

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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August 27, 2010

**[Illinois ACT score is head of the class for states that test at least 90 percent of students](#)**

*Class of 2010: Most Illinois students in history take ACT*

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced the Graduating Class of 2010's composite ACT score is the highest of the eight states that test 90 percent or more of their students. Additionally, Illinois' composite score of 20.7 reflects an upward trend over the past five years, despite mirroring the national average with a slight dip from 2009 to 2010.

However, the report also noted the persistence of achievement gaps affecting racial and ethnic minority students.

**Senator Durbin to hold public forum on for-profit sector of higher education**

**WHEN:** Tuesday, August 31, 2010

**TIME:** 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Everett McKinley Dirksen U.S. Courthouse Ceremonial Courtroom, Room 2525 (25<sup>th</sup> floor), 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago

Senator Durbin's office welcomes attendance and support by presidents, trustees, and other higher education representatives at a forum to examine the role of for-profit colleges and universities in Illinois higher education. Recent press reports and congressional hearings have raised questions about the rising federal investment in for-profit institutions.

**[Federal Recovery Act investments in broadband projects come to Illinois to bring jobs, economic opportunity](#)**

The Bureau of Communications and Computer Services at Central Management Services has announced that the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership - East Central Region BTOP application has been awarded \$62 million in federal stimulus funding (ARRA) to support the implementation of a fiber network throughout a 55-county region of northeastern, central, and eastern Illinois. This network will address a lack of suitable broadband access for community anchor institutions in many of the region's rural and economically distressed counties. The Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership Southern Region also received an award to build fiber in 22 southern counties. The projects are part of a program – administered by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) – to expand broadband access and adoption across the country.

**[Popularity of dual credit courses growing](#)**

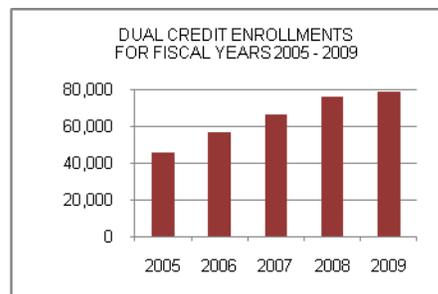
A new report from the Illinois Community College Board reports that between 2004 and 2009, enrollments in dual credit programs at community colleges grew 71.6 percent.

**UPCOMING**

**August**

- 30** Higher Education Finance Study Commission, Harper College, Palatine
- 31** Public Forum on For-Profit Sector of Higher Education, Chicago

Dual credit allows academically prepared high school students to simultaneously earn credits that count toward a high school diploma and a college degree. Dual credit instruction delivers a “win-win” arrangement for all parties: students gain access to challenging college-level coursework to make their junior and senior years of high school more productive; students can prove to others and themselves that they have the ability to succeed in college; college costs can be reduced for parents and students; time to degree at college can be shortened; and the enhanced high school and college faculty dialogue can contribute to a better alignment between secondary and postsecondary education.



Other findings of the report include:

- Career & Technical Education dual credit enrollments and course counts doubled over the same timeframe.
- Enrollments and course counts are nearly evenly split between Transfer and Career & Technical Education.
- Nearly equal proportions of male and female students took community college dual credit courses in fiscal year 2009.

### [ISAC introduces Lincoln Land ISACorps members](#)

#### ***State agency expands coverage to include Springfield with goal of increasing college-going among underserved***

Funded by the College Access Challenge Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Education, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission created the ISACorps in 2009 to enhance and expand ISAC’s college access and outreach programs and services to help students navigate the process of applying to and entering college. The ISACorps Lincoln Land District members will have offices on the campus of Lincoln Land Community College in addition to building partnerships with greater Springfield area schools, businesses, and nonprofits to deliver free career and college planning and preparation services to students from families with no prior college-going experience.



"It's more important than ever to promote higher education and provide prospective college-goers with support," said ISAC Executive Director Andrew Davis. "So many of the Corps members talk passionately about how they needed help navigating through the process as they prepared to go to college, and now they want to help the next generation of college students. We are pleased to offer the Corps' services in the Lincoln Land district."

**[Off the MAP](#) – eligible students missing out on need-based MAP grants nears 90,000**

[Click here for a complete list of the 2010 Illinois Student Assistance Corps by Community College District .](#)

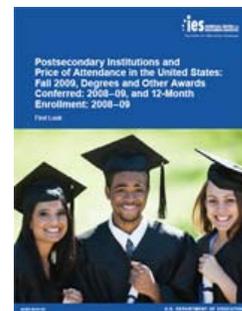
### [Application for the FY2011 Nurse Educator Fellowship is now available on the IBHE website](#)

The purpose of the Nurse Educator Fellowship Program is to ensure the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty at institutions of higher learning that award degrees in nursing. Awards supplement the salaries of the nursing faculty selected for the Fellowship. Participation in this program is open to Illinois institutions of higher learning with a nursing program approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). It is anticipated that there will be 18 awards of \$10,000. The due date for nominations is October 8, 2010.

## NCES REPORTS

### [Gender gap in degrees awarded, for-profits lead in cost of college](#)

Women continued to earn more associate's and bachelor's degrees than men in 2008-09 – a gender gap of 16 percent for 4-year degrees and 24 percent for 2-year degrees. This First Look from the National Center for Education Statistics presents findings from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) fall 2009 data collection. Of the 2.6 million degrees awarded by 4-year institutions, 42 percent were awarded to men and 58 percent to women. Of the almost 574,000 degrees awarded by 2-year institutions, 38 percent were awarded to men and 62 percent to women.



