

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

IBHE  
Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman  
Executive Director Judy Erwin

ICCB  
Chairman Guy Alongi  
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC  
Chairman Don McNeil  
Executive Director Andy Davis

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### SAVE MAP

*Higher ed community coalesces to help restore funding for student financial aid*

The prospect of an abrupt end to state financial aid for low-income Illinois students has united the higher education community in common purpose: restore \$200 million for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) to continue grants to 138,000 students for the spring 2010 semester. Funding for the state's largest need-based grant program was cut in half for fiscal 2010, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), which administers MAP, decided to use the appropriation to provide full grants in the fall semester. Unless the General Assembly acts during its October veto session to add money to the MAP program, no grants will be available for the spring term.

As a result, a broad coalition of students, colleges and universities, and state agencies, led by ISAC, have launched a [Save MAP campaign](#) designed to illustrate the impact the loss of MAP grants will have on students.

The campaign will involve [ISAC hearings](#), visits to lawmakers, and rallies tentatively set for Chicago and Springfield. A new website – [www.saveillinoismapgrants.org](http://www.saveillinoismapgrants.org) – also has an electronic [petition](#) drive, [facts](#) about MAP, and other resources.

#### [ISACorps expands assistance for college success](#)

Illinois Student Assistance Corps (ISACorps) members are being deployed in every community college district throughout Illinois and will begin work Monday, September 14, following completion of a final workshop in Decatur.

Funded by the federal College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP), the Corps bolsters the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's ability to provide high-quality personal service to students in every single community in the state, increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in college.

#### Washington Update



#### [President urges students to take their education seriously](#)

On September 8, 2009, President Barack Obama delivered a national address to the students of America. During this special address, the president spoke directly to the nation's children and youth about persisting and succeeding in school. The president challenged students to work hard, set educational goals, and take responsibility for their learning.

#### UPCOMING

##### September

- 14-19 [Sustainability Week](#), UIC
- 18 Faculty Advisory Council, Spoon River College, Canton
- 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 Student Lobby Day for MAP funding, Springfield
- 15 DFI Board Meeting, Springfield

### [Back to School in record numbers](#)

The National Center for Education Statistics' Back to School Forecast notes more students are entering and returning to America's schools and colleges than ever before – almost 50 million to K-12 schools and 18.4 million to colleges and universities.

### [More students, families eligible for tax credit for college expenses](#)

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), more students and parents will qualify over the next two years for a tax credit to pay for college expenses. The American Opportunity Credit modifies the existing Hope Credit for tax years 2009 and 2010, making it available to a broader range of taxpayers, including many with higher incomes and those who owe no tax. It also adds “required course materials” to the list of qualifying expenses and allows the credit to be claimed for four postsecondary education years, versus two. Many of those eligible will qualify for the maximum annual credit of \$2,500 per student.

### [Exemplary community college? Nominate yours here](#)

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2010 MetLife Foundation Community College Excellence Awards, which recognize exemplary institutions from across the nation that are making a significant difference in their communities. The foundation will present three awards: (1) for Exceptional Service to Students, (2) for Service to Communities, and (3) for Service through Innovation. Winners will receive a \$40,000 grant. The deadline for nominations is October 2.

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## Quotable . . .

“ Every college president and every governing board wants to simultaneously improve quality, increase access - and yet constrain costs. Now, the tension between these three goals is real -- and I don't question for a minute that boosting resources for higher education is essential....At the same time, I don't think that more resources alone are the answer to the challenges facing higher education...A more promising long-term solution for breaking out of the iron triangle is to have college presidents and administrators make better and more imaginative use of efficiency, productivity improvements, and accountability. ”

-- Secretary of Education Arne Duncan (9/2/09), speaking at the National HBCU Conference

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## ADULT LEARNERS

### [Lumina Foundation examines the growing population of nontraditional students](#)

U. S. adult learners total 6.8 million and account for as much as 70 percent of college enrollment. At the same time, these students drop out of college at a higher rate, 39 percent versus their full-time traditional counterparts at 18 percent. **Lumina Foundation Focus magazine's “Adult ed grows up”** examines reform efforts to increase the number of adults with high-quality degrees.

### [Listen up – Discussion about the challenges facing adult learners](#)

Dewayne Matthews of the Lumina Foundation speaks with Brian Bosworth, president of [FutureWorks](#) about issues surrounding the education of adult learners and the problems facing nontraditional, working adult students pursuing a postsecondary education in today's economy.

