

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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ICCB
Chairman Guy Alongi
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC
Chairman Don McNeil
Executive Director Andy Davis

November 5, 2010

[Survey of Illinois' public colleges and universities shows significant assistance to veterans](#)



According to a survey of Illinois' public colleges and universities, the higher education institutions has budgeted \$8.2 million for fiscal year 2011 on services for military veterans. The Higher Education Veterans Service Act requires the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to compile an annual report on the fiscal impact of the programs and services related to the requirements of the Higher Education Veterans Service Act. The IBHE, in conjunction with the Illinois

Community College Board (ICCB), the Illinois Department and Veterans' Affairs (IDVA), and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), submitted its findings in a report to the Governor and legislative leaders. The report analyzed the estimated fiscal impact of the programs and services provided to veterans and active duty personnel at Illinois community colleges and public universities for fiscal year 2011. The costs -- \$5.7 million at community colleges and \$2.5 million at public universities -- were not exclusively a result of the requirements set forth in Public Act 96-133, but rather a combination of the costs incurred by those requirements, and additional services that institutions were providing to their veteran populations. For example, as a result of the new law, [each campus has designated a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services.](#)

Information and training on veterans benefits, including education

Dan Grant, director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, has announced two training dates with information and training on various VA and education benefits. All public and private colleges and universities have been invited to attend on November 9 at Joliet Junior College or November 10 at University of Illinois at Springfield. Kathy Snead, President of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) in the American Council on Education will present information on SOC and military transcript evaluation at both sessions. Snead is also the Chairperson of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Veterans Education and will provide updates from Washington. College admissions counselors and registrars especially will benefit from the discussion. RSVP attendance confirmation to Ms. Barbara Archie – barbara.archie@illinois.gov, or contact Joan Ryan – joan.ryan@illinois.gov for questions.

[Possible changes under review for the Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) has recently published a report on proposed legislative changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bills that will have impact not only on veteran students but on all institutions of higher education. The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act (popularly known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill or Chapter 33) has just begun its second academic year of operation.

[Public comment on programs for the preparation of Illinois principals](#)

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has published for comment proposed rules, responding to P.A. 96-903, which set forth parameters for programs established by institutions of higher education and not-for-profit entities approved by the State Board of Education to train and prepare principals who have the ability to "improve teaching and

UPCOMING

November

- 5** ICCB Board Meeting, Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center, Springfield
- 10** Higher Education Finance Study Commission, Columbia College, Chicago
- 11** Veterans Day
- 19** ISAC Commission Meeting, Prairie State College, Chicago Heights

learning and increase the academic achievement and development of all students.” The new law also made companion changes in Section 21-7.1 of the School Code to establish a “principal endorsement” that will replace the “general administrative endorsement” beginning July 1, 2014. **Public comments are due by November 22.**

[In a letter commenting on the rules](#), Don Sevener, interim executive director of IBHE, conveyed IBHE’s strong support for the proposed rules, especially for changing the focus of principal preparation programs “from developing building managers to becoming leaders who take charge of student learning and are held responsible for student achievement.” The IBHE believes the changes in the preparation programs that will effectively prepare principals, include: university and district partnerships; internships based upon competencies instead of only by time requirements; and uniform assessments of the internship requiring demonstration of proficiency in key competencies. Strengthening teacher and school leader quality through upgraded standards and professional development is a key strategy for addressing Goal 1 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, to increase educational attainment; therefore, IBHE has expressed its intent to assist ISBE in the implementation of this improved state policy for principals

[iBio Institute addressing improvements in STEM education](#)

In a recent update to the Life Sciences community, Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization (iBio) president, David Miller, announced that Chicago will be a major hub for the annual BIO convention in both 2013 and 2016. Miller acknowledges the public, private, and academic partnerships in Illinois that have helped in hosting two previous BIO conventions. He also describes the efforts of the iBio Institute to support the improvement of math and science education in Illinois schools, including Expanding TalentSparks! Impacting students and teachers, as well as developing statewide STEM learning exchanges.



