

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

January 29, 2010

[IBHE approves budget](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education voted unanimously to recommend an investment budget for fiscal 2011 to the Governor and General Assembly. The four-tiered budget contains recommended increases for higher education of 2% and 4% over FY2010 appropriations, equating to total higher education spending of \$2.25 billion and \$2.29 billion, respectively. It also has a step for level funding in FY11 and a step that would result in a decrease – replacing the loss of \$93.9 million in federal stimulus funds with \$4.3 million in general revenue funds.

[Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman](#) made clear that the Board did not endorse a reduction in higher ed funding. “This is *not* the budget that the Board of Higher Education is recommending,” the Chairwoman said. “What we will be recommending is an investment budget that at a minimum maintains higher ed funding at the fiscal year 2010 level and, beyond that minimum, includes two positive steps I feel these investment levels are justified, even in these times of fiscal emergency, or, I would argue, *because* the fiscal emergency makes investment in higher education even more necessary.”

[SHEEO president offers perspective on higher education funding](#)

Paul Lingenfelter, president of the State Higher Education Executive Officers association, assured IBHE members that Illinois higher education is not alone in facing difficult financial straits. Displaying an armada of charts and graphs, Lingenfelter noted that the decline in state appropriations per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student in Illinois is a national phenomenon as well, leaving tuition payers to take on a larger share of college costs.

[Illinois set to join alliance of states to improve college completion rates](#)

In a letter signed by Governor Quinn and the executives of the state's three higher education agencies, Illinois has accepted the invitation from Complete College America (CCA) to become one of the founding states in an alliance aimed at increasing educational attainment. The CCA is a new nonprofit organization headed by Stan Jones, former Indiana commissioner of higher education and by five national foundations. Its purpose is to help states increase degree completion and meet the goal set by President Obama for the U.S. to have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020.

The Governor's letter stated: “We recognize your organization's commitment to combine forces with states to take action, and take it promptly. Now is not too soon to close the attainment gaps for underserved citizens, and to increase the number of Americans achieving college and career success.”

[P-20 Council gets lesson on school leadership, quality teachers](#)

The Illinois P-20 Council, appointed recently by Governor Quinn, heard presentations this week on the importance of school leadership in improving student performance and how the state's Race to the Top application can support reform measures to develop more teachers that are effective. The Council – P-20 covers preschool to graduate school – is chaired by Chicago City Clerk Miguel del Valle, who was instrumental in school reform when he served in the state Senate. The Council was created to provide a mechanism to promote improvements in teaching and learning across the spectrum of P-12 and higher education.

UPCOMING

February

**19 IBHE Faculty Advisory
Council, SIU-
Edwardsville**

Illinois education leaders honored for work on longitudinal data system

The Data Quality Campaign (DQC) has named four Illinois officials as “State Policymakers of the Year” for their work championing the creation and implementation of a state longitudinal education data system.

DQC, a national, collaborative effort to strengthen the use of high-quality education data to improve student achievement, honored Sen. Heather Steans; Chris Koch, state superintendent of schools; Geoffrey Obrzut, president and CEO of the Illinois Community College Board, and IBHE Executive Director Judy Erwin, for passage of legislation establishing the comprehensive preschool through grad school data system designed to track student mobility and performance.

DQC noted that through collaboration and leadership of state policymakers, the State of Illinois made tremendous progress in the codification and implementation of a statewide longitudinal system. In 2009, with Governor Quinn’s signature, Illinois passed significant comprehensive legislation around building and using a statewide longitudinal data system ([Senate Bill 1828, Public Act 96-0107](#)).

Board approves nursing expansion, improvement grants

The Board of Higher Education on Tuesday approved allocation of \$843,984 to expand three successful nursing programs and to support improvement of two others. Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing, St Francis Medical Center College of Nursing, and Benedictine University will receive expansion grants, support high-performing nursing schools to expand capacity and increase the number of students preparing for careers as registered nurses. Improvement grants were approved for Lake Land College to address high attrition rates, and the University of Illinois at Chicago and Urbana-Champaign to expand capacity of labs.

What governors are saying about higher education

State of the State addresses across the country have proven worthy venues for governors to outline new education initiatives or comment on the value of schooling beyond high school. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) has compiled a useful summary, analysis, and feedback guide to what governors have been saying.

Governor releases funds to give Cole Hall a new purpose at NIU

DeKalb— Officials at Northern Illinois University welcomed news from Gov. Pat Quinn Wednesday that he has released \$10.3 million for construction projects, including “repurposing” Cole Hall. Cole Hall has remained closed since Feb. 14, 2008, when a gunman opened fire on a geology class, killing five students and injuring 19 others.

