

Illinois Higher Ed *The Friday Memo*

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Chairman Guy Alongi
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ISAC
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October 23, 2009

[Governor Quinn Signs Legislation to Save MAP Grants](#)

On Sunday, Gov. Quinn signed SB 1180, approved by the General Assembly last week to appropriate \$205 million to the Monetary Award Program (MAP) to cover awards for low-income students in the spring 2010 semester. [Watch the video.](#)

[Education leaders](#) hailed the passage of the bill to provide vital financial aid to nearly 138,000 students, which had been in jeopardy as the result of budget cuts enacted by legislators and the Governor last summer.

[ISAC issued a statement](#) thanking the Governor, General Assembly, students, and others responsible for the restoration of the MAP funds.

Correction:

SB 1180 appropriated \$205 million to the Monetary Award Program to cover grants for the spring 2010 semester, not \$225 million as reported in last week's Friday Memo; the inflated figure was the apparent result of wishful thinking.

[NIU President Peters commended](#) "Gov. Pat Quinn, the leaders in the General Assembly and all of our lawmakers for recognizing that it is in the best interest of the state to find a way to restore funding for second semester MAP grants," said NIU President John G. Peters. "For the students who rely upon those grants, this keeps the goal of a college education within their reach." Peters is the convener for the public university presidents and chancellors group.

[Poll finds voters want public services and budget cuts too](#)

A survey of voters has found support for cutting state services to alleviate the yawning budget deficit, but can't agree on which services they would be willing to part with. A poll, conducted by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, found that more than half of respondents felt the state's budget crisis could be solved by cutting waste and inefficiency in government. But asked what services should be targeted for cuts, 84% said K-12 education should be spared, 61% opposed cuts to higher education, 80% said public safety agencies should not be cut, 63% opposed cutting parks and recreation funding, and significant majorities also said aid to poor people, the mentally ill, and state pensioners should not feel the budget ax. "These numbers pose a real quandary for political leaders in the state," said David Yepsen, director of the institute. "People say they want to cut state services, but they can't seem to point to things that should be trimmed."



THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC AGENDA
FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

[NEIU, College of Lake County share grant to improve retention, graduation](#)

Northeastern Illinois University and the College of Lake County have been awarded a \$3.5 million grant to strengthen retention, transfer, and graduation programs at NEIU and the CLC. The joint project, which aligns with Goals 1 and 3

UPCOMING

October

28-30 Veto session

28 Senate Higher Education Committee, 2 p.m.
Room 409 Capitol

29 Legislative Briefing on School Leader initiative, 7:15 a.m., Capitol Bistro

November

23 Working Together to Prepare Illinois School Leaders Part 4: Next Steps, Bloomington

of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, will include several initiatives: improving student learning at CLC through promoting active learning strategies; streamlining student transfer from the CLC to NEIU with online systems and discipline specific articulation agreements; establishing a NEIU Transfer Center to improve mentoring, advising, orientation, and financial literacy workshops for CLC students and their families; expanding the number of B.A. completion programs offered by NEIU on-site in Lake County; and providing comprehensive services to students who are military veterans and their families through a Veteran's Services Coordinator at both institutions.

[Northern Illinois University to offer bachelor's degrees for first responders at Harper](#)

Northern Illinois University will offer a Bachelor's of Science in Applied Management with an emphasis in Public Safety degree on the campus of Harper College beginning next summer. NIU's new degree was recently approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and will allow working police officers, firefighters, and emergency management personnel to earn an accredited bachelor's degree affordably and close to home.



announce NIU's Bachelor's of Science in Applied Management Public Safety Emphasis program at Harper College.
(Photo courtesy of Harper College)

[ISBE, IBHE to brief legislators on school leader initiative](#)

The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Board of Higher Education will conduct a special legislative briefing on ***Newly Defined Principal Preparation for Illinois***. This briefing will cover changes in standards for principal preparation programs that will better prepare school principals to be instructional leaders and improve student performance. This work was facilitated through the ***Working Together to Prepare Illinois School Leaders Initiative*** directed by HJR 42.

[IBHE releasing a Request for Proposals for new grant projects under Improving Teacher Quality State Grant Program](#)

The IBHE intends to fund projects that provide research-based in-service professional development for teachers in *high need school districts* with measureable outcomes that include student achievement gains. An informational meeting will be held **November 17, 2009**, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Parke Hotel in Bloomington to answer questions regarding the RFP. The ITQ federally funded program aligns with and supports the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* strategy to "Strengthen teacher and school leader quality through upgraded standards and professional development." For additional information about the RFP, please contact Rich Jachino, Associate Director, Grant Administration, at 217.557.7339.

[Eureka College events to mark 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall](#)

A defining time in world history will be remembered at Eureka College on Nov. 9. Events will include a ceremony at the Ronald W. Reagan Peace Garden, which includes a section of the wall; a dinner; and a symposium with panelists who will discuss the collapse of communism in former Eastern Bloc nations. Eureka College is among several colleges and universities in the United States to have a section of the wall.



