

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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Chairman Guy Alongi  
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC  
Chairman Don McNeil  
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August 28, 2009

H1N1

[CDC offers counsel for higher ed response to H1N1 flu](#)

The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) provided [a report to President Obama](#) August 7, on U.S. preparedness for a H1N1 outbreak in Fall/Winter 2009 that indicated as many as 30-50% of the U.S. population could potentially contract H1N1, including one "plausible scenario" in which 30,000–90,000 Americans could die from H1N1—primarily children and young adults under 25. In order to respond and supplement the information in the (PCAST) report, the U.S. Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released guidance for colleges and universities regarding the H1N1 flu virus.

[And so does Illinois Department of Public Health](#)

As students arrive on campuses to begin the fall semester, Dr. Damon T. Arnold, state public health director, stressed the importance of Illinois higher education institutions following new federal guidance designed to help keep students, faculty and staff healthy during the upcoming flu season.

[Commission to host summit on college-age drinking](#)



The Illinois Liquor Control Commission will sponsor the first *College Town Summit '09: Controlling College-Age Alcohol Use* September 22 at the Executive Mansion in Springfield. This inaugural summit will explore how state, local, and school officials can best work together to address [alcohol-related issues](#) unique to college communities and delve further into issues that affect community safety and the college learning environment. If you are a college town official or school administrator and would like to attend this meeting, [register online](#) by September 15.

[FY2010 Nursing Educator Fellowship Program application online](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is seeking nominations for the ***Nurse Educator Fellowship Program***. The purpose of the program is to foster retention of well-qualified nursing faculty at institutions that award nursing degrees. Awards will be used to supplement the salaries of the nursing faculty selected for the Fellowship. Deadline is Oct. 5, 2009.

**UPCOMING**

**September**

- 8** Newly Defined Principal Preparation, Monmouth
- 10** Newly Defined Principal Preparation, Oglesby
- 14-19** [Sustainability Week](#), UIC
- 18** ISAC meeting, SIU Edwardsville
- 18** ICCB meeting, Kankakee Community College
- 18** Newly Defined Principal Preparation, Rantoul and Bloomington
- 22** College Town Summit '09 – Controlling College-Age Alcohol Use, Executive Mansion, Springfield

**October**

- 6** IBHE Meeting, Loyola University, Chicago
- 14-16** General Assembly
- 28-30** veto session
- 15** DFI Board Meeting, Springfield

## [U.S. students treading water in international achievement comparisons](#)

According to "U.S. Performance Across International Assessments of Student Achievement: Special Supplement to 'The Condition of Education 2009,'" students in a number of countries outperformed their U.S. peers across the board in reading, math, and science on the latest international tests. This report, for the first time, pulls together the evidence from the international tests taken by nearly a million students from 85 nations worldwide. While the math scores of U.S. students have improved since 1995, there have been no gains in reading and science. "Today's report is another wake-up call that our students are treading the waters of academic achievement while other countries' students are swimming faster and farther," USDOE Secretary Duncan said in a [statement](#).

### **Stay in school, Part I**

On September 8 – the first day of school for many children across America – President Obama will deliver a speech about the importance of persisting and succeeding in school. The U.S. Education Department is encouraging students, parents, and educators to use this opportunity to help students get focused and begin the school year strongly. The speech will be [broadcast live](#), at noon. The Department has also asked a group of its Teaching Ambassador Fellows to develop some suggested classroom activities around the speech to help engage students and stimulate discussion on the importance of education.

### **Stay in school, Part II**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, staying in school pays big dividends: With an advanced degree, the average annual earnings of workers in 2007 was \$80,977; with a bachelor's degree, \$57,181; with only a high school diploma, \$31,286; and without a diploma, \$21,484. These are just a few of the facts from the Census Bureau's ["Back To School"](#) annual feature.



**Samantha Johnson**, recent UIUC grad, and **Caitlin Moloney**, recent Knox College grad, are members of the new ISA Corps. They were joined by ISAC Outreach Program Coordinator, **Janetta Clemons** at the College Zone table in the Governor's tent at the Illinois State Fair where they answered questions and directed interested fairgoers to more information on how to go to college.

### **ISBE, IBHE sponsor workshops on preparation of school principals**

**What:** [Newly Defined Principal Preparation for Illinois](#)

**Presenters:** Dr. Linda Tomlinson, Assistant Superintendent, ISBE  
Ms. Debbie Meisner-Bertauski, Associate Director, IBHE

**When:** **September 8, 2009**

**Where:** 10:00 – Noon, Midwest Bank  
Community Room, 200 E. Broadway, Monmouth, IL  
AND

**When:** **September 10, 2009**

**Where:** 10:00 – Noon, Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby, IL  
AND

**When:** **September 18, 2009**

Where: Session 1-- 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the ROE Schoolworks, Rantoul  
Session 2-- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Bloomington

Who Should Attend:

- ROE Superintendents & Assistants
- District Superintendents, Directors & Principals
- Institutions of Higher Education preparing school principals: Teams of at least 3 members, including dean, department chair, instructor and/or unit head
- State Legislators

Registration on [IBHE website](#)

### [MHEC seeks effective practices for college access and success](#)

The Midwest Higher Education Compact's 5th Annual Policy Summit will focus on strategies to help all citizens achieve the education and training required to enable their full participation in the workforce. The summit will examine proven strategies and promising practices to improve college access and completion rates of underrepresented segments of the population. MHEC seeks examples of campus- and system-based programs and initiatives that have been successful in improving college access, retention, and graduation. The policy summit will be held Monday, November 9, in Fargo, North Dakota. Proposals will be accepted through Monday, September 14.

### [ARRA Grant of the Week](#)

#### **Recovery Act Limited Competition: Core Facility Renovation, Repair, and Improvement**

Eligible:

Public institutions of higher education

Native American tribal governments and federally recognized

Native American tribal organizations

Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Private institutions of higher education; Others

Description: The purpose of this program is to upgrade core facilities to support the conduct of PHS supported biomedical and/or behavioral research. Support can be requested to alter and renovate (A&R) the core facility as well as to improve the general equipment in the core facility or to purchase general equipment for specialized groups of researchers.

**Deadline: 9/17/09**

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

### [HEALTH-CARE REFORM: A minute with . . .](#)



Robert F. Rich

Stymied by the wide-ranging and feverish debate over health-care reform? Robert F. Rich, the director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs and a professor of law, community health and medical humanities, broke down the core issues in a recent interview with the University of Illinois News Bureau.

### [It's never too late](#)



Lottie Rhodes is holding an honorary high school diploma awarded to her on her 106<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 25<sup>th</sup> in Schaumburg.

(Photo by Bill Zars, Daily Herald staff photographer)

## *People in the News*

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[Sen. Edward M. Kennedy](#), a lifelong champion of equal rights and educational opportunity, died August 25 at his home in Hyannis Port, Mass.

Saint Xavier University announced the appointment of [Jay Foot](#) as Executive Director of Media Relations.



[Kathryn \(Swanson\) Buettner](#) has been named Northern Illinois University's new vice president for university relations. Buettner, who currently serves as vice president of external affairs at NIU, has been tapped by President John Peters to lead a newly consolidated university relations division that includes external affairs, board of trustee operations, public affairs, publications, and media services.

## *Campus News*

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### [WIU-QC Engineering Program ribbon-cutting](#)

MACOMB/MOLINE – Nearly one year ago, Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) approved Western Illinois University's longstanding plan to offer a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree. On Aug. 19, officials from Western Illinois University, the City of Moline, Renew Moline, the Quad Cities Illinois Chamber of Commerce and several other organizations brought that plan full-circle when the Caxton Block Building in Moline was dedicated as the new temporary home for the WIU engineering degree program.

### [SIUC wins NSF grant to train watershed scientists](#)

A team of researchers at Southern Illinois University Carbondale will use a major grant from the National Science Foundation to train the next generation of watershed scientists using an intensive, interdisciplinary approach. The NSF recently awarded SIUC a \$3.2 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship grant. The highly competitive grant will fund a six-year effort aimed at educating up to 20 leading watershed scientists while they earn their doctorates at SIUC.

### [NIU's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences launches golden anniversary website](#)

The golden anniversary website features a brief history of the college, a listing of "points of pride," a calendar of anniversary-related events throughout the year, and a directory of alumni allowing former students to reconnect. Visitors

also can share stories, photos, and video with former faculty and classmates.

### [SIU Med School Receives NIH Grant to Study Exercise and Breast Cancer](#)

Dr. Laura Rogers, associate professor of internal medicine and member of the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield has been awarded a five-year federal grant from the National Cancer Institute, a division of the National Institutes of Health, for the study of exercise and breast cancer. Total budget for the grant is \$3,581,688.

## *News from Higher Education*

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### [States turn to colleges to help reinvent economies and retrain workers](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Deserted factories and dying Midwestern industrial towns have become well-worn symbols of the nation's economic woes. But from the midst of decay also came urgent calls for renewal. And community colleges emerged as central players in policy makers' plans for remaking state economies in the region and retraining their work forces.

### [MISSOURI - Financial aid funds take a hit in state](#)

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

A boom in students going to college and a spike in financial need has strained Missouri's largest scholarship fund, leading to a 22-percent decrease in the maximum awards this year.

### [Michigan - College scholarships in limbo in tussle over 'Promise'](#)

(The Detroit News)

More than 96,000 students will head to college campuses in the next few weeks still unsure of whether the state will honor their Michigan Promise Scholarship awards.

**Illinois Board of Higher Education**  
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404  
Phone : (217) 782-2551  
<http://www.ibhe.org>  
[FridayMemo@ibhe.org](mailto:FridayMemo@ibhe.org)