

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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October 30, 2009

UPCOMING

November

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



THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC AGENDA
FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

Legislature seeks studies of college affordability

The Senate completed action on two joint resolutions directing IBHE to undertake two, complementary studies of college affordability.

On unanimous votes, senators passed **House Joint Resolutions 54**, and **75**.

[HJR 54](#), sponsored by Rep. Cynthia Soto and Senator Ed Maloney, seeks a broad-based study of higher education finance, including state appropriations, student financial aid, and tuition. [HJR 75](#), sponsored by Rep. Kevin McCarthy and Sen. Maloney, is more narrowly focused on the Monetary Award Program (MAP), and seeks information about the academic success of MAP recipients, the demographics of MAP funding, and the feasibility of restructuring MAP eligibility to maximize the educational impact and economic efficiency of the program.

[MHEC webinar explores models for 'Closing the Gap'](#)

An online seminar demonstrating tools to project increases in degree completion to meet President Obama's goal to make the U.S. the most educated nation in the world by 2020 was conducted recently by the National Center for Higher Education Management System (NCHEMS) for states that are members of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact. The interactive tool enables users to manipulate different variables – high school graduation rates, for instance, or college-going rates – to project the resulting increase in degrees.

[New report criticizes university costs, governance](#)

A report from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni and the Illinois Policy Institute takes public universities to task on several fronts, from the breadth of the general education requirements and rising costs to intellectual diversity and transparency and accountability of governance structures.

[Simon Institute survey seeks data on job barriers for grads with disabilities](#)

A survey conducted by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale will identify some of the barriers to employment among college graduates with disabilities, according to Linda Renee Baker, a University professor based at the Institute. The survey is funded through a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant to the Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services. The survey seeks to obtain data on the barriers to employment -- whether attitudinal, structural, physical, mental, logistical or other factors -- faced by this subset of college graduates.

[Forming a Campus Behavioral Threat Assessment Team](#)

Threat assessment training is taking place on November 19, 2009, at Western Illinois University, Macomb and November 20, 2009, Western Illinois University-Quad Cities campus. This is a free training sponsored by the Illinois

Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) and the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS). The goal of the seminar is to support the Illinois Campus Security Enhancement Act for improving the planning, preparedness and violence prevention capabilities of higher education institutions.

WASHINGTON UPDATE



[Duncan discusses plans for STEM education](#)

On October 23, U.S. Education Secretary Duncan discussed Department activities and plans concerning science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in a live webcast from the National Academy of Sciences. “Our Administration is committed to raising standards, upgrading curriculum, and forging partnerships to improve the use and understanding of science and technology in our classrooms,” he said. “We are calling on states to enhance teacher preparation and training and to attract qualified math and science teachers to better engage students and reinvigorate those subjects in our schools. We support initiatives to pay more teachers in high-need subjects like math and science and rewarding excellence by paying teachers and principals who do a great job in the classroom.” [Watch the video.](#)

[Lowering the bar – states set low standards for measuring learning in math, reading](#)

According to a report by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the Institute of Education Sciences, states vary widely in where they set their student proficiency standards for fourth- and eighth-grade reading and mathematics. Specifically, using National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) achievement levels as a reference point for understanding the stringency of state standards, most were in the NAEP basic achievement level range, except in fourth-grade reading, where most fell below NAEP’s basic level. Overall, only two states set standards within NAEP’s proficient achievement level. [Secretary Duncan said](#), “This study confirms what we’ve known for a long time: states are setting the bar too low. We’re lying to our children when we tell them they’re proficient, but they’re not achieving at a level that will prepare them for success once they graduate.”

[White House releases report on education job creation](#)

The White House Domestic Policy Council, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education, released a report on October 19 on the educational impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The report found that at least 250,000 education jobs were saved or created through the economic recovery package.

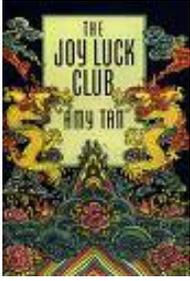
[Colleges, universities urged to get on board with direct loan program](#)

In an October 26 letter to college presidents, Secretary Duncan urged institutions of higher education to become Direct Loan-ready for the 2010-11 school year. While a majority of institutions continued to use the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program delivery process last year, over 500 others responded to the fiscal uncertainty by switching to the Direct Loan Program. These colleges’ move to direct lending happened in an effective and efficient manner, without interruption of service to students, and the number of Direct Loans increased by nearly two-thirds compared to the previous year. The President has proposed lawmakers make the loan system more reliable by moving to a 100% Direct Loan delivery system.

