

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

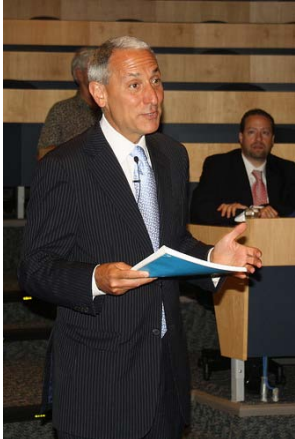
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September 10, 2010

[Ohio executive outlines performance funding approach for Commission](#)



Eric Fingerhut, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, explained the Buckeye State's experience with connecting public funding for higher education to specific state goals and benchmarks for student success at the second meeting of the Higher Education Finance Study Commission held on August 30th at Harper College in Palatine. The Commission is charged with analyzing best practices implemented in other states for incentivizing certificate and degree completion. In addition to Ohio, Indiana's funding formula will be examined at the next meeting, along with a review of tuition and financial aid policies and their role in improving completion led by David Longanecker, President, Western Interstate Commission for

Higher Education. The Commission next meets on [Sept. 23 at Robert Morris University in Chicago](#).



Rep. Fred Crespo responds to Chancellor Fingerhut while Terry Bruce, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges President, Don Sevener, Rep. Pritchard, and Sen. Maloney listen.

[Readiness matters](#)

Longitudinal study shows that college preparation is key to college success

At a time when the importance of completing a college degree has become the focus of many national and state policy initiatives, such as the President's American Graduation Initiative, Complete College America, and the *Illinois Public Agenda*, the Illinois Education Research Council has released a longitudinal study highlighting the enrollment and completion patterns of the Illinois High School Class of 2002.

The study follows 113,135 Illinois public high school students, who took the ACT in 2001, on their journeys through postsecondary education.

One major finding of the study is that college readiness matters. The combination of ACT score and high school GPA was extremely important in terms of college enrollment and bachelor's completion.

UPCOMING

September

[College Savings Month](#)

15 IMSA Board Meeting, Aurora

17 ICCB Board Meeting, Harry L. Crisp, II Community College Center, Springfield

23 Higher Education Finance Study Commission, Robert Morris University, Chicago

24 ISAC Commission Meeting, School of the Art Institute, Chicago

October

5 Higher Education Finance Study Commission, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines

IBHE Board meeting, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines

- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of the most ready students initially enrolled at a four-year institution, of which 82% graduated with a bachelor's degree,
- On the other hand, only 11% of the non/least ready students initially enrolled at a four-year institution, of which 38% students graduated with a bachelor's degree.

[State coalitions get federal grants to build new student assessments](#)

In an effort to provide ongoing feedback to teachers throughout the course of the school year, measure annual student growth, and move beyond narrowly focused "bubble tests," the U.S. Department of Education has awarded two groups of states substantial grants to develop a new generation of tests. The new tests will be aligned to the higher standards that were devised by the nation's governors and Chief State School Officers.

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a coalition of 26 states, including Illinois, which will receive \$170 million. PARCC will test students' ability to read complex text, complete research projects, excel at classroom speaking and listening assignments, and work with digital media. PARCC will also replace the one end-of-year high stakes test with a series of assessments during the year that will be averaged into one score for accountability purposes, reducing the weight given to a single test administered on a single day and providing valuable information to students and teachers throughout the year.

The SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) is a coalition of 31 states to receive \$160 million. SBAC will test students using computer adaptive technology that will ask students tailored questions based on previous answers.

Read Secretary Duncan's [remarks](#) on the assessment grants at the American Diploma Project annual meeting.

[Record enrollments at U.S. colleges](#)

According to the National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES) new "Back to School Statistics for 2010," America's schools and colleges will welcome back large numbers of students this fall, as population increases and high enrollment rates continue to be reflected in more students in America's schools than ever.

In fall 2010, a record 19.1 million students are expected to attend the nation's 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities, an increase of about 3.8 million since fall 2000. The record college enrollments have been driven by both increases in the traditional college age population and rising enrollment rates. Between 2000 and 2009, the 18- to 24-year-old population rose from approximately 27.3 million to approximately 30.1 million and the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college also was higher in 2009 (41.3 percent) than in 2000 (35.5 percent).

[Webcast on the U.S. Constitution Scheduled for Friday, Sept. 17](#)

Publishing company Hough Mifflin Harcourt and the History Channel will present a webcast for Constitution Day on Sept. 17. "We the People LIVE: A Constitution Day Webcast" will air from 11-11:45 a.m. that Friday.

The 45-minute long free program will air from the Newseum in Washington, D.C., and will include leaders from government, news and entertainment with a series of readings, narrative and a Q & A with students.

Congress passed legislation in 2005 that requires all schools receiving federal money to teach about the U.S. Constitution on Constitution Day, which is celebrated annually on Sept. 17.

[2nd College Town Summit set to brainstorm about campus alcohol abuse](#)

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) is once again calling stakeholders together to seek ways to reduce

underage drinking and overconsumption of alcohol in college communities. The second annual statewide *College Town Summit* will be held Monday, September 27th, from 10 a.m.-3p.m. at the Governor's Executive Mansion in Springfield.

