

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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October 22, 2010

[White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans](#)

On Oct. 19, President Obama signed a new executive order renewing the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. The event underscored the president's support for the critical role Hispanics play in the overall prosperity of the nation and the need to expand education opportunities and improving education outcomes for all students. The signing took place a day after the [National Education Summit and Call to Action](#) held on Oct. 18, in Washington, D.C. This one-day event at the Organization of American States provided a forum where national Hispanic education, community and business leaders shared their expertise and resources to assist communities in expanding education opportunities and improving education outcomes for Hispanic students. Santos Rivera, IBHE Board member and retired senior executive director of affirmative action and outreach at NEIU, was among the leaders in attendance.

[Student Debt and the Class of 2009](#)

The Project on Student Debt released its fifth annual report on the cumulative student loan debt of recent graduates from public and private nonprofit four-year colleges and universities. The analysis found that the debt levels of students who graduate with loans continued to rise, with considerable variation among states as well as among colleges. The Project estimates that nationally college seniors who graduated in 2009 carried an average of \$24,000 in student loan debt, up six percent from the previous year. The average debt for Illinois students who graduated in 2009 was \$22,049, and 60% of the Class of 2009 had college debt.

[State recognizes NIU for 'excellence in veterans education'](#)



Northern Illinois University was named recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Veterans Education, recognizing the university's exemplary efforts in providing educational and informational resources to students who are U.S. military veterans.

"We must do everything we can to make sure that our service men and women, who have served our country proudly, have all the tools they need to further their education," said Governor Pat Quinn. "I applaud Northern Illinois University for their outstanding efforts to provide student veterans with access to on-campus resources and benefits that will help them make the transition back to school. "I strongly encourage other public schools in Illinois to keep working toward making their campuses as veteran-friendly as NIU," Governor Quinn said.

NIU is only the second university statewide to receive the Governor's Award for Excellence in Veterans Education, established last year after the governor signed into law the Higher Education Veterans Service Act. Southern Illinois University at Carbondale received the Award in May. The Governor's Award honors institutions that have best responded to the spirit and requirements of the new law by centralizing resources for veterans and easing their transition to college.

**UPCOMING**

**October**

[Cyber Security Awareness Month](#)

**27** P-20 Council Meeting,  
Thompson Center,  
Chicago

**November**

**10** Higher Education Finance  
Study Commission,  
Columbia College,  
Chicago

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

**19** ISAC Commission Meeting,  
Prairie State College,  
Chicago Heights

“Northern Illinois University has shown outstanding leadership in providing resources that best serve student veterans, like the Military Student Services office,” said Dan Grant, Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “NIU not only meets but far exceeds our expectations in offering student veterans the tools they need to successfully transition to the university environment.”

### **Midwestern Higher Education Compact saves University of Illinois on technology**

The University of Illinois expects to save 10 percent over current contract pricing on its Dell technology purchases, which could bring the University approximately \$1.6 million in annualized savings over the next two years. “During these difficult budget times for public institutions, the University of Illinois is a great example of how institutions can save significant money by using Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) contracts,” stated MHEC President Larry Isaak.

MHEC is a 12-state higher education compact based in Minneapolis and is committed to cost-savings programs, student access and policy research and analysis in the Midwest since its formation in 1991. Illinois has saved an estimated \$32.7 million on technology purchases since joining the Compact in 1991. By virtue of Illinois' membership in MHEC, all public and not-for-profit colleges and universities in Illinois can take advantage of MHEC's technology and master property insurance programs. Institutions can learn more about the MHEC programs at [www.mhec.org](http://www.mhec.org) or by calling the MHEC office at (612) 626-8288.

### **David Maurrasse to keynote MHEC Policy Summit**

The theme of this year's MHEC policy summit is *Restore, Revitalize, Renew: Higher Education's Role in the Economic Transformation of Communities*. David Maurrasse, president and CEO and founder of Marga Incorporated, will open the MHEC Policy Summit on November 15. Maurrasse has been on the faculty of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and founded its Center for Innovation in Social Responsibility, which researched and promoted dialogue on the formation of partnerships involving corporations, higher education, philanthropy, and various other industries.

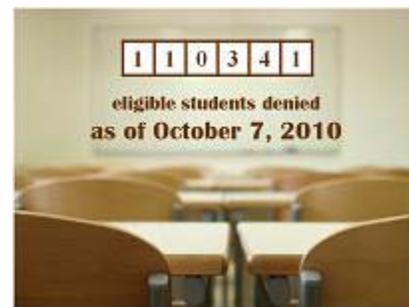


**MHEC** Annual Policy Summit & Commission Meeting  
**Restore, Revitalize, Renew:**  
*Higher Education's Role in the Economic Transformation of Communities*  
Detroit, Michigan - November 15-17, 2010

### **Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation scholarships**

The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) was established as a 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 who are Illinois residents and who attend Illinois colleges or universities. [Click on this link for an application.](#) **The deadline for receiving applications is October 27, 2010.** Scholarships will be awarded on November 19, 2010, during the ILLCF scholarship luncheon at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

### **Off the MAP – eligible students missing out on need-based MAP grants**



## Campus News

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### [Loyola University Chicago becomes first school of any kind authorized to produce and sell biodiesel fuel](#)

The Loyola University Chicago Center for Urban Environmental Research and Policy's (CUERP) Biodiesel Program has become the first school program in the United States to be licensed by state and federal authorities to produce and sell its biodiesel fuel. The program has received the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency, Internal Revenue Service, Illinois Department of Revenue, and the National Biodiesel Board.

### [Governors State University receives state wind turbine grant](#)

With the installation of an on campus wind turbine, Governors State University will continue reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, and move toward its goal of becoming Illinois' greenest university. GSU got the green light for an important environmental initiative when Warren Ribley, director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, announced a \$153,000 grant for the 50 kilowatt turbine, to be located on the University Park campus. The wind turbine will give Governors State a clean, renewable source of energy, and also be incorporated into the university's academic programs, said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. Students in GSU science classes will be able to monitor the turbine's performance and learn about renewable technology.

### **Waubonsee receives Title V grant funding to remove barriers to student success**

The U.S. Department of Education has approved Waubonsee Community College's Title V grant application, "Removing Barriers to Student Success." Funding of more than \$3.2 million will be received by Waubonsee over the next five years that will leverage the college's commitment to all students to provide outstanding learning opportunities and remove barriers to student success. The Title V grant, as part of the federal government's Strengthening Institutions - Hispanic Serving Institutions program, is intended to help institutions enhance and expand their capacity to serve Hispanic and other low-income students. The college was designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) in 2009.

## News from Higher Education

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### [Massive cut in Britain](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

Government funding for higher education in Britain is to be cut by 40 percent over four years, suggesting that public funding for teaching in the arts, humanities and social sciences may come to an end.

### [Educational difficulties of men and immigrants hinder efforts to improve college attainment](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

The educational difficulties of men, as well as influxes of immigrants with weak educational backgrounds, have emerged as major challenges to the nation's efforts to get a larger share of its population through college, according to a new report by the American Council on Education.

### [On campus, a long wait for state checks](#)

(Stateline.org)

At Cuyamaca College, a community college with 9,000 students near San Diego, Anthony La Madrid is studying biology. He hasn't yet settled on what he'd like to do when he graduates, but he's interested in becoming a veterinarian, a nurse or a doctor.

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