of the three University of Illinois campuses are asking some of the university's administrators to voluntarily freeze their salaries.

[Report: Kids less likely to graduate than parents](#)

(Springfield State Journal-Register)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Your child is less likely to graduate from high school than you were, and most states are doing little to hold schools accountable, according to a study by a children's advocacy group.

[MORE NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION](#)

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