

Illinois Higher Ed *The Friday Memo*

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Legislature due back to piece together state budget

The Illinois House will return to Springfield at 4 p.m. Monday and the Senate at 4 p.m. Wednesday to try to wrap up a fiscal 2011 budget before the May 31st deadline imposes a super-majority requirement for passage of legislation with an immediate effective date.

Several House [committees](#) have been scheduled for Monday before or after the House session.

[Illinois gets \\$11.9 million data systems grant](#)

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today announced that Illinois was awarded \$11.9 million for the design and implementation of a statewide longitudinal data system. Statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDS) grants, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, support the development and implementation of data systems to enable states to examine student progress from early childhood into career, including matching teachers to students, while protecting student privacy and confidentiality consistent with applicable privacy protection laws.

Falling off the MAP



QUINCY (WGEM) --More college students need help paying tuition than ever before, but the state of Illinois is in the worst possible position to provide that help, which could leave students with a difficult decision to make.

[Click to see the WGEM report](#)

[Crossing the finish line](#)

SREB study shows how 15 schools – including WIU – help students graduate

First, focus on student retention and timely degree completion. Second, ensure the degree completion message is consistent and long-lasting. Next, intervene early to assist students. Then, everyone on campus needs to pitch in. Don't forget to get students engaged in the campus. Be sure to get faculty involved with students. Finally (or first), get personal.

This is the recipe for improving student retention and smoothing the path to graduation, a sort of “lessons learned” from 15 regional colleges and universities that have successfully improved graduation rates by focusing on student success. The study of best practices was compiled by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and included Western Illinois University where one person described student activities as “engaged intensiveness.”

UPCOMING	
May	
25	Illinois Terrorism Task Force Meeting, Springfield
26	P-20 Council Meeting, Chicago
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



Networking – *Students shouldn't have to go it alone*

Networking is an often a key avenue to success in most fields, from business contacts to political connections. As the Lumina Foundation's newsletter notes: "When networks and organizations build a platform for college access and success, students step up." Here are some networks that promote student success:

KnowHow2Go Learning Community: Connectivity Drives Change.

College Unbound brings the "big picture" to postsecondary classrooms.

LIFETIME, What Kids Can Do, and ENLACE help low-income, minority kids reach college aspirations.

The future of adult learning – a conversation with Anthony Carnevale

Anthony Carnevale currently serves as research professor and director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Between 1996 and 2006, Carnevale served as vice president for public leadership at the Educational Testing Service (ETS). While at ETS Carnevale was appointed by President George Bush to serve on the White House Commission on Technology and Adult Education.

Carnevale was interviewed by CAEL, the Center for Adult and Experiential Learning. He was asked about the impact of the Obama Administration on education policy:

"This Administration represents a dramatic break with the past. In the 1970s, when we had high inflation and stagnant growth, the response was to use the Department of Labor—to put the Department of Labor at the lead when work and employment and training were in question. High unemployment meant that the Department of Labor got a lot of money. After 1979, when Reagan was elected, they cut back the Labor Department budget considerably. In the meantime, the community colleges and the four-year schools, especially the urban universities, began to take on this function. By the time anybody tried to do anything about this shift in responsibility, it had become, and continues to be, conventional wisdom that if you have a high unemployment problem the answer is education.

"Now with the proposed AGI (American Graduation Initiative) Obama did something really abrupt from the point of view of the education world. He sent the money directly to the community colleges. That has never been done before. What he is essentially saying is that work-related training, which is the value he sees in community colleges, is where we need to put the money down. It is two years. It is cheaper. It leads to labor market success. This Administration wants to include non-degree learning. They want to include certificates and industry-based certifications as part of the effort. They are working very hard to find ways to measure those things, to track them, to fund them, and to make sure they are worth the money. This is a shift."

ALL ABOARD

DePaul student wins Amtrak video contest

At first DePaul University sophomore Paul Hennessy wasn't going to enter an Amtrak video contest because he was so busy with schoolwork and figured he wouldn't win. But, after thinking about it some more, he figured, "Why not?"



Tracy Robinson (left), director of marketing for Amtrak; Amtrak Board Chairman Thomas Carper; and DePaul student Paul Hennessy, winner of the Amtrak video contest.

Lucky for Hennessy he reconsidered. With more than 3,000 votes, Hennessy won Amtrak's TRAINsportation Video Contest and was honored during the recent National Train Day ceremonies at Chicago's Union Station.

Check out the award-winning [video](#).

Campus News

[Record number attend UIS online student graduation brunch](#)

The University of Illinois Springfield hosted 48 online students for its annual pre-graduation brunch and celebration in the Sangamon Auditorium lobby on Saturday, May 15. Online students from 13 different states, including Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina and Texas attended the event. For many of the students it was the first time they had stepped foot on the UIS campus, but for others they chose online learning for the convenience factor.

[UIC's 'Operation Immunization' claims top national prize](#)

Immunizations have protected millions of people from potentially deadly diseases. Pharmacy students at the University of Illinois at Chicago are developing new ways to vaccinate more people. For their efforts, the UIC College of Pharmacy's "Operation Immunization" claimed the top national award from the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists, at the group's annual meeting in Washington. The UIC students immunized and educated people at more than 150 flu-shot clinics at community pharmacies, civic centers, churches and employer sites throughout the Chicago area from September to December of last year, said Carolyn Sharpe, third-year student in the doctor of pharmacy program and chairwoman of Operation Immunization. The Operation Immunization campaign resulted in nearly 15,000 people being immunized, Sharpe said. More than 6,600 received health and wellness clinical services, and 106,000 were educated. More than 220 events were conducted through 15 projects by the 343 student pharmacists and 17 faculty and staff who assisted.

News from Higher Education

[Connecting students to aid](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

WASHINGTON – Millions of dollars in federal financial aid go unclaimed each year by eligible low-income students at community colleges, according to the inaugural report from the College Board's new Advocacy & Policy Center.

[Wins for higher ed in 2 state votes](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

On a primary election day in which anti-tax, anti-government sentiment was strong nationally, public colleges and universities in Arizona and Oregon won key victories. In Arizona, voters backed Proposition 100, which will temporarily increase the sales tax by one cent on the dollar. Education (elementary and secondary schools primarily, but also higher education) will be the primary beneficiary of the additional funds. In Oregon, voters approved changes in bond rules that will allow public colleges and universities to use low-cost bonds to finance the purchase of existing buildings, not just the construction of new ones.

[Plan B: Skip college](#)

(The New York Times)

What's the key to success in the United States? Short of becoming a reality TV star, the answer is rote and, some would argue, rather knee-jerk: Earn a college degree.



Commencement

[Saint Xavier University](#)'s new president Christine M. Wiseman, J.D. presided over the University's 2010 Spring Commencement on May 16 at the Chicago campus. More than 850 students received their diplomas.

U.S. Under Secretary Martha Kanter will address the 2010 graduates of [Moraine Valley Community College](#) on Friday, May 21, in Palos Hills, Illinois. She will discuss the impact of community colleges on educating Americans for a diverse and rapidly-changing workforce.

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