

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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May 7, 2010

**SENATE PASSES LEVEL BUDGET FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

*House action still awaited*

The state Senate has passed a fiscal 2011 budget that maintains funding for higher education the FY10 level, including replacing \$94 million in federal stimulus dollars with General Revenue Funds. The \$2.2 billion higher ed spending plan was part of an overall \$26 billion budget contained in House Bill 859.

As of Friday afternoon, the House had not acted on the Senate budget plan, although motions to concur with the Senate amendments to HB 859 were on the House docket for consideration. On Thursday evening, the House discussed, but did not act on, SB 1211, an alternative budget that would cut 5% from FY10 appropriations for higher education, with the notable exception of ISAC, which would be funded at this year's level.

**Number of students falling off MAP grows**



CHICAGO — The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) announced that it has received 11,125 eligible Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant applications in the first 10 days since the agency began denying eligible applicants due to exhaustion of funds starting Monday, April 19.

Students who were eligible but denied could still receive a full or partial MAP grant for the 2010-2011 academic year if additional program funds are received or if award claim rates are not as high as anticipated.

**Good news on capital front**

The Governor has released \$30 million in FY2010 funding for higher education capital renewal projects at public universities and community colleges. This release represents 33% of the Illinois Jobs Now! appropriation for capital renewal in FY2010, which totaled \$90 million. This funding will allow campuses to begin addressing critical deferred maintenance needs.

In addition to the funds released for capital renewal, the Governor also released partial funding for other Illinois Jobs Now! projects including: \$750,000 for IMSA residence halls; \$500,000 for Joliet Junior College utility upgrades; and \$2.0 million for Triton College Technology Building Renovations.

**UPCOMING**

**May**

**14** IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council, DeVry University, Addison

**June**

**3** Community College Council of Presidents, Springfield

**3-5** ICCB Student Leadership Institute, Springfield

**4** ICCB meeting, Springfield

**4-5** Illinois Community College Trustees Annual Convention, Springfield

**11** SURS meeting, Chicago

**21** IBHE meeting, Chicago

**25** ISAC meeting, Palos Heights

## [Rick Winkel: Inaction is irresponsible](#)



*Rick Winkel has seen the widening budget gap from all sides, serving in the Legislature for more than a decade before joining the University of Illinois as director of the Office of Public Leadership and Public Affairs at the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. The former state senator, who also is an adjunct professor in the College of Law, discusses the state's financial crisis and possible solutions in an interview with U. of I. News Bureau Business & Law Editor Jan Dennis.*

**Many economists – including some of your colleagues at IGPA – say an income tax increase is likely necessary to pull Illinois out of its \$13 billion budget hole. Why is the Legislature so reluctant to consider one?**

Notwithstanding evident reluctance, support does exist in the Legislature for a tax increase. For example, in the state Senate, where 37 of the 59 members are Democrats, 31 Democrats voted in May 2009 to pass House Bill 174 to increase the income tax rate on individuals from 3 percent to 5 percent (a 67 percent increase) and amend the sales tax to include dry cleaning, video rentals and dozens of other services. No Senate Republicans voted for the measure.

### **Major legislation affecting higher education passed by General Assembly**

- **[SJR 88](#)** creates the Higher Education Finance Study Commission to:
  - Examine the history and trends of higher education funding, comparisons with other states and institutions, and the adequacy, equity, reliability of funding mechanisms.
  - Compare productivity of Illinois higher education with other states and institutions with peers.
  - Analyze best practices used in other states to incentivize degree completion.
  - Review tuition and financial aid policies to seek links to promoting degree and certificate completion.
  - Consider alternative funding approaches to foster achievement of the goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*.
- **[SB 2487](#)** transfers administration of the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act from the Illinois State Board of Education to IBHE.
- **[SB 642](#)** permits public universities to borrow against anticipated tuition revenue and state appropriations to meet cash flow shortages.
- **[SB 3222](#)** guarantees a fifth and sixth year of stable tuition under the truth-in-tuition program at public universities. Tuition rates for students who enter a fifth year of college would be raised to the level of the class immediately behind a student entering his or her fifth year and remain frozen through the sixth year.
- **[SB 3249](#)** requires compliance with the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act for capital projects in excess of \$250,000.

## [Chicagoland Alliance for Degree Completion Formed](#)

University Park– Twelve presidents of Chicago-area institutions of higher learning have announced the formation of an alliance aimed at boosting community college and baccalaureate graduation rates.

The Chicagoland Alliance for Degree Completion will engage in collaborative programs, efforts, and activities that facilitate and enhance student success toward matriculation and degree completion. Governors State University President Elaine P. Maimon hosted the summit at GSU's University Park campus.

By establishing the alliance, Dr. Maimon said, the presidents were creating an access road for students. "Let's build that road so students can travel wherever their success takes them."

