

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR
COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

[Linking public dollars to Public Agenda](#)

Pat Callan, higher ed finance expert, to lead IBHE discussion on connecting state funding to state goals

Follow the money. That axiom of law enforcement and investigative journalism could become a guiding principle for financing Illinois higher education.

Assisted by a leading national expert on higher education policy and finance, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) will initiate an effort to rethink and redesign funding of colleges, universities, and student financial aid in sync with the goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. At the IBHE meeting April 7 in Springfield, Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Higher Education and Public Policy – the organization that publishes the *Measuring Up* national report card – will lead a discussion among Board members and constituent advisory committees on innovative approaches to linking state funding to state goals for higher education.

Illinois Public Agenda bills making progress

A week remains before the deadline for the General Assembly to pass bills from the chamber of origin, and several bills that advance goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* have passed or remain under consideration.

SB 1828 (Steans, Meeks) would establish a statewide P-20 longitudinal data system to track student mobility and performance from preschool through college. The bill is at amendment stage in the Senate.

HB 150 (Miller/Maloney) would create the 21st Century Scholars program to use state financial aid to entice low-income students to take a rigorous, college-prep high school curriculum. The bill passed the House 115-0 and is in the Senate Assignments Committee. A similar bill (**SB 37**, Maloney) is at amendment stage in the Senate.

UPCOMING

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

Smarten Up

Set your alarm clock early on March 31. Grab a cup of coffee and your check book and call **217.206.9847** 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."

[SB 1883](#) (Burzynski, Demuzio) would establish a new grant program to encourage partnerships between community colleges and senior institutions to offer baccalaureate completion programs on or near community college campuses. The bill is at passage stage in the Senate.

[HB 1079](#) (Eddy/Demuzio) would create the Dual Credit Quality Act, codifying standards for evaluating high school/community college dual credit programs in law and applying those standards to programs involving four-year public and private colleges and universities. The bill passed the House 116-0 and is in the Senate Assignments Committee.

In other legislative action, the House passed [HB 656](#) (Crespo/Noland) which would give Harper College authority to offer two pilot bachelor's of applied science degrees. The bill is in the Senate Assignments Committee. The bill passed the House 69-47. A similar bill, [SB 244](#) (Kotowski) remains in the Committee on Assignments.

Hearings next week:

[Senate Appropriations II](#), 6 p.m., April 1
[House Appropriations-Higher Education](#), 8 a.m., April 2.

[College Illinois! remains on solid footing, ISAC says](#)

CHICAGO— The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) announces it is entering its final month of the current enrollment period for the *College Illinois!* 529 prepaid tuition plan with the program in solid financial shape.

“Our message to the residents of Illinois and current *College Illinois!* contract holders is that the program is on firm footing,” explained ISAC Executive Director Andrew Davis. “*College Illinois!*’ assets are both safe and liquid.”

[Stimulus money for education will pay dividends, professor says](#)

Walter W. McMahon, a professor emeritus of economics and of educational organization and leadership, is the author of “Higher Learning, Greater Good: The Private & Social Benefits of Higher Education.” McMahon is an expert on the economics of education, and was interviewed recently by U of I News Bureau news editor Phil Ciciora about the value of federal stimulus spending on higher education.



[Conference set on communications in emergencies](#)

Several state agencies that deal with communications and with emergency management will team up in May to host a conference on tools and processes needed to communicate effectively during an emergency or disaster. Speakers will include Melanie Magara, assistant vice president for public affairs at Northern Illinois University, who will share important insights and lessons learned from the tragic shootings at NIU in February 2008.

[Book smart – measures to stem the rising cost of textbooks](#)

The steadily rising prices of college textbooks and the supplementary materials that often accompanying them have been under increased scrutiny in recent years. In 2008, Congress took action by including provisions in the Higher Education Opportunity Act aimed at requiring all stakeholders—publishers, bookstores and institutions—to increase transparency regarding textbook costs borne by students. This policy brief from AASCU summarizes the federal legislation and looks at other potential influences affecting college textbook costs in the future.

People in the News

[Jo Anderson, Jr.](#), Executive Director of the Illinois Education Association, has been named by Education Secretary Arne Duncan as a Senior Advisor, responsible for outreach to teachers and teacher organizations.

[William Weber](#) has been appointed vice president for business affairs at Eastern Illinois University.

Noted poet [Elizabeth Alexander](#), who delivered her poem "Praise Song for the Day" at President Obama's inauguration in January, will give a free lecture sponsored by the University of Illinois at Chicago gender and women's studies program on April 7.

Campus News

[Western leads state universities in four-year guarantees](#)

While other public universities in Illinois offer fixed tuition rates for students, Western was the first – and is still the only – university in the state to offer an exclusive Cost Guarantee that includes fixed tuition, fees, room and board.

[NIU-Naperville conference will examine ways to spark young women's interest in science, technology](#)

Northern Illinois University will host an upcoming conference geared for educators and groups looking to find ways to increase girls' interests in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) on April 17. "This conference will be a wonderful opportunity for teachers, school administrators, librarians, Girl Scout leaders and other community members who already have programs or are interested in starting up efforts to get girls interested in the STEM fields," said Pati Sievert, NIU STEM Outreach coordinator.

[Roosevelt U. plans new Loop tower](#)

Loop University -- the nickname for a downtown Chicago area that 60,000 college students call home -- is getting a \$130 million addition that will make it even more of a college town.

['alt.news 26:46' wins student Emmy for second straight year](#)

For a second straight year, the crew of Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Emmy Award-winning program, "alt.news 26:46", can claim the best collegiate television magazine show in the nation.

[More Campus News](#)

[News from Higher Education](#)

[The stimulus as savior?](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

Public college leaders in many states are looking to the recently enacted federal stimulus package as a lifeline, if not a savior, in the worst economic climate in more than a generation. But keep those expectations in check: As the murky picture surrounding the stimulus funds slowly begins to clear, the evidence so far suggests that higher education may fare well in some states, but could receive relatively little in others.

[Collaborations could help ease the nursing bottleneck](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Community colleges are seeking experienced nurses who are willing to return to the classroom.

[Promoting early college](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

WASHINGTON -- In an effort to streamline the pathway to postsecondary education, some educators and researchers have argued that challenging underrepresented and remedial students

to earn at least two years' worth of college credit while they are working on a high school diploma can improve their outcomes. This model, known as an "early college high school," has been catching on around the country and showing early signs of success.

[Scholarship plan: Maintaining grades plus clean record equals free college](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

Eighth graders who fulfill a pledge to stay out of trouble and maintain their grades in high school would get a free year of tuition at a community college in a plan proposed by state Rep. Mike Boland (D-East Moline).

[More News from Higher Education](#)

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