

# Illinois Higher Ed *The Friday Memo*

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Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman  
Executive Director Judy Erwin

**ICCB**  
Chairman Guy Alongi  
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**ISAC**  
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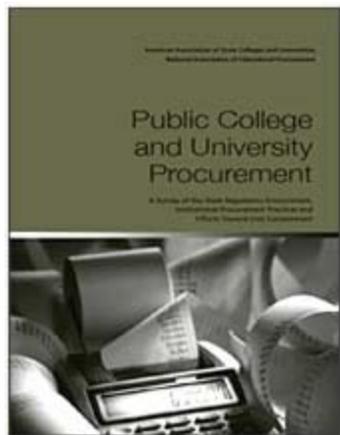


## [P-20 Council can unite education policy, del Valle says](#)

Miguel del Valle, Chicago City Clerk and former state senator, told the higher education community recently that while the state's grim fiscal condition hampers advances in education reform, the new P-20 Council offers an effective vehicle for uniting all education interests behind efforts to improve student success. "There is the most communication and collaboration that I've seen in the past 25-30 years," del Valle, who chairs the Council, said April 6 at the IBHE meeting at Harold Washington College.

"This bodes well for the future. Everyone is at the table," he said, noting that the Council is comprised of all state education agencies, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Early Learning Council, and other stakeholders. He also pointed out that the education dialogue has shifted from a focus "not just on enrollment, not just on recruitment, but completion. We want to increase the graduation rates at universities."

## [New report on procurement reform shows potential gains in public college costs savings and productivity](#)



Washington, D.C.—A new report released by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP) reveals that significant opportunity exists to increase cost savings, efficiency and productivity through the reform of state and institutional policies in public higher education procurement.

Based on a survey of procurement officials at the nation's public four-year universities, the report looks at the impact of state policies on institutional efforts to better control costs in campuses' purchasing operations.

## UPCOMING

### April

- 20** Senate Higher Education Committee, 2:30 p.m., Capitol, Room 409
- 21** House Higher Education Committee, 3 p.m., SOB, C-1
- 21** Save our Schools Save our State Rally, Springfield
- 21** University of Illinois Day at the Capitol, Springfield
- 22** House Appropriations-Higher Education Committee, 8 a.m., Capitol, Room 118, IBHE, IMSA, ISAC budgets
- 22** UNITED to Save Education Rally—ICCB-SAC, IBHE-SAC, FIICU students, Springfield
- 30** DFI Program Board Meeting, Kennedy King College, Chicago

### [Webinar set on Common Core Standards](#)

The American Council on Education (ACE) and Achieve will host *Common Core Standards: What Are They? And What Could They Mean to You?*, a webinar, on **Monday, May 3 from 3:00-5:30 p.m.**

ACE and Achieve are partnering to offer this informational webinar to discuss the implications of Common Core Standards for higher education in areas such as placement, general education, and teacher preparation.

According to the report, some state procurement policies—such as the mandated use of state contracts—inhibit colleges’ and universities’ ability to fully maximize purchasing power, generate cost savings, enhance product/service quality and improve procurement efficiency and productivity. Data shows that there is a general sense that some state policies limit institutions’ ability to appropriately tailor their purchasing needs.

Get the [Executive Summary with Recommendations](#) or the [Full Report](#).

## DATA DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING: Lumina report shows the key role information plays in student success

### Learning outcomes | [Data and student success](#)

As the need for increasing college-attainment levels in the United States becomes increasingly clear, states and institutions are taking steps to collect, analyze, use and share student-performance data to guide their improvement efforts. Lumina Foundation Focus: Off the Charts highlights the trends-and trendsetters-in this vital area. Also, **Aimee Guidera**, executive director of the Data Quality Campaign addresses the importance of this data in a [Q & A](#).

### Public policy | [Linking education, workforce data](#)

States have made tremendous progress in recent years to develop statewide education longitudinal data systems, says Education and Workforce Data Connections: A Primer on States' Status, from the Data Quality Campaign. However linking education and workforce data is in its infancy. This policy brief provides an overview from the DQC 2009-10 Annual Survey of education/workforce connections.



### [MAP in the news](#)

Financial aid awards face earliest-ever cutoff date.

ISAC may look to financial markets to finance aid for community college students.



## WASHINGTON UPDATE

### [Duncan urges emergency support for schools](#)

At a Senate appropriations subcommittee hearing this week on the Department of Education’s proposed budget for fiscal 2011, Secretary Arne Duncan drew members’ attention to the looming financial shortfall that states and school districts face, even as the U.S. economy recovers. We are gravely concerned that the kind of state and local budget threats our schools face today will put our hard-earned reforms at risk,” he stated. “Every day brings reports of layoffs, program cuts, class time reductions, and class size increases.” Mass layoffs “not only create hardships for educators who lose their jobs and the children they teach, but the damage ripples through the economy as a whole. Literally, tens of millions of students will experience budget cuts in one way or another.” The Secretary urged members to consider another round of emergency support for America’s schools, similar to the aid provided to states through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA).