Representatives from universities, law enforcement agencies, local governments, and local businesses throughout Illinois will come together in search of real solutions to reduce underage drinking and overconsumption of alcohol in college communities.

[MAP denials top 100,000 at start of September](#)

Nearly 71 percent list community college as first choice on FAFSA

Although this year's eligible denied applications are projected to far exceed last year's total of approximately 120,000 eligible students, ISAC encourages students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is the form used to apply for MAP and federal student aid in order to qualify for federal grants and subsidized loans in addition to possible institutional financial aid. "Fill out the FAFSA online at FAFSA.gov. It's the fastest, easiest way to apply for financial aid," Andy Davis, ISAC executive director, said. "It's not too late to qualify for federal programs."



Of those denied the state's flagship need-based college financial aid program thus far, 70.5 percent (71,834) selected a community college as their top choice on the 2010-11 FAFSA. Just over 13 percent (13,698) selected a public four-year school and approximately 10.4 percent (10,597) chose an in-state private two-year, four-year, or hospital college. Just over five and a half percent (5,755) chose proprietary school.

People in the News

University of Illinois at Springfield Provost [Harry J. Berman](#), a presence on the campus for three decades as a member of the faculty and senior administration, has been recommended by U of I President Michael J. Hogan to serve as interim chancellor of the UIS campus, pending trustees' approval, until the completion of a search for a permanent chancellor. Berman's nomination will be considered by the Board of Trustees at its scheduled Sept. 23rd meeting.

[John Biernbaum](#), assistant vice president for student services—student life at Western Illinois University since July 2006, was named associate vice president for student services, effective September 1.

Campus News



[Edgar kicks off Eureka College's Reagan tribute](#)

EUREKA — Former Gov. Jim Edgar joined Eureka College officials on Tuesday to launch a year-long tribute to Ronald Reagan, the campus's most famous alum, who would have turned 100 on Feb. 6. His alma mater's Ronald Reagan Centennial Celebration includes a speaker series, a national scholarly conference, and more. "Reagan developed his leadership skills and role as a great communicator while attending Eureka, so it is most appropriate that the college's focus is on Reagan's formative years," said Edgar. Of four U.S. presidents who have come from Illinois, Reagan is the only one who was born, raised, and educated here.

[President Peters announces Vision 2020 Initiative](#)

NIU to set goal of most student-centered public research university in Midwest

DeKalb — NIU President John Peters announced the creation of the Vision 2020 Initiative to guide the university through what he expects to be an era of tremendous change and uncertainty for American higher education. “I think it is fair to say that the number of changes confronting us, and the magnitude and speed of those changes, is perhaps greater than at any other time in the past 50 years,” he told faculty, staff and students in his 11th [State of the University Address](#). “In terms of student success and fiscal sustainability, the public university model of the 20th century no longer fits.”

[DACC program receives federal student success services grant](#)

Danville – The Student Support Services Program at Danville Area Community College, administered through the Student Success Center, has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s TRIO grant program which will total more than \$1.4 million over a five-year period. The Federal TRIO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Student Success Center sponsors a variety of activities to foster success for students, including workshops and seminars on assertiveness skills, stress management, study skills, time management and transferring to a four-year institution. They also offer tutoring services for students who experience academic difficulty in one or more of their courses, and special academic accommodations for students with disabilities

[Lake Land sustainability efforts recognized at international conference](#)

Lake Land College's sustainability efforts are coming full circle and gaining international attention. The college will soon obtain an elite status when it comes to green energy efforts – it will fulfill three important components – decreasing energy use, generating a return on investment on green technologies and teaching students to attain green jobs.

University of St. Francis welcomes state elected officials



(Left to right) Rep. Jack McGuire (Illinois, 86th District) assistant majority leader; Sen. Edward Maloney (Illinois-18th District), chair of the Higher Education Committee; University of St. Francis President Michael J. Vinciguerra; and Sen. A.J. Wilhelmi (Illinois – 43rd District) met at the university’s main campus in Joliet to discuss issues facing higher education.

News from Higher Education

[Latino higher education group launches college-completion campaign](#)

(Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

WASHINGTON — With a sizable list of partner organizations, the Excelencia in Education advocacy group is embarking upon what organization leaders described as a “quest” for solutions and policy changes that will help improve college completion rates among United States’ growing Latino population over the next decade.

[Internationally, college graduates fared better during recession](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

The recent economic crisis sparked layoffs in virtually all occupations, but, in many nations, college graduates were far less likely to be out of a job than were their less-educated counterparts, according to a new report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.”

[Tom Joyner venture will help black colleges start online programs](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Tom Joyner, one of the country's most-visible philanthropic supporters of historically black colleges and universities, has founded a company to help those institutions develop distance-education programs—with a particular focus on allowing them to compete against for-profit colleges in enrolling minority students.

[Public higher education is 'eroding from all sides,' warn political scientists](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

The ideal of American public higher education may have entered a death spiral, several scholars said during a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. That crisis might ultimately harm not only universities, but also democracy itself, they warned.

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