

## Illinois Higher Ed *The Friday Memo*

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Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman  
Executive Director Judy Erwin

**ICCB**  
Chairman Guy Alongi  
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

**ISAC**  
Chairman Don McNeil  
Executive Director Andy Davis

July 17, 2009



The General Assembly passed, and Governor Quinn signed, a \$26 billion fiscal 2010 budget that includes significant cuts to higher education grant programs, most importantly funding for the [Monetary Award Program](#) that will limit grants to low-income students for only the first semester of the 2009-10 academic year.

Key features of the budget include:

- Higher education grants, including all ISAC grant programs (MAP is by far the largest), all IBHE grant programs, and ICCB's Adult Education and Career and Technical Education grant programs, are funded at 50 percent of the Governor's recommended level. That is the level originally passed by the General Assembly in late May; it would result in devastating reductions in student aid and services to adults in need of basic education and career training.
- The Governor has discretion over a \$1.2 billion appropriation to his office. He is authorized to direct the funds to state agencies for "costs of state government" including operational expenses, awards, and grants.
- Next week, the Governor is expected to sign [HB 2132](#), which funds community colleges and public universities. Current indications are that he will use line-item vetoes to reduce funding to fiscal year 2009 appropriation levels. While that is \$25 million less than what the Governor initially recommended for fiscal year 2010, it is \$43 million higher than the funding actually provided to the colleges and universities in fiscal year 2009 after a 2.5 percent mid-year reserve.
- Higher education is specifically excluded from \$1.1 billion in contingency reserves allowed by the Emergency Budget Implementation Act. For other state agencies, the Governor may designate that contingency reserves be established that cannot be encumbered, spent, or transferred unless the General Assembly acts to increase state revenues in some fashion.

Lawmakers had earlier passed, and the Governor this week signed, a [\\$31 billion capital spending program](#) that includes [\\$1.6 billion for higher education](#).

Other budget bills include:

- [Pension Notes Bill—SB 1292](#) (P.A. 96-0043)—authorizes \$3.466 billion in pension notes to pay pension costs and help with the budget. The notes have to be repaid in equal payments over a five year period. \$2.23 billion of available money is intended to pay community-based human service providers. The other approximately \$1.23 billion is available for the Governor to use at his discretion.
- [Fund Sweeps—SB 1433](#) (P.A. 96-0044)—is the main fund sweeps bill, which authorizes sweeps totaling \$356,038,973.



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*Governor Quinn signs the \$31 billion Illinois Jobs Now capital construction plan.*

- Budget Implementation Bill (“BIMP”)—**SB 1912** (P.A. 96—0045)— provides the basis for and implements the spending in the appropriations bill. The bill includes the following key provisions: (1) a requirement that all members of the General Assembly take 12 furlough days in FY 2010, (2) additional fund sweeps, (3) set the Foundation Level for education at \$6,119, (4) allows for emergency rules to be adopted to quickly implement the budget, and (5) allows for up to \$1.1 billion to be kept as a reserve from agencies under the Governor’s control.
- Appropriations Bill—**SB 1216** (P.A. 96-0042): SB 1216 provides lump sum appropriations, which may be spent at the Governor’s discretion.

UPCOMING	
<b>July</b>	
<b>22</b>	Newly Defined Principal Preparation Program Rend Lake Conference Center, Whittington
<b>23</b>	IBHE Proprietary Advisory Committee, Fox College, Tinley Park
<b>24</b>	2009 University Sustainability Symposium sponsored by the Green Government Coordinating Council, Moraine Valley CC
<b>August</b>	
<b>11</b>	IBHE Board Meeting DePaul University, Lincoln Park Campus, Chicago

**More from the financial aid front:**

**[Now the good news: ISAC announces \\$105 million available for student loans](#)**

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) announced 14 Illinois-based credit unions will invest nearly \$105 million in ISAC-issued securities 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 through the Illinois Designated Account Purchase Program (IDAPP).

**[ISAC supports student loan reform proposals: Option preserves consumer choice, taxpayer savings, and jobs](#)**

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and its student lending division, the Illinois Designated Account Purchase Program (IDAPP) joined a diverse coalition of lenders, guaranty agencies, secondary markets, and servicers representing all sectors of the student loan community – nonprofit, for-profit, and state-based – in supporting a reform proposal that builds on President Obama’s student loan plan.

**[Drowning in Debt](#)**

With the cost of attending a public university doubling over the past two decades, higher education has never been more expensive. And yet, family income and student financial aid haven’t kept pace, leaving students with little choice but to borrow to afford college. A new Education Sector analysis of recently released federal financial aid data shows more students are borrowing more money to attend college than ever before. “If this excessive borrowing continues, the consequences for students could be catastrophic,” argue authors Erin Dillon and Kevin Carey.

**For your listening pleasure**

and edification . . . audio recordings of Illinois Board of Higher Education meetings are now available on the IBHE website at [www.ibhe.org](http://www.ibhe.org).