### Harkin proposes \$23 billion for education jobs

Meanwhile, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) noted that Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman of both the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, introduced legislation that would provide \$23 billion for preserving education jobs. These funds would be distributed to states through the same formula used for education funds in last year’s stimulus bill and would support preserving jobs in both elementary and secondary education and public higher education.

The measure requires a governor to allocate federal funds among K-12 and higher education systems in proportion to the overall level of state budget cuts sustained by both sectors. However, the governor may adjust the allocation to K-12 and higher education by increasing or decreasing such amounts up to 10% of the larger of the two allocations. In addition, the measure includes a maintenance of effort (MOE) provision requiring a state to maintain the fiscal year 2006 funding level or the same overall fiscal year 2006 percentage of funding for each sector - higher education and elementary and secondary education - in the overall fiscal year 2010. In order to use funds in fiscal year 2011, the state must maintain the same, separate percentage for each sector - higher education and elementary and secondary education - as provided in fiscal year 2010.

A state-by-state estimate of receipts is [here](#).

### [Race to the Top: What worked?](#)

“Now that we have announced the Phase 1 winners of Race to the Top, it is worth stepping back and analyzing why our two winners -- Delaware and Tennessee -- did so well,” Secretary Duncan articulated in a blog entry. “The data confirm that no single factor can make or break any particular application but rather a combination of a successful track record, bold reforms, broad buy-in, and statewide impact is the key to success. It is easy to be bold if no one buys in, and it is easy to get buy-in if you are not bold. Neither matter much at all if you are not successful in reaching the kids in the classroom, and the bottom line is you must show results. To win Race to the Top, you need it all, and that requires courage, commitment, and capacity.”

[Applications for Phase 2 of Race to the Top are due June 1.](#)

### [Miss the i3 Webinars? Catch the re-runs](#)

Webinar recordings of the Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund's three pre-application workshops are available online. The purpose of these workshops was to offer technical assistance to interested applicants for the scale-up, validation, and development grants. More than 1,000 attendees participated in the workshops, and over 2,000 attendees participated remotely through the webinar.

[The deadline for all applications is May 11.](#)

### [A 'First Look' at grad rates, etc. from NCES](#)

The National Center for Education Statistics has released its “First Look” report on postsecondary enrollments, graduation rates, and financial statistics. A few highlights from the report on grad rates:

- Approximately 57 percent of full-time, first-time bachelor's or equivalent degree-seekers in 2002 attending 4-year institutions completed a bachelor's or equivalent degree at the institution where they began their studies within 6 years.
- Institutional graduation rates of full-time, first-time bachelor's or equivalent-seeking students attending 4-year institutions in 2002 were higher at private not-for-profit institutions than at public or private for-profit institutions. For example, the 4-year graduation rate of all bachelor's-seeking students was 51 percent at private not-for-profit institutions, 30 percent at public institutions, and 14 percent at private, for-profit institutions.
- Institutional graduation rates of full-time, first-time students in 2004 nearly doubled from 19 percent to 37 percent at 2-year institutions when the time students were tracked was extended from within 100 percent of normal time to program completion to within 200 percent of normal time.



## [The Secretary will now take your questions](#)

Education Secretary Arne Duncan and White House Domestic Policy Adviser Melody Barnes teamed up last week to answer questions about higher education in a live chat with students sponsored by HuffPost College network of college newspaper sites.



Among the questions:

- How does the White House plan to encourage high school minority students to pursue higher education?
- How can the *Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act* (SAFRA), which takes effect in 2014, help students who are in college today?
- What can the federal government do about the ever-increasing cost of higher education?

## [Study finds declining resources, increasing work hours account for rise in time to degree](#)

Time to completion of the baccalaureate degree has increased markedly in the United States over the last three decades, even as the wage premium for college graduates has continued to rise. Using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of the High School Class of 1972 and the National Educational Longitudinal Study of 1988, a study by the University of Michigan Institute of Social Research shows that there is evidence that the increases in time to degree are more marked amongst low-income students. Researchers found no evidence that changes in the college preparedness or the demographic composition of degree recipients can account for the observed increases. Instead, results suggest that declines in collegiate resources in the less-selective public sector increased time to degree. Furthermore, evidence indicates increased hours of employment among students, which is consistent with students working more to meet rising college costs and likely increases time to degree by crowding out time spent on academic pursuits.



## [College faculty unionization still contested territory, scholar says](#)

CHAMPAIGN — Despite growth in recent decades, unionization of higher education faculty remains contested, and its modern concerns can be traced back to the 1910s and 1920s, according to a University of Illinois expert in historical issues involving faculty work and faculty workers.

Timothy Reese Cain, a professor of educational organization and leadership in the College of Education at Illinois, says that although roughly 400,000 faculty and graduate students are covered today by collectively bargained contracts, scholars have thus far ignored the long, contentious history of faculty unionization.

## [People in the News](#)

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Northern Illinois University paid tribute to its 10th president in a ceremony celebrating the naming of a key building on campus in his honor. The former Faraday Hall West is now known as [John E. La Tourette](#) Hall. Located in the heart of campus, the building houses state-of-the-art physics and chemistry laboratories, lecture halls, classrooms and offices.

A University of Illinois professor specializing in the history of the British Empire has won a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. [Antoinette Burton](#), a professor of history and the Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies at Illinois, was one of 180 artists, scientists and scholars receiving this year's fellowships, which were announced on April 14.

Acclaimed novelist [Richard Powers](#), the Swanlund Chair and Center for Advanced Study Professor of English at the University of Illinois, has been elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Composed of 250 architects, artists, composers and writers, the American Academy of Arts and Letters fosters and sustains interest in

literature, music and the fine arts by identifying and encouraging individual artists. Election to the academy, based in New York, is considered the highest formal recognition of artistic merit in the U.S.

An internationally renowned researcher in the field of well-being will give the commencement address at Eureka College May 8. [Edward Diener](#), a leading scientist in the field of positive psychology, will share tips on leading a successful and happy life with approximately 190 graduates. Diener has taught psychology at the University of Illinois for 35 years. He has studied subjective well-being, life satisfaction and positive emotions for more than 30 years and has published more than 200 works on the subjects. His research has included hundreds of thousands of people in more than 140 countries.

## ***Campus News***

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### **[EIU panel to discuss budget crisis, future of education](#)**

Representatives of Eastern Illinois University's administration, faculty and students will discuss "The Illinois Budget Crisis and the Future of Education" on Monday, April 19. The forum will be held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Charleston/Mattoon Room of the MLK Jr. Union on campus. The public is invited. Panelists will be EIU President William Perry; Charles Delman, mathematics; Joy Russell, early childhood, elementary and middle level education; Richard Wandling, political science; and Eric Wilber, EIU student government. Bailey Young, history, will moderate the panel.

### **[UIS students win award at National Model U.N. Conference in New York](#)**

Members of the University of Illinois Springfield Model United Nations Club were honored with one of the group's highest global awards during a week-long conference in New York City. Model United Nations is a conference that simulates an actual United Nations meeting. The UIS delegation consisted of 14 students and one faculty member.

### **[Census institutes earlier dates for universities](#)**

As part of the 2010 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau is embarking on a special count of off-campus Northern Illinois University students. This includes those students living in apartments and rooming houses, and will occur across the country in communities with universities through at least Wednesday, April 21. Normally, people receiving a questionnaire in the mail who do not return their form are visited by census takers beginning May 1. However, many universities, such as NIU, have finals the first week of May. The Census Bureau recognized the difficulty of counting students during finals week. Accordingly, the Census Bureau is making a special effort to contact on and off-campus students during the month of April.

### **GSU table tennis team triumphs**



In its first appearance in the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) national championship competition, the Governors State University women's table tennis team made its presence known both on and off the court. Among the 14 women's teams participating in the April 10 and 11 competitions, GSU had the lowest skill rating at the beginning of the competition, but that rating did not indicate how well the team would perform. This is the first year that Governors State University has competed in NCTTA events.

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

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### **[Reuniting learning and labor](#)**

(Illinois Times)

Facing nearly half a billion dollars of unpaid bills from the State of Illinois, the University of Illinois says it will probably have to raise tuition nearly 20 percent over the next four years. Taking a page from the General Assembly accounting textbook, the university will pay its immediate bills by borrowing against tuition and promised state funding.

[Promoting higher graduation rates](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

A new report from the Southern Regional Education Board analyzes the practices at public colleges and universities that have higher graduation rates than comparable institutions, and suggests that there are specific policies that make their successes possible.

[Professors' pay rises 1.2%, lowest increase in 50 Years](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

"No Refuge," the title of the American Association of University Professors' latest annual report on faculty salaries, gives a nod to the economic realities from which higher education has been unable to escape. Among them: A paycheck that barely grew from the year before.

[Michigan college offers money back if grads don't get jobs](#)

(USA TODAY)

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Even as Michigan endures the nation's highest unemployment rate, there are jobs available in select fields for people with the right skills.

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