

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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December 5, 2008



A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

[Task Force approves Public Agenda; IBHE to act December 9](#)

The Public Agenda Task Force voted unanimously to endorse the Public Agenda for College and Career Success at its final meeting November 21 in Chicago. Carrie J. Hightman, Chairwoman of the Task Force and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, will present the Task Force's recommendation for approval of the new higher education master plan at the Board's next meeting, December 9, in Chicago. The IBHE has statutory authority over master planning for Illinois Higher education.

[Measuring Up 2008 finds Illinois doesn't measure up, showing pressing need for Public Agenda](#)

Illinois barely made a C-average in the latest edition of the national report card on higher education. The state received a GPA of 2.3 in the Measuring Up 2008 report, released this week by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The biennial report grades states on college preparation (Illinois grade: B), participation in college (C), affordability (F), degree completion (B+), and benefits to the state (B). Illinois, like 48 other states, flunked affordability.

IBHE [Chairwoman Hightman](#) said the report card underscores the urgency of implementing a Public Agenda for Illinois. "While disappointed that the state has not made greater progress, we welcome the challenge to move Illinois forward so its residents can compete with other states and nations in the global marketplace," Hightman said. "The good news is that Illinois now has a plan to address the issues raised by the national report card through development of the Public Agenda for higher education."

[NIU unveils Huskie Advantage Program to fill tuition gap for working class students and families](#)

Northern Illinois University has announced a new financial aid program that helps make up the difference between state and federal grants and the cost of tuition – a move NIU officials believe will put a high quality college education within the



UPCOMING

December

- 5** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Springfield
- 6-7** IBHE Student Advisory Committee Orientation, DeVry Univ.- Tinley Park
- 9** IBHE meeting, National-Louis University, Chicago
- 16** [Ill.HS to College Success Report Regional Forum](#), Harold Washington College, Chicago

reach of more Chicagoland families. The Huskie Advantage Program provides no-strings-attached "gift aid" to new freshmen entering the university in the fall 2009. Any portion of tuition costs not covered by a combination of the Illinois MAP grant and the federal Pell grant will be covered by the new program.

[Applications being accepted for Dunn Fellowship program](#)

The Dunn Fellowship program is administered by the Illinois Department of Central Management Services and places recent college graduates in top-level paid fellowship posts throughout Illinois State government, specifically in the Office of the Governor. The fellowship's purpose is to develop college graduates who have demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence and community involvement into capable leaders. Fellows are given the opportunity to develop skills in program budgeting, legislation, communication, and research, all of which are strongly demonstrated by successful public administrators. The program addresses the public sector's future need of competent and committed administrators by training these young adults in the operations of state government. Applications are due by January 31.



Federal Corner

[Secretary Spellings: Students caught in 'perfect storm'](#)

On December 2, Secretary Spellings addressed the Federal Student Aid Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. "[W]ith just a few weeks left in my tenure, I would love to stand up here and tout our accomplishments," she began. "But, I can't. I have to be honest. Yes, we've done many good things together. We've made some important reforms. But, there's still a lot of work to do. Our students face a perfect storm: growing admission anxieties, rising tuition costs, and a historic credit crisis. In these rough seas, education is their lifeline to a better future. We've got to do everything we can to make sure it doesn't slip away."

QUOTABLE

"It is not unreasonable to expect our K-12 education system to prepare these young students for college. There is nothing sadder than seeing students graduate from high school, sometimes with honors, only to learn that they must take remedial courses to get up to speed. Many of these students are African-American or Hispanic and attend high-poverty, inner-city public schools. What does it say when we tolerate an achievement gap between these students and their peers? What does it say when African-Americans (ages 25 to 29) are half as likely to earn a college degree and Hispanics are about three times less likely? What does it say when we are not challenging these schools to change their ways or close their doors?"

-- Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings (12/2/08), speaking at the Federal Student Aid Conference

[Education Department, HHS issue guidance on privacy laws](#)

In response to the "[Report to the President](#) on Issues Raised by the Virginia Tech Tragedy," the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services

just issued "Joint Guidance on the Application of the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) and the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996* (HIPAA) to Student Health Records." This guidance addresses the interplay between FERPA and the HIPAA Privacy Rule at elementary and secondary levels, as well as at the postsecondary level, and addresses many of the questions raised by school officials, health care professionals, and others regarding the applicability of these laws to records maintained on students. It also addresses certain disclosures that are allowed without consent or authorization under both laws, especially those related to health and safety emergency situations.

[The 2008 Elections: Implications for State Colleges and Universities](#)

This briefing from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities gives context to the 2008 elections and details how the outcomes may affect American higher education. This analysis discusses the impact an emboldened Congressional majority and President-Elect Barack Obama's higher education platform may have on federal postsecondary education policy, reviews the changing landscape in state legislatures, and provides an assessment of ballot measures affecting higher education.

