

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC AGENDA
FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

CAEL president highlights importance of reaching adult learners

Barely a third of working age adults in Illinois have a college degree, not only a significantly lower proportion than the national average but a potential drag on the state economy as more and more jobs demand increasing levels of educational attainment. Pam Tate, president and CEO of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), told the Illinois Board of Higher Education that the state must increase efforts to reach adult learners to meet the needs of Illinois workers and invigorate the state's economy.

Report from CAEL and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

Illinois Profile



Legislature leaves Springfield, but leaves major decisions behind

The General Assembly adjourned its spring session in the wee hours of June 1, but is likely due back in coming weeks to settle on a budget and potential tax increase.

A 50 percent budget passed both chambers but Governor Quinn vowed not to sign it, and leaders met earlier this week to negotiate a fix to the budget mess. Two capital bills – including more than \$1.5 billion for higher education projects – remain in limbo until the general fund budget is settled.

Meanwhile, lawmakers passed several bills that address major goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, including legislation to create a statewide P-20 longitudinal student data system, a new baccalaureate completion grant program (unfunded), a new scholarship program for nurse educators, a dual credit quality act, a resolution to strengthen standards for school leaders, and a joint resolution (yet to pass the Senate) to undertake a study of college affordability and institutional efficiency. A full legislative report is [here](#).

UPCOMING

June

- 5 ICCB meeting, Chicago
- 11 *Newly Defined Principal Preparation Program for Illinois for ROE-5 area, McKendree University*
- 12 IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, UIC
- 15-16 4th Annual Coalition for High Schools Conference, A Push & Pull Journey, Bloomington

Summertime...

And Friday Memo will be

taking it easy. Look for us every other Friday. And enjoy your summer.



[What condition the education condition is in](#)

The Department of Education has released the 2009 edition of *The Condition of Education*, a congressionally mandated annual portrait of education in the United States. Among key findings, the report shows that enrollment in elementary and secondary schools will continue to rise to all-time highs. It also indicates that 9- and 13-year-olds continue to show gains in educational achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) over time, but the overall achievement levels of 17-year-olds taking the NAEP have not risen over the same period. The report also shows that in 2005–2006, about three-quarters of students entering as freshmen four years earlier graduated from high school with a regular diploma and that there have been some increases in the percentages of students entering college after high school and earning a postsecondary credential.



Duncan urges ‘unprecedented reform’ of education

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan recently discussed the Obama Administration's education agenda in a speech at the National Press Club. "We have some real resources -- \$100 billion -- to invest in education," he said. But, "with unprecedented resources, we need unprecedented reform." Specifically, among other issues, he addressed raising academic standards, turning around the country's low-performing schools, and saving \$4 billion annually with direct loans for college.

[Excerpts of the speech](#)

[Video of the speech](#)

[Federal grant to focus on community college programs for displaced workers](#)

Secretary Duncan visited Milwaukee Area Technical College in Wisconsin June 4 and announced a \$7 million competitive grant to establish innovative and sustainable community college programs that prepare displaced workers -- especially autoworkers -- for second careers. "Education is the catalyst for a strong economy and the means by which adults will reinvent themselves and rebuild the industrial cities that have been the foundation of our nation," he said. The programs could provide critical services, including academic and career counseling and tutoring, and help with the registration process. They could also remove financial constraints for adults returning to school, such as textbooks, child care, and transportation.

[ISAC helps 619 Illinoisans restore credit after bond sale](#)

Commission expects to purchase 3,500 more rehabbed student loans over next 18-24 months

CHICAGO—The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) —through its Illinois Designated Account Purchase Program (IDAPP) lending arm—restored the credit of 619 Illinoisans by purchasing their rehabilitated student loans, valued at approximately \$7.5 million, from the U.S. Department of Education after closing the sale of \$50 million ISAC Student Loan Revenue Bonds May 28.

“This unique Illinois solution to a national problem shows that creative financing can still be done in this crazy credit market. We are pleased to make these borrowers whole again,” said Andy Davis, ISAC Executive Director.

What would YOU do to control college costs?

Lumina/Public Agenda study finds different answers from different stakeholders

Declining state subsidies and rising tuition costs make it harder for all qualified students to access and afford college. Debate among higher education stakeholders on what can and should be done to fix the issue is ongoing. [Campus Commons: What Faculty, Financial Officers and Others Think About Controlling College Costs](#) from [Public Agenda](#) examines perspectives of financial officers, faculty and college leaders on the college cost containment challenge.



ARRA Grant of the Week

The U. S. Department of Energy plans to provide 2-3 grants for Wind Energy Consortia. This \$24 million program initiative will fund consortia between institutions of higher learning and industry that will perform focused research on critical wind energy challenges. The consortia must include at least one four-year institution of higher learning that has at least one engineering program that is accredited by ABET. Requires a 10% cost share.

[A complete list of ARRA competitive grant opportunities is on the IBHE website](#), and is updated as grant announcements become available.

