

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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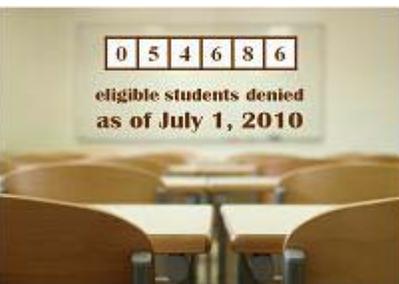
July 9, 2010

[Happy New \(Fiscal\) Year 2011](#)

Governor Pat Quinn took action on the State budget on July 1, making an overall \$1.4 billion cut from the budget approved by the legislature. In [the higher education budget](#), the Governor vetoed \$87 million from public university operating funds, a 6.2% reduction, bringing university funding back to the FY06 level. Community colleges will experience a reduction of \$14 million for Student Success grants. Funding for the grants in FY10 came from the Governor's discretionary funds. There are no reductions in community college base operating or equalization grants or any other grants. \$26.7 million is restored to community colleges for Adult Education and Career and Technical Education to maintain level funding. Funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) is preserved. IBHE grants are maintained at FY10 levels. The Governor may establish reserves later per authority granted by the Emergency Budget Act. In addition, the [Governor's Executive Order 10-10](#) requires additional spending reductions for state agencies including colleges and universities.

[Federal student aid](#)

July 1 was a historic day in higher education, as provisions of the recently approved *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act* took effect. The biggest and most important change was the elimination of the bank-based Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. All new federal student loans will be made through the Direct Loan Program, whereby students borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education instead of banks. This change, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), will save the federal government \$68 billion over the next 11 years. "We are one step closer to achieving the President's goal of having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020," Secretary Duncan said. "These changes will expand educational opportunities for millions of students and families and will make it easier for them to pay for college."



[Off the MAP – number of eligible students denied MAP grants exceeds 54,000, and counting](#)

UPCOMING

July

27 Higher Education Finance Study Commission, UIC, Chicago

Summertime . . .



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

[Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success application](#)

The purpose of this program is to encourage institutions of higher education (IHEs) to develop model programs to support veteran student success in postsecondary education by coordinating services to address the academic, financial, physical, and social needs of veteran students. Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically by July 30.

[ICCCA November Conference reminder and call for proposals](#)

The Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) is now accepting proposals in conjunction with the conference theme, "*Leading Illinois Back to Work: Sustaining our Future*," from administrators who would like to present at the ICCCA Fall Conference to be held Wednesday, November 17, through Friday, November 19, 2010, at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

[First-generation students focus of \\$1 million grant](#)

A private foundation is investing in Southern Illinois University Carbondale's efforts to improve the graduation rate of first-generation students. A longstanding commitment to first-generation students -- those whose parents did not attend college -- was one of the reasons The Suder Foundation, of Plano, Texas, selected the University for the five-year, \$1 million program. Along with SIUC, the foundation awarded a grant to the University of Alabama. SIUC and Alabama competed with 32 other universities. Nearly 43 percent of SIUC's 2009 first-time entering freshmen were first-generation students.

"We appreciate The Suder Foundation's confidence in our University and we are excited about what this program will mean for our students," Chancellor Rita Cheng said. "We provide support systems and additional tools to help our first-year students make a successful transition to the University, because success in that first year is key to students reaching their educational goals. But first-generation students can face additional challenges, and this program will enhance our efforts at helping them succeed throughout their careers here."

[Flash Index shows slight rise in June](#)

A key measure of the Illinois economy continues to confirm the slow pace of recovery in the state. The University of Illinois Flash Index rose in June to 91.3, a climb of seven tenths of a point from May but still well below the post-recession high set in March of this year. The Flash Index, which is the first measure of the pace of the Illinois economy each month, had fallen for two consecutive months after climbing out of its recession low of 90.0 last September to a level of 91.8 in March. The index remains well below the level of 100, which marks the dividing line between economic contraction and growth.

"The index confirms the sluggish pace of recovery," said economist J. Fred Giertz of the U of I Institute of Government and Public Affairs. "The Illinois unemployment rate for May showed some improvement, but remained 1.1 percentage points higher than the national rate. "While there appears to be little chance of a double-dip recession, the speed of recovery remains painfully slow in Illinois and the nation," said Giertz, who has compiled the Flash Index for IGPA since 1995.

[ISAC Salutes Late Senator Robert Byrd](#)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) issued a statement about the passing of Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) on June 28, 2010. Byrd's legacy includes the creation of the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholars Program and the Traditional American History (TAH) grant program for K-12 school districts. Byrd was the valedictorian of his high school class but was unable to afford college. He was self-educated and well read, and soon after arriving in Washington, he enrolled in night law school classes, despite his lack of a bachelor's degree.

