

Illinois Higher Ed *The Friday Memo*

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Executive Director Andy Davis

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[That NEW college spirit](#)

Complete College America launches movement to raise educational attainment

With education and government leaders from 22 states – including Illinois – on hand, Complete College America (CCA), a new national nonprofit organization, formally kicked off its drive last week to increase the number of Americans with college credentials to 60% of the population by 2020. This is consistent with the goal President Obama set for the U.S. to be the most educated nation in the world by 2020.

CCA hosted a conference for its Alliance of States June 3-4 in Nashville, Tennessee. Presentations, available on the CCA website, covered a variety of issues:

- Setting and measuring goals for educational attainment for states and campuses,
- Transforming remediation,
- Restructuring educational approaches to speed time-to-degree and promote student success,
- The economic value of certificate programs,
- Shifting to performance funding, and
- Building public and policymaker support.

[Governor signs university borrowing bill](#)

Governor Pat Quinn this week signed Senate Bill 642 into law, permitting Illinois' public universities to borrow money in anticipation of already-authorized state funding. Illinois' local school districts are able to borrow money in anticipation of tax receipts, but public universities have not had that option until now.

"This legislation will give our public universities an important fiscal tool to manage through this unprecedented economic crisis," said Governor Quinn. "We are committed to doing everything we can in Illinois to make sure our students receive the highest-quality education possible."

- [Listen](#) to a tape of the signing ceremony.
- [Watch](#) a video of SIU President Glenn Poshard on need to borrow.



State Senator Gary Forby (center) speaks about the economic need for vibrant public universities at bill-signing ceremony with Gov. Quinn and SIU President Glenn Poshard. (Photo by Brandy Renfro)

The state owes community colleges and public universities nearly \$700 million in appropriated funds that haven't been paid.

[Erwin says school leader reform focuses on students](#)

A new reform measure signed into law recently by Gov. Quinn is a watershed event that will transform how school

UPCOMING

June

- 11 SURS meeting, Chicago
IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, SIU, Carbondale Academic Leadership Group, Springfield
- 21 IBHE meeting, Chicago
- 25 ISAC meeting, Palos Heights

principals are recruited, trained, and certified, says Judy Erwin, executive director of IBHE. Writing in [Catalyst](#) magazine, Erwin says, "Research is unequivocal in identifying two factors that most influence student success: the quality of teaching and the quality of school leadership. And we also know that quality teachers don't stay in schools where there is not a high-quality, effective school leader."

WASHINGTON UPDATE



High School graduation rate inches upward

A new report from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), a part of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), presents findings associated with public high school graduation and dropout rates, for the 2007-08 school year. Nationwide, 75% of public high school students who started as freshmen in the fall of 2004 graduated high school in 2008 -- up from 74% who graduated on time in 2007. Also, the Average Freshmen Graduation Rate (AFGR) increased by at least one percentage point in 16 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, 4% of public high school students dropped out of school during the 2007-08 school year -- a decrease of at least a half a percentage point for 14 states and the District of Columbia from 2006-07.

Duncan appoints members of panel to gauge student success

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has announced the appointment of the 15 members to serve on the Committee on Measures of Student Success. Created under the *Higher Education Opportunity Act*, the committee will develop recommendations for two-year institutions of higher education to comply with the law's completion and graduation rate disclosure requirements. It will also develop recommendations regarding additional measures of student success that are comparable alternatives to the completion or graduation rates, taking into account the mission and role of such institutions.

Summertime . . .



. . . and Friday Memo will go on its bimonthly schedule. Look for FM in your inbox in two weeks.

Carnegie report urges reforms in medical education

A new report from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has recommended a transformation of education of future physicians. Among the report's recommendations:

- Standardizing learning outcomes and competencies and then offering options for individualizing the learning process for students and residents,
- Early "immersion" in clinical experiences,
- Support for future physicians to engage in "inquiry, discovery, and systems innovation."

Off the MAP – number of eligible students denied MAP grants exceeds 35,000, and counting



Demand for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) is increasing at an unprecedented rate. At the end of the day on April 18th, 2010, the approximately \$400 million - the amount that would be available for MAP in the 2010-11 school year under the Governor's recommended budget-- was all spoken for. This year over two hundred thousand students that are eligible for MAP awards will not have the opportunity to claim this help from the State of Illinois, according to recent estimates.

[Survey finds parents embrace national math/science standards . . . but their school is doing fine](#)

Americans are convinced that math and science skills are crucial for the future, according to "Are We Beginning To See The Light?", a **Public Agenda** survey which found strong majorities who say there will be more jobs and college opportunities for students with those skills. Our study also found that while there's broad support from parents and the general public for K-12 national standards, more than half of parents (52%) say the math and science education their child is getting in school is "fine as it is."

These are just some of the many surprising realities facing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in public schools, according to the results of this nationwide survey, funded by the GE Foundation, which explored the views of over 1,400 individuals including 646 parents of children grades K-12.

[Homework, exams, term papers . . . in the middle of July?!?](#)

U of I Professor Carolyn Shields discuss year-round schooling

Editor's note: As the school year winds down, Carolyn Shields, a professor of education at Illinois, talks about the one topic guaranteed to send a shiver up the spine of any elementary or high school student: the prospect of year-round schooling. She was interviewed by University of Illinois News Bureau Education editor Phil Ciciora (pciciora@illinois.edu).

Getting summers off seems somewhat anachronistic now that the vast majority of school-age children don't work on farms. Should U.S. schools move to a year-round schedule?