The report also noted that among 4-year institutions, private for-profit institutions reported the highest average price of attendance during 2009-10 for students living on campus – about \$36,700. This is higher than the average for private not-for-profit institutions, at about \$34,200. Public institutions reported an average price of attendance of approximately \$18,600 for in-state students living on campus and \$27,700 for out-of-state students living on campus.

### [270,000 public schoolteachers left profession in 2008 academic year](#)

Another new study from the NCES reports that of the 3,380,300 public school teachers who were teaching during the 2007-08 school year, 84.5 percent remained at the same school, 7.6 percent moved to a different school, and 8.0 percent left the profession during the following year. Among the 487,300 private school teachers who were teaching during the 2007-08 school year, 79.2 percent stayed in the same school, 4.9 percent moved, and 15.9 percent left teaching.

Among public school teachers with 1-3 years of experience, 77.3% stayed in their base school, 13.7% moved to another school, and 9.1% left teaching in 2008-09. Among private school teachers with 1-3 years of experience, 72.2% stayed in their base school, 7.2% moved to another school, and 20.6% left teaching in 2008-09.

### [Nine states and the District of Columbia win second round Race to the Top Grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Education has announced that Illinois was not selected to receive a grant in the Race to the Top competition. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia were finalists for this second phase. Illinois State Superintendent [Chris Koch stated](#), "While this is disappointing news, I am proud of the effort that our state has made to put together such an ambitious plan, which I believe should serve as our blueprint for where we need to take education through the next decade."

## [People in the News](#)

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Capella University, an all-online for-profit institution, has named [Larry A. Isaak](#), a longtime leader in public higher education, as its next president. Isaak served for nearly 10 years as chancellor of the North Dakota University System and is now president of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, an organization that provides policy and services to colleges in states across the Midwest.

The iBIO Institute announced the two winners of the fourth annual iBIO Institute iCON Awards, considered by many to be the region's most prestigious honor for life sciences educators and researchers. The 2010 iCON Innovator Award (University Level) winner is [Brenda Russell](#), Professor of Physiology, Biophysics, Bioengineering and Medicine, and Executive Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The 2010 iCON Knowledge Builder Award (Grades 6-12) winner is [Elizabeth Babcock](#), Vice President, Education and Library Collections at The Field Museum in Chicago.

## Campus News

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**June, 1968** – Education in the Health Fields for Illinois (called the “Campbell Report”) is published, directing SIU to start a medical school and graduate its first class by 1978.

And 40 years later . . .

### [WIU cited for Hispanic student success](#)

Western Illinois University is the only Illinois public university and the only Midwestern public university cited among 20 other U.S. public institutions by The Education Trust for successful graduation rates for Hispanic students. "We are pleased to be included as a best practice institution in The Education Trust's recent study. This recognition further affirms our entire University's commitment to our core value of educational opportunity," noted WIU President Al Goldfarb. "I'd like to especially extend my appreciation to Alda Godines for her work through Western's Casa Latina Cultural Center and the resources and support this center provides our students."

### [UIC to partner in \\$10 million math literacy project](#)

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Learning Sciences Research Institute will serve as a research and development partner in a \$10 million math literacy project funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. As part of the National Center for Cognition and Mathematics Instruction, a team of UIC experts will collaborate on the redesign and testing of a widely used middle school mathematics curriculum called the Connected Mathematics Project.

### [Governor Quinn Highlights Importance of Job Training for Veterans](#)

Governor Pat Quinn visited Rend Lake College (RLC) to highlight the importance of job training and opportunities for veterans through the Helmets to Hardhats program. Twelve Illinois veterans began training through the program at RLC last month to gain the skills necessary to pursue careers in the construction industry.

### [SXU's School of Nursing celebrates 75th Anniversary](#)

Saint Xavier and Mercy Hospital, both founded by the Sisters of Mercy, joined forces in 1935 to create the first integrated baccalaureate nursing program in Illinois. Saint Xavier University's School of Nursing will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a series of commemorative events on Sept. 11.

### [FUSION of mathematics and science professional development for teachers offered by IMSA](#)



Formerly known as IMSA Excellence 2000+ (E2K+), the Illinois Math and Science Academy's award-winning teacher professional development and after-school enrichment program for Illinois students in 4th-8th grade is *celebrating 10 years with a new name*. In 2010-2011, IMSA FUSION will serve 82 programs, reaching nearly 300 teachers and 2,000 students in Illinois.

## ***News from Higher Education***

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### **'Dream Act' would not be enough for many undocumented students**

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

The renewed cry for comprehensive immigration reform has ignited an increasingly vocal and visible student push for legislation that would create a pathway to citizenship for thousands of undocumented immigrants who attend college.

### **NSSE data helps institutions foster minority student success**

(Diverse Issues In Higher Education)

University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) officials in recent years created a minority mentoring program to connect students of color with business leaders in the community. The university recruited minority staff and students to work in its career center. It hired an adviser to work with minority student groups to ensure campus events reflected their interests.

### **U. of I. opens state-of-the-art dorm for students with disabilities**

(Chicago Tribune)

CHAMPAIGN — With very limited use of her arms and legs, Kelsey Rozema has needed her parents' help with most daily tasks — getting out of bed, showering, putting on a coat and even opening a water bottle. In 18 years, they've been apart for only six nights.

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