

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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October 8, 2010

[Higher ed finance panel discusses options for linking state dollars to Public Agenda goals](#)

The Higher Education Finance Study Commission debated performance funding, student financial aid, and ways to recognize differing institutional missions at colleges and universities in a meeting on October 5th at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines.

The Commission will have an opportunity to review a preliminary draft of a report within a couple of weeks, with final action on recommendations to the IBHE and General Assembly set for November 10th.

[ICBCHE brings together Legislators and Educators](#)

The Annual Conference of the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education, in cooperation with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, was held on September 24, 2010, at the University of Illinois Chicago. The event "Bridging the Academy and the State Legislature" was attended by over 260 participants and included elected officials U.S. Senator Roland Burris and State Representatives Will Davis, Esther Golar, Al Riley, and Art Turner.



U.S. Senator Roland Burris speaking while ICBCHE Chairperson Dr. Michael Toney and Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) President Dr. Arnold Mitchem look on. (photo by DJ Wells, UIC)



From left to right: Arthur Sutton, IBHE, Dr. Arnold Mitchem, COE, Stephanie Whitaker, UIC, State Representative Will Davis, Dr. Valerie Johnson, DePaul University and Conference Co-Chair, Dr. Michael Toney, UIC and ICBCHE Chair, Dr. Felicia Bohanon, Northern Illinois University and Conference Co-Chair, State Representative Al Riley, Dr. Glenn Poshard, Southern Illinois University President, and Donald Sevenser, IBHE. (photo by DJ Wells, UIC)

UPCOMING

October

[Cyber Security Awareness Month](#)

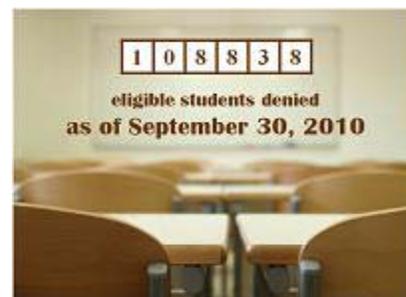
15 [Creating and Retaining Jobs: Forum on Illinois' Economic Future](#), Union League Club, Chicago

27 P-20 Council Meeting

November

10 Higher Education Finance Study Commission, Columbia College, Chicago

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



[Cyber security is our shared responsibility](#)

Governor Pat Quinn has designated October as Illinois Cyber Security Awareness Month. In the gubernatorial proclamation, he cites the importance of “the use of the Internet at the primary and secondary school levels in this State enhances the education of our youth by providing them access to online educational and research materials and at institutions of higher education, the use of information technology is integral to teaching and learning, research, and outreach and service.” The Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), in collaboration with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security’s National Cyber Security Division, has designed a toolkit to help promote a consistent cyber security awareness message across the State, stressing the need for citizens, businesses, government, and schools to improve their cyber security preparedness.

[People in the News](#)

Saint Xavier University will host a weeklong Inauguration Celebration for its 19th president, [Christine M. Wiseman, J.D.](#) beginning on Mon., Oct. 18. The celebration includes special events for university students, alumni, staff and faculty, as well as community members, culminating with President Wiseman’s Installation Ceremony on Fri., Oct. 22. All events are at the Chicago Campus.



The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) has announced that [Lana Oleen](#) of Kansas has accepted the interim president position for the compact. The former Kansas Senate Majority Leader has served as a MHEC commissioner and commissioner alternate representing Kansas from 1995-2009, MHEC chair 2002-2004, and as MHEC interim president in 2003. She has begun working at the MHEC office in Minneapolis during a transition period in October.

[Campus News](#)

[WCC gets \\$600,000 grant to aid Hispanic students](#)

Waubonsee Community College will be getting more than \$600,000 from the federal government to improve educational opportunities for Hispanic students. The college is in line for a \$637,907 grant through the federal Strengthening Institutions – Hispanic Serving Institutions Program to expand educational opportunities for Hispanic students and improve the graduation rate for Hispanic students.

Eastern hosts first Regional Energy Symposium

The Renewable Energy Symposium, to be held on October 13 at the Martin Luther King University Union, from 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. will provide leaders from the public and private sectors an opportunity to learn more about the role of renewable energy in the future of Central Illinois. Speakers at this inaugural event include Senator Dale Righter, Representative Chapin Rose, and Wabash Valley Power Association Vice President Greg Wagoner. EIU staff, Gary Reed, and Paul McCann will discuss the university's Renewable Energy Center, and Professor Chris Laingen will investigate the potential for a regional biomass market. Contact Kelli Davis at 217-581-2011 or by email at kddavis4@eiu.edu for more information or to register to attend.

News from Higher Education

[At rallies across the country, students turn out in defense of public education](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Less than a month before midterm elections, students, faculty members, and advocacy groups held rallies on campuses across the country on Thursday to show elected officials their support for public higher education.

[Conference highlights helping students with timely degree completion](#)

(Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

BALTIMORE – Colleges and universities must find ways to help their increasingly diverse student bodies earn their degrees on time and accept responsibility if large numbers of students persistently take too long to graduate, a series of panelists said.

[Dad loses home in student loan debt trap](#)

(Chicago Sun-Times)

After years of fighting off debt, James Reach has lost the battle -- along with his house. Not unlike many consumed with debt, Reach desperately wants to file for bankruptcy. But even if he did, he would still be drowning in debt. That's because his debt largely consists of private student loans -- which, by law, cannot be discharged in bankruptcy -- unlike virtually every other type of private loan.

[College starting in high school](#)

(Chicago Tribune)

A record number of Illinois high school students enrolled in college courses this fall, racking up credits that fulfill high school requirements and also get them started on a college transcript, state records show.

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