

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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[U of I study concludes only tax increase can lead state out of fiscal crisis](#)

Tax increases are the only solution to a widening budget crisis that a new study says has landed Illinois among the nation's most financially troubled states, a soon-to-be-released report by a team of University of Illinois economists warns.

Illinois is among nine states spiraling toward an economic disaster that could rival California, where a \$24 billion budget shortfall has netted IOUs, widespread layoffs and forced furloughs, according to a study released last week by the Pew Center on the States, a nonpartisan think tank.

With a roughly \$11 billion budget gap of its own, Illinois can only duck a similar meltdown by raising taxes, says Daniel McMillen, an economist with the U. of I. Institute of Government and Public Affairs who co-wrote an analysis of the state's fiscal crisis for an upcoming report on critical issues facing Illinois.

[What does college cost?](#)

*The New York Times*, in recognition that this is the college-application season, asked College Board economist Sandy Baum to discuss the cost of college. Baum is the lead author of the College Board's annual [report](#) on tuition. Here is what she had to say.

*NYT: What's the most common misperception about college costs?*

Baum: Families and students consistently overestimate the price of college. Headlines frequently focus on the most expensive colleges, but the United States system of higher education includes a wide variety of institutions offering diverse educational experiences and a wide array of prices. Public-two year colleges — typically known as community colleges — generally have much lower tuition than public-four year colleges. Public four-year colleges cost less than private colleges. However, even among private colleges, prices differ by thousands of dollars.

The other major confusion is between the published price, sometimes called the "sticker price," and the net price that students actually pay after taking grant aid into consideration. [More . . .](#)

[In Missouri, tuition in the deep freeze](#)

ST. LOUIS - For the second year in a row, in-state, undergraduate students at Missouri's four-year, public colleges and universities won't see tuition or academic fees rise by a penny.

[Beware the zombie](#)

**UPCOMING**

**November**

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

**December**

**8** IBHE meeting, University of Chicago

**Save the Date**

2010 IBHE Meeting Schedule

January 26	Chicago
April 6	Chicago
June 1	Springfield
August 10	Chicago
October 5	Chicago
December 7	Chicago

**February**

**23-24** "Digging Deeper: Using the Induction and Mentoring Continuum for Program Advancement"  
[Registration](#) now open.

Halloween is past, but two community colleges have teamed up to produce a scary scenario starring cartoon zombies who, lemming-like, eschew community college for more expensive four-year schools. The result? A crushing mountain of student debt. The message from Elgin Community College and Harper College: College costs a lot. Community colleges make it affordable.

#### [Website tracks stimulus-related research grants](#)

A new website sponsored by national higher education organizations and major research universities provides a convenient way to track research grants received by each state under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The federal stimulus package that Congress approved will provide \$21.5 billion for scientific research. The new website includes an interactive map that shows the number of grants and the dollars received in each state.

In Illinois? **614** grants totaling **\$555,420,511**.

#### [IBHE seeks proposals for teacher quality grants](#)

The Board of Higher Education conducted a symposium this week to explain the purpose, background, and application procedures for Improving Teacher Quality grants. Access the [RFP](#).

### *People in the News*

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[Rita Hartung Cheng](#), current provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is Southern Illinois University President Glenn Poshard's choice to lead the Carbondale campus.

[David Merriman](#), a public economist who helps state and local governments develop fairer and more efficient ways to raise revenue and implement public policy, has been named head of economics at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

[Stephen Campbell](#), professor and head of restorative dentistry at the University of Illinois at Chicago, was named Educator of the Year by the American College of Prosthodontists.

### *Campus News*

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#### [NIU Accountancy faculty sweep innovation awards](#)

DeKalb, Ill. — When it comes to innovations in teaching accountancy, the NIU College of Business' Department of Accountancy cornered the market this year with a trio of professors sweeping the major honors.

#### [UIS Lincoln Scholar's Book named Top 5 Pick for 2009](#)

Dr. Michael Burlingame's book "Abraham Lincoln: A Life" has been picked by *The Atlantic Monthly* magazine as one of the top five books of 2009. Burlingame is a professor of history at the University of Illinois Springfield and holds the Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies.

#### [Mellon Foundation awards Illinois College \\$100,000](#)

Illinois College has received a \$100,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a multi-year program that will support faculty members as they incorporate information literacy into student assignments and classroom learning.

#### [Grant to Improve Early Literacy Skills in Urban Preschools](#)

A team of University of Illinois at Chicago researchers has received a three-year, \$4.1 million federal grant to establish a project to improve early language and literacy skills among urban preschool children.

## ***News from Higher Education***

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### **Report Highlights Characteristics of Colleges With High Transfer-Success Rates**

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

A new report by the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education may provide clues on how best to shepherd students from two-year to four-year institutions.

### **OPINION - Investing in America's Future**

(Forbes)

Our country is losing its competitiveness because we are not adequately investing in human capital. The most ominous sign of this trend is that the educational attainment of young adults is slipping steadily: The U.S. is the most developed nation in the world, yet it is now, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 15th among 29 industrialized countries in college completion rates.

### **Funding Publics**

(Inside Higher Ed)

WASHINGTON -- Recalibrating the puzzle pieces of support for public universities to include more financing from the federal government as state contributions wane might offer the best solutions for public universities' economic woes, a panel of presidents concluded here Sunday.

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