

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

December 12, 2008



A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR  
COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS



The Illinois Board of Higher Education discussed the final draft of the ***Public Agenda for College and Career Readiness***, at its December 9 meeting. It was adopted on a unanimous vote.

**[IBHE Approves Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education](#)**

On a unanimous vote, the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the ***Public Agenda for College and Career Success***, a year-long initiative to build a master plan to guide higher education policies and budgets for the next decade and beyond. The Board's approval follows a unanimous endorsement of the plan by the Public Agenda Task Force last month.

"This has been a long undertaking – a gestation of almost exactly 12 months," said **[Carrie J. Hightman](#)**, chairwoman of both the IBHE and the Task Force. "The thoughtful, deliberative and collaborative process over those many months has yielded an agenda that will improve the lives of Illinois residents, and improve the state's future economic and social well-being, for a generation or more."

Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) and a consultant for the Public Agenda, said Illinois' planning process was the most collaborative of any state where NCHEMS had worked. And he congratulated the Board and Task Force for the final product: "You got it right," he said. Aims McGuinness, senior associate at NCHEMS, told Board members that the success of the Public Agenda rested with them. "You should not be spending time on yesterday's mission," he said. "With the adoption of the Public Agenda, you ought to have a very different agenda. All work that you do, ask the question: 'How does this connect with

**UPCOMING**

**December**

**15-16** General Assembly Special Session

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

**January**

**9** ICCB meeting, Springfield

**12-13** 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Session

**14-15** 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Session

**20** Presidential Inaugural

**27** IBHE meeting, Springfield

**30** ISAC meeting, Benedictine University, Lisle

**Friday Memo** will be returning in 2009. Happy Holidays and New Year.

the Public Agenda?”

As directed by [House Joint Resolution 69](#), which initiated the planning process, the Public Agenda will now be presented to the General Assembly and Governor. IBHE Executive Director Judy Erwin told Board members that a detailed implementation plan for the Public Agenda will be presented at their next meeting, January 27 in Springfield.

“We intend for the Public Agenda to change higher education as we’ve known it,” Chairwoman Hightman said. “We expect it will drive the Board’s policy, budget and legislative agenda. We anticipate it will alter in meaningful ways the priorities of our colleges and universities. We believe it will have a significant impact on how the General Assembly regards P-20 policy and the allocation of resources.”

#### [Disabilities group proposes new reporting scheme for web accessibility](#)

Tom Thompson, chair of the IBHE Disabilities Advisory Committee, told the Board of Higher Education that reporting requirements that govern data on accessibility of websites at college and universities should be upgraded in the Board’s annual Underrepresented Groups Report. Thompson spoke at the Board’s December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in Chicago. He said using reporting requirements produced by the Illinois Consortium on Web Accessibility would “create mechanisms for improving access” for students with disabilities.

#### [ISAC honors the ‘best and brightest’ of 2009](#)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has released its list of Illinois State Scholars – 19,331 students from 798 Illinois high schools. State Scholar winners rank in the top 10 percent of high school seniors, and are selected based on test scores and/or class rank. “This is the Hall of Fame for Illinois students,” Andy Davis, ISAC Executive Director, said. According to ISAC, over the past 50 years, at least 500,000 Illinois students have been declared State Scholars. The agency has listed the names, high schools, and counties of each of the [2009 Scholars](#).

#### [IBHE awards nursing fellowships to 15 faculty](#)

Fifteen faculty members from 12 Illinois colleges and universities have been selected by the Board of Higher Education to receive 2009 Nurse Educator Fellowships. Each recipient receives a \$10,000 stipend as a salary supplement to encourage exemplary faculty to remain in the classroom. The shortage of qualified nursing faculty is a significant barrier to expanding capacity in nursing programs. IBHE received 37 applications for the fellowships, or more than double the number of recipients that the \$150,000 appropriation could support. The 2009 fellows will be responsible for advocacy to reduce the state’s nursing shortage.