Professor Carol Shields

Actually, we have a mistaken notion that our current school calendar was originally developed to accommodate farm work. In fact, it's actually a compromise from the late 1800s, when children in rural schools attended school for six months and urban schools were open all year, although children didn't necessarily attend all 12 months of the year. To achieve a common curriculum, Horace Mann, an education reformer who was later elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, negotiated the nine-month compromise.

Given the ways in which society has changed in the last 150 years, perhaps it's time for Mann's compromise to be updated. I'm not convinced that every school should necessarily move to a year-round schedule, although research shows there may be substantial benefits – especially where there is considerable ethnic and economic diversity.

[Coalition for Illinois High Schools Conference Slated for June 14-15](#)

The Coalition for Illinois High Schools will hold the fifth annual High School Challenge Conference for educators "Promoting Student Success: A Variety of Approaches" June 14-15 in Bloomington.

[People in the News](#)



Rep. Kevin Joyce announced on June 9 he is planning to retire from the General Assembly. "My wife and I just came to the decision that we just can't do it anymore," Joyce said, adding that the couple is expecting their eighth child. Joyce has been a member of the Illinois House since 2003 representing the 35th District, and is currently the Vice-Chairperson of the House Appropriations Committee for Higher Education. He has been an important voice on higher education issues, and sponsored legislation in 2003 to institute the guaranteed tuition policy at public universities.

The Western Illinois University Board of Trustees (BOT) elected officers at its June 4 meeting for July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011. [J. Michael Houston](#) of Springfield (IL), president and CEO of Town & Country Bank in Springfield, was elected chair. [Carolyn Ehlert](#) of Milan (IL), retired from Deere & Company as executive director of Public Affairs & Program Support, Public Affairs Worldwide, was elected vice chair. [Bill Epperly](#) of Chicago (IL), vice president of marketing and development for Imprezio Marketing, was elected secretary. [Chris Bronson](#), a graduate kinesiology student from Arlington Heights (IL), was elected by the student body to serve as Western's Board of Trustees student representative.



The Illinois Community College Trustees Association selected **Judy Erwin**, IBHE executive director, as the recipient of their Meritorious Service Award for 2010. It was announced at the awards banquet held on June 4.

[Campus News](#)

[Law school just got shorter for Lewis University students](#)

Lewis University and The John Marshall Law School in Chicago announced an agreement on an accelerated admission program for undergraduates entering law school. The agreement ensures that eligible Lewis University students will be considered for admission into The John Marshall Law School after completing their junior year of undergraduate studies. A student can transfer credit earned during the first year of law school back to Lewis to complete requirements for the bachelor's degree.

[Solar Car Team to compete in American Solar Challenge](#)



A team of Illinois State University students will drive a car 1,100 miles from Tulsa, Oklahoma to Naperville, Illinois, using only sunlight for fuel. The student-built, solar-powered vehicle, Mercury III, will be an entry in the 2010 American Solar Challenge (ASC) race, beginning on June 19. The race includes an overnight stop on the Illinois State campus.

[Nine SXU volunteers built a home for needy people](#)

Nine Saint Xavier University students and staff recently traveled to Belize with a Sister of Mercy to help build a home for needy people as part of the Third International Mercy Service Trip. In accord with the University's mission and core values of providing service to those in need, the group volunteered with the Building for Change program through Hand in Hand Ministries in Belize City to build a basic 16x16 home for a woman and her mother who previously were residing in an uninhabitable structure.

[Textbook rental program](#)

As a college student on a limited budget, which would you rather do: buy a new textbook for \$100, buy a used book for \$75, get an e-book for \$60 or rent a text for the semester for \$45? In an effort to help students curb the cost of textbooks, the Western Illinois University Union Bookstore is launching a textbook rental pilot program in Fall 2010. According to Bookstore Director Jude Kiah, the University Bookstore is working in conjunction with the store's distributor to begin offering the rental program for 50 to 100 titles this fall. Kiah said it's their goal to rent 95 percent of

the school's necessary texts by Spring 2011.

[Downstate Innocence Project awards honor those fighting for justice](#)

The Downstate Illinois Innocence Project, housed at the University of Illinois Springfield held its third Defenders of the Innocent Awards Reception on May 24 at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield. The featured guest was Rolando Cruz, who along with his co-defendant Alejandro Hernandez, was wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death for the brutal murder of 10-year-old Jeanine Nicarico of Naperville in 1983. Cruz, along with his three children handed out Profiles in Courage Awards to the investigators who helped set him free. Former Assistant Attorney General Mary Brigid Hayes, former DuPage County Sheriff John Sam and former Illinois State Police Commander Edward Cisowski each received the award.

News from Higher Education

[Tracking the value \(at least in jobs\) of federal research spending](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

More than five years ago, the then-White House science adviser, John H. Marburger III, asked researchers a seemingly simple question: Given the billions of tax dollars they get each year, why don't they have good data on the value of what they produce? That question may finally be getting answered.

[Georgia: As scholarship programs strain, will students begin to lose HOPE?](#)

(Stateline.org)

When Georgia launched a college scholarship program called HOPE back in 1993, it was the first financial-aid program of its kind. HOPE essentially made higher education free for all Georgia students who graduate from high school with a B average or higher.

[College groups herald release of K-12 core standards](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

With a statement of support from a broad coalition of higher education groups, the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers formally unveiled a set of "common core" academic standards that, the groups hope, could become a baseline for state expectations for what students must learn to be prepared for college and the work force.

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