## VETERANS

### [Veterans Are Ready for College: Are Colleges Ready for Them?](#)

Fresh faces are a familiar part of the September campus scene. But this year, more of those faces will be older, wearing experiences that few other undergraduates can share. The students are military veterans, and they are returning to college in unprecedented numbers thanks to a generous new GI bill that expects to pay out \$78 billion in federal assistance over the next 10 years. Nearly half a million veterans have already signed up for the benefit, which pays tuition up to the highest public undergraduate rate in a state. Along with a monthly housing allowance and a \$1,000 stipend for books, the bill virtually eliminates financial barriers to higher education.

In Illinois there are 3,000 National Guard soldiers returning from Afghanistan. These returning soldiers are required to attend seminars that assist them with family, work and personal issues related to reentry into civilian life. Soldiers now back in college and faculty will need to work together to be sure such required absences from classes are taken into account, and accommodations are made for the soldier students.

[From Soldier to Student](#) – The American Council on Education examines campus programs for veterans.

#### [Illinois public colleges to survey veterans' services](#)

Under Public Act 96-133, all public universities and community colleges will conduct a survey of services available to veterans on their campuses and prepare a guidebook for vets to access needed assistance. Links to each campus's survey will be available on the IBHE and Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) websites.

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

**Recovery Act Limited Competition:** Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15)

**Eligibility:**

- Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education
- Hispanic-serving Institutions
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)
- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions
- Public or private institutions and components of institutions defined below as "health professional schools/colleges" and "other academic components."

**Description:** The purpose of the Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program is to stimulate research in educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees for a significant number of the Nation's research scientists, but that have not been major recipients of NIH support. These AREA grants create opportunities for scientists and institutions otherwise unlikely to participate extensively in NIH programs, to contribute to the Nation's biomedical and behavioral research effort.

**Deadline:** 9/24/09

[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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[Leon Dash](#) has been appointed director of the Center for Advanced Study at the University of Illinois. A professor of journalism, of African-American studies and of law and international reporting, Dash is a Pulitzer-prize-winning author and journalist.

[Michael Schill](#), dean of the UCLA School of Law, will become the new head of the University of Chicago Law School.

## *Campus News*

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### ['Diversity Initiatives' Web site lists NIU's promises, policies, programs, projects](#)

Northern Illinois University is proud of its work to augment, enhance and celebrate diversity on campus, clearly evidenced by a new Web page that posts a comprehensive list of the university's initiatives. Created by the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center, the page includes information on NIU's efforts regarding diversity as well as links to policies, scholarship prospects, support programs, and professional development opportunities.

### [EIU considers Student Success Center a triumph for university](#)

Eastern Illinois University's Student Success Center was considered an institutional success even before construction of the facility it is housed in was completed. Three years ago, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Eastern a five-year \$1.8 million grant designed to expand student support services and establish a Student Success Center for students at risk of academic failure. The money was also to help fund the physical expansion of facilities to house such a center.

### ['A cool place to hang out': SIUE Student Success Center opens on campus](#)

A one-stop shop for services -- and an all-night coffee bar and study lounge -- is the latest addition to the SIUE campus. Among the services available at the center: disability support, career development, personal counseling, the honors program, international student services, academic advising, tutoring programs, the SOAR program (for jump-starting freshmen), health services and student government. It puts counseling and health services together, whereas previously counseling was actually off-campus, making it difficult for students to access services.

## *News from Higher Education*

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### [TX: Perry calls for cost review of state's public universities](#)

Houston Chronicle

Texas Gov. Rick Perry has signed an executive order calling for a comprehensive cost review of the state's higher education system. Perry wants an analysis of state funding based on student course completion, restructuring the state's financial aid programs, consolidation or elimination of low-producing academic programs and other issues. The report is due to the governor, legislature and the public by November 1, 2010.

### [GA: University system president seeks \\$100 million in cost savings over two years](#)

Macon Telegraph

The chancellor of the University System of Georgia has promised to cut \$100 million in administrative costs from the system's budget over the next two years. Additionally, the chancellor stated that the system must find new resources for needs-based scholarship programs, such as private foundation funding. The system is expected to receive a

budget cut from the state legislature ranging from 4 to 8 percent this year.

**[VA: Governor orders higher education budget cut of up to 15 percent](#)**

The Richmond Times-Dispatch

Virginia's public institutions of higher education will see a budget cut upwards of 15 percent under a \$1.35 billion spending reduction [plan](#) introduced this week by Gov. Tim Kaine (D). The governor's plan calls for a collective higher education budget cut of \$196 million, but Kaine expects to use \$91.5 million in federal stimulus money to fill this budget gap. The governor did not order a cap on potential tuition increases stemming from this action.

**[MO: Missouri's public universities unlikely to get state funding increase next year](#)**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education approved a budget request this morning that asks the state for flat appropriations next year. That's not because public universities don't need or want a funding increase.

**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)**