#### [Task Force aims to strengthen, expand dual credit programs](#)

The Dual Credit Task Force, created earlier this year by HJR 36, completed its work with a report to the General Assembly December 1 calling for measures to establish statewide standards to govern programs that give high school students college credit for certain coursework. The Task Force was chaired by Representative Roger Eddy, who sponsored the joint resolution with Senator Dale Righter. In addition to creating standards to ensure a minimum level of quality in dual credit programs, the Task Force also recommended steps to expand dual credit to improve access, equity, and educational attainment. The Task Force also urged increased accountability through creation of a quantitative data-collection system for dual credit participants. “The members of this Task Force are confident that the recommendations put forth in this report will help to define dual credit policy and strengthen the overall quality of dual credit coursework,” Representative Eddy said.

#### [ISAC cited for Green Government Award](#)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission is among 11 state agencies honored by the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council today, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at the [2008 Sustainable Government Symposium](#) at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The program is an initiative of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn. ISAC’s Green Team asked each agency division to identify at least one transaction or document for which use of paper could be reduced. In all, the agency found savings of 250,000 sheets of paper and 5,000 envelopes, plus savings of fuel and postage.

## Fall enrollment rises nearly 5 percent

Enrollment at Illinois colleges and universities jumped by 40,000 students, or 4.9 percent, in the fall of this year, the IBHE latest enrollment survey reported. In all, 854,660 students enrolled in credit-bearing courses at the state's 214 degree-granting institutions. Another 7,844 Illinois students took coursework from out-of-state institutions. The report found that enrollments at public universities dipped by .4 percent, sustaining a trend of essentially stable enrollments. Headcount at community colleges rose by 6,500 students, or 1.9 percent over fall 2007, to 353,742. About two of every five college students in Illinois attends a community college. Enrollments at private institutions increased by nearly 35,000 students, a jump of 13 percent, fueled largely by continued growth in the for-profit sector.



## **Beijing visitors**

*A delegation of 25 officials representing colleges and universities in Beijing visited IBHE offices December 11 for a briefing on higher education operations in Illinois.*

## People in the News



**Carol Yoakum** received highest honors from her colleagues at the Illinois Association for Institutional Research when they bestowed her with the 2008 Service Recognition Award. Carol has served in the Information Systems unit at IBHE for the past 28 years. She will retire at year's end as assistant director.

## Campus News

### Eureka College receives special education grant

Eureka College will partner with the Associated Colleges of Illinois' Center for Success in High-Need Schools and four other ACI member institutions in a five-year, \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will support Transforming Curriculum in Special Education (T-SPED), a collaborative initiative to enrich special education curricula. University of St. Francis in Joliet will lead the T-SPED partnership, which also includes Aurora

University, Aurora; Dominican University, River Forest; and Lewis University; Romeoville.

### [Public Safety Administration degree available online](#)

Lewis University's successful Master of Science degree in Public Safety Administration is now available online. Professionals preparing to manage police, fire, emergency medical and private law enforcement services can access classes at their convenience. The online degree also enables military personnel to earn their master's degrees while serving in any part of the world. Registration is now available and classes start in January.

### [SIU Med School receives NIH grant to study fatigue](#)

A research scientist at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield has been awarded a five-year federal grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant is for the study of the mechanisms of fatigue in chronic viral disease and has a total budget of \$1,903,550.

## [MORE CAMPUS NEWS](#)

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

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#### [Study: College success starts early](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Fewer than 2 in 10 of the nation's 8th graders are on track to be academically prepared for college, and high school may be too late to bring them up to speed, according to a study released December 10.

#### [Shying Away From Graduate School](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

When the economy tanks, graduate school applications go up. That's one of the few bits of good news in which educators could have reasonably taken comfort this year. No more.

#### [COMMENTARY - Community Colleges Are Essential to a Healthy Economy](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

As community-college leaders around the country defend against across-the-board budget cuts, they need to mobilize key groups to make the case that their colleges offer the best hope of turning around the United States economy.

#### [Gates Foundation Announces First Grants in New Program on College Completion](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced \$69-million in grants to kick off its effort to double the number of low-income young people who complete a college degree or certificate program by age 26.

#### [Spellings Sees Her Legacy Centering on 'Long Overdue'](#)

**[Assessment of Colleges](#)** (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The secretary also discussed student loans and student aid, college costs, and how she believes higher education needs to be transformed to meet 21st-century needs.

**[College Board Commission Unveils Plan to Reduce 'Education Deficit'](#)** (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The nation must ensure that 55 percent of Americans hold a college degree or certificate by 2025 to maintain its global competitiveness, education leaders said here on Wednesday.

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

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