

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo



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ISAC
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February 13, 2009

96th General Assembly gets organized

The four committees with major responsibility for higher education matters have been organized, members selected, chairs named, and two hearings were held this week. The [House Higher Education Committee](#) had its organizing meeting on Tuesday, February 10, chaired by Rep. Mike Boland. Rep. Naomi Jakobsson is vice-chairman and Rep. Robert Pritchard is the minority spokesperson.



House Higher Education Committee meeting on Feb.10

The following day, [House Appropriations-Higher Education Committee](#) held its first meeting, convened by Chairwoman Cynthia Soto, along with Vice-Chairman, Rep. Kevin Joyce, and Minority Spokesperson, Rep. Richard Myers. In the Senate, Sen. Edward Maloney returns to the chair of the [Higher Education Committee](#), with Sen. Michael Frerichs as vice-chairman, and Minority Spokesman Sen. Bradley Burzynski. The Senate committee's first meeting is scheduled for February 18th. [Appropriations II](#) oversees higher education funding, and is being chaired by Sen. John Sullivan, with vice-chairman, Sen. Jeffrey Schoenberg, and Minority Spokesperson, Sen. Pamela Althoff.

UPCOMING	
February	
18	Senate Higher Education Committee
19	House Higher Education Committee
19	Joint Hearing, Senate Appropriations I & II
20	Faculty Advisory Council, Northwestern University
24	AeA 21 st Learning Environment Symposium, Illinois State Museum, Springfield
March	
18	Legislative Reception of the Higher Education Legislative Coalition, Illinois State Museum, Springfield



A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR
COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

Major Public Agenda legislation introduced

Legislation to initiate a college-readiness program and to set standards for dual-credit high school-college partnerships – issues highlighted in the Public Agenda for College and Career Success – has been introduced in the General Assembly.

Companion bills have been proposed by Rep. David Miller ([HB 150](#)) and Sen. Edward Maloney ([SB 37](#)) to create the [21st Century Scholars Program](#),

which is aimed at improving college readiness of low-income students. The initiative, modeled after highly successful programs in [Indiana](#) and other states, targets middle school students to entice them to take a rigorous high school curriculum in exchange for guaranteed financial aid for college.

Rep. Roger Eddy has introduced [HB 1079](#) to implement recommendations of the [Dual Credit Task Force](#), which he chaired. The bill would codify and enhance standards used by the Illinois Community College Board to regulate dual credit programs for community colleges and apply them to four-year institutions that also have dual credit agreements with high schools. Dual credit initiatives, in which high school students can earn college credit, promote increased educational attainment and help keep down the cost of college, two primary objectives of the Public Agenda.

[ISAC-CPS partnership: monitoring college access](#)

A unique partnership between the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is allowing the nation's third-largest school district to effectively identify potentially college-bound students and provide timely financial aid guidance through the often confusing application process." Here is a tremendous example of intergovernmental cooperation at all levels," said ISAC Executive Director Andrew Davis. "A local school district utilizing the service of a state agency to crunch federal data to benefit students: This is how government for the people should work." "The partnership between Chicago Public Schools and ISAC is probably the most unique approach for improving the number of students completing the FAFSA application in the country," added Greg Darnieder, Director of CPS' Department of College and Career Preparation.

[Reminder: Young Women Leaders Wanted](#)

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 to June 7, 2009, on the University of Illinois at Chicago campus. The application deadline is Monday, March 2, 2009.

[People in the News](#)

Two hundred years later, and Abraham Lincoln still manages to surprise. St. Xavier University associate professor [Graham Peck](#) practically did a double take when he came across the footnote that would lead him to discover lost Lincoln records from more than 150 years ago.

[Rodney Davis and Douglas Wilson](#), co-directors of the Lincoln Studies Center at Knox College, whose research and writings have revolutionized the field of Lincoln history, have been awarded The Order of Lincoln, the highest honor conferred by Illinois.

University of Illinois electrical and computer engineering professor [Kanti Jain](#) has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering, the academy announced. Jain was cited for his contributions to the development of high-resolution, deep-ultraviolet excimer lithography for microelectronic

fabrication.

Campus News

[NIU ranks 12th in nation on CPA exam pass rate](#)

Graduates of the accountancy program at Northern Illinois University ranked among the top 1 percent in the nation for pass rate on the 2007 certified public accountant licensing exam.

[U. of I. School of Music's quartet in residence wins Grammy Award](#)

The Pacifica quartet has added a Grammy Award to its growing collection of musical achievements. Pacifica, the faculty quartet in residence at the University of Illinois School of Music, picked up the 2009 Grammy for Best Chamber Music Performance for its recording of Elliott Carter's String Quartets Nos. 1 and 5. Ensemble members are Sibbi Bernhardsson and Simin Ganatra, violin; Masumi Per Rostad, viola; and Brandon Vamos, cello.



[MORE CAMPUS NEWS](#)

News from Higher Education

[States offer safe choices in 529 plans](#)

(The Wall Street Journal)

States are expanding the conservative options in their 529 college savings plans as more families look to protect their savings from financial-market turmoil.

[Professors regard online instruction as less effective than classroom learning](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Online courses may be gaining a foothold in higher education, but substantial skepticism over their effectiveness remains, according to results of two recent surveys. The surveys, conducted by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, also found "widespread concern" that budget cuts would hamper distance-learning programs.

[MORE NEWS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION](#)

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