

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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Student loan default rate increases

43% of student defaulters attending for-profit postsecondary schools

The U.S. Department of Education announced on September 13 that the Fiscal Year 2008 national student cohort default rate increased to 7%, up from the Fiscal Year 2007 rate of 6.7%. This default rate is a snapshot in time, representing the cohort of borrowers whose loan repayments came due between October 1, 2007, and September 30, 2008, and who defaulted before September 30, 2009. "This data confirms what we already know: that many students are struggling to pay back their student loans during very difficult economic times. That's why the Administration has expanded programs like income based repayment and Pell grants to help students in financial need," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

"The data also tells us that students attending for-profit schools are the most likely to default," Duncan continued. "While for-profit schools have profited and prospered thanks to federal dollars, some of their students have not. Far too many for-profit schools are saddling students with debt they cannot afford in exchange for degrees and certificates they cannot use. This is a disservice to students and taxpayers, and undermines the valuable work being done by the for-profit education industry as a whole," Duncan continued.

In award year 2008-09, students at for-profit schools represented 26 percent of the borrower population and 43 percent of all defaulters. The public can search for individual school default rates at

http://wdcrobcop01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/COHORT/search_cohort.cfm.

First-ever White House Summit on Community Colleges

On October 5, 2010, Dr. Jill Biden will chair the first-ever White House Summit on Community Colleges. The summit is an opportunity to bring together community colleges, business, philanthropy, federal and state policy leaders, and students to discuss how community colleges can help meet the job training and education needs of the nation's evolving workforce, as well as the critical role these institutions play in achieving the President's goal to lead the world with the highest proportion of college graduates by 2020. "Community colleges are a key part of our economic vision for the future," said Dr. Biden. "I see firsthand the power of community colleges to change lives every single day I am in the classroom. I am proud to be part of an administration that recognizes the value of a community college education and is working to make it more accessible to students across this nation."

The White House's announcement included a video that features current community college students as well as community college graduates. Among the individuals highlighted is [Ray LaHood, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, describing his experience at Spoon River Community College](#). The White House is soliciting questions for discussion as part of the summit dialogue, including video stories about how the community college experience has affected an individual's life.

UPCOMING

September

College Savings Month

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



The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, and the State Library's Literacy office along with IACEA - the voice of adult education are recognizing September 13 – 19, 2010, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. "Serving the literacy needs of Illinois adult education students is very important," says Jennifer Foster, State Director for Adult Education and GED Testing. "With the staggering statistics in literacy, it is critical that students have the skills that will further their growth in education, for themselves and their children, as well as for greater career opportunities in the workforce."

More than 100 ICCB funded programs in Illinois provide instruction to more than 123,000 adult education learners each year and more than 26,000 individuals take the GED test annually. In addition, the State Library Literacy Office funded 238 grants to provide service to 27,600 adult learners.

[United States moves up to ninth from twelfth place in percentage of young adults with a college degree](#)

Secretary Duncan issued the following statement about the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recent annual report: [Education at a Glance 2010: OECD Indicators](#). "Education at a Glance affirms that the United States is headed in the right direction to meet President Obama's goal of regaining the lead in college completion by the end of the decade. The United States moved from 12th in the world in 2007 in the percentage of young adults with a college degree to tied for ninth in the world in 2008. But we have a lot more work to do to get there.

"Meeting the President's goal is essential to maintaining our global competitiveness and ensuring our long-term prosperity. Education at a Glance documents that college-educated workers in OECD nations are more likely to be employed and earn significantly more than those whose education ends at high school. It also shows that America must significantly reduce dropout rates and increase college attainment to meet the President's goal. Almost 40 percent of American postsecondary students fail to graduate--while many of our economic competitors have dropout rates of less than 25 percent.

"Too many American students are not ready for college-level course work and are struggling to pay for college. Under the Obama administration's school reform agenda, we are supporting states as they raise their academic standards so students truly are prepared for success in college and careers. With the President's leadership, the funding for Pell Grants has almost doubled since he took office. The President also is committed to reducing the burden of college debt for those who enter public service. These investments are absolutely essential to supporting our students as they work toward meeting the President's goal."

The 2010 edition of *Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators* provides a comparable and up-to-date array of indicators on systems and represents the consensus of professional thinking on how to measure the current state of education internationally. The indicators show who participates in education, how much is spent on it, and how education systems operate. They also illustrate a wide range of educational outcomes, comparing, for example, student performance in key subject areas and the impact of education on earnings and on adults' chances of employment.

[More women earning doctorates while more men enroll in graduate school](#)

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) reported that the 2008-09 academic year was the first year ever that women earned the majority (50.4%) of doctorates, even as another long term trend was reversed showing that growth in both first-time and total graduate enrollment in 2009 was higher for men than for women.

