

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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ISAC  
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THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC AGENDA  
FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

[Public Agenda progress report, nursing grants, underrepresented groups report highlight IBHE meeting](#)

The Board of Higher Education will meet Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the University of Chicago with a host of challenging issues on the menu.

**Implementation of *Public Agenda* gaining momentum**

Board members will review a progress report on implementation of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. The report will show advances in developing a longitudinal data system, expanding a college and career readiness project at community colleges, and increasing outreach efforts to high school students to help them apply for college.

**[Solid gains for minorities in college, but achievement gap persists](#)**

Despite gains in minority college enrollments and among the ranks of faculty, Hispanics and blacks remain significantly underrepresented on college campuses. The 2009 *Underrepresented Groups Report to the Governor and General Assembly* shows solid upward trends for minority enrollments, credentials earned, and faculty hired. But despite the gains in the past 10 years, racial and ethnic minorities continue to trail whites and Asians in educational attainment.

**[IBHE to act on grants to retain high-quality nursing faculty](#)**

Eighteen nursing faculty will each receive a \$10,000 stipend under a program aimed at retaining highly qualified instructors at nursing schools across the state. The Illinois Board of Higher Education will vote on the proposal at its December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at the University of Chicago. The short supply of nursing faculty is often cited as one barrier to increasing the production of nurses at community colleges and four-year institutions. The program is designed to supplement the faculty member's salary in recognition for his or her achievements in the classroom and as an incentive to resist the lure of private sector jobs that often are more lucrative.

**[Salary gap widens for public university faculty](#)**

The annual faculty salary report shows that public universities lost ground in making faculty salaries competitive with national peers during the past four years. In fiscal 2009, the average faculty salary at public universities was \$75,800, or 93.6 percent of the median salary paid faculty at comparable institutions across the nation. In fiscal 2006, Illinois public universities were at 95 percent of the median salary at institutions with whom they compete for faculty. Other sectors – community colleges and private institutions – exceeded the median salary of peer schools.

**UPCOMING**

**December**

**8** IBHE meeting, University of Chicago

**January**

**26** IBHE meeting, Chicago State University

**February**

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

### [New credit card marketing regulations take effect January 1](#)

Postsecondary institutions that have agreements to market credit cards to undergraduate students will be required to provide web-based financial education material. The *Credit Card Marketing Act of 2009* ([P.A. 96-0261](#)) applies to any publicly or privately operated university, college, community college, junior college, business, technical or vocational school, or other educational institution offering degrees and instruction beyond the secondary school level. Furthermore, the Act applies not only to the institution, but also to its student groups, alumni associations, or affiliates.

### [Directory of DFI fellows aims to bolster placement opportunities](#)

The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) *2009/2010 Directory of Graduates* for current and future graduates has been published to increase placement opportunities for Illinois Fellows. The Directory includes information such as degree pursued/obtained, area of specialization, graduation date, research activities, and post-degree employment/internship/post-doctoral history.

### [Implementing the Post-9/11 GI Bill: Lessons learned and emerging issues](#)

On August 1, 2009, the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act—the most generous veterans education benefit program since the original GI Bill—went into effect. This program pays for up to 100% of tuition and fees (based on the most expensive state college/university in the student veteran's state) depending on the student's length of service. Some student veterans are also eligible for housing and book allowances. This policy brief examines the initial implementation of this new and complex program by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and notes some emerging issues for colleges and universities.

### [Wide range of colleges and universities show gains in effective educational practices](#)

A national survey released recently shows that a variety of colleges and universities has shown steady improvement in the quality of undergraduate education, as measured by students' exposure to and involvement in effective educational practices. The 2009 report from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), *Assessment for Improvement: Tracking Student Engagement Over Time*, details results from a 2009 survey of 360,000 students attending 617 U.S. colleges and universities, and it includes a special look at trends in student engagement at more than 200 of those schools that had four to six year's worth of data going back to 2004.

### [Four steps to improving productivity in higher education](#)

The Lumina Foundation is expanding its capacity to engage higher education leaders in every state who are working to achieve productivity gains and share their work to provide learning opportunities for the entire country. Through peer networks open to all states, sponsored research, a regularly updated website and convenings, Lumina will strive to support good work across the country over the coming years. You will be hearing more about these opportunities in the coming months. Meanwhile, a new Lumina publication, *Four Steps to Finishing First*, offers strategies, advice, and examples that can be adapted in all 50 states.

