

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

February 12, 2010

[University presidents plead for backlog of appropriations](#)

The leaders of Illinois public universities called upon the Governor and Comptroller this week to provide funding committed to higher education in fiscal 2010 appropriations. In a [letter](#) to Gov. Quinn and Comptroller Hynes, the presidents and chancellors of the state's public universities urged the state to "honor its commitments" of support and set a payment schedule to enable the universities to "manage our respective cash flows . . . and sustain orderly operations." [Watch Press Conference Video >>](#)

[Hightman urges fix for budget crisis facing colleges and universities](#)

Carrie J. Hightman, Chairwoman of the IBHE, has urged the Governor and lawmakers to remedy the state's deteriorating fiscal condition. "I strongly urge State leaders and the General Assembly to act promptly to avert a financial catastrophe that jeopardizes student access to a high-quality and affordable system of public higher education," Hightman said in a statement. "I concur with the pleas this week from public university presidents and chancellors for the State to fulfill its financial promise made to the institutions and avoid the impending fiscal meltdown that potentially threatens college opportunities for tens of thousands of Illinois students."

The Chairwoman noted that she had [written to legislators](#) in early December to warn of the consequences of the cash flow crisis facing public colleges and universities. As of Jan. 25, community colleges and public universities faced a [backlog](#) of more than \$735 million in unpaid state appropriations.

[Governor to invite public input on budget](#)

Gov. Quinn announced this week that he will seek public comment on the fiscal 2011 budget through a new state website. On Feb. 24, the governor's office will post revenues and expenditures for FY 2010 and projected finances for next fiscal year, and then ask the public to react before March 10 when he will deliver the budget message to the General Assembly. "I plan to use the feedback and information received during the comment period to shape the FY11 budget," the Governor said in a letter to legislators. "A budget that reflects input from the people of Illinois will be a better budget for the people of Illinois."



**Sen. Maloney, Rep. Crespo seek studies of higher ed finance**

Resolutions offered in both chambers ask the IBHE to study finance issues for higher education, particularly the feasibility of performance-based funding.

[SJR 88](#), sponsored by Sen. Ed Maloney, would create a

**UPCOMING**

**February**

- 16-18** General Assembly in session
- 18** Latino Summit, 2010, Elgin Community College
- 19** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, SIU-Edwardsville
- 21** [College Goal Sunday](#)

**March**

- 11** State Universities Retirement System Board Meeting, Springfield
- 12** Illinois Presidents' Council Meeting, Oak Brook
- 13** Joint IBHE-SAC and ICCB-SAC meeting, Oak Brook
- 19** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, UIUC
- 26** ICCB Meeting, Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center, Springfield
- 26** ISAC Meeting, Illinois State University, Normal
- 27-28** IBHE-SAC meeting, Illinois State University

**April**

- 6** IBHE Meeting, Harold Washington College, Chicago

Higher Education Finance Commission to study various aspects of higher education funding, including comparisons of funding and productivity with other states and peer institutions, tuition and financial aid policies and their utility in improving certificate and degree completion, and best practices in other states for incentivizing certificate and degree completion.

[HJR 93](#), sponsored by Rep. Fred Crespo, would direct IBHE, along with ICCB and ISAC, to study the feasibility of implementing a performance-based funding system for Illinois higher education and report to the General Assembly by June 1.

Rep. Rich Myers has introduced legislation to create the Accountability in Higher Education Act. [HB 4906](#) would require public universities to submit annual reports on enrollments, tuition and fees, and academic and financial plans with evidence of how the plans would meet state goals. IBHE would be responsible for developing performance measures to gauge whether universities are contributing to state policy objectives.

[SB 642](#), which would give short-term borrowing authority to SIU is poised for passage in the Senate. The bill could become the vehicle for other universities to join SIU in seeking borrowing authority.

### [Enrollments continue to rise, but support for higher education battered by recession](#)

The fiscal 2009 State Higher Education Finance report, produced by the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), shows that, nationally, enrollment in public colleges and universities has continued an upward climb not matched by state support for higher education. Enrollments increased 3.4 percent in FY2009 to a record 10.8 million students at public institutions. Meanwhile, state dollars devoted to higher education fell from \$80.7 billion to \$77.9 billion, a loss mitigated by federal stimulus dollars.

Paul Lingenfelter, president of SHEEO, noted: "The economic vitality of our nation depends on successfully educating a much larger portion of Americans to a higher level of knowledge and skill than required in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But tuition increases and the volatility of higher education funding are making it much more difficult to meet the public needs for a better educated workforce."