“Soon after the tragedy of Feb. 14, 2008, we came to the realization that any comprehensive healing process on campus must incorporate efforts to repurpose Cole Hall. With today’s announcement we take great satisfaction in knowing that we are one step closer to reaching that goal,” NIU President John Peters said.

Be aware – February is Financial Aid Awareness Month

February has been designated Financial Aid Awareness Month (FAAM) by Governor Pat Quinn, marking a period during which Illinois students and families can learn about the many financial aid opportunities available to help pay for college, and how to apply for them. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) will emphasize “putting your hands on some cash” as part of its KnowHow2Go Illinois initiative focusing on early completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Annual survey finds major growth in online learning

The 2009 survey of online learning by Sloan-C, a consortium of colleges and universities supported by the Sloan Foundation, has recorded significant growth in “learning on demand.”

According to the survey, over 4.6 million students were taking at least one online course during the fall 2008 term; a

17 percent increase over the number reported the previous year. The 17 percent growth rate for online enrollments far exceeds the 1.2 percent growth of the overall higher education student population. More than one in four college and university students now take at least one course online.

[Lumina Foundation for Education on the President's State of the Union Address](#)

Lumina President, Jamie Merisotis, responds to the President's statements concerning higher education by concluding: "There are specific steps that higher education institutions, states, and the federal government can take to increase higher education productivity, including: [Increasing and rewarding completion...Generating and reinvesting savings...Educating in affordable ways...](#)"

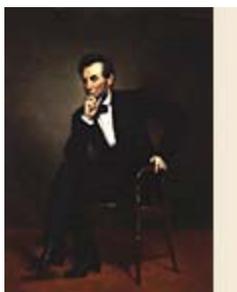
People in the News

[Bonnie Irwin](#) is the newly named dean of Eastern Illinois University's College of Arts and Humanities. She arrived on the EIU campus in 1994, working her way up to be a full professor of English before being named dean of Eastern's Honors College in 2004. She will assume her new role on July 1. Irwin received her higher education from the University of California, Berkeley.

[Brandon Lagana](#) has begun work as Northern Illinois University's admissions director, replacing Bob Burk, who retired at the end of December. Lagana came to NIU from the University of Maine at Farmington, where he served as the director of admissions for the past three years. He has spent his entire professional career in college admissions, including positions as director in Maine, senior assistant director of admissions, Early Outreach Programs counselor and admissions counselor at Ball State University and as admissions counselor at Albright College.

Campus News

[Lincoln life mask donated to UIS](#)



The **Rick and Dona McGraw** family of Springfield has donated one of only 15 bronze cast of an original **Abraham Lincoln life mask** to the University of Illinois Springfield.

The original plaster mold was taken of Lincoln's face by sculptor **Clark Mills** on February 11, 1865, just two months before his assassination. The mask shows the great toll the Civil War had taken on Lincoln's health with his tired eyes and face full of wrinkles.

[\\$100,000 gift supports minority students at SIU](#)

SIU Carbondale alumnus Ken Brown, an entrepreneur, motivational speaker and success coach, is donating \$100,000 to fund scholarships for minority students in various majors at Southern. His gift was made in cooperation with the University's Hope and Opportunity initiative, which seeks to raise \$1 million to provide equal opportunities and financial assistance to minority students and other traditionally underrepresented populations.

[Illinois humanities program awarded \\$1.25 million by Mellon Foundation](#)

The Illinois Program for the Research in the Humanities at the University of Illinois has received the grant, which will fund 10 post-doctoral fellowships in the humanities and humanistic social sciences during the next six years, with the first appointments to begin in the fall.

[Eureka College will observe the 99th anniversary of the birth of alumnus Ronald Reagan](#)

On February 6th, Reagan's eldest son, Michael Reagan, will lead a tour to Reagan-related sites. The event marks the first time that Reagan will see his father's birthplace and childhood home. A portion of the tour fee will go toward developing a scholarship for students transferring to Eureka College from Sauk Valley Community College.

News from Higher Education

[Colleges break enrollment records](#)

(The Southern Illinoisan)

John A. Logan College in Carterville will surpass the 7,000 enrollment figure again this spring semester, as it did in the fall. That's a 10 percent increase over spring 2009.

[The health-care debate in Congress: What's at stake for higher education](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Higher education, and particularly people and colleges involved in medical training, have a lot at stake in the sweeping health-care legislation that Congressional leaders are expected to continue wrangling over this week.

[Seeking middle ground](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

Certification, two-year-programs open career paths.

[The trustee-faculty relationship](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

Relations between faculty members and trustees are generally healthy, although each group could benefit from more education about the other's role in governance, according to a report issued Friday by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

[Tennessee legislators approve bill linking funds for colleges to students' success](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Tennessee legislature has approved a bill that would rewrite the state formula for allocating funds to public colleges and universities to put more emphasis on graduation and student-retention rates.

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