

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

January 30, 2009

[Board adopts fiscal 2010 higher education budget](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education voted unanimously January 27th to approve fiscal 2010 budget recommendations built on the goals of the Public Agenda for College and Career Success, emphasizing affordability, access to college, educational attainment, and economic growth.

"I believe we should view this as an 'opportunity budget,' one that not only is realistic about the fiscal crisis we face but offers tangible solutions to help Illinois dig out from this financial morass," Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman said.

As in FY2009, the spending plan for next year presents the budget in a series of steps, or investment levels, ranging from 2.5 percent below current spending to an increase of 5.5 percent, or \$120 million.

[Chairwoman Hightman's remarks](#)
[News Release](#)
[PowerPoint presentation](#)



A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR
COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

[IBHE reviews implementation plan for Public Agenda](#)

A first phase plan to implement goals of the recently adopted Public Agenda for College and Career Success was presented to the Board of Higher Education at its January 27th meeting. The plan focuses on key "foundational issues" such as the Board organization and operations, a comprehensive P-20 student information system, and communications strategies. It also lays out strategies for advancing several "action steps" to achieve the four goals of the Public Agenda, including the American Diploma Project, legislation linking student financial aid to a rigorous high school preparation for college, expansion of dual credit and a pilot program on college and career readiness, and strengthening funding for tools to assist student transfer.

[Implementation Matrix](#)

UPCOMING

January

30 ISAC meeting, Benedictine University, Lisle

February

20 Faculty Advisory Council, Northwestern University

March

18 Legislative Reception of the Higher Education Legislative Coalition, Illinois State Museum, Springfield

[Board honors contribution and memory of Gil Rutman](#)



In a solemn tribute to the late Gilbert L. Rutman, the Board of Higher Education honored his service to the Board and to higher education with a resolution read by Board member Frances Carroll.

“Gil Rutman served faithfully and with great distinction on the Illinois Board of Higher Education for the past six years,” the resolution said. “He brought to the Board his long and distinguished career as an economist and emeritus professor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and a passionate but reasoned advocacy for faculty and students.”

[Presentation shows community college role in workforce preparedness, economic development](#)

Community colleges make critical contributions to worker training and local economic development, according to a presentation for members of the Board of Higher Education and the higher ed community by officials from John A. Logan College.

President Bob Mees; Phil Minnis, dean of Workforce Development and Community Education; and Darren Pulley, associate dean for corporate education, outlined the variety of programs and initiatives community colleges have to fulfill a new mission for the public two-year sector, including incumbent worker training, customized training, and enhanced partnerships with businesses.

[IBHE approves work study, nursing school grants](#)

The Board of Higher Education has approved allocations of \$1.9 million in [Cooperative Work Study Program](#) grants and \$1 million for expansion and improvement projects under the [Nursing School Grant Program](#).

The work study grants will fund 51 projects for 2,012 students at 676 businesses and not-for-profit organizations. The nursing grants support renewals of three expansion grants of \$300,000 each for high-performing schools to expand capacity, and three improvement grants designed to bolster pass rates on the national nursing exam.

[ISAC chief praises Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)

Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) Executive Director Andrew Davis says that ensuring timely benefits for the 3,000 servicemen and women returning from war zones in the next 18 months is an agency priority. And he commended the U.S. Veterans Administration for its “proactive approach.”

The new GI Bill covers tuition and fees, plus funds for books, supplies, and living expenses for veterans who served at least three years post-September 11, 2001. The bill also extends benefits to veterans attending non-public universities and community colleges in addition to vocational programs. While ISAC distributed \$19.25 million

to public colleges and universities through the Illinois Veterans Grant (IVG) in 2008, the institutions waived an additional \$18 million in tuition and mandatory fees. An early estimate is that Illinois veterans could qualify for \$28 million in tuition benefits alone under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, not including new federal benefits for books, housing, and other fees covered.

[Hold the Date: IERC symposium set for June 9-10](#)

After a one-year sabbatical, the Illinois Education Research Council is hosting its 2009 Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium. June 9-10 at I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign. The Call for Proposals and Posters will be e-mailed and posted on the IERC website by February 2nd.

People in the News

[Steve Dworkin](#), internationally recognized for his research on the neuropsychopharmacology of abused substances, has been appointed chair of Western Illinois University's Department of Psychology.

[Debasish \(Deba\) Dutta](#) has joined the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus as dean of the Graduate College and associate provost. Dutta also holds an appointment as the Edward William and Jane Marr Gutsell Professor in the department of mechanical science and engineering.

Chicago's public school system has a new CEO. Mayor Richard Daley has named Chicago Transit Authority President **[Ron Huberman](#)** as the new chief executive of the country's third-biggest school district.

The National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment is attempting to gather information from every college about assessment practices in place in order to produce a national picture of the state of the efforts to measure student learning. The new institute will be led by **[Stanley O. Ikenberry](#)** and George Kuh — two figures with extensive experience in the politics of higher education and assessment. Ikenberry is former president of the American Council on Education and of the University of Illinois. Kuh is director of the Center for Postsecondary Research at Indiana University at Bloomington, and is best known as the founder of the National Survey of Student Engagement.

Campus News

[Task force works to improve first-year experiences at NIU](#)

Members of NIU's Foundations of Excellence Task Force are working to make sure everyone – freshmen classes included – can answer that question with intelligence and accuracy. All employees, from professors and deans to residence hall janitors and cafeteria food

servers, will receive invitations soon that encourage the completion of an online survey intended to collect and measure their perceptions of the first-year experience for NIU freshmen.

[Mid-year salary increases given to 461 on ISU faculty](#)

Mid-year salary increases will be given to 461 Illinois State University full and associate professors as part of President Al Bowman's Salary Enhancement Program. The increases range from 0.5 to 6.2 percent. Bowman unveiled the program in September 2005, calling it a long-term effort to raise the aggregate salaries of faculty and staff member groups closer to comparison group averages.

[Community college offers guaranteed U. of I. pathway](#)

Two hundred students will get guaranteed admission to the University of Illinois next year through a new program called the Parkland Pathway to Illinois.

[JWCC creates tuition deferment program for local laid-off workers who need retraining](#)

John Wood Community College is partnering with local employers to provide a tuition deferment program to displaced workers seeking retraining.

[MORE CAMPUS NEWS](#)

[News from Higher Education](#)

[6,200 college students get another chance to receive state aid grants](#)

(Chicago Sun-Times)

Thousands of Illinois college students previously rejected for financial aid will get another chance. That's after the state released up to \$9 million in unclaimed funds.

[Anticipating stimulus money for campus projects, colleges get 'shovel ready'](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

In almost the same breath in his inauguration speech last week, President Obama touted green technology and his desire for higher education to make changes to meet America's evolving needs.

[College endowments plunge](#)

(The Wall Street Journal)

College endowments have suffered a sharp blow in the financial crisis, with aggregate investment losses of at least \$94.5 billion, according to a new survey.

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431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404
Phone: (217) 782-2551
<http://www.ibhe.org>
FridayMemo@ibhe.org