



Illinois Higher Ed *The Friday Memo*

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BUDGET MELTDOWN



Governor vetoes budget

Contending the General Assembly sent him a FY10 budget that was out of balance and shortchanged human service programs, Gov. Pat Quinn has vetoed [SB 1197](#), the so-called "50% budget."

For college students, the most severe effects of the budget impasse and reduced funding scenarios are deep cuts in the [Monetary Award Program](#) (MAP), approved last week by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Key Budget Bills

Bill #	Description	Status
SB 1433	Fund Transfers	Sent to Governor
SB 2218	FY10 BIMP (operating)	Sent to Governor
SB 1197	FY10 Appropriation for Grant Programs at 50%	Governor Vetoed
HB 2145	FY10 Appropriation for Agency Operations	Sent to Governor
HB 2132	FY10 Appropriation for Public University/ICCB-Federal Stimulus	Sent to Governor
HB 2206	FY10 Appropriation for Other State & Federal Funds	Sent to Governor
HB 2424	FY10 BIMP (capital)	Sent to Governor
HB 312	Capital Appropriations Bill	Sent to Governor
HB 313	Capital Appropriations Bill (follow-up)	Passed Both Houses – House Motion to Reconsider
SB 1186	Retirement Systems Appropriation	Senate, Order of Concurrence with HA #1
SB 1221	Appropriations from HB 313; IBHE/IMSA Correction; Retirement	Passed Both Houses

The General Assembly is scheduled to return in special session July 14 to address the Governor's veto and other budget matters.

Accountability in Illinois higher ed: Room for improvement

In 2008 and 2009, Education Sector conducted a comprehensive analysis of higher education accountability systems.



**Illinois Public Agenda
now available online.**

[Check it out!](#)

UPCOMING

July

- 14** General Assembly in session
- 22** Newly Defined Principal Preparation Program
Rend Lake Conference Center, Whittington
- 24** 2009 University Sustainability Symposium sponsored by the Green Government Coordinating Council, Moraine Valley CC

Summertime



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

In [Ready to Assemble: Grading State Higher Education Accountability Systems](#), Education Sector rates the effectiveness of every state's higher education accountability system in 21 categories, ranging from how well states measure student learning outcomes to how well states link accountability information to funding. While individual states are doing some things well, only 10 states received an overall "Best Practice" rating.

ILLINOIS SCORE CARD	
GATHERING INFORMATION	✓
Student Outcomes	○
Learning	-
Progression and Attainment	✓
Further Employment, Education, and Life	✓
Institutional Practices	✓
Teaching and Engagement	+
Efficiency and Financial Stewardship	✓
Equity, Access, and Affordability	✓
Alignment With Pre K-12 Education	-
Scholarship and Research	-
Economic and Community Development	✓
Degree Production and Economic Impact	✓
Arts, Culture, and Service	-
Adult Education and Extension Services	✓
Overall Quality of Information	○
State- and Systemwide Information	✓
USING INFORMATION	-
Governance and Strategic Planning	○
Funding	○
Transparency and Markets	○
— = Needs Improvement ✓ = In Progress + = Best Practice	

[Illinois' assessment? Needs Improvement.](#) However, the state has taken a major stride in improving the quality of data collected with passage of [SB 1828](#), creating a statewide, comprehensive P-20 data system to track students from preschool to workforce.



WASHINGTON UPDATE

[FAFSA made simple](#)

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has announced plans to streamline the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The form, which currently asks about 150 questions, is required for federal education grants and loans and, in many cases, aid from states and colleges. In addition to immediate changes to the online FAFSA application that will allow students to skip unnecessary questions, the Administration proposes that beginning next year, students applying for aid will be able to automatically retrieve tax information from the IRS to fill in parts of the online FAFSA. Further, the Administration plans to ask Congress for legislation to drop 26 financial questions from the FAFSA form that involve information not supplied to the IRS.

Grant Opportunities

U.S. Department of Education

[Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans \(PPOHA\)](#)

Due date: 7/20/09

Eligibility: Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)

[Special Focus Competition: College Course Materials Rental Initiative](#)

Due date: 8/3/09

Eligibility: State, county, city, township, special district governments, Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)

[Special Focus Competition: Graduate Programs at Institutions of Higher Education Serving Hispanic Americans](#)

Due date: 8/3/09

Eligibility: State, county, city, township, special district governments, Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)

[Lumina's Big Goal:](#)

3 of 5 Americans will have college credentials by 2025

The mission of Lumina Foundation for Education is to expand access and success in education beyond high school, particularly among adults, first-generation college going students, low-income students and students of color. Its recently released strategic plan is aimed at fulfilling its mission with one big goal: To increase the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025. Read why.

