

## 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

April 10, 2009

**Callan praises *Illinois Public Agenda*, but says the hard work has just begun**



IBHE Executive Director Judy Erwin, left, and Board Member Frances Carroll listen to Pat Callan make a point at a roundtable discussion. (Photo by Candace Mueller)

"This is the right agenda."

That was the verdict Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, gave to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and an overflow audience April 7 in Springfield about the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*.

Now, he said, "You've got to put your money where your public agenda is."

Callan, whose organization publishes the biennial *Measuring Up* national higher education report card, told Board members there are three key elements to linking higher education funding to the goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda*:

- Leverage state spending to the outcomes of the Public Agenda – affordability, educational attainment, workforce development.
- Address the problem of affordability in a serious way, not just a simple matter of increasing student aid, which usually gets absorbed in tuition increases. He said [surveys](#) show Americans are becoming increasingly pessimistic about college affordability.
- Make higher education more [cost-effective](#). "Higher education needs more money," Callan said, "but the money already is in the system."

Other resources for understanding the connection between state dollars and higher education performance reports include:

- ["The Challenge to States: Preserving College Access and](#)

### UPCOMING

#### April

- 15-16 ICCB Homeland Security Emergency Response Institute, Springfield
- 22 Student Lobby Day, Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities
- 22 Illinois Higher Education Legislative Coalition Lobby Day
- 23 Community College Student Advocacy Day
- 28 Community College Council of Presidents, Springfield
- 29 ICCTA Lobby Day

["Affordability in a Time of Crisis"](#)

- ["Financing in Sync"](#)
- ["Policies in Sync: Appropriations, Tuition, and Financial Aid for Higher Education"](#)

Look for a transcript of Pat Callan's remarks on the IBHE website soon.

The Board of Higher Education also reviewed a "[dashboard](#)" progress report on implementation of the Illinois Public Agenda.

**Friday Memo Profile: [Representative Rich Myers](#)**



**Higher ed funding top priority for Rep. Myers**

*Photo by Russ Kimmons*

When Rich Myers came to Springfield 14 years ago as state representative for the 94<sup>th</sup> District in western Illinois, he already recognized the significance and positive impact a state university has on its local region.

Western Illinois University (WIU) – his alma mater, as well as the school of choice for many of his family, including his wife, daughter, father, brothers and sister – was both the example and the impetus for Rep. Myers' decision to seek seats on both the Higher Education and Higher Education Appropriations committees. Currently he is the Minority Spokesperson for the Appropriations committee. Rep. Myers sat down with the Friday Memo, the last day of session before the two-week spring break.

[Read the entire interview](#)

**[ISAC endorses MAP 2+2 pilot program for maximizing buying power of student aid](#)**

At its meeting April 3, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission approved procedures to implement an innovative MAP 2+2 pilot

program to expand the buying power of a Monetary Award Program grant.

Under the MAP 2+2 model, students would take their first two years at a community college. The pilot requires the community college and four-year institution to have a specific articulation agreement in place. By participating in the pilot, students would receive sufficient MAP funding (up to \$4,968) to cover the full cost of tuition and fees at the community college, and would then be allowed to carry forward the difference and use it during their junior and senior years at the four-year institution.



**How to save newspapers – and why**  
**A minute with: ROBERT MCCHESNEY**

*From the University of Illinois News Bureau*

**Editor's note:** Almost every day comes news about a newspaper slashing its staff, filing for bankruptcy or closing its doors. Are we hearing the death knell for newspapers? What might that mean for journalism, and for democracy? Robert McChesney is the Gutgsell Endowed Professor of communication at the University of Illinois. McChesney was interviewed by News Bureau social sciences editor Craig Chamberlain.

**There appear to be more news alternatives than ever before, in large part thanks to the Internet. Why should we care if newspapers disappear?**

We care about newspapers not because we care about ink and paper and printing presses. We care about them because they're newsrooms. And with the collapse of journalism over commercial radio and commercial television, they're really the only game in town that's paying journalists to cover their communities. When we lose newspapers, we lose newsrooms. . . . What we desperately need in order to have a quality, democratic journalism is people to do it full time, who have some experience, who are responsible for covering beats, have to answer for what they do, ideally in competition with some other journalists. And that costs money.

[Read more . . .](#)

**[Watch Out: Ed Trust report shows long journey to close achievement gap](#)**

As if Illinois needed any reminders, the latest Education Watch State Report, issued by The Education Trust March 31, illustrates that, despite some progress in closing the achievement gap for African American and Latino students, major discrepancies remain in test scores, high school graduation, and college attainment.

The Education Trust's [Education Watch](#) series assembles some of the most critical indicators of student achievement, attainment, and opportunity, providing a state-by-state snapshot of public education in America.

### [Obrzut elected to chair national council](#)



Geoffrey S. Obrzut, president and chief executive officer of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), was elected chairman of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges (NCSDDC), at the organization's annual meeting in Phoenix, AZ, on April 4.

"Being elected to this office by my peers from community college systems across the country is truly an honor," said Obrzut. The position is unpaid with a term of one year.

### [CSU to host best-practices conference on black male initiatives](#)

Chicago State University will host a two-day, national best practices conference on April 27-28, focusing on best practices and lessons learned in addressing underrepresentation of black males in college and improving the educational outcomes of African American males.

