

Illinois Higher Ed *The Friday Memo*

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[Illinois reaps stimulus harvest](#)

CHICAGO – April 20, 2009. Governor Pat Quinn announced today that Illinois' application for the first \$1.4 billion in State Fiscal Stabilization Funding (SFSF) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Some of those dollars will begin flowing to schools within days.

[Friday Memo Profile: Senator Pamela J. Althoff](#)



(photo by Jay Barnard)

"There is a direct correlation between the economic vitality of our state and how we view education," stated Senator Pamela Althoff, (R-32). "I want to convince my colleagues in the legislature that quality education and increasing the number of college graduates are essential for the state's economy." As the Minority Spokesperson on the Senate Appropriations II Committee, responsible for higher education funding, as well as a member of the Senate Higher Education Committee, Sen. Althoff is right where she wants—and needs—to be to express her point of view.

She spoke with *The Friday Memo* on April 22, outside the Senate chambers. [Read more here.](#)

Data bill, other key legislative initiatives advance

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee reported [SB 1828](#), which would create a statewide longitudinal student record system to the House floor on a vote of 19-0 this week. The bill embodies a key recommendation of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. Rep. Mike Smith, House sponsor of the bill, called it "the most important piece of legislation we'll do this spring. It will move the state into the 21st century."

[SB 1883](#), another Public Agenda-related bill, passed the House Higher Education Committee, 5-0. The bill would establish a new baccalaureate completion grant program as an incentive for partnerships between community colleges and four-year institutions to bring bachelor's degrees

UPCOMING

April

- 28 Community College Council of Presidents, Springfield
- 29 ICCTA Lobby Day

May

- 15 IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, McHenry Community College
- 30 IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Springfield

June

- 2 IBHE meeting, Governors State University
- 12 IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, UIC
- 15-16 4th Annual Coalition for High Schools Conference, A Push & Pull Journey, Bloomington

closer to community college campuses. The program is a part of the IBHE budget recommendations in the upper steps of the investment budget presented to the Governor and General Assembly.

[What's new online at community colleges?](#)

Lots:

The Illinois Community Colleges Online (ILCCO) is a consortium of 30 Illinois community colleges. ILCCO colleges collaborate on the development of online education, share online courses, and offer a variety of professional development opportunities. In its spring 2009 newsletter, information on ILCCO's new strategic plan, new online courses at Harper College, and an article on teaching the "Millennial student."

[The High School Challenge: A Push & Pull Journey](#)

The Coalition for Illinois High Schools presents its fourth annual high school conference on June 15-16 at the Double Tree Hotel in Bloomington. The purpose of the conference is to provide educators with the tools they need to prepare students for the world in which they live and work. For registration information, contact the Illinois High School Association at 309-663-6377 or tcraig@ihsa.org

A Day of Celebration and Conversation about the civic engagement of older adults

The meeting is sponsored by the National Governors Association Illinois Policy Academy on the Civic Engagement of Older Adults at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and will take place at the Capitol in Springfield on May 11. For registration materials, contact Gidget Freeberg, Illinois Department on Aging, gidget.freeberg@illinois.gov or 217-557-8312.

[Richland to host diversity conference](#)

Richland Community College is hosting the 9th annual Walking the Walk of Diversity conference on June 11 & 12. Tierney Cahill is the conference keynote speaker. Cahill is a sixth-grade teacher at Sarah Winnemucca Elementary School in Reno, Nevada. Cahill's story is the subject of an upcoming film, "Class Act," starring Halle Berry and written and directed by Doug Atchison. Her personal memoir, *Ms. Cahill for Congress*, was published in October 2008 by Random House. She has also been featured in the nationally-published book *Teachers: The Enlightened, the Exceptional, the Extraordinary*.

[People in the News](#)

[Eduardo H. Fradkin](#), a professor of physics at the University of Illinois, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Election to the American Academy is an honor that acknowledges the best of all scholarly fields and professions.

[Stephen Zeck](#), clinical assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, was one of 10 dental educators in the United

States to receive the American Dental Education Association's presidential citation.

