

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Governor signs bill to create new student data system](#)

Governor Quinn this week signed [SB 1828](#), which will create a P-20 longitudinal student information system aimed at building a statewide data base that can track student mobility and performance from preschool through graduate school and into the workforce. The new system, required by the federal government to qualify for funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), will be a valuable tool for policymakers to examine the effectiveness of education policies and programs and guide allocation of state resources.

The Governor also signed [SB 612](#) to double the number of charter schools, [SB 1796](#) to strengthen efforts to re-enroll high school dropouts, and [SB 2119](#) to create a task force to develop recommendations regarding innovation, intervention, and restructuring of K-12 schools.

[President announces Race to the Top initiative](#)



President Barack Obama and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently announced that states leading the way on school reform will be eligible to compete for \$4.35 billion in Race to the Top competitive grants to support education reform and innovation in classrooms. Between the 2009 budget and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), more than \$10 billion in grant money will be available to states and districts that are driving reform. Watch the [video](#).

[Video on effects of budget cuts to adult and career/tech ed on IBHE website](#)

The Illinois Community College System has released a DVD of the program, "Educational Forum: The Unkindest Cut." The program was taped at WYCC Channel 20, the television studio at Kennedy-King College in Chicago, to examine state budget cuts to Adult Education and Family Literacy and Career and Technical Education. Several Illinois community college presidents, trustees, administrators, faculty members, and students were interviewed for the 1 hour 15 minute program.

[Congressional committee approves Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act](#)

The U.S. House Education and Labor Committee has passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 (H.R. 3221). The bill would overhaul the federal student loan program by ending the Family Federal Education Loan Program (FFELP) and originating all new student loans through the Department of Education's Direct Loan Program by July 1, 2010. The estimated \$87 billion in savings generated from this change would be used to fund a number of other education programs, including \$4.1 billion for a new school renovation, modernization and repair program; \$8 billion for a new early childhood education grant program; \$40 billion for increased Pell Grants; and \$3 billion for a new community college grant program.

[U.S. Department of Labor announces grant competition for training health care workers](#)

The Department of Labor has announced the availability of approximately \$220 million in grant funds authorized by the

UPCOMING

August

- 11 IBHE Board Meeting
DePaul University, Lincoln
Park Campus, Chicago

Summertime . . .



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

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for projects that provide training and placement services to help workers pursue careers in various industries. The purpose of the high growth and emerging industries is to teach workers the necessary skills for, and help them pursue careers in, health care and other high growth and emerging industry sectors.

[Higher ed budget . . . and higher ed careers](#)

HigherEdJobs.com, an Internet-based interchange for college and university employment, recently discussed the effects of the economy on state budgets for higher education and, in turn, the effects on jobs and careers with two experts in the field, including IBHE Executive Deputy Director Mike Baumgartner.

[ICCCA seeks nominations for Innovation Award](#)

The Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) is now accepting proposals for the **2009 Innovation Award**. The proposal form can be found [here](#). All entries must be **received by September 17, 2009** to be considered. Please consider sharing your innovative college program.

[Campus safety training workshops to be held across the state](#)

The Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF), in conjunction with the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS), is hosting free, one-day Campus Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Training workshops at sites across Illinois. These workshops will provide information on the Illinois Campus Security Enhancement Act and address violence prevention strategies using research and best practices in behavioral threat assessment for higher education institutions. The schedule for the training is [here](#).

[Community colleges: The bridge to higher learning](#)

As part of his American Graduation Initiative, President Obama recently proposed \$12 billion in new funding for community colleges to increase the number of community college graduates by 5 million by 2020. Debra Bragg, a professor of higher education and the director of the Office of Community College Research and Leadership at the University of Illinois, is an expert on how adults and first-generation college students use community colleges as a bridge to higher education. Bragg is playing a lead role in Illinois' "Shifting Gears" initiative, which aims to support programs that prepare low-skilled or low-income adults as they enter occupations in three industry sectors: healthcare, manufacturing and transportation distribution logistics. Bragg was interviewed by University of Illinois **News Bureau education editor Phil Ciciora**.