## [The twain shall meet?](#)

### *Political scientists to meet political practitioners at UIS conference*

The University of Illinois Springfield will host the 10th annual **State Politics and Policy Conference (SPPC)** from June 3-5 with the theme “Political Scientists Meet Political Practitioners in the States – How Can We Help?” The core of the SPPC will be a series of 20 panels of political scientists presenting their cutting edge research on state legislatures, governors, policy, federalism, and more. These scholars will come from around the country and even overseas. Approximately 150 people will attend. This annual national conference is hosted by a different university every year; this is the first time the event has been held in Illinois.



### [SIUC honored for excellence in veterans education](#)

CARBONDALE – The state of Illinois honored Southern Illinois University Carbondale for its efforts to enhance the educational experiences of student military veterans.

Dan Grant, director of the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs, presented Chancellor Samuel Goldman with the inaugural Governor’s Award for Excellence in Veterans Education during ceremonies at the SIUC Student Health Center. The award recognizes the University’s efforts in implementing the 2009 Veterans Higher Education Bill, which is designed to “provide greater educational and informational

resources for veterans attending public colleges and universities in Illinois,” according to the agency.

### *People in the News*

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The Lincoln College Board of Trustees has announced that [Dr. Jon Astroth](#) will become the 20<sup>th</sup> president of the institution. Effective Aug. 16, he will take over leadership of the institution and its two Central Illinois campuses. Dr. Astroth has been president of Heartland Community College since 1991. Before that he was president of Rend Lake College.

**Marie A. Giacomelli**, vice president for external affairs at Robert Morris University, has been recognized as a Woman of Influence by Security Bank in Springfield.

### *Campus News*

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### [NIU, Kishwaukee College to offer bachelor’s degree for computer technical specialists](#)

Officials from Northern Illinois University and Kishwaukee College announced that starting this fall the university will offer a bachelor of science in applied management degree with an emphasis in computer science at the Kishwaukee campus in Malta. 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 individuals pursuing careers in computer information technology and systems to earn an accredited bachelor’s degree. Kishwaukee College students will be able to complete all coursework at the school’s Malta campus, with general education courses delivered by Kishwaukee faculty, at Kishwaukee’s rates, and the upper-level degree-specific courses delivered by NIU faculty, at NIU rates. The bachelor’s degree will be awarded by NIU.



*Kishwaukee College President discusses a new bachelor’s completion program with NIU President John Peters.*

[The BSAM in Computer Science will also be available in partnership with Rock Valley College, with students completing coursework at the NIU-Rockford Center](#), and at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines. Individual with approved AAS degrees in computer related fields are eligible to enroll in either program. All individuals in the program will be able to complete the general education component by taking courses at their local Illinois community college.

## *News from Higher Education*

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### **Frontline: 'For-profit colleges change higher education'**

(The Huffington Post)

The PBS show Frontline tackled the business of college in a one-hour special on for-profit universities, which have carved a multi-billion-dollar niche for themselves in the higher education sector.

### **Education chief vies to expand U.S. role as partner on local schools**

(The New York Times)

WASHINGTON — Education secretaries usually keep a low profile, in keeping with their agency's backseat status to states and local districts, which control schools.

### **More scrutiny for colleges' business practices**

(Inside Higher Ed)

The list of higher education business and tax practices that have fallen into U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley's crosshairs -- endowment spending, big-time intercollegiate athletics, investments in offshore hedge funds, presidential compensation -- has just grown by one.



## Commencement

[Northern Illinois University](#) will present an honorary doctoral degree to L. Tammy Duckworth, a decorated Black Hawk helicopter pilot whose severe combat wounds in Iraq cost her both of her legs and who now serves as a top ranking official in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Duckworth had been pursuing a Ph.D. at NIU before she was deployed to Iraq. She is expected to make brief comments upon accepting her honorary degree during the Graduate School commencement ceremony. Friday, May 7. Undergraduate ceremonies will take place on Saturday, May 8.

Commencement exercises for the 36th graduating class of [Southern Illinois University School of Medicine](#) will be held at noon Saturday, May 22. Sixty-eight physicians and six graduate students are receiving degrees. The commencement speaker is Dr. Damon T. Arnold, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the agency responsible for prevention and control of disease and injury in the state.

The 139th commencement of the [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#) will be held in two ceremonies May 16 (Sunday) at the Assembly Hall, The speaker at the 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. ceremonies will be Timothy P. Shriver, the chairman and chief executive officer of Special Olympics International. In recognition and appreciation of his dedication as an educator and as an advocate for people with disabilities, Shriver will be presented with the university's Presidential Medallion during the 10:30 ceremony.

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

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](mailto:FridayMemo@ibhe.org)

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