

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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**[Governor cites value of higher education in State of State message](#)**

Governor Quinn, speaking to a joint session of the General Assembly for his State of the State address this week, highlighted the significant contribution of colleges and universities to the state's economic wellbeing.

Quinn cited the valuable role community colleges play in difficult economic times through job training programs. The Governor noted the success of the campaign to restore full funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP), and said, "We want to make sure that we have as many scholarships as possible for our students. I look forward to working with you as we go through this year and having dedicated funding for our scholarship program in Illinois."

And he said universities have an important role in fueling economic growth. "Jobs follow brainpower," Quinn said. "We have some of the best universities on planet Earth right here in Illinois. And it's important that we understand that we in our educational system are preparing those who are going to create the new businesses of the future, invent the new products, work in very complex jobs that require great skill. So education has to be a part of our economic agenda to protect and grow the middle class in Illinois. We've got to understand that education and jobs go together."

**Legislature approves Race to the Top measures**

In its quick two-day stop in Springfield this week, legislators found time to pass two bills vital to the state's effort to obtain some \$500 million in the competitive **[Race to the Top](#)** federal grant program. Lawmakers approved **[SB 315](#)**, which introduces "student growth" as a criterion in evaluations of teachers and school leaders. They also approved **[SB616](#)**, which would permit not-for-profit organizations to approve courses of study for alternative certification. The measures were passed to strengthen the state's application for the federal stimulus funds targeted to improving schools and making teachers and school leaders more effective. Governor Quinn signed the bills into law today.

The House Revenue and Finance Committee heard, but held **[HB 4622](#)**, sponsored by Rep. Bob Pritchard, to create a temporary tax amnesty program to fund Monetary Award Program ("MAP") grants for higher education. Under the bill, as amended by House Amendment #1, the amnesty program would last for 60 days from whenever the bill becomes law.

**[\\$1.7 million grant for Illinois Community College Sustainability Network will expand green job training, educational opportunities](#)**

Governor Pat Quinn announced a \$1.7 million state grant for the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network (ICCSN) to expand green educational and training offerings throughout Illinois' community college network. Part of the funding will be used to establish Green Jobs Centers at three Illinois campuses, including Southwestern Illinois College's (SWIC) Belleville Campus. "Investing in green job training will ensure Illinois' long-term success in one of the country's fastest-growing industries and will allow us to build upon our position as a leader in sustainability," said Governor Quinn. "This grant furthers our commitment to building a cleaner, greener Illinois and training a work force that's prepared to meet the demands of a green 21st century."

**UPCOMING**

**January**

- 22** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Governors State University
- 22** Illinois Student Assistance Commission meeting, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago
- 23-24** IBHE Student Advisory Committee, SIU-Carbondale
- 26** IBHE Board Meeting, Chicago State University 1:00 pm

## [Fixing the skills gap for the workforce of the future](#)

Putting people back to work is an essential strategy for long-term economic growth and prosperity. But jobs have changed a lot, and along with them the skills and knowledge required to enter and advance in the workforce. The current economic crisis has eliminated hundreds of thousands of jobs – most of them low-skill – that will not be coming back when the economy rebounds. They will be replaced by higher-skill jobs that require both broad knowledge and concrete work skills. These new and replacement jobs will need to be filled as quickly as possible by workers who have obtained high-quality postsecondary degrees and credentials.

To learn more about ideas from the Lumina Foundation for how to meet this critical national need, read **Three Ideas for a National Strategy to Rapidly Train Workers for New Economy Jobs** presented by Lumina President Jamie Merisotis at a recent meeting of the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board.

## [Illinois near bottom in \*Education Week's\* report card on education across the nation](#)

The nation and many states face a continuing struggle to deliver a high-quality education to all students, according to *Education Week's* annual education report card. The nation received a C when graded across the six distinct areas of policy and performance tracked by *Quality Counts*, the most comprehensive ongoing assessment of the state of American education. Illinois received a C-, and its score of 71.8 ranked 40<sup>th</sup> among the states. [Illinois](#) got B's in "chance for success," "early foundations," and "adult outcomes." But got D's in "K-12 achievement," "the teaching profession," and "transitions and alignment."