[NCES report traces characteristics of successful Pell grant recipients](#)

A new National Center for Education Statistics report, "A Profile of Successful Pell Grant Recipients," describes characteristics of college graduates who received Pell Grants and compares them to graduates who were not Pell recipients. For both groups of graduates, data from the Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study were analyzed to determine the time it took them to complete a bachelor's degree, as well as the percentage who enrolled in graduate school within a year of college graduation. Among the key findings: roughly 36% of 1999-2000 bachelor's degree recipients received at least one Pell Grant while in college; higher percentages of Pell Grant recipients had at least one of several undergraduate "risk characteristics" (e.g., delaying postsecondary enrollment) than did non-recipients; parents' education was the only factor consistently related to both time-to-degree and graduate school enrollment for Pell Grant recipients.

People in the News

Janet Davison Rowley, a professor of medicine, molecular genetics, and cellular biology at the University of Chicago, has been named by President Obama as a recipient of the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom, considered the nation's highest civilian honor. She was recognized for her work in cancer research. She was the first scientist to identify a

chromosomal translocation as the cause of leukemia and other cancers. Earlier this month, Dr. Rowley was honored with the \$500,000 Gruber Prize in genetics. In 1999, President Bill Clinton awarded her the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest scientific honor.

[Evelyn Holtschlag](#), the longtime director of public relations at John Wood Community College, is retiring after 31 years of service.

The appointment of [John Silvanus Wilson, Jr.](#) was announced by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan as executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

[ARRA Grant of the Week](#)

Recovery Act-Health Care Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries

Description: Supports programs that teach skills and help prepare students to pursue careers in health care and other high growth and emerging industry sectors.

Deadline: October 5, 2009

Eligible Applicants: Must be legal entities and may include local workforce investment boards and their one stop systems, tribal organizations, education and training providers, labor organizations, health care providers, and faith-based and community organizations.

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

Campus News

[NIU helping Chicago-area students sharpen math skills before they reach campus](#)

While many high school graduates are enjoying their summer days of freedom before heading off to college, Jessica Brown is instead spending six hours a day sharpening her geometry, algebra and trigonometry skills in preparation for her freshman year at Northern Illinois University. Brown and more than 40 other students, most newly minted high school graduates from Chicago Public Schools, are getting a jumpstart on college-level mathematics through an NIU pilot program known as the Summer Math College.

[L&C awarded nationally competitive nursing grant to expand healthcare access](#)

Lewis and Clark Community College's Nurse Managed Center for Healthcare and Education has been awarded a continuance grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The \$882,639 grant will provide funding for the next three years as part of HRSA's Nurse Practice and Retention Program.

[The dining room at Kendall College earns another positive review](#)

The producers of the television segment, 'Check, Please!' present weekly top spots for Chicago business dining. Recently, acknowledged was the Dining Room Restaurant at Kendall College.

News from Higher Education

More cuts for colleges are likely even after states pass budgets

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

A few weeks after wrapping up their budgets for the new fiscal year, lawmakers in some states already expect a new round of spending cuts, including to higher education, as tax revenues continue to fall.

Grant will help nursing program

(Edwardsville Intelligencer)

Lewis and Clark Community College received an \$882,639 competitive nursing grant to expand healthcare access to the community through its Nurse Managed Center for Healthcare and Education. The grant, which was awarded from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), will provide funding for the next three years as part of the HRSA's Nurse Practice and Retention Program.

Evaluating teacher ed

(Inside Higher Ed)

Many teachers who have recently entered the field feel prepared for their jobs, but still seek training in crucial areas such as classroom management and teaching non-native English speakers, a new study says. The report, released earlier this month by Eduventures, a consulting firm, surveyed 1,504 teachers and 130 administrators nationwide who have started to work in the last five years.

Michigan community colleges seek to offer 4-year degrees

(The Detroit News)

Michigan's community colleges are supporting legislation that would allow them to award bachelor's degrees. Under the proposal, the state's community colleges could develop bachelor's programs in nursing, culinary arts and cement technology. The state's four-year public universities oppose the measure, which they view as outside the core mission of the state's community colleges. Currently, more than a dozen states allow community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees.

Survey of services for veterans

(Inside Higher Ed)

Colleges are preparing for an influx of student veterans, but how prepared are they? "From Soldier to Student: Easing the Transition of Service Members on Campus," a report from a group of five higher education associations, represents the first attempt to assess the current state of programs and services nationally.

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