[ARRA Grant of the Week](#)

[Recovery Act Measurement Science and Engineering Research Grants Program](#)

Financial assistance program to award research grants and cooperative agreements to support measurement science and engineering research proposals in the following six focus areas: energy, environment and climate change, information technology/cybersecurity, biosciences/healthcare, manufacturing, and physical infrastructure as part of NIST's activities implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA or Recovery Act).

Deadline: **7/13/09**.

Eligible Applicants: **Public and Private Institutions of Higher Education**

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

[Will FutureGen work? U of I expert offers insights](#)

On June 12, the U.S. Department of Energy announced that it would

restart the planning of the \$1.5 to \$1.7 billion FutureGen project, which it describes as a “first of its kind” initiative to build a near-zero emissions coal-fueled power plant. University of Illinois Geology Professor William Shilts, who is the executive director of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability at the University of Illinois, spoke to U of I News Bureau life sciences editor Diana Yates about the techniques used to make the power plant environmentally friendly.

[Illinois hosts MHEC meeting](#)



Illinois hosts included (from L to R), Rosey Murton, University of Illinois; Senator Ed Maloney; Proshanta Nandi, IBHE; Judy Erwin, IBHE executive director; and Judy Rake, Illinois Community College Board.

The Executive Committee of the Midwest Higher Education Compact met in Springfield June 4-5. Among its actions were:

Approved a “Closing the Gap” model

MHEC's executive committee accepted the proposal from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) that builds a model tailored to each MHEC state and identifies scenarios for closing the gap between projected workforce needs and the numbers of college-educated citizens qualified to meet those needs. Lumina Foundation for Education projects this gap to grow to 15 million by 2025. President Obama referenced this gap in his speech to Congress earlier this year.

Endorsed SHEEO proposal to the U.S. Secretary of Education

Commissioners endorsed the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) May 21 proposal to the U.S. Secretary of Education to:

- Convene a White House Conference on the 21st Century Workforce, with a focus on increasing postsecondary participation and completion as a national imperative; and
- Provide federal grants to the states for planning and implementing state strategies to increase postsecondary attainment.

COMMENTARY

[Recipe for reform](#)

In a recent New York Times op-ed article, Harold Levy, former chancellor of the New York City schools, offered 5 ideas for fixing America's schools:

1. Raise the age of compulsory attendance.
2. Use high-pressure sales tactics to curb truancy.
3. Advertise creatively and aggressively to encourage college enrollment.
4. Unseal college accreditation reports so that the Department of Education can take over the business of ranking colleges and universities.
5. The biggest improvement we can make in higher education is to produce more qualified applicants.

[People in the News](#)



[Jill Nilsen](#), vice president for external relations at Eastern Illinois University, has announced her retirement, effective Dec. 31, 2009. Nilsen assumed the role of acting vice president for external relations in 1998 and was permanently named to that position in 2001. She came to Eastern in 1976 as a faculty member in speech pathology and served as chairperson of that department from 1984 to 1990. She served as associate dean of the Graduate School from 1990 to 1993, before moving to central administration.

DeKalb resident [Marc J. Strauss](#), general counsel for First Rockford Group in Rockford, Ill., has been elected chair of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University.

[Erin O'Connor](#), a Western Illinois University theatre-acting major and dance minor, was crowned the 2009 Miss Illinois June 20 at the Miss Illinois Pageant in St. Charles. She will advance to the Miss America Pageant, which will be televised live on Jan. 30, 2010 on TLC.



[Akilah Watkins-Butler](#), a University of Illinois at Chicago doctoral student in sociology, is one of 60 students nationwide to receive a \$60,000 Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship. She will study African-American marriage patterns and family formation and its impact on community functioning.

[Craig Williford](#) was named president of Trinity International University in Deerfield by a vote at the Evangelical Free Church of America Leadership Conference in Eden Prairie, Minn., on June 25.

[Janet Rowley](#), a founder in the field of cancer cytogenetics and a leader in molecular oncology, will receive the 2009 Genetics Prize of The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation for her research on recurrent chromosomal abnormalities in leukemias and lymphomas—discoveries that revolutionized how cancer is understood and treated. Rowley, the Blum-Riese Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago, is being honored with a gold medal and an unrestricted cash prize of \$500,000.

News from Higher Education

Community Colleges see demand spike, funding slip

(The Washington Post)

Hundreds of thousands of students are likely to be turned away from low-cost community colleges across the country over the next year because of funding cuts at the very time that record numbers of students are flocking to the open-admission schools, according to education officials.

Kaplan U.'s catchy ad provokes a question: Do colleges serve today's students?

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

The best piece of college marketing this year is a television ad that could easily be taken as a fingers-flapping, thumb at the nose to centuries of higher-education tradition.

College graduation rates could dramatically decline

(Diverse Issues In Higher Education)

College graduation rates will decline precipitously nationally in the coming years if nothing is done to improve the postsecondary completion rates of Black and Hispanic students, who represent the fastest growing student populations in colleges and universities, says the latest annual report released by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).

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