

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[State funding stagnates while students pick up slack in financing Illinois higher ed](#)

Illinois spends \$7,000 per full-time student in appropriations to public colleges and universities, 26th among the 50 states, according to a new study by the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability. The state's ranking, however, has declined dramatically since 2002 when it ranked 9th in the nation in spending per student. Overall, the report found, colleges and universities now receive a greater share of revenues from student tuition and fees and other sources and a declining share from state appropriations.

[\\$\\$\\$, \\$\\$\\$, and more \\$\\$\\$ top list of 2009 issues facing higher ed](#)

Fiscal crises, tuition costs, and student aid are the trifecta of concerns confronting higher education (and most state services) throughout the nation in 2009, according to the policy analysis by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Other issues rounding out the top 10 include enrollment capacity, implementation of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, the Obama Administration, college readiness, veterans' education, undocumented students, and sustainability.

[Late Christmas gift for Illinois students](#)

Spring semester was saved for thousands of Illinois college students thanks to a deal signed in December by eight Illinois credit unions and an Illinois state agency which makes \$40.5 million in low-interest loans available to Illinois students for the upcoming semester.

An unusual partnership forged three months ago between the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and the Illinois Credit Union League (ICUL), will enable thousands of Illinois college students to return to their academic pursuits this spring, some of whom may have needed to withdraw from classes for lack of funding.

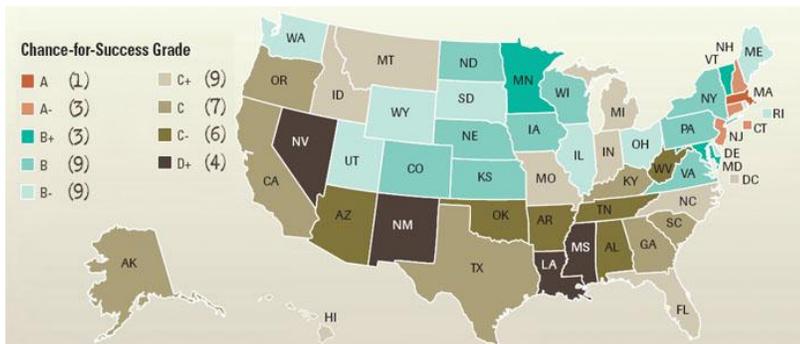
[Student success? Illinois gets C in national report](#)

UPCOMING

January

- 9** ICCB meeting, Springfield
- 12-13** 95th General Assembly Session
- 14-15** 96th General Assembly Convenes
- 20** Presidential Inaugural
- 23** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Olney Central College
- 27** IBHE meeting, Springfield
- 30** ISAC meeting, Benedictine University, Lisle

Illinois' performance on key indicators of student success was average – along with most other states – in *Quality Counts 2009*, the latest edition of a national report card published by *Education Week*. However, Illinois received a B- on a Chance for Success Index that provides a unique cradle-to-career perspective on a state's role in helping young children get off to a good start, providing youths with a quality education during the schooling years, and offering adults significant opportunities for rewarding careers.



[ISAC salutes father of Pell grants](#)

\$482,953,597.

That's the amount 201,326 Illinois students received in federal Pell grants in the 2006-07 academic year. Both figures rank Illinois 7th in the nation in the dollars received and recipients of a program described by the head of the state financial aid agency as "a national treasure."

On January 1, Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell, father of the landmark student financial aid program that now bears his name, died. Andrew Davis, Executive Director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, hailed Pell as a "great public servant and statesman."

[Federal agency to set up committees to negotiate new regulations](#)

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) has announced its intention to establish five negotiated rulemaking committees to prepare proposed regulations under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA). OPE decided on the following committees:

- loans – lender/general loan issues;
- loans – school-based loan issues;
- accreditation;
- discretionary grants; and
- general and non-loan programmatic issues.

Each committee will include members of organizations with interests affected by the subject matter of the proposed regulations. In turn,

OPE is requesting nominations for individual negotiators who represent stakeholder constituencies. Nominations must be received by January 23.