### **Soto, Maloney schedule news conference on Affordability Summit**

Rep. Cynthia Soto and Sen. Ed Maloney will hold a news conference at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, in the Statehouse Pressroom to announce plans for a College Affordability Summit to be held later this month in Chicago. All members of the General Assembly have been invited to the one-day, invitation-only summit aimed at offering national perspectives on the issue of college affordability. The summit is the result of [HJR 54](#), sponsored by Soto and Maloney, which directed IBHE, ISAC, and ICCB to undertake a study of affordability and finance issues. Dennis Jones and Aims McGuinness, of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, and David Longanecker, president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, will lead discussions on linking all elements of higher education funding – state appropriations, student financial aid, and tuition – to achieve state goals. The summit will be held Feb. 26 at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

### **Discussion on improving education success for a growing Latino population**

The Illinois Community College Board, Elgin Community College, and Northern Illinois University are holding a Latino Summit 2010 on February 18, 2010 from 1:00 – 4:00 at Elgin Community College. College administrators and their community partners are encouraged to attend the one-day Summit to address the needs of the growing Latino student population.

### [Save the Date: 4<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Statewide Higher Ed Forum sponsored by Gateways to Opportunity](#)

On April 30, 2010 at the Parke Hotel in Bloomington, IL, Gateways to Opportunity will be hosting a Conversation on Collaborating for Success. This support network coordinates education and training for those seeking careers in services to children, youth and families. Registration will begin in March.

### [Illinois Math Science Partnership FY2010 IMSP Summer Workshop / Institute Program](#)

The Illinois State Board of Education has released an RFP for the design and implementation of a summer workshop / institute project. The project will consist of a partnership designed to improve the performance of Illinois students in the areas of math and science by offering an innovative, effective professional development program in teaching math and/or science or other approved grant activity. The program will allow teachers in the program an opportunity to increase their content knowledge as they explore challenging pedagogy and technology integration in the areas of math and science.

## ***Campus News***

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### **[Buffett Foundation taps SIUC for farming study](#)**

Researchers at Southern Illinois University Carbondale will receive nearly \$2 million from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to study the environmental impact of fertilizers, pesticides and transgenic corn, with an eye toward pinpointing large-scale cropping practices that are both profitable and environmentally friendly. The work will take place on Foundation-owned land in Christian and Macon counties. While the \$1.75 million grant runs for six years, Buffett anticipates donating additional funds to support research there through 2029.

### **[Illinois State University nursing graduates achieve 100 percent pass rate on licensure exam](#)**

Graduates of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the national nursing licensure examination (NCLEX-RN) on the first try in 2009, exceeding the national and state averages. The 101 students surpassed the nationwide NCLEX-RN pass rate of 88 percent and the State of Illinois pass rate of 91 percent. The high percentage of Mennonite graduates who pass the licensure exam the first time is due in a large part to the College's Success Plan. Under the leadership of faculty member Cathi Kaesberg, the Success Plan focuses on critical thinking, integration of theory with clinical practice and mastery in each course before progressing to the next. Mastery exams cover the specific subject matter included on the NCLEX-RN exam.

### **[UIC to offer region's only online Doctor of Public Health Degree](#)**

The University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health has launched the Midwest's first online Doctor of Public Health degree -- only the second such program in the U.S. The doctoral-level, distance-based program will allow public health professionals to pursue their DrPH with minimal disruption to family and work life and without having to travel to campus.

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

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### **[Better education shields women from worst of job cuts](#)**

(The Wall Street Journal)

Steady increases among women with college degrees over the past two decades apparently paid off during the recession, with government statistics showing they fared better than men over the past year, and for the first time surpassed the number of men holding payroll jobs.

### **[Inadequate information seen on college choices](#)**

(Inside Higher Ed)

Many prospective students and their families lack the information they need to make informed choices about colleges, according to a report, "Planning for College: A Consumer Approach to the Higher Education Marketplace." The report examines the kinds of decisions families make and the information they need.

### **[2-year honors boom](#)**

(Inside Higher Ed)

Amid the enrollment boom at community colleges, two-year honors programs have become more popular and -- in some cases -- more competitive than ever among traditional-age students.

**[Donations to colleges drop in 2009: Who is in the top 20?](#)**

(The Wall Street Journal)

Private donations to U.S. colleges and universities dropped a sharp 11.9% in the recessionary year of 2009 from the previous year to \$27.85 billion, according to the Voluntary Support of Education Survey released this week by the Council for Aid to Education.

**[Parents, students on edge over soaring tuition](#)**

(Daily Herald)

As students around the country anxiously wait for college acceptance letters, their parents are sweating the looming tuition bills at public universities.

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