IBHE releases reports on sick leave, public university revenue and expenditures

State statute requires the Board of Higher Education, in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, to prepare a report showing the amount by which the costs associated with [compensable sick leave](#) have been reduced as a result of the termination of compensable sick leave accrual. The report is limited to compensable sick leave for state employees who are participants of the State University Retirement System, and is required annually beginning November 15, 2001. The IBHE also recently released the FY 2008 Public Universities [Revenue & Expenditure Report](#).

[AASCU briefing paper examines issue of weapons on campus](#)

Attacks on state college campuses involving concealed weapons in the past two years have policymakers, campus officials, students and families looking for solutions to prevent future occurrences. During this time, legislation to ease weapons restrictions on campus has been introduced in 17 states, while legislation to tighten restrictions on campus has been all but absent.

This briefing provides context to concealed weapons laws on college campuses, reviews regulatory authority regarding campus concealed weapons policy, summarizes recent legislative activity involving campus gun laws, and provides a concise synopsis of the arguments for and against allowing guns on campus.

[Makin' sweet music](#)

Members of the legendary NIU celebrate their new CD, and one of the nation's best, the will play two shows at 8 and Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth



Jazz Ensemble are throwing a party to all of Chicagoland is invited. Considered Northern Illinois University Jazz Ensemble 10 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, at the Jazz Ct. in Chicago. Also taking the stage at the Midwest's premier jazz club that night are student vocalist Travaulya Wallace,

the NIU Liberace, Jazztet, and faculty of other NIU jazz studies program.

[MHEC holds policy summit on access and affordability](#)

Over 200 individuals from throughout the Midwest and beyond gathered in Minneapolis, November 17-18, for MHEC's 4th annual policy summit, *Difficult Dialogues, Rewarding Solutions: The Imperative to Expand Postsecondary Opportunities While Controlling Costs*. The summit focused on the need to expand significantly the pool of human capital necessary for states and the Midwest region to remain vibrant and economically competitive in a resource-limited environment. The summit was part of *Making Opportunity Affordable*, a multi-year initiative of Lumina Foundation for Education focused on improving college access and completion through efforts to improve the overall productivity of colleges and universities.

[Enrollment Growth in U.S. Nursing Colleges and Universities Hits an 8-Year Low](#)

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) released preliminary survey data showing that enrollment in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs increased by only 2.0 percent from 2007 to 2008. Though this marks the eighth consecutive year of enrollment growth, the annual increase in student capacity in four-year nursing programs has declined sharply since 2003 when enrollment was up by 16.6 percent. Adding to this sobering news is the fact that enrollment growth in master's nursing programs has also decreased, and the number of students entering research-focused doctorates appears to be flat based on early reporting.

People in the News

Illinois State Superintendent of Education [Christopher Koch](#) will serve on a presidential transition task force. Koch and education officials from around the country will look at issues that the next U.S. Secretary of Education should address in the first 100 days.

Western Illinois University agriculture education major [Cynthia Schriener](#) has been named as a National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) upper-division scholarship recipient.

[Jim Duignan](#), founder and director of DePaul University's Stockyard Institute, which brings the arts to youth in underserved Chicago communities, was one of two Chicago artists chosen to receive the top 2008 Artadia Award in Chicago.



Campus News

[NIU, College of DuPage partner to offer bachelor's degree in nursing](#)

Registered nurses in the DuPage County area can complete their bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degrees at the College of DuPage Glen Ellyn campus, thanks to a new agreement with Northern Illinois University.

[DePaul MBA Students Earn Spot Among The Top 10 In International Sustainable Innovation Contest](#)

A team of DePaul University MBA students was chosen as one of 10 finalists in the Thunderbird School of Global Management's Sustainable Innovation Summit, an annual business school competition that attracted 138 team entrants from all over the world.

[UIC Special Education Center Gets \\$7.5M Federal Grant](#)

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a five-year \$7.5 million grant to the University of Illinois at Chicago to prepare special education teachers.

[MORE CAMPUS NEWS](#)

News from Higher Education

[News Analysis: Higher Education's Grade for Data: 'Incomplete'](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The latest national report card on higher education, as in the past, handed out a lot of "incompletes." Like the student who keeps forgetting to turn in that lab report, the grades can't be computed without all the data.

[College costs surge](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

The percent of family income needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid in Illinois rose from 19 percent in 2000 to 35 percent this year at public four-year colleges and universities and from 47 percent to 69 percent at private institutions, a report from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education found.

[State's economy flat in November, U of I economist says](#) (Springfield State Journal-Register)

The state's economy went flat in November, based on a University of Illinois measure of sales, individual and corporate income-tax receipts. University economist J. Fred Giertz said in the report released today the latest drop in the Flash Index leaves little doubt the national and state economies are in recession.

[Gov to universities: Cut budgets](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

Cuts are coming to the state's public universities. The governor's office on Wednesday asked schools to put aside 2.5 percent of their budgets in reserves -- which essentially amounts to a mid-year giveback.

[Student Debt Grows; Financial Aid Application Rates Rise](#) (Capitol News Service)

WASHINGTON - Already high student loan rates are going to go up even more because of the bad economy, according to the Project on Student Debt, a group focused on cost-effective education.

MORE NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION

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