

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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May 15, 2009

[Friday Memo Profile: Representative Bob Pritchard](#)

“Education is one of my passions.”
“I really value the educational process.”
“I enjoy being around college campuses.”

Catch the drift? Rep. Bob Pritchard cares about education.



*Rep. Bob Pritchard meets with students in House chamber.
[Photo by Russ Kimmons]*

Which is good, since the Hinckley Republican is well-positioned to influence education policy. He co-chairs the Illinois Legislative Education Caucus and sits on all four education committees in the House, serving as Minority Spokesperson on the House Higher Education Committee, on which he has been a member all six years since becoming a state legislator. [Read more](#) . . .

Dual credit initiative, nursing educator grants pass legislature

The Senate completed action this week on two measures related to the Illinois Public Agenda, sending legislation to strengthen standards for dual credit programs and a bill to expand the ranks of nursing educators to Governor Quinn for consideration.

[HB 1079](#) codifies standards now in ICCB administrative rules for evaluating dual credit programs between high schools and community

UPCOMING

May

- 15** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, McHenry Community College
- 18** Senate Appropriations I & II Committees, 212 Capitol
- 19** House Appropriations Committee, 118 Capitol
- 30** IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Springfield

June

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

colleges, and applies the standards to any four-year institutions operating dual credit programs.

[HB 382](#) provides for scholarships for nursing educators. The scholarships, funded with a \$2 million appropriation from the Nursing Dedicated and Professional Trust Fund, would be available for up to 3 years, and recipients must agree to teach for 2 years in an accredited nursing program in Illinois for each year of the scholarship. A shortage of nursing faculty is a major barrier to addressing the state's nursing shortage.

[Early intervention programs show promise for low-income students](#)

State education officials have recognized that financial aid, whether need- or merit-based, is not a panacea for high school and college success for low-income students. Insufficient college preparation and lower expectations regarding higher education enrollment contribute to reduced postsecondary participation among these students. In order to improve college-going and college completion rates among students from low-income backgrounds, many states have enacted a range of separate reforms aimed at increasing high school rigor, enhancing college awareness and expanding access to student financial aid.

SIUC, JALC suffer extensive damage from 'inland hurricane'



[Southern Illinois University Carbondale](#)

had to hold commencement ceremonies at its outdoor McAndrew Stadium last Saturday after 100-plus mph winds knocked out power across the campus on Friday.

Storm damage at SIUC

[Photo by Larry Schilling]

[John A. Logan College](#) in Carterville cancelled final exams and ended its spring semester as a result of the severe weather.

No injuries from the windstorm were reported at either campus.

Nursing Faculty Receive Fellowship Awards

The IBHE and the Advisory Board for the Illinois Center for Nursing recognized the 2009 Nurse Educator Fellows during the advisory board's May meeting. This distinguished group of nursing faculty were

nominated by their schools of nursing and competed against 37 applicants to become part of this select group of 15 Nurse Educator Fellows in fiscal year 2009. This program helps to ensure the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty at institutions of higher learning by providing a one-time salary supplement to the fellows. This fall the IBHE will be seeking new applicants for the program, pending the appropriation of state funds.



[Photo by Linda Roberts]

FY 2009 Nurse Educator Fellowship Awards Ceremony (left to right, 1) MariJo Letizia, PhD, RN, APN/ANP-BC; 2) Mary K. Pabst, PhD, RN; 3) Victoria Folsie, PhD, RN, APRN, BC, LCPC; 4) Mary Kakenmaster, MSN, RN; 5) Thelma Warner, MSN, RN; 6) Jodene Scheller, PhD, RN; 7) Teresa A. Saxton, MSN, RN; 8) Dawna Egelhoff, MSN, RN; 9) Michele Bromberg, MSN, APN, BC, Advisory Board Chair; 10) Mary Ann Freitag, DNP, RN; 11) Dianne M. Bazell, PhD, IBHE Deputy Director; 12) Sandra Hughes, PhD, RN; 13) Peggy A. Gallagher, EdD, RN, CNE; 14) Frances R. Vlasses, PhD, RN, NEA-BC; and 15) Nancy Kipnis, MSN, RN) Unable to attend, Nancy Oldenburg, EdD, RN, CPNP and Patrick Robinson, PhD, RN, ACRN.

[IDAPP Poised to Purchase Rehabilitated Student Loans](#)

CHICAGO—Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed Senate Bill 325 into law Friday (May 8), meaning that 3,000-plus Illinois residents will have a chance of clearing their credit record of defaulted student loans through the federal student loan rehabilitation program.

“During the current credit crisis, I am pleased the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will assist those who have defaulted on student loans but have seriously tried to make amends and repayment,” said Governor Quinn.

[MHEC Executive Committee to meet in Springfield](#)

The Midwest Higher Education Compact Executive Committee members will convene in Springfield, Illinois, on June 4 and 5 for their semi-annual meeting. The committee will review program updates, the FY 2010 proposed budget and state legislative updates.

Judy Erwin, executive director for the Illinois Board of Higher Education and a MHEC commissioner, will present information on the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*.

Also, Commissioner Judy Rake, an Illinois Community College Board member, and Senator Edward Maloney, a Commissioner Alternate will share information about the Illinois College and Career Readiness

Pilot Program.

[Mark Your Calendar - Veterans Agencies and ISAC Offer Training Sessions on Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) will be offering training sessions in late May and early June on the new Post-9/11 GI Bill and its relationship to other educational benefit programs such as the Montgomery GI Bill, the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program, the Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program and the Monetary Award Program (MAP).

[People in the News](#)

Chicago State University trustees unanimously approved a five-year contract on May 13th, for incoming President [Wayne Watson](#), currently the chancellor of the City Colleges of Chicago.

Curriculum revision expert [Nina Dorsch](#) retiring this spring from the Northern Illinois University College of Education's Department of Teaching and Learning, where she is co-chair and associate professor.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[States plan to spend most stimulus money on education swiftly](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The first nine states to apply for federal stimulus money meant for education will use most of the dollars to plug budget holes in the current and next fiscal years, and the funds will largely benefit public schools, not higher education, says an analysis released last week.

[UIC graduation: Gov. Pat Quinn urges graduates to commit to social causes, people](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

In his first commencement address as Illinois' top executive, Gov. Pat Quinn urged graduates from the University of Illinois at Chicago on Sunday to serve and be "a hero" in these difficult economic times.

[Fighting for the Bachelor's Degree](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

Officials at Harper College really want to offer bachelor's degrees. And they have been willing to do just about anything to gain permission to do so, including go against the wishes of two state boards in Illinois and many neighboring two- and four-year institutions in suburban Chicago.

[The curse of the Class of 2009](#)

(The Wall Street Journal)

The bad news for this spring's college graduates is that they're entering the toughest labor market in at least 25 years.

[More News from Higher Education](#)

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