[NEW Leadership Illinois Summer Institute for 2009](#)

NEW Leadership Illinois is a non-partisan, week-long residential program for undergraduate women designed to teach students about participation in state politics and policymaking and connect them with women legislative leaders who serve as mentors in the program. The program will be held from June 3-7 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The program is jointly sponsored by the U. of I.'s Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) and the Conference of Women Legislators (COWL) of the Illinois General Assembly.

[Spellings issues uniform grad rate guidance](#)

U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings has released guidelines to implement a uniform and accurate measure of the high school graduation rate that is comparable across states. "The nation can no longer tolerate – much less prosper – with its abysmal graduation rate, particularly among minority students," she said. "Parents know that a high school diploma is the least their children need to succeed in today's economy. This guidance will help ensure resources are better targeted so that students earn a regular high school diploma."

People in the News

Longtime Western Illinois University Registrar **[Alan DeRoos](#)** will retire March 1, 2009 after 32 years of service. DeRoos has served as WIU's registrar since August 1980. He began his career at Western in 1976 as the director of registration.

[Angela Lynn](#), associate director for the Office of the Registrar, has been named interim registrar, effective March 2. Previously, Lynn was assistant director of the Western Illinois University Office of Extended Learning, a unit of Western's School of Extended Studies, where she worked with independent study, online learning and distance education.

UIC nanomedicine researcher **[Hayat Onyksel](#)**, professor of biopharmaceutical sciences and bioengineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago was presented with the 2008 Lipid Based Drug Delivery Outstanding Research Award at the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists annual meeting.

[Vincent Gutowski](#) has been named EIU's 2008 recipient of Eastern Illinois University's Luis Clay Mendez Distinguished Service Award, presented by the university's Faculty Senate. The award, given annually since 2004, honors the memory of Clay, an EIU Spanish professor who died in 2003. Recipients must exemplify

Clay's dedication via service to the university, their profession and the community-at-large (local, national and/or international). Gutowski, a professor of geography, has been at Eastern since 1983.

Campus News

[DePaul University opens \\$40 million science building](#)

Science education in Illinois got a lot richer with the inception of DePaul University's winter quarter on Jan. 5 and the opening of the Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Science Building, at 1110 W. Belden Ave., Chicago. The \$40 million, four-story, 130,000-square-foot structure is the centerpiece of a successful \$20 million fundraising campaign that will help to bolster DePaul's vital role in promoting science education in Illinois.

[UIC receives \\$16M to study impact of environment on kids' health](#)

The University of Illinois at Chicago's ImpacTeen project has been awarded a four-year, \$16 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study policy and environmental factors that influence youth behaviors related to nutrition, physical activity, obesity and tobacco use.

[MORE CAMPUS NEWS](#)

News from Higher Education

[Colleges See Slowest Growth in State Aid in 5 Years](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

State-tax support for higher education increased by less than 1 percent in the 2008-9 budget year, to \$78.5-billion, according to an annual report released today by the Center for the Study of Education Policy, at Illinois State University.

[Obama Faces Wide Pool of Possible Picks for Postsecondary Posts](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

When Barack Obama named Chicago's public-school chief, Arne Duncan, as his pick for secretary of education, the higher-education rumor mill moved on to its next target: the president-elect's choices for the top postsecondary posts in the Education Department.

[Colleges Profit as Banks Market Credit Cards to Students](#) (The New York Times)

EAST LANSING, Mich. — When Ryan T. Muneio was tailgating with his parents at a Michigan State football game this fall, he noticed a big tent emblazoned with a Bank of America logo. Inside, bank representatives were offering free T-shirts and other merchandise to those who applied for credit cards and other banking products.

Colleges extend lifeline to students (Chicago Sun-Times)

Getting laid off is never easy, but being out of work with a child in college and thousands of dollars in tuition bills to pay is even tougher

MORE NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION

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