[College Board: college costs at public institutions outpace inflation at record clip](#)

The College Board, in its annual study of college pricing reports that published tuition and fees at public four-year colleges and universities rose at an average annual rate of 4.9% per year beyond general inflation from 1999-2000 to 2009-10, more rapidly than in either of the previous two decades. The rate of growth of published prices at both private not-for-profit four-year and public two-year institutions was lower from 1999-2000 to 2009-10 than in either of the previous two decades.





[National Endowment taking 'Big Read' applications](#)

The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, is accepting applications from non-profit organizations to conduct month-long, communitywide reads between September 2010 and June 2011. Roughly 75 organizations will be selected to participate, receiving a grant ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000, educational and promotional materials, and access to online training resources. Organizations will select from 31 reading choices.

[Higher Education Act disclosure requirements](#)

A new National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (NPEC) report designed to help colleges and universities successfully identify and meet their obligation to disclose information as required under the Higher Education Act (HEA). It includes suggestions to help institutions make the HEA-required disclosure information more accessible and understandable to consumers and more comparable across institutions. A summary of HEA institutional disclosure requirements and a list of HEA-required disclosures by the required methods of dissemination are also included.

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

[Ribbon-cutting ceremony for Northeastern Illinois University's new College of Business and Management Building](#)

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) celebrated the opening of its new College of Business and Management Building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, October 27 at the new building on the University's main campus. With the help of the Illinois Capital Development Board, the building was completed and opened in August 2009, after nearly two years of renovation.

People in the News

[J.Q. Adams](#), educational psychology professor in Western Illinois University's department of educational and interdisciplinary studies (EIS), will receive the 2009 G. Pritchey Smith Multicultural Educator Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education.

[Mike Lawrence](#)—a veteran newsman, former press secretary to Gov. Jim Edgar and a noted political analyst who joined Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIUC in 1997 as associate director, and became director in 2004 following

the death of founder and former U.S. Sen. Paul Simon—was honored at a fundraising event where nearly \$50,000 was brought in to endow a scholarship fund for deserving students associated with the Institute.

The Illinois Senate gave its approval of Gov. Pat Quinn's appointment of [Manuel "Manny" Sanchez](#) to a third term on the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees. Sanchez, of Lisle, has served on the board since its inception in 1995 and was its chair from 2001 until 2003. He currently serves as chair of the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee; and as vice chair of the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee.

The Illinois Senate confirmed the re-appointment of three members of the Illinois Community College Board by unanimous vote. Board Chair [Guy Alongi, Suzanne Morris, and Rudy Papa](#) had been nominated by Governor Pat Quinn for re-appointment to their seats.

News from Higher Education

[U.S. publishes final rules on higher ed accreditation](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

The U.S. Education Department published final regulations Tuesday to carry out changes Congress made to federal law governing higher education accreditation. The rules, which were published in the Federal Register, deal with a wide range of issues involving the relationships between the federal government and accrediting agencies, and between the agencies and the colleges they accredit.

[Colleges are pushed to convert loan system](#)

(The New York Times)

Congress has not given final approval to legislation ending federal subsidies for private student loans for college. But Secretary of Education Arne Duncan sent a letter Monday to thousands of colleges and universities urging them to get ready to use the government's Direct Loan Program in the 2010-11 school year.

[Assessment vs. action](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

The assessment movement has firmly taken hold in American higher education, if you judge it by how many colleges are engaged in measuring what undergraduates learn. But if you judge by how many of them use that information to do something, the picture is different.

[MO: Budget cuts continue, state higher education spared](#)

(Columbia Missourian)

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon (D) released a \$204 million state budget reduction plan Wednesday that seeks to eliminate 700 state jobs and cut over \$30 million in Medicaid spending. The state's higher education budget was relatively unscathed, losing only \$7 million in funding. Missouri's tax revenues have declined 10 percent compared to last year.

[LA: Commission approves proposal to raise admission standards](#)

(The Times-Picayune)

Louisiana's Postsecondary Education Review Commission has unanimously approved a policy recommendation that would urge state college campuses to increase admission standards in order to improve student graduation rates. State colleges and universities would have target six-year graduation rates ranging from 50-75 percent and would receive financial incentives to meet the graduation standards. Louisiana's current six-year graduation rate for state colleges stands at 42 percent.

[CA: University of California plans \\$1 billion financial aid campaign](#)

(The Los Angeles Times)

The 10 campuses of the University of California system have committed to raising \$1 billion in private donations over the next four years under a plan announced by system president Mark Yudof last week. Yudof's plan would also seek to broaden financial aid eligibility to a greater number of middle-income students. Under his plan, students from families with combined incomes under \$70,000 would receive a combined financial aid package that would cover all basic education-related fees at system campuses.

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