

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Governor proposes \\$40 million increase in higher ed funding](#)

Governor Pat Quinn unveiled a \$53 billion budget to the General Assembly this week that includes a \$40 million increase for Illinois colleges and universities and student financial aid.

The Governor's proposed budget connects to key goals and recommendations of the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success. The proposal would provide funding for affordability, academic quality, and a P-20 longitudinal data system. It also would finance new High Need Health Program grants through the IBHE.

In addition, Governor Quinn laid out plans for a major capital plan, including more than \$1 billion for higher education projects.

The budget calls for an increase in the state individual and corporate income tax rates, significant cuts to agency operations, and closing of corporate tax loopholes.

'The key to equal opportunity and economic empowerment'

Governor Quinn, from his [budget address](#) to the General Assembly:

"Another top priority for the people of Illinois is education.

"There are two forces in life: On one side there are the movers and shakers; and on the other side there are those that are moved and shaken. The difference between them is education.

"Education is the key to equal opportunity and economic empowerment. Jobs follow brainpower. And Illinois needs all the brainpower it can muster in the 21st Century. Even in tough economic times we must always invest in quality and accountable education.

"Therefore, I plan to increase early childhood, elementary and high school education funding by \$170 million. At the same time, this plan will commit \$40 million to community colleges and higher education. The best way to attract and keep business in Illinois is to offer a smart, well-trained workforce."

Watch the speech [here](#) (Windows Media) or [here](#) (Real Player).

[Job 1: Graduate them from high school](#)

Advance Illinois, a new nonprofit education advocacy group, notes that statewide data show no area of the state can be complacent about the problem of high school dropouts, nor the

UPCOMING

March

20 ICCB meeting, College of Lake County, Grayslake

IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Chicago State University

April

3 ISAC meeting, Harper College, Palatine

7 IBHE Meeting, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conf. Center, Springfield

15-16 ICCB Homeland Security Emergency Response Institute, Springfield

22 Student Lobby Day, Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities

23 Community College Student Advocacy Day

lost opportunity cost for those young people and the state. Some sobering statistics:

- High school graduates pay \$60,000 more in taxes over their lifetime.
- If we could increase the male graduation rate by 5 percent, the state would save \$379 million in crime-related expenses.
- If every student graduated, we'd save \$647 million in Medicare expenses. Illinois pays \$82 million a year in remedial classes for high school graduates.
- If we could close the gap in graduation rates between students of color and white students, we would add \$13 billion dollars to the economy.

And a [Johns Hopkins study](#) calculated a school's "promoting power" as a mechanism to analyze the dropout problem and concluded that schools with a promoting power less than 60% were "dropout factories." Illinois has 60 of those factories.

[Expanding access, containing costs](#)

The report of a November summit – "Difficult Dialogues, Rewarding Solutions: The Imperative to Expand Postsecondary Opportunities While Controlling Costs" – is now available online from the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which sponsored the gathering.

The summit, which drew almost 200 participants including legislators and representatives from business and other groups, examined ways to make institutions more cost-effective, to encourage students to make efficient progress toward a degree, and to revamp higher education systems to be more effective.

Smarten Up

Set your alarm clock early on March 31. Grab a cup of coffee and your checkbook and call 800.111.1111 to support WUIS, the public radio station at the University of Illinois at Springfield. IBHE staff will answer your calls from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., and you will have the opportunity to hassle Executive Director Judy Erwin and support a worthy cause.

As they say: "Smarter radio, smarter you."

[Will your tournament team make it to the Sweet 16?](#)

For budding "bracketologists" busily weighing picks for their annual March Madness office pool, a University of Illinois professor has some advice on how to pick winners: In the later rounds of the tournament, ignore a team's seeding, which is a statistically



insignificant predictor of a team's chances of winning.

People in the News

[Mary Dyck](#), assistant professor, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, has been named the recipient of the 2009 Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Gerontological Nursing Research Section New Investigator Award. The award recognizes the contributions of a new investigator who has conducted nursing research which has the potential to enhance the science and practice of gerontological nursing.

[Edward McMillan](#), a 1969 University of Illinois graduate in agricultural science from Greenville, is Gov. Pat Quinn's first nominee for appointment to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. McMillan has served on the UI alumni association board, the UI Foundation board and has been chairman of the board of managers of the UI research parks for several years.

Actor [Richard Dreyfuss](#) and Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer will perform "Lincoln Seen and Heard" in Jacksonville March 27. The dramatic reading, accompanied by projected Lincoln images, will be at Illinois College as part of the Illinois State Historical Society's annual symposium, this year titled "Abraham Lincoln in Ante-Bellum Illinois: 1830-1861."

Campus News

[NIU, College of Lake County partner to offer bachelor's degree completion for registered nurses](#)

Northern Illinois University and the College of Lake County will begin this fall to offer a bachelor's degree completion program for registered nurses who live and work nearby. The partnership between CLC and NIU's College of Health and Human Sciences provides affordable public tuition during troubled financial times.

[JWCC partnering with Air Force to offer online courses for airmen](#)

John Wood Community College will begin offering online courses this summer for a new program launched by the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF).

[WIU Peace Corps Fellows Program Among Top Ten in National Ranking](#)

Of the more than 50 schools that participate in the Peace Corps' unique Fellows/USA graduate program, Western Illinois University recently ranked ninth in the nation on this year's list of top colleges and universities partnering with the Peace Corps.

[SIU Med Students Receive National Grants for Health Fairs](#)

Medical students at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield have been awarded two national grants to support local health fairs as part of their involvement in Cover the Uninsured Week (CTUW) March 22 - 28.

[More Campus News](#)

[News from Higher Education](#)

[In Chicago's 'Loop U,' schools provide economic buffer](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

A sprawling urban campus has taken hold in the Loop and South Loop, with close to 60,000 students from 20 institutions of higher learning inhabiting a slice of downtown Chicago and making a significant economic impact.

[Enrollment overwhelming community colleges in Fla.](#)

(Tallahassee Democrat)

The worst recession since the Great Depression is sending the unemployed streaming back to school, and Florida's community colleges are at the breaking point, officials told the state board of education.

[State aligning colleges, hot jobs](#)

(The Columbus Dispatch)

Through the Ohio Skills Bank, teams of educators and employers are working in each of 12 economic-development regions to determine the hot jobs of today and tomorrow. Colleges then will customize their training programs with those fields in mind.

[Accelerating the Associate Degree](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

An experimental City University of New York program, designed to graduate highly motivated community college students as soon as possible, is showing early signs of success

[More News from Higher Education](#)

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