### [Considerations for state colleges and universities in a post-recession America](#)

The Great Recession has placed severe pressure on America's state colleges and universities and comes at a time when these very institutions must play a central role in the nation's economic recovery and its future prosperity. Although the economic downturn poses immense challenges, it also presents an exceptional opportunity to reaffirm institutional values and recast a new and invigorated way forward. This paper from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities discusses the recession's impact on state colleges and universities and offers four approaches for sustaining the historic student-centered and public purpose missions of these institutions in the post-recession era.

## People in the News

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The Saint Xavier University Board of Trustees announced the appointment of [Christine M. Wiseman](#), J.D. as the 18<sup>th</sup> president of the University, effective June 1, 2010. With a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate from Marquette University, Wiseman has spent nearly 30 years in Catholic higher education, most recently serving as Provost and Professor of Law at Loyola University of Chicago.

[Dr. Elaine P. Maimon](#), President of Governors State University joined the Presidents' Trust formed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). The Presidents' Trust is a leadership group within the AAC&U's national initiative is to promote Liberal Education and America's Promise: Excellence for Everyone as a Nation Goes To College. "At Governors State University we believe that students benefit from strong preparation in writing, critical thinking, and problem-solving — the liberal learning clearly articulated by the Presidents' Trust. It is essential that we combine liberal education with career education," said Maimon.

[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 and professor of economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Merriman is professor of public administration in the UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and in the university's Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

The Association of Community College Trustees has selected president of Moraine Valley Community College [Dr. Vernon O. Crawley](#), as the national 2009 Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Officer of the Year.



The Illinois Association of School Business Officials' President Darrell Moon presented the 2009 Executive Director Award to [Roger L. Eddy](#), Illinois Representative and Superintendent, Hutsonville CUSD 1 at the Closing General Session of the Joint Annual Conference. Roger Eddy was the recipient of this award because of his dedication to children and legislation that affects education.

## Campus News

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### [WUIS Public Radio launches new "Alternative" digital station](#)

The new station called "**Xponential Radio**" signed onto the airwaves in mid-October and can be received by using an HD radio or listening online at [www.wuis.org](http://www.wuis.org). The station is available on the second channel (HD-2) of the primary **WUIS 91.9 FM** digital signal.

### [Roosevelt University to build 32-story vertical campus for academics, student life and housing](#)

Roosevelt University will begin construction in February on a dramatic skyscraper that will be the second tallest university building in the nation.

### [Universities latest victims of state budget crisis](#)

State government's financial disarray is causing headaches for public universities, which are owed millions of dollars in state payments.

### [Community colleges could lose half of state funding](#)

In a troubled economy where rising unemployment is forcing throngs of jobseekers to return to school, community colleges offer a beacon of hope as a low-cost educational alternative. Yet, a cloud of uncertainty hangs over the state's 39 community colleges, which could lose half their state funding this year, or roughly \$148 million, despite seeing a 10 percent to 12 percent spike in student enrollment.

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

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### **Redefining access and success**

(Inside Higher Ed)

College and university leaders are regularly criticized for making too little information available or presenting only the data that shows them in the best light.

### **Pittsburgh pushes tax on college students**

(The Wall Street Journal)

PITTSBURGH -- Facing big unfunded pension liabilities for city workers, Pittsburgh is proposing what appears to be a one-of-a-kind 1% tuition tax on local university and college students, who claim the tax is illegal and unfair.

### **Education secretary outlines ambitious agenda**

(Austin American-Statesman)

Judging by his rapid-fire speech in San Antonio this morning to state college and university presidents from across the country, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan is a high-energy guy.

### **Lumina makes grants to 7 states to raise productivity in higher education**

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

As part of its goal to increase college-completion rates in the United States, the Lumina Foundation for Education announced on Tuesday that it would provide a total of up to \$9.1-million to seven states that are committed to adopting comprehensive policies to improve productivity in their higher-education systems.

### **Teaching with Twitter: Not for the faint of heart**

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Maybe Sugato Chakravarty should wear a helmet to class. The professor of consumer sciences and retailing at Purdue University repeatedly attempts the instructional equivalent of jumping a motorcycle over a row of flaming barrels.

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