Click [here](#) to listen to all 2 hours, 21 minutes, and 56 seconds of the June Board meeting.

**From the community college front:**

**[How Obama's \\$12-Billion Plan Could Change 2-Year Colleges](#)** (from the Chronicle of Higher Education)

There was near-universal praise this week as President Obama announced a plan to spend an unprecedented \$12-billion over 10 years to improve programs, courses, and facilities at community colleges. The money, the president said, would position two-year institutions to produce five million more graduates over the next decade and to play a leading role in rebuilding the economy.

**[Read the President’s speech](#)**

[Achieving the Dream: A leg up for students at community colleges](#) (from Public Agenda)

Community colleges may not get the same respect as their four-year counterparts in the higher education world, but under a plan President Obama proposed this week, they may get a \$12 billion boost from the federal government.

[U. of I. education expert: community colleges undervalued, underfunded](#)

According to Debra Bragg, a professor of higher education and the director of the Forum on the Future of Public Education at Illinois, community colleges are cost-efficient ports of entry to higher education when compared with just about any other type of college, especially private colleges or for-profit technical institutions.

[Newly Defined Principal Preparation Program for Illinois](#)

Linda Tomlinson from the Illinois State Board of Education and Debbie Meisner-Bertauski from the Illinois Board of Higher Education will present on newly defined principal preparation programs on July 22 at the Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park, in Whittington. Invited to attend are ROE superintendents and assistants, district superintendents, directors and principals, institutions of higher education preparing school principals, and state legislators.

[ARRA Grant of the Week](#)

**Early Career Research Program**

**Description:** Supports the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers and to stimulate research careers in the areas supported by the Department of Energy - Office of Science.

**Deadline:** 9/01/09

**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.

*People in the News*

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[Lucy Sloan](#), IBHE vice-chairwoman, has been appointed a new commissioner for the Midwest Higher Education Compact.

[Randy Erford](#), formerly Director of the *College Illinois!* Prepaid Tuition program, administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), has been appointed as Executive Director of the Illinois Legislative Ethics Commission.

Two University of Illinois professors are among 100 young researchers named as recipients of 2008 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on young professionals at the outset of their independent research careers. [Ioannis Chasiotis](#), a professor of aerospace engineering, and [Lynford L. Goddard](#), a professor of electrical and computer engineering, will receive their awards in the fall at a White House ceremony. Also, a physics researcher at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. [Maria de las Mercedes Calbi](#), associate professor of physics in the College of Science, was one of just 20 outstanding scholars nominated by the National Science Foundation and honored with the award in Washington.

[Nick DiGrino](#), interim dean of the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) at Western Illinois University, has accepted a two-year appointment to serve as dean of the college.

## ***Campus News***

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### **University Center Night July 22 in Grayslake**

The University Center of Lake County will host an information session on July 22 from 6 to 8 pm at the Grayslake facility (1200 University Center Drive; at the intersection of Washington St. and Lancer Lane). "University Center Night" showcases the 90 programs available in Grayslake, Waukegan, Great Lakes Naval Training Center, or via online study.

### **Dominican University announces its first PhD program in library and information science**

Dominican University has announced the offering of the first PhD program in its 108-year history. The Doctorate of Philosophy in Library and Information Science, to be administered through the university's nationally recognized Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), will accept its first cohort of students during the fall 2009 semester.

### **State grant helps employers hire Logan interns**

John A. Logan College placement and career development director Lisa Hudgens said Wednesday that a \$32,600 cooperative work study grant disbursed through the Illinois Board of Higher Education makes it easier for area employers to hire JALC students as interns. "Because of the grant, we are able to reimburse the employer up to 50 percent of the salary paid on a 240-hour intern-ship," Hudgens said. "That's a real advantage to the employer."

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

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### **Our View: State's embarrassing new budget fixes nothing**

(Peoria Journal Star)

So now we know the disappointment a teenager feels when his parents return from vacation with the souvenir he wasn't anticipating: "You went all the way to (fill in your favorite foreign resort here), and all I got was this lousy T-shirt?"

### **Achievement gap widens in Midwest**

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

Historically, the achievement gap between America's black and white students has been widest in Southern states. But black students have made gains in Southern states over two decades, while in Midwestern and Northern states, black

achievement has improved more slowly than white achievement, or has even declined, according to a study of the black-white achievement gap released Tuesday by the Department of Education.

**[House bill would make U.S. sole student loan provider](#)**

(The Wall Street Journal)

The chairman of the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee is expected to introduce legislation Wednesday backing President Obama's proposal to eliminate private lenders from the federal student loan program and make the government the sole provider of such loans.

**[Education data system key to additional federal stimulus money](#)**

(Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

Almost like being tagged with a barcode, at some point schoolchildren in Georgia will receive a unique number that tracks their test scores and other data from the moment they enter kindergarten until they've graduated.

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