Working together to prepare Illinois school leaders initiative begins round of information-sharing events

Institutions of higher education preparing school principals, regional office of education superintendents and assistants, district superintendents, directors and principals, and state legislators are encouraged to join the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Board of Higher Education on June 11, 2009, at McKendree University for an opportunity to learn about the **Newly Defined Principal Preparation Program for Illinois**. The presentation will cover the work and recommendations from the **Working Together to Prepare Illinois School Leaders Initiative** with discussion to follow. Presenters are Dr. Linda Tomlinson, Assistant Superintendent, Illinois State Board of Education, and Ms. Debbie Meisner-Bertauski, Associate Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education. It will be held in Regional Office of Education (ROE) Area 5. Eight more sessions will be scheduled around the state in ROE Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6. A schedule of dates will be posted at www.ibhe.org as they are confirmed.

REFORM IN ILLINOIS: What will new FOIA law do?

Editor's note: In the wake of scandal that brought down a governor, reform legislation has been the focus of the Illinois General Assembly this spring. The

legislature has passed a bill revising the state's Freedom of Information Act. Journalism and advertising professor Steven Helle deals extensively with the topic of open-records laws in his courses on the law related to journalism and communication. Helle was interviewed by News Bureau social sciences editor Craig Chamberlain.

For journalists and advocates of open government, is the new bill an improvement?

The bill achieves some worthwhile goals and misses the mark on some others. But all in all, it was a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address problems with the state's Freedom of Information Act. Access proponents have occasion to celebrate, even if problems remain.

People in the News

Eureka College has appointed [Dr. Philip Cavalier](#) of Salisbury, N.C., as provost and dean of the college effective June 1. Cavalier formerly was an associate professor of American literature and dean of general education at Catawba College, Salisbury.

[Michael Murtagh](#) of Dubuque, Iowa, has been appointed as vice president for development at Eureka College. Murtagh formerly was executive director of development at Loras College, Dubuque.

[Robert A. Easter](#), the dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois, has been named interim-provost designate.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the appointment of [William J. Taggart](#) as chief operating officer (COO) of the department's Federal Student Aid office (FSA).

Campus News

[Dominican University offers science immersion for community college students](#)

Dominican University hosted 12 community college students in May for an intensive immersion in science research. Through the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE), a program funded through a Congressional earmark sponsored by US Senator Dick Durbin (IL), students worked alongside Dominican professors in state-of-the-art facilities in Parmer Hall, the university's new academic facility.

Eastern Illinois University and West Suburban College of Nursing receive accreditation

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) at its April meeting. Gave initial accreditation to the Illinois colleges. Newly accredited programs are Eastern's RN to BS Nursing (or baccalaureate completion) with full and part-time

study options and West Suburban's MSN with majors in clinical nurse leader, adult health clinical nurse specialist, nurse administrator, and nurse educator. The CCNE is a nationally recognized accrediting agency for baccalaureate and graduate degree programs in nursing. CCNE contributes to the improvement of the public's health by ensuring quality programs that prepare effective nurses.

[DePaul Symposium on June 12 to explore multicultural and bilingual education policy](#)

Educational policy for schooling linguistically diverse students, including immigrants and children of immigrants, will be explored at a symposium titled "Language, Policy and Education" from noon to 4 p.m. June 12 at DePaul University's Student Center, 2250 N. Sheffield Ave., Room 120, Chicago. The symposium is free and open to the public.

[ECC, Judson partner up to offer technology degree](#)

Judson University in Elgin has teamed with Elgin Community College's Center for Advanced Studies, allowing ECC students to earn a Judson bachelor's degree in management of technology systems through courses at the community college campus.

[New ECC program pays students to learn and work](#)

The program, "Improving our Environment, Our Community and Ourselves," is offered by Elgin Community College's workforce transitions department, and funded through nearly \$400,000 in federal stimulus money provided through the Workforce Board.

[More Campus News](#)

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Illinois joins effort to create national learning standards](#)

(Daily Herald)

Illinois will be among the states pursuing common learning standards for English and math this year, a project that could lead to national testing in the future.

[Negotiations Over Rules for Higher Education Act End With Mixed Success](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Negotiations over rules to carry out the latest version of the Higher Education Act ended last month with compromise on several sticky issues, including accreditation and student loans, but with Education Department officials and stakeholders unable to find common ground on Pell Grants and other federal programs.

[Similar Selectivity, Dissimilar Graduates](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

Graduation rates vary dramatically among colleges and universities with similar levels of selectivity, a new report from the American Enterprise Institute reveals.

And it's calling out the underachievers and lauding the exemplars by name

[Women are seen bridging gap in science opportunities](#)

(The New York Times)

The prospects for women who are scientists and engineers at major research universities have improved, although women continue to face inequalities in salary and access to some other resources, a panel of the National Research Council concludes in a new report.

[More News from Higher Education](#)

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