[Study finds discontent among K-12 teachers](#)

Two out of five of America's 4 million K-12 teachers appear disheartened and disappointed about their jobs, while others express a variety of reasons for contentment with teaching and their current school environments, new research by Public Agenda and Learning Point Associates shows.

The nationwide study, "Teaching for a Living: How Teachers See the Profession Today," whose results are being reported here for the first time, offers a comprehensive and nuanced look at how teachers differ in their perspectives on their profession, why they entered teaching, the atmosphere and leadership in their schools, the problems they face, their students and student outcomes, and ideas for reform. Taking a closer look at the nation's teacher corps based on educators' attitudes and motivations for teaching provides some notable implications for how to identify, retain, and support the most effective teachers, according to the researchers.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar for a meeting sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Board of Higher Education to discuss the next steps in planning principal preparation and teacher instructional leader programs as well as the review of the professional teaching standards.

What: *Working Together to Prepare Illinois School Leaders Part 4: Next Steps*

When: Monday, November 23, 2009
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Where: Parke Hotel & Conference Center
1414 N. Towanda Barnes Road
Bloomington, Illinois 61704

State legislators, teams of 3 from the College of Education at each of our higher education institutions (dean, department chair & unit head), and members of educational associations and agencies in Illinois are invited. Registration for the conference is free of charge and can be completed [online](#).

Campus News

[SIU Med School receives \\$2.6 million in stimulus grants](#)

Fourteen faculty members at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield and Carbondale have been awarded grants by the National Institutes of Health through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for their research projects. The grants, which total \$2,606,950, are being awarded to various projects supporting advances in aging, hearing, infectious diseases, cancer and neurobiology.

[U.S. Department of Education Teacher Quality Partnership grant will create Chicago Teacher Pipeline](#)



Four universities, which house Chicago's largest elementary teacher preparation programs, have received a Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) grant from the U.S. Department of Education to create the Chicago Teacher Pipeline Partnership (CTPP) and develop a pipeline of high-quality teachers for Chicago Public Schools (CPS). The College of Education at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) will serve as the fiscal agent and lead partner of CTPP, which will team UIC, Loyola University Chicago, National-Louis University (NLU) and Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) with

CPS and 20 high-need CPS K-8 elementary schools. Additionally, The Chicago Community Trust has made a grant to UIC to support the transformation of elementary school teacher education in these four institutions, as well as to extend this work into their partner institutions in the Chicago region. The grant also supports the initiation of similar collaborative work among these institutions to strengthen the preparation of pre-school educators in the region.

[WIU chemistry receives grants from Nat'l Cancer Institute, ARRA for summer research for educators, students](#)

This summer (2009) and next (Summer 2010), McConnell and three other Western Illinois chemistry professors - - Thottumkara "T. K." Vinod, organic chemistry; Jin Jin, medicinal chemistry; and Lisa Wen, biochemistry - - are leading a research project funded by a \$196,833 grant from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes for Health; and a supplemental grant of \$122,781 from funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which is designed to provide summer research experiences for students and science educators.

[Loyola University Chicago Wellness Center awarded \\$300,000 grant to reduce violence against women](#)

Loyola University Chicago's Wellness Center has received a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women. The grant, part of the DOJ's Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking on Campus program, is designed to encourage institutions of higher education to adopt comprehensive, coordinated responses to these forms of violence and to foster greater collaboration between universities and community organizations.

People in the News

The Carl Sandburg College Board of Trustees appointed [Dr. Lori L. Sundberg](#) as the sixth president of Carl Sandburg College effective July 1, 2010. Sundberg is currently the Carl Sandburg College vice president of academic services having begun her service to the institution as an adjunct economics instructor in 1995.

[Kathleen Plinske](#), was appointed by the board of trustees of the McHenry County College in Crystal Lake to serve as interim president through June 30, 2010, and will be considered as a candidate in the board's ongoing search for a more permanent president. Plinske was the college's vice president of institutional effectiveness. She graduated from the Illinois Math and Science Academy at 16 and earned a doctorate in educational technology from Pepperdine University.

University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign senior [Stephen Diebold](#) was the first undergraduate to win the grand prize in the Collegiate Inventors Competition. His invention, the Drop Point, is a device that helps quadriplegics.

News from Higher Education

[Mediocre? Not us!](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

All colleges and graduate schools of education must do a better job of preparing future teachers for the classroom, Arne Duncan, secretary of education, said in a speech Thursday. Many leaders of teacher education programs said they agreed with his comments, but it was hard to find any who said they thought his criticisms applied to their institutions.

[Online college access comes at a high price for students, survey says](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Online programs are expanding access to education, but a survey reveals new details about the cost of that access, suggesting that students enrolled in online programs may pay higher fees than their on-campus counterparts.

College costs keep rising, report says

(The New York Times)

The average annual cost of tuition and fees at four-year public colleges rose 6.5 percent from last year, to \$7,020, according to a report issued Tuesday by the College Board. Including room and board, the average total cost of attendance is \$15,213, up 5.9 percent from last year.

At one 2-year college, adjuncts feel left out

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Oakton Community College reaches out to its part-timers, few of whom have time to take advantage of the offer.

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