A visual artist teaching at the University of Illinois at Chicago is receiving a Guggenheim fellowship for 2009-2010. [Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle](#), UIC professor of art, is internationally known for his large installations combining sculpture, film and video

[Valerie Hoffman](#), a professor of religious studies at the University of Illinois, has been selected as a 2009 Carnegie Scholar. Hoffman, an authority on Islam, was selected as one of 24 well-established and promising young thinkers, analysts and writers who will receive two-year grants of up to \$100,000 from the New York-based foundation.

Dr. [Robert D. Kelly](#) of Seattle University has been named the new vice president of student affairs at Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Kelly serves as the vice president for student development at Seattle University
[Suemayah Abu-Douleh](#), a senior political science and mathematics major at the University of Illinois at Chicago Honors College, is one of 20 national recipients of the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship for international studies. She will start the Rangel program this summer with an internship working for a member of Congress on Capitol Hill.

A Southern Illinois University Carbondale geology student will join the elite ranks of Fulbright Scholars next year. [Joe Batir](#), a senior from Channahon will travel to Akureyri, Iceland, in February to pursue a master's degree in geothermal energy resources at the School of Renewable Energy Science there.

Campus News

[DePaul Symposium to explore job opportunities for students with chronic illnesses on April 28](#)



DePaul's Chronic Illness Initiative will explore the challenges that students with chronic illnesses face in the workplace at the fifth annual chronic illness and postsecondary education symposium from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 28 at the DePaul University Student Center, 2250 N. Sheffield Ave., third floor, Chicago. Open to the public, admission is \$25 and includes lunch and a reception. Titled "After Graduation: Creating Opportunities for Employment, Education, and Community and Family Involvement," the daylong symposium features as keynote speaker Karen McCulloh, executive director of disabilityworks at the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and disability rights activist.

[GSU Sculpture Park broadens community outreach](#)



NMSP Director Geoff Bates leads school children from Park Forest/Chicago heights District 163 on a tour of the Sculpture Park.

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is not only home to artwork by some of the nation's most noted contemporary sculptors; it is also a hub of information about the art, artists, and the park. A short documentary introducing the park explains the history of the park through a montage of archival

photographs, film clips, and an interview with Lewis Manilow, founder of the park, which he named for his father, Nathan, the visionary community developer. In the film, Manilow explains the park's inception, development, and his hopes for its future. The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is free and open daily from dawn to dusk. It is located on the campus of Governors State University, 1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois.

[Summer internships for pre-meds offered by SIU Cancer Institute](#)

College students who plan a career in medicine or research with a focus on cancer research will have the opportunity to learn basic lab techniques with supervision through a summer internship program at the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield. The internship is available to three students on a competitive basis. Preference will be given to those who plan to go into medicine and with an intent on working in cancer research. The deadline to apply for the internship is May 1. Materials should be sent to Morris Cooper, Ph.D, mcooper@siumed.edu.

[More Campus News](#)

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Study cites dire economic impact of poor schools](#)

(The New York Times)

WASHINGTON — The lagging performance of American schoolchildren, particularly among poor and minority students, has had a negative economic impact on the country that exceeds that of the current recession, according to a report released on Wednesday.

[Legislators' tuition waivers costly to other students](#)

(The Daily Journal)

SPRINGFIELD -- Students have seen seven years of tuition and fee increases of more than 10 percent, in part because of mandated programs at public universities the state doesn't pay for.

[Will the economy really change students' college plans? Early signs say yes](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

High-school seniors have only until May 1 to decide where they will go to college. While it is still too soon to tell if widespread predictions that seniors will flock to lower-cost institutions were accurate, two new surveys and conversations with guidance counselors suggest that the economic situation is indeed playing a large role in students' decisions.

[More students paying college costs with credit cards](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - — College students are using credit cards more than ever to pay for their education, and they're carrying high balances because of it, a new report suggests.

[Two-Thirds of Students Get Financial Aid, Federal Report Says](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Washington — Sixty-six percent of undergraduates received some type of student aid during the 2007-8 academic year, up from 63 percent in 2003-4, says a report released today by the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics

[More News from Higher Education](#)

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