

Illinois Higher Ed *The Friday Memo*

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[Students urge lawmakers to fund MAP, higher ed](#)

Student leaders from colleges and universities across the state gathered Thursday under the Capitol dome to convince legislators that increased funding for higher education and for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) to assist low-income college students are sound investments.

"We have a common goal: we want to invest in our state's future by becoming successful graduates ready to strengthen Illinois' standing in the global economy," said Dimitra Georgouses, a Roosevelt University student who currently chairs the IBHE Student legislators to be the opportunity to from an Illinois



UPCOMING

April

- 28** House Higher Education Committee, 9 a.m., Room 122B, Capitol
- 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.**

Advisory Committee. "We are simply asking our part of the solution so that more Illinoisans have pursue a quality college degree or credential institution of higher learning."

[Study finds diminished buying power of MAP grant, explores options for sustaining financial aid program](#)

In October 2009, the Illinois General Assembly directed a study of the Monetary Award Program (MAP) while restoring a 50 percent reduction in MAP funding occasioned by the state's poor fiscal climate. House Joint Resolution 75 (HJR 75) required the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), in consultation with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), to study and provide recommendations on the efficiency and sustainability of MAP. The purpose of the study is to ensure that alternatives to current aid delivery methods are considered so that the State can be assured that student access, choice, and success will be met in the most effective and practical manner.



THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC AGENDA
FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

Bills to advance *Public Agenda* goals advance in House

[SB 3705](#), sponsored by Sen. Ed Maloney and Rep. Keith Farnham, passed the House Higher Education Committee, 7-0. The bill would extend the pilot College and Career Readiness Act another three years and expand it to additional community colleges. The successful program is designed to diagnose and rectify students' academic shortcomings in

high school to reduce needs for remedial coursework in college. The legislation supports Goal 1 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* by working to close the achievement gap.



[SB 3699](#), sponsored by Sen. Michael Bond and Rep. Kevin McCarthy, passed the House Higher Education Committee, 4-3. The bill would provide \$1,000 grants to students who graduate from a community college and have financial need to pursue a bachelor's degree. Students in STEM fields would qualify for an additional \$1,000 grant. By promoting educational attainment and degrees in the STEM fields, the legislation relates to Goals 1 and 3 of the *Public Agenda*. However, the sponsor acknowledged to the committee that the program would be "subject to appropriation," and it was unlikely the state's life-support fiscal condition would enable the state to fund grants in the foreseeable future.

[SB 3222](#), sponsored by Sen. Martin Sandoval and Rep. Robert Burke, passed the House Higher Education Committee, 4-2. The bill would standardize practices of public universities in charging tuition for students who extend beyond the four-year tuition guarantee. Although the bill was reported to the House floor, some of those who supported the bill in committee indicated some concerns with its provisions.

Maintenance of effort may be effective affordability tool

Recent federal legislation has included financial incentives for state lawmakers to maintain specified minimum funding levels for public higher education in order to dissuade states from substantially reducing their appropriation commitments. In establishing these "maintenance of effort" provisions that determine minimum funding thresholds states must meet in order to receive specified federal funds, Congress intended for these federal monies to *supplement* state resources aimed at supporting institutions and students, not *supplant* states' fiscal commitments to higher education.

An American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) analysis of state applications for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 reveals that its maintenance of effort provision appears to have successfully limited the amount of disinvestment in higher education during the current recession. This suggests that federal incentives and disincentives can help assure that states maintain adequate financial support to public colleges and universities, and in so doing, can contribute to college affordability.

Biden announces strengthening of Title IX

Vice President Biden has announced that the Administration has issued a '[Dear Colleague' letter](#) that withdraws a 2005 interpretation of Title IX policy. Enacted in 1972, Title IX mandates that any educational institution receiving federal funding for programs and activities cannot discriminate on the basis of sex.