Executive Director Andrew Davis issues statement on Byrd's legacy

"The United States has lost a great advocate for education. Senator Byrd's passion for higher education was likely fueled by his own experiences of being very capable of attending a university, but not having the ability to pay for his education. This self-taught and well-read man went to law school while serving as a Congressman despite not having a college education. Today, the Byrd Honors Scholarship program assists over 1,400 promising Illinois students with a \$1,500-a-year scholarship to help put college in reach. We are proud to continue his legacy as the administrator of the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholars Program in the State of Illinois."

[People in the News](#)



Governors State University recently named [Dr. Terry L. Allison](#) as Provost. Allison comes to GSU after spending over nineteen years at two separate California State University campuses. His most recent role at California State University, Los Angeles was as Dean of the College of Arts and Letters. "Dr. Allison brings a transparent and collegial leadership style to GSU, as well as innovative thinking and a history of creative strategic planning and program building in a wide variety of subject areas to serve working and underserved students," said GSU President, Dr. Elaine P. Maimon.

The board of McHenry County College has selected as its new president, [Dr. Vicky R. Smith](#), currently the President of Neosho County Community College, a two-campus, comprehensive community college in eastern Kansas. A native of Illinois, Dr. Smith was raised on a grain farm outside Decatur, Illinois. She received her Doctorate in Education (Ed. D.) from Northern Illinois University, her Educational Specialist (Ed. Spec.) and Bachelor in Education (BS. in Ed) degrees from Eastern Illinois University, and her Master in Science (MS) from the University of Illinois.

[Nick Huggett](#), a University of Illinois at Chicago professor of philosophy has won a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, which funds research in the humanities. Huggett will investigate the foundations of quantum theories of spacetime, or "quantum gravity."

[Campus News](#)

[Eureka College named to National Register of Historic Places](#)

Eureka College has been designated as a Campus Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service made the announcement June 14. Eureka College was the first college in Illinois and the third in the nation to admit men and women on an equal basis. In addition, the distinction recognizes 156 years of graduating servant leaders who have had an impact on American education and history, most notably Ronald W. Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, who graduated in 1932, said Eureka College President J. David Arnold.

[SIUC a top choice for military personnel](#)

CARBONDALE, Ill. -- Southern Illinois University Carbondale continues to be a top choice for active-duty military personnel who are pursuing degrees. The University is ranked 37th by active duty service members who used tuition assistance during the 2009 fiscal year, according to a report in the June/July 2010 issue of "Military Times Edge" magazine. The recognition comes less than two months after SIUC received the inaugural Governor's Award for Excellence in Veterans Education, recognizing the University's efforts to enhance the educational experiences of student military veterans.

[University Center adds new programs and members](#)

Eastern Illinois University (EIU) and Olivet Nazarene University (ONU) became members of the University Center of Lake County in action taken at the University Center's June Governing Board meeting. EIU will bring its Bachelor of Arts in General Studies program and ONU will bring its Bachelor of Science in Nursing for RNs and Master of Science in Nursing programs.

[Construction pre-apprentice program offered by St. Augustine College](#)

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.

[SIU School of Medicine 40th Anniversary Reception](#)

An open house marking the 40th anniversary this year for the establishment of the SIU School of Medicine in Springfield was held at the school on Wednesday July 7, 2010. Alumni, current and former employees, students as well as members of the community attended the reception. SIU has 2,336 medical school graduates.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[New web tool helps both experts and public grasp colleges' costs](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Higher-education finance is too opaque, says Jane V. Wellman, an expert on college costs, and policy makers as well as the general public often lack basic information about how colleges spend money.

['Brutal Toll' on state budgets will have an impact on higher education](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

A new report by the National Conference of State Legislatures is another reminder of how the recession has taken "a brutal toll" on state revenues and of how states have relied on federal stimulus money to prevent major cuts in higher education in the 2009 and 2010 fiscal years.

['Low-income students and the perpetuation of inequality'](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

With a lingering recession sending Americans (back) to college in record numbers, and an administration determined to improve the country's record on degree attainment, higher education, more than ever, has plenty of public attention. But a new book argues that higher education in the United States is falling ever more short on a variety of fronts -- particularly when it comes to those students who, theoretically, should stand to gain the most from it.

[Illinois stops paying its bills, but can't stop digging hole](#)

(The New York Times)

CHICAGO — Even by the standards of this deficit-ridden state, Illinois's comptroller, Daniel W. Hynes, faces an ugly balance sheet. Precisely how ugly becomes clear when he beckons you into his office to examine his daily briefing memo.

[Senator slams for-profit colleges](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

WASHINGTON — Sen. Dick Durbin said Wednesday that legislation to strengthen regulation of for-profit schools was ahead, complaining that some of the schools leave students with whopping levels of debt and "worthless diplomas."

[The idea incubator goes to campus](#)

(The New York Times)

Douglas P. Hart, a professor of mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who sold his last start-up for a tidy \$95 million, is already on to his next big thing.

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