[2010 college-bound seniors results underscore importance of academic rigor](#)

More college-bound students in the class of 2010 took the SAT® than in any other high school graduating class in history, the College Board announced today. Nearly 1.6 million students from this year's graduating class participated in the college-going process by taking the SAT, and their overall performance underscored the critical role that course-taking patterns and academic rigor play in college readiness. [Use this link](#) to review the report on the 8,508 Illinois students who took the test.

[Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation scholarships](#)

The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) was established as a strong voice and resource for the Illinois Latino population and for those that work and live within Latino communities statewide. Annually, the members of the ILLCF select deserving young people of good character and high academic achievement to receive foundation scholarships to help them achieve their educational objectives. This year, the \$2,000 scholarships will be granted to current undergraduate college students whose home residence is in Illinois and who are attending Illinois colleges or universities. An application can be downloaded from the ILLCF web-site (www.illcf.org). Scholarships will be awarded on November 19, 2010, during the ILLCF scholarship luncheon at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

[Nursing School Improvement Grant application online](#)

The applications for the FY2011 Nursing School Improvement Grant and FY2011 Nursing School Expansion Grant Renewal are now available online. The purpose of the Nursing School Grant Program is to increase the number of registered nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning. The Nursing School Grant Program will award grants in two categories: Expansion Grants and Improvement Grants. Eligible nursing programs include Associate Degrees in Nursing (ADN), Registered Nursing to Baccalaureate Degree Completion Programs (RN-BSN), and Baccalaureate Degrees in Nursing (BSN). The deadline for the submission of all materials is October 31, 2010.

[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 27, from 10 a.m.-3 p.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.

[Leading Illinois Back to Work--Sustaining Our Future: ICCCA Fall Conference](#)

The Fall Illinois Council of Community College Administrators' Conference and Leadership and Core Values Institute is being held November 17-19, 2010, at Tinley Park Convention Center. This year's conference will focus on topics relevant to all community college administrators in a format similar to previous years. Three nationally recognized keynote speakers will be presenting sessions that promise to be informative, inspirational, and thought provoking. Keynote speakers at this time include Frank Chong, the Deputy Secretary for Community Colleges, an inspirational/humorous speaker named John Foppe, and Dr. Kent Keith, the CEO of the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership. In addition, there are 28 breakout sessions at this year's conference.



[Off the MAP](#) – eligible students missing out on need-based MAP grants

Campus News

IMSA hosts Black Caucus panel

The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) hosted Illinois Legislative Black Caucus members for the “*Fostering STEM Talent in Minority Students*” panel on September 1, 2010. Sponsored by IMSA’s Student Committee for IMSA Advancement (SCIA) and supported by the students’ Peer Multicultural Education board, 200 IMSA students, faculty, and staff attended the panel. The internationally recognized IMSA develops creative, ethical leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and both IMSA and the Caucus members share a tremendous commitment to providing inquiry based educational opportunities for underserved students of talent and demonstrated potential. This panel was the first of its kind for the Black Caucus, and provided a unique opportunity for students at the residential teaching and learning laboratory to directly ask the Caucus members questions on expanding educational opportunities for students of color, STEM fields, social justice, and student advocacy.



The Caucus members participating on the panel were (from left to right): Representative Al Riley (Illinois- 38th District), Representative Will Davis (Illinois- 30th District), Senator Mattie Hunter (Illinois- 3rd District), Senator Toi Hutchinson (Illinois- 40th District), and Senator Donne Trotter (Illinois- 17th District). Representative Ken Dunkin (Illinois- 5th District) was unable to participate on the panel, but was still able to spend time with students afterwards. From left to right, IMSA seniors Lisa Akintilo (Bourbonnais) and Student Council President Shawon Jackson (University Park), and IMSA President Dr. Glenn “Max” McGee.

Agriculture, climate change focus of new study

An interdisciplinary group of researchers at Southern Illinois University Carbondale will use a \$1.43 million grant from the National Science Foundation to examine the response of Midwest agriculture to climate change during the rest of the century.

NIU gets \$68.5 million grant for broadband

Northern Illinois University is receiving the largest grant in university history – \$68.5 million to develop a broadband network that will spread across nine counties in northwest Illinois. That amount includes \$46.1 million from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, funded by money set aside last year as part of by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; a \$14 million grant from the State of Illinois; and an additional \$8.4 million from various partner agencies and business involved in the project.

News from Higher Education

National Science Board report calls for equity, excellence and opportunity in STEM

(Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

The United States' ability to be not just a global leader but even a competitive participant in technology will depend largely on a massive infusion of women and underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM.

Employers favor state schools for hires

(The Wall Street Journal)

U.S. companies largely favor graduates of big state universities over Ivy League and other elite liberal-arts schools when hiring to fill entry-level jobs, a Wall Street Journal study found.

Borrowing from Bologna

(Inside Higher Ed)

That the Lumina Foundation for Education is enamored of the European process aimed at harmonizing what a college degree means across the continent is plain. The foundation has sponsored major studies of the process, known as "Bologna" for the Italian city where it was spawned, and initiated its own test run of what a system would look like across several American states.

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