## **FEEDBACK**

Last week Friday Memo asked readers to add to the top ten list of issues facing higher education in 2010, as forecast by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

Ron Kimberling, President of [Argosy University](#), wrote:

I would add the issue of the U.S. Department of Education's Inspector General reports in December criticizing regional accreditors (such as the Higher Learning Commission) and recommending more stringent enforcement of traditional methods of assigned course credits. While this issue was initially seen as primarily affecting proprietary online institutions such as American InterContinental University, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* quite recently had a broad article about credit computation in the modern teaching/learning landscape that pointed out that the trends for ALL institutions have pointed in the direction of assessing learning against defined objectives, NOT how much time in a classroom seat is taken up by students. I think this issue can be summarized as "Federal regulatory pressures on accrediting bodies."

Do you have something to add? Write to [FridayMemo@ibhe.org](mailto:FridayMemo@ibhe.org).

## **DFI application now online**



Diversifying Higher Education  
Faculty in Illinois Program

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has released the [Diversifying Faculty In Illinois \(DFI\) application](#) for the 2010-2011 academic year. The goal of the DFI program is to increase the number of minority full-time, tenure-track faculty and staff at Illinois' two- and four-year, public and private colleges and universities. The DFI program is one of the statutorily authorized programs that addresses the educational disparities as documented in the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. The program is targeted to those who represent a critical component of the state's efforts to fill the teacher gap for populations lagging in educational attainment.

## [ARRA Grant Opportunity](#)

**Recovery Act Limited Competition: Research On Biosamples From Selected Diabetes Clinical Studies (RC4) Grant** intends to commit up to \$3,000,000 with 5-10 awards made for fiscal year 2010, pending the number and quality of applications and availability of funds. Closing date for applications is March 11, 2010.

## ***People in the News***

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Illinois State University Vice President and Provost Sheri Noren Everts has named [Sohair F. Wastawy](#) as the new dean of University Libraries effective June 1, 2010. Wastawy has served as the chief librarian at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina/Library of Alexandria in Egypt for the past six years. She was dean/director of Libraries at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Two Northwestern University faculty members were honored at the White House Jan. 13 as recipients of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). PECASE is the highest honor given by the U.S. government to outstanding scientists and engineers who are in the early stages of their independent research careers. The recipients are [Steven D. Jacobsen](#), assistant professor of Earth and planetary sciences in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, and [Melina Kibbe, M.D.](#), associate professor of surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine, vascular surgeon at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and co-chief of the vascular surgery service and director of the Vascular Laboratory at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center.

## ***Campus News***

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### **[Get latest news from WIU via your iPhone or iTouch with WIU News App](#)**

Users of the Apple iPhone or iTouch can now get news from Western Illinois University via University Relations' new "WIU News" app (application) available through Apple's App Store and iTunes. Developed through AppMakr (from the company PointAbout, Inc.), the WIU News app provides a quick way for iPhone or iTouch users to get the latest news from Western. "In our increasingly mobile society, it's essential that we stay on top of the latest trends so we can provide the most up-to-date news to our students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as to the general public," stated Darcie Shinberger, director of University Relations.

### **[Applications to University of Chicago increase significantly](#)**

The University of Chicago has recorded a substantial increase in applications to the College this year, forming the largest and most diverse undergraduate applicant pool in the school's history while maintaining the highest academic standards. The University received 19,306 applications for the class entering in the fall of 2010, a 42 percent increase from last year's total of 13,564. There were increases in applications from minority students, as well as increases from all income levels, from every geographic region of the U.S. and from outside the country.

### **[Logan spring enrollment projected to rise](#)**

Terry Crain, Dean for Student Services, at John A. Logan Community College, announced that spring semester enrollment numbers are up approximately 400 compared to the 2009 spring semester. "Last year on this date, we had an enrollment of 5,266, and as of today we stand at 5,631," Crain said. "We should be able to hold that increase, even though we are discontinuing registration a day early this year."

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

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### **[Oxford, Cambridge, U.K. colleges warn they face 'meltdown'](#)**

(USA TODAY)

LONDON (AP) — Oxford, Cambridge and other British universities said Tuesday that the government's plan to cut hundreds of millions of pounds (dollars) from their funding would put their world-class reputations in jeopardy.

### **Flogging the flagships**

(Inside Higher Ed)

Using catchy names like the Carolina Covenant, Access UVa, and the Illinois Promise, many of the country's public research universities -- like their elite private college peers -- have in the last several years created or expanded high-profile programs designed to increase their representation of students from low-income backgrounds and underrepresented minority groups.

### **Textbooks for rent ... everywhere**

(Inside Higher Ed)

A college education may be a lifetime investment, but college textbooks may only see use for a semester or less. And with many students pinching pennies because of tuition and tightening family budgets, some don't see buying textbooks as worth the cost, which is typically between \$700 and \$1,000 per year.

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