

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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March 6, 2009

“Giving our children an education is the best thing we can give them.”



(photo by Russ Nagel)

Rep. Cynthia Soto, chairperson of the House Appropriations-Higher Education Committee

“When I came to the legislature, I wanted to do my part to open doors for those who are less fortunate,” explained [Representative Cynthia Soto](#), the new chairperson of the Appropriations-Higher Education Committee, in her interview with *Friday Memo*. “So, I am passionate about increasing awareness and accessibility to higher education to all first generation and lower income people, not only in my district, but across the State.”

[Read the interview in its entirety.](#)

Senate hearings set on key P-20 Public Agenda proposals

*Committees to consider
baccalaureate completion,
longitudinal data system bills*



Legislation to smooth the transfer from community college to senior institutions and to set up a P-20 data system to track student performance from preschool to grad school will come before Senate committees next week. Both bills would advance key goals of *The*

UPCOMING

March

10 Senate Higher Education Committee, 3:30 p.m.

Senate Education Committee, 6 p.m.

11 House Higher Education Committee, 4 p.m.

Senate Appropriations II Committee, 5 p.m.

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

20 ICCB meeting, College of Lake County, Grayslake

April

3 ISAC meeting, Harper College, Palatine

7 IBHE Meeting, Springfield

22 Lobby Day, Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities

Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success.

[SB 1828](#), sponsored by Sens. Heather Steans and James Meeks, is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Education Committee on March 10. The bill would establish a longitudinal data system that could answer key policy questions regarding student transfer, articulation, and performance. The measure would close gaps in information systems that lose track of students who migrate among various colleges and higher education sectors.

[SB 1883](#), sponsored by Sens. Brad Burzynski and Deanna Demuzio, would create a new grant program at the Board of Higher Education to bring baccalaureate completion programs to community college campuses to accommodate place-bound students who need convenient access to programs offered by four-year institutions to complete their bachelor's degree.

Both bills address recommendations of the Illinois Public Agenda, which has shined a light on the need for increased educational attainment in Illinois.

[Report recommends stimulus spending to promote college access and success](#)

A recent report from the Delta Cost Project, National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, and National Center for Higher Education Management Systems recommends ways state policymakers can best use funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to protect access and success in higher education.

As a result of the growing higher education funding gap, the economic crisis will push higher education to increase tuition, reduce enrollment, and cut programs designed to reduce attainment gaps and increase degree production. However, ARRA provides an unprecedented opportunity for states to use this significant infusion of one-time federal funds to protect access and quality while improving cost effectiveness and increasing degree productivity.

Send ARRA Questions Here

The Department of Education has created a mailbox state.fiscal.fund@ed.gov to receive questions on the state fiscal stabilization fund, which is a key component of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

[Friendly \(inter\)face](#)

Web redesign helps IDAPP customers access help on loans

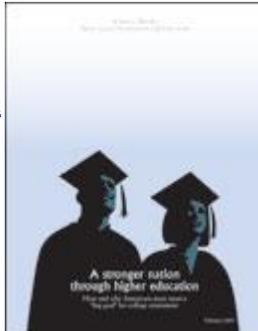
After nearly a year of development utilizing feedback from users as well as customer experience best practices, the Illinois Designated Account Purchase Program (IDAPP) launched its redesigned **[website](#)**, on Sunday, March 1.

The website's objectives are to assist customers in applying for student loans and provide superior customer service on existing loans. The redesign accomplishes improvements in both, reorganizing

site content in a simpler, more logical fashion and providing a new content management system that allows for more control over content while providing a more contemporary, user-friendly environment for interaction.

[Lumina report shows path to achieving Obama college attainment goals](#)

Indianapolis—Lumina Foundation for Education last week unveiled a new report, [A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education](#), which includes a detailed explanation of Lumina's 'big goal' to significantly increase higher education attainment. The report also includes a state-by-state—and county-by-county—analysis of college attainment statistics that serve as a call to action for policymakers to make higher education more accessible and attainable for all Americans.



[Listen up!](#)

Did you miss the “Beyond Cool” performance of Mile Davis’ “Bobplicity” at last year’s Allerton Music Barn Festival? What about the Opera Program’s production of “Cosi fan tutte” last spring at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts? Wishing you could hear – and see – highlights of the Jerry Hadley Memorial Concert one more time?

Those performances – and many more by faculty, students and guest artists of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Music – now are accessible online through U. of I. School of Music’s new [Media Center](#). A virtual trove of archival performances – some audio-only, some video – recently went live on the school’s Web site.

Click [Crackdown](#) to hear the U of I Concert Jazz Band.

[People in the News](#)

Phi Beta Delta, the honor society for international scholars, will present its 2009 Faculty Award for Outstanding Contribution to International Education to Northern Illinois University’s [Susan Russell](#), a cultural anthropologist who specializes in the Philippines.



[Campus News](#)

[UIC Receives \\$2 Million to Examine Police Organizations](#)

The National Institute of Justice has awarded the University of Illinois at Chicago a \$2 million grant to evaluate the current state of American policing. A team of top researchers from around the country, led by Dennis Rosenbaum, UIC professor of criminology, law, and justice, will study approximately 25 law enforcement agencies to determine what contributes to success or "good policing" among individual officers, supervisors, and organizations.

[Eureka College students raise more than \\$25,000 for St. Jude](#)

Eureka College students raised \$25,563 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through an Up 'til Dawn fundraiser this month.

[Chemistry professor's teaching experiment leads students to important discovery](#)

Great teaching often leads to discovery—as in the "aha moment" that a student experiences when a complex lesson clicks. But in the case of an organic chemistry class taught last spring by Northern Illinois University Professor Douglas Klumpp, an extraordinary teaching effort actually led to a discovery that might help fight cancer.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Educators ask Springfield for more aid](#)

(Herald & Review)

SPRINGFIELD - As lawmakers look for ways to cut the state's budget, education advocates of various stripes flooded the Capitol on Wednesday looking for more money.

[Stimulus to Help Retool Education, Duncan Says](#)

(The Washington Post)

To help struggling schools, the federal government will use stimulus funding to encourage states to expand school days, reward good teachers, fire bad ones and measure how students perform compared with peers in India and China, Education Secretary Arne Duncan said yesterday.

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