

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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ICCB  
Chairman Guy Alongi  
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC  
Chairman Don McNeil  
Executive Director Andy Davis

December 11, 2009

[IBHE votes to push for state payments to alleviate cash flow problems](#)

Building on the success of the recent campaign to restore MAP grant funding, the Illinois Board of Higher Education voted at its December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to launch a similar effort to speed up state payment of appropriations to public colleges and universities.

After hearing several campus leaders say that serious consequences could result from the hundreds of millions in delinquent payments owed the institutions, the Board approved a resolution that "instructs staff to organize a campaign (utilizing the resources developed during the recent campaign supporting MAP) to support full funding of the State's financial obligations to its postsecondary institutions including whatever revenue sources and cost-saving measures are necessary to accomplish that goal."

[Illinois races for federal dollars to finance school reforms](#)

A report from Advance Illinois notes: Illinois has an historic chance to earn up to \$400 million in new, discretionary funds to drive planned reforms in classrooms throughout the state. State leaders must act boldly to take advantage of this rare opportunity. The \$400 million comes from the U.S. Department of Education's "Race to the Top" competition. The competition asks states to make critical reforms that support student achievement and close achievement gaps.

[Women Employed collaboration aims to improve college outcomes](#)

According to *Building Illinois' Workforce of the Future*, a new policy brief from Women Employed, nearly half of adult students enrolled in college leave school within three years without a degree or certificate. Yet a growing body of research demonstrates that early guidance and effective support services can increase completion rates.

Recently, Women Employed brought together community college administrators from across the state to discuss ways to implement recommendations from the policy brief in order to improve student success. The administrators are all members of Women Employed's [Clear Connections Project \(CCP\)](#), an innovative collaboration aimed at helping more students access support services that will enable them to succeed in college.

[ISAC announces 2010 Illinois State Scholar Honorees](#)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) recognized 19,345 high school students from 752 different schools from across the state as 2010 "Illinois State Scholars."

[Lumina proposes "shovel-ready" job-training initiative](#)

**UPCOMING**

**January**

- 22** ISAC Commission Meeting  
Northeastern Illinois  
University, Chicago, IL
- 26** IBHE meeting, Chicago  
State University
- 29** ICCB Board Meeting, Harry  
L. Crisp II Community  
College Center,  
Springfield, IL

**February**

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



**This is the last issue of  
The Friday Memo for 2009.  
Publication will resume  
January 8, 2010.  
We wish you a safe and joyous  
holiday season.**



In an effort to assist unemployed workers and meet workforce demands, the Lumina Foundation has proposed a new national program that allows students to achieve job-relevant postsecondary degrees and credentials very quickly—in a year or less. A "shovel ready" program focused on students seeking associate's degrees in high-demand, high-wage jobs could be established very rapidly in collaboration with community colleges and other providers that are able to deliver curriculum on an accelerated timeframe. The highest priority should be given to programs that:

1. Target unemployed adults.
2. Partner with employers.
3. Focus on high-demand, high-wage occupational areas—e.g., healthcare, teaching, green occupations, information technology.

### [Secretary Duncan outlines agenda for college affordability](#)

Last week, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan joined more than 6,000 officials from colleges and universities for the annual Federal Student Aid (FSA) Conference. In a morning keynote address, Duncan praised the House passage of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which authorizes up to \$87 billion for student aid over the next decade, including \$40 billion for mandatory inflation-indexed Pell Grants and \$10 billion to strengthen community colleges. The Secretary also discussed the need to eliminate "prohibitive, time-consuming administrative hurdles" by streamlining the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

### [A gift that lasts a lifetime](#)

Parents and grandparents often believe that the best gifts for their children are the ones they yearn for the most, but what happens in a couple of years when that Nintendo Wii or Zhu Zhu Hamster is obsolete? Fortunately, there are things to give that will last longer than the latest toy. A gift of a college education lasts a lifetime, and a College Illinois!® 529 Prepaid Tuition Program contract makes it affordable to give.

### [Texting, tweeting ought to be viewed as GR8 teaching tools, scholar says](#)

The impact of text messaging on the decline of formal writing among teens has been debated in pedagogical circles ever since cell-phone ownership became an adolescent rite of passage in the mid-2000s. But according to Carol L. Tilley, a University of Illinois professor of library and information science and expert in media literacy, not only are critics who argue that texting is synonymous with literary degradation wrong, they also often overlook the bigger role that texting and its distant cousin, "tweeting," could play in education and research.



## *People in the News*

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Eureka College President [J. David Arnold](#) was elected to a two-year term as Chairman of The Council of Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the council's annual meeting. The council is comprised of presidents and chancellors of 17 undergraduate institutions related to the Christian Church.

Illinois State University Professor of Chemistry [Gregory M. Ferrence](#) is the 2009 Illinois Professor of the Year. The U.S. Professors of the Year program selects one undergraduate instructor in each state who excels in teaching and mentoring.

## *Campus News*

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### [iTunes U boosts UIS' visibility on the web](#)

The University of Illinois Springfield's listing in the iTunes Store, a popular software-based online digital media store, is paying off in boosting the campus' presence on the web. UIS was selected by Apple, Inc. to join the iTunes Store on August 18, 2009. In the first three months UIS has been part of the iTunes store new downloads have increased by more than 75,000.

### **[Chicago Architecture Foundation honors Loyola University Chicago with Patron of the Year Award](#)**

Loyola University Chicago, with its Silver Level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified Richard J. Klarchek Information Commons building, has been named a winner of the Chicago Architecture Foundation's 2009 Patron of the Year awards. Completed in 2008, Loyola's Klarchek Information Commons is a completely digital research library that occupies a magnificent site on the shores of Lake Michigan, on the University's Lake Shore Campus.

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

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### **[A for-profit accountability system?](#)**

(Inside Higher Ed)

The University of Phoenix earned both praise and some criticism last year when it released its first "academic annual report," which was designed to respond to growing calls for higher education accountability and to provide a peek behind the curtain at the outcomes for students at the country's largest postsecondary institution.

### **[Compromise budget bill would increase Pell Grant and funds for NIH and NSF](#)**

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Legislators in Congress have agreed on a compromise spending bill for the 2010 fiscal year that would increase appropriations for Pell Grants, minority-serving institutions, and programs for disadvantaged and first-generation college students.

### **[Why students leave college](#)**

(Inside Higher Ed)

Young adults who attended college but left without graduating are likelier to attribute their departure to the need to work and make money than to the price of college. They also say that to get students like them to go to college, colleges and policy makers should focus as much on flexible scheduling and financial aid for part-time students as on cutting college prices, according to a survey released Wednesday by Public Agenda and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

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