The 2005 policy issued compliance standards that were widely criticized for being inadequate and inconsistent with Title IX's nondiscrimination goals. Biden's announcement reversed this interpretation, and returned to a more thorough test for assessing compliance with Title IX. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Senior White House Advisor Valerie Jarrett, Chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls, joined the Vice President at George Washington University for the announcement.



Coalition for Illinois High Schools' 5th Annual High School Challenge Conference on June 14-15, Double Tree Hotel, Bloomington. For registration information contact: Coalition for Illinois High Schools, P.O. Box 2715, Bloomington, IL 61702-2715 309-663-6377

People in the News

[Sarah Pfluger](#), a Physics and Mathematics Education major at Illinois State University, is the recipient of the Barbara Lotze Scholarship for Future Teachers. It is the highest national award for undergraduate students studying to become high school physics teachers. This scholarship recognizes Pfluger as one of the top two Physics Teacher Education candidates in the United States.

[Cary Nelson](#), president of the American Association of University Professors, has been re-elected to a third two-year term. Mr. Nelson is a professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Nelson is professor of English and Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. An author or editor of twenty-five books and the author of 150 articles, he has served on the AAUP's National Council for ten years, six as second vice president and the last four as president.

Campus News

[Green jobs in construction: a marketable certification for free](#)

The Institute for Workforce Education at St. Augustine College and The Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA) are partnering to provide a free construction pre-apprenticeship training program for men and women who are interested in entering the field of construction. The program's aim is to prepare participants to pass the union test or be sponsored into the union by obtaining a job directly.



[Nation's first community college opens first LEED-registered community college greenhouse in U.S.](#)

Joliet Junior College (JJC)—the nation's first public community college—extended its reputation for innovation with the dedication of its new Greenhouse Facility. The facility sprouts as the first community college (and second of any U.S. college or university) greenhouse to register for LEED-NC certification. Dr. James Ethridge, chair of the Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences department, expects the new facility to halve the carbon footprint of JJC's old greenhouse.

[WIU's COFAC adds iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad App for latest news, blogs](#)

If you are away from a computer but you want to know what's happening tonight in Western Illinois University's College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC), it's as easy as downloading the new COFAC app (application) available free through Apple's App Store and iTunes. Motivated by the WIU News app that was released in January, COFAC Dean Paul Kreider requested Khaing Saw, the college's instructional technology systems manager, to contract with AppMaker and create a splash page with links for every department and several COFAC units. AppMakr.com helped develop the COFAC app as a case study.



Commencement

[Happiness expert to speak at Eureka College](#)

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 at Eureka College May 8.

[Governor among speakers at UIC](#)

Gov. Pat Quinn, University of Illinois Board of Trustees Chairman Christopher G. Kennedy and other civic and business leaders are the featured speakers at college commencements at the University of Illinois at Chicago May 5-9.

Editor's note: For publication of Commencement Speakers and excerpts from speeches given, please send information to: FridayMemo@ibhe.org

News from Higher Education

[For-profit colleges offer another way to measure 'gainful employment'](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Warning that a proposed limit on student borrowing would force thousands of programs serving low-income students to close, the Career College Association on Thursday released an alternative that would require for-profit programs to provide prospective students with more information about their graduates' debt levels and salaries.

[Obama administration to give schools FAFSA completion data](#)

(USA TODAY)

Building on a project that has helped increase the proportion of Chicago public school students who applied for federal financial aid, the Obama administration is inviting school districts around the country to undertake their own such efforts.

[Hispanic-serving institution officials urge education reform to expand Latino opportunity](#)

(Diverse Issues In Higher Education)

WASHINGTON — In response to the booming Latino student population across the country, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) is encouraging concerted collaboration between Hispanic-serving higher education institutions and public school systems to increase the numbers of Hispanics advancing from preschool to graduate school.

[What the pledge means](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

SEATTLE – Six influential community college organizations signed a commitment to boost student completion rates by 50 percent over the next decade Tuesday, at the closing of this week's meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges.

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