### [Student scholars to showcase their scholarship](#)



Have you wondered about the effects of the visual and haptic feedback interface on stroke rehabilitation? How about genetic mapping of a high response psychostimulant mutant permanent midnight? Or, more prosaically, the diet and nutrition of an average IMSA student?

The answers to those questions and others can be found April 29 at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual IMSA Student Inquiry and Research (SIR) IMSAloquium: Student Investigation Showcase where students at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy will present their research from the current academic year.

Expect to be IMSAmed.

(FYI: Although served the USDA daily recommended nutritional requirements, "students often do not make the healthiest choices.")

### [ISAC-Credit Union pact: approximately \\$100 million in loans available to Illinois students](#)

Illinois-based credit unions will invest nearly \$100 million in securities issued by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to finance low-interest, federally secured loans through the Federal Family

Education Loan Program (FFELP) to Illinois students and their families, making college affordable for thousands of Illinois students for the second straight year.

“Our message to Illinois’ college-bound students and their families is that we will have plenty of money to lend you to go to school,” said ISAC Executive Director Andrew Davis.

### [State education leaders keynote IERC conference](#)

A panel discussion on building effective bridges to link preschool-12 schooling with postsecondary education will open the seventh Illinois Education Research Symposium June 9-10 in Champaign. State Superintendent Chris Koch, ICCB President Geoff Obrzut, and IBHE Executive Director Judy Erwin will headline a panel discussion, “P-20 Collaboration in Illinois.” The [registration](#) deadline for the symposium is May 15.

## *[People in the News](#)*

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[Fareed Haque](#), the critically acclaimed jazz and classical guitarist from the Northern Illinois University School of Music is named “Best World Guitarist” in the May issue of Guitar Player magazine’s 2009 Readers’ Choice Awards.

Two University of Illinois physics professors, [George Gollin](#) and [Laura Greene](#), and visiting scholar [Jabari Asim](#) have received 2009 Guggenheim Fellowships. They were among 180 artists, scholars, and scientists to be selected in the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation’s 85th annual competition. Winners are chosen on the basis of their “stellar achievement and exceptional promise for continued accomplishment,” the foundation said.

Percussionist [Rich Holly](#) has been named dean of NIU College of Visual and Performing Arts.

[Patricia O’Donoghue](#), a professor, clinician and former president of Mount Mary College, has been appointed vice president for Alumni Outreach and Engagement at DePaul University.

[Muriel Howard](#), president of Buffalo State College, State University of New York, has been named president of AASCU. She will assume the presidency August 1

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has chosen a former Chicago colleague as his special assistant for college access. [Greg Darnieder](#), who was the Chicago Public Schools’ college- and career-preparation officer, will fill the new post. He joins the consultant Robert M. Shireman, president of the Institute for College Access and Success, on the Education Department’s higher-education team.

[Lawrence DeBrock](#), a noted economist and longtime University of Illinois professor and administrator, has been named dean of the university’s College of Business.

## ***Campus News***

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### **NEH Grant Will Double Hull-House Permanent Exhibits**

The University of Illinois at Chicago has received a \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to expand permanent exhibits at the university's Jane Addams Hull-House Museum. The grant will support a new exhibit, "Jane Addams and the Hull-House Settlement: Redefining Democracy," which will nearly double the current exhibition space in the Hull mansion at 800 S. Halsted St.

### **Chicago School of Professional Psychology announces new Ph.D. in International Psychology**

Recognizing a need for more trained professionals to understand and work with global challenges such as socio-cultural contexts, conflict, poverty, and natural disasters, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology is chartering the nation's first Ph.D. in International Psychology.

### **SIU Med School to Receive Cancer Institute Funding**

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute (SCCI) officials announced that the \$250,000 in funding approved by Governor Patrick Quinn and the Illinois General Assembly in the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental appropriation will permit the School of Medicine to take the final steps to open the new SCCI facility this summer.

### **Vice President Joe Biden to Headline UIC's Fifth Annual Richard J. Daley Urban Forum**

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and the Daley family will host the fifth annual Richard J. Daley Urban Forum, titled "Global Economic Recovery: Cities Lead the Way." U.S. Vice President Joe Biden will give the keynote address at this year's Forum, which will be held on Monday, April 27 beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the UIC campus.

## ***News from Higher Education***

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### **Universities skeptical of community college's bachelor's plan**

(Bloomington Pantagraph)

SPRINGFIELD -- A bid by a Chicago-area community college for the opportunity to offer bachelor's degrees is drawing attention from four-year universities.

### **'Tuning' College Degrees** (Inside Higher Ed)

In a major new effort to assure rigor and relevance for college degrees at various levels, three states are today formally launching a project aimed at "tuning" academic programs in six fields of study.

**[Illinois to track students' school progress](#)** (Chicago Tribune)

Illinois will begin tracking schoolchildren as they progress from preschool through college, logging the schools they attend, the educators who teach them and the high school courses they take, state officials said Monday.

**[The Complicated Task of Simplifying Student Aid](#)** (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The U.S. Education Department examines 2 ways to make it easier for families to apply

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