

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Higher Education Finance Study Commission considers recommendations](#)

Meeting for the fifth and final time at Columbia College on Wednesday, November 10, the Commission members held an in-depth discussion of performance funding and reform of financial aid, based upon a [draft final report](#) presented for their review. The commissioners, comprised of state legislators, business leaders, and higher education stakeholders will review final recommendations one more time before the report and recommendations are presented to the General Assembly and the boards of the three state higher education agencies, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The Commission was created by [Senate Joint Resolution 88](#), sponsored by Senator Ed Maloney and Representative Fred Crespo, both of whom served on the panel. Other legislative members are Senator Pam Althoff and Representative Bob Pritchard.

[Report gives low marks to Illinois' teacher preparation programs](#)

Ed School Essentials: A Review of Illinois Teacher Preparation is the latest in a series of National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) reports examining if education schools are truly producing the best possible teachers. The study, released this week, reviewed 111 undergraduate and graduate programs in 53 Illinois colleges and universities, and found many to be inadequate, particularly in math and reading instruction. The critical findings showed wide variability in coursework requirements, curriculum, and use of evidence-based strategies in preparing teachers. "We need to figure out which measures are most relevant to teacher effectiveness, and promote consistent reporting that is open, accessible and meaningful," said Robin Steans, executive director of Advance Illinois, an advocacy organization focused on improving the public education system in Illinois. Advance Illinois commissioned the NCTQ report. Five educator preparation groups in Illinois, encompassing all 53 Illinois institutions that were evaluated, responded to the ratings report expressing concern with NCTQ's review methodologies, describing the approach as "analogous to evaluating the quality of restaurants by only requesting that menus be mailed to the evaluator—without sampling the food or visiting the site."

[TEACH campaign](#)

The U.S. Department of Education has launched a teacher recruitment initiative to recruit more diverse, high-quality teachers and celebrate the teaching profession. The TEACH campaign

UPCOMING

November

- 12 IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Bloomington
- 12-13 Illinois Community College Trustees Association, Oak Brook
- 16-18 General Assembly Veto Session
- 16 [Senate Higher Education Committee](#), Room 409 Capitol
- 29-30 General Assembly Veto Session

December

- 1-2 General Assembly Veto Session
- 4-5 IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Chicago State University
- 7 IBHE Board Meeting, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago

encourages more minorities, especially males, to pursue careers in the classroom. Nationwide, more than 35% of public school students are African-American or Hispanic, but less than 15% of teachers are African-American or Hispanic. Moreover, less than 2% of the nation's teachers are African-American males. TEACH.gov, web site provides information and resources for students and prospective teachers, including a new interactive "pathway to teaching" tool designed to help individuals chart their course to becoming a teacher. More than 7,000 teacher job listings also are posted on the site.

[New research priorities from Institute of Education Sciences](#)

On November 1, the National Board for Education Sciences unanimously approved new research priorities for the Department's Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Proposed by Director John Easton and submitted for public comment this summer, these new priorities place greater emphasis on putting research findings into context, "to identify education policies, programs, and practices that improve education outcomes, and to determine how, why, for whom, and under what conditions they are effective."

[Performance-based scholarships](#)

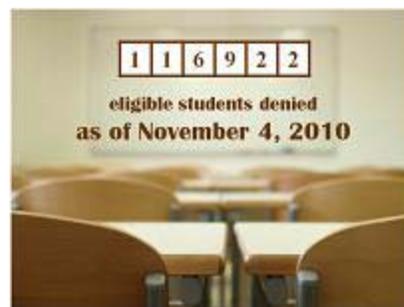
Performance-based scholarships are a new and innovative type of financial aid for postsecondary education. The scholarships are performance-based in that the payments are contingent upon meeting academic benchmarks after students enroll in the scholarship program, and do not place weight on past grades. MDRC launched the Performance-Based Scholarship (PBS) Demonstration in 2008. The goal of the PBS Demonstration is to evaluate whether performance-based scholarships are an effective way to improve persistence among low-income college students in different geographical locations with different amounts of monies over different durations.

A report has just been issued on the first year results in Ohio for 13,000 students enrolled in the fall of 2