[Illinois summit on aging and education spawns regional conversations](#)

The first Illinois Summit on Aging and Education held at the Illinois State University (ISU) Alumni Center September 20 convened about 120 educators, representatives of the aging community, medical and fitness professionals and business leaders. The conference was sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging and the Illinois State Board of Education to address the high school dropout rate and the deteriorating health of a rising number of older adults with a single solution: getting more retirees to remain active and preserve their health by volunteering with

students of all ages in a variety of settings including cyberspace. The Summit was followed up with regional meetings in October and November at over 20 community colleges with the goal of developing local solutions to improve each area’s graduation rate and healthy lifestyles. Recommendations from the Summit and regional meetings will be reported to the Governor and General Assembly by January.

[Hold the Date: 9th Focus on Illinois Educational Research Symposium](#)

Researchers, practitioners, and policy makers are invited to come together to share and learn about research being done to improve Illinois education from pre-K through higher education, on June 7-8, 2011, at Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington. Call for proposals and posters will be issued in January.

People in the News



(photo from Daily Herald)

[Tom Thompson](#), director of Harper College's Access and Disability Department, will retire in November after 30 years at the College. He has earned the 2010 Honor of Meritorious Contribution from the Association on Higher Education and Disability, a group he helped found; serves the community as a member of the Little City Foundation board, and is the founding chair of the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Disabilities Advisory Committee.

[Robert Ontiveros](#), chairman of Group O, a packaging, supply chain and marketing services company headquartered in Milan, is creating an opportunity for Hispanic students at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities in the form of a scholarship endowment. Ontiveros and his wife, Blenda, have committed \$100,000 to establish a scholarship endowment for full-time Quad Cities students with demonstrated financial need. Preference will be given to students of Hispanic origin. Five scholarships will be awarded each academic year.

Lewis University student [Ann Oberbruner](#) has been elected President of the Student Nurses Association of Illinois (SNAI) during its annual convention in Rockford. The non-profit organization for students enrolled in associate, baccalaureate, and diploma nursing programs in Illinois fosters professional development of nursing students. Oberbruner said she hopes to "help SNAI soar to new heights and help students shape their future."

Campus News

[WIU Announces \\$60 Million Campaign](#)



The public phase of the \$60 million campaign, Set the Standard: Higher Values in Higher Education, for Western Illinois University was announced to donors, alumni, and invited guests at an Oct. 29 WIU Foundation event and on Nov. 4 at Western's Quad Cities campus at a special event to address the needs of the Moline campus. The Set the Standard: Higher Values in Higher Education campaign focuses on four central goals: increased scholarship support for students; creating endowed programs in support of Western faculty; funding improvements to capital facilities; and enhancing information and technology to enrich the educational experience for students and faculty.

Moraine Valley assisting adults with bachelor degree transfer

The Moraine Valley Community College Academic Advising Department and Governor's State University are partnering for a Nontraditional Student Week event "What is Your Next Step in Your Educational Path?" on Thursday, November 11, at 7 p.m. At the free session a representative from Governor's State University will talk about how students can build a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies based on their own educational goals. Prospective students also can learn about the possibility of earning college credits from life-experience learning, the convenience of class scheduling and types of classes for busy adults at the university.

[Elgin Community College to host ISAC College Smart Fair November 13](#)

Experts will be on hand at Elgin Community College's Fox Valley University and Business Center, Elgin, to discuss

everything from beginning the college selection process to navigating the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to financial aid, student billing and money management. Financial aid representatives from area colleges and universities will also be available to answer questions. "The College Smart Fair offers students of really any age and their families the opportunity to explore and ask questions about how to choose a college, and, of course, how to pay for it," said Russell Goeltenbodt, financial literacy specialist with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, one of the event's co-sponsors.

News from Higher Education

[Push for performance](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board wants Gov. Rick Perry and the state legislature to adopt an outcomes-based funding formula for its community colleges and public universities next year. Faculty groups in the state, however, are dubious of the proposed changes and worry it could water down quality.

[A supportive nudge for minority graduate students on the path to a Ph.D.](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

For graduate students on the road to getting a doctoral degree, it's important to receive helpful advice from seasoned scholars on how to stay the course. Also critical are messages of encouragement and the opportunity to connect with other graduate students and future employers.

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