

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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Executive Director Judy Erwin

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President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC
Chairman Don McNeil
Executive Director Andy Davis

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[Higher ed on budget chopping block](#)

News reports about Gov. Quinn's "preliminary budget" for fiscal 2011 indicate that higher education could face a cut of \$400 million. The cuts would be part of \$2 billion shaved from the budget year that starts July 1. K-12 schools would lose some \$900 million under the preliminary budget.

[Governor seeks public input on budget](#)

Gov. Quinn has posted information about the state's anemic fiscal condition on a dedicated website and asked for public comment. The website includes:



- a preliminary budget plan,
- a primer on budget basics with revenue trends,
- a page of resources that includes budgets for state departments,
- a FAQ, and
- a page for [public comment](#).

Senate passes reforms for General Assembly scholarships

On a vote of 54-0, the Senate approved [SB 365](#) to implement some reforms in awarding General Assembly scholarships. Bills to eliminate the scholarships, which entail a waiver of tuition and fees for persons selected by the legislator and attending a public university, did not emerge from a special subcommittee on legislative tuition waivers. SB 365, sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton, imposes restrictions on recipients and their families concerning political contributions to the legislator who awards the scholarship. The bill also prohibits granting a scholarship before the recipient has been admitted to an Illinois public university. In FY2009, there were 1,571 General Assembly scholarships awarded with a total value of \$13.5 million.

[Governor's Environmental Corps summer internship applications now being accepted](#)

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Doug Scott has announced that the agency will accept applications for the 2010 Governor's Environmental Corps (GEC) summer internship program through March 17. The program is a unique partnership between state government and Illinois corporations, whose sponsorship contributions pay the salaries and expenses of the college students who participate in the nine-week program. The 2010 session will run from June 1 through July 30, with up to 24 participants expected. Salaries have been set at \$1,645 per month.

[Grant application packet is available for Independent Colleges Capital Program \(ICCAP\)](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has released the Fiscal Year 2010 application materials for the

UPCOMING

March

- 11** State Universities Retirement System Board Meeting, Springfield
 - 16** Community College Presidents Council Lincoln Land Community College
 - 19** Illinois Community College Trustees Association, Oak Brook
 - 19** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, UIUC
 - 20** Joint ICCB-SAC and IBHE-SAC meeting, Oak Brook
 - 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

Independent Colleges Capital Program (ICCAP), a part of the Illinois Jobs Now! capital program. ICCAP is a formula-based grant program created to provide independent colleges with financial assistance for capital projects (Public Act 96-37, Sec 25). The program is funded with an appropriation of \$300 million in Build Illinois bond proceeds (Public Act 96-35). A conference call to walk through the application process is scheduled for Thursday, March 4 at 2 p.m. The conference call number is 888-808-6929; password is 472687#. The application deadline is April 15, 2010.

[P-20 Council goes online](#)



“The road to success in college and the workplace begins in the preschool classroom.”

With that perception, the new Illinois P-20 Council has launched a website to post meeting materials and other resources regarding the Council’s important work in spanning the preschool (P) to graduate school (20) education spectrum .

[Save the Date: 4th 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.

[People in the News](#)

The Board of Trustees of Wheaton College (IL) announced that [Dr. Philip Graham Ryken](#) has been appointed the eighth president of Wheaton College. He will assume the presidency July 1. Dr. Ryken, a 1988 graduate of the College, is the senior minister at the historic Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, where he has served since 1995.

[Richard Carter](#), director of nontraditional programs at Western Illinois University, has been awarded the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) 2010 William E. Kennedy Award. The award is presented annually to an employee of an institution offering education programs at military installations. Ann Showalter of the Rock Island Arsenal nominated Carter for the award.

[Marvin Garcia](#), director, Praxis Project, Alternative Schools Network, has been appointed by Governor Pat Quinn to serve as a member of the Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) Board of Trustees.

[Campus News](#)

[NSF grant provides scholarships in information technology](#)

Nearly \$600,000 in grant funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) is making it easier for students from underrepresented groups to study in Illinois State University’s School of Information Technology. Scholarships of up to \$20,000 will be available to information technology students thanks to the NSF’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) grant.

[NIU, Oakton to offer bachelor’s degree for first responders](#)

Northern Illinois University officials announced that starting in June 2010 the university will offer a Bachelor of Science in Applied Management degree



with an emphasis in public safety at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines. The new Bachelor of Science in Applied Management (BSAM) degree, recently approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, provides a convenient and affordable way for police officers, firefighters and emergency management personnel to earn an accredited bachelor's degree.

[Western Courier staff garners 10 awards from ICPA](#)

The Western Courier, the student-run newspaper at Western Illinois University, was honored with 10 awards at the Illinois College Press Association's (ICPA) annual convention in Chicago on February 19-20. "We're extremely pleased and honored to have been recognized by ICPA," said Ed Komenda, editor in chief of the Western Courier. "It was particularly gratifying because we competed against much larger daily college papers."

News from Higher Education

[Testing students for online readiness](#)

(Community College Times)

While online learning is fast becoming a popular option for students, it's not for everyone. In addition to the skills required to succeed in traditional classroom courses, online students must be self-motivated, disciplined, and good independent learners. Prior to enrolling in an online course, some two-year institutions are offering orientation for online courses, readiness assessments and tips for success. Illinois Community Colleges Online, a consortium of two-year institutions that shares online course and programs, has designed a system for students who are either considering an online course or are already enrolled in one.

[More students and not enough space: rural community colleges discuss challenges](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Rural community colleges are the fastest-growing of all community colleges in the United States, but they face many challenges as they expand, a group of community-college leaders told Education Department officials and Congressional staff members on Wednesday.

[As tuitions climb, 'drop-out insurance' gets more attention](#)

(USA TODAY)

People complain about car insurance, worry about health insurance and debate the need for life insurance, but there isn't much talk about tuition insurance.

[Study: Millennial generation more educated, less employed](#)

(USA TODAY)

The most detailed study to date of the 18- to 29-year-old Millennial generation finds this group probably will be the most educated in American history. But the 50 million Millennials also have the highest share who are unemployed or out of the workforce in almost four decades, according to the study, released today by the Pew Research Center.

Illinois Board of Higher Education
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404
Phone: (217) 782-2551
<http://www.ibhe.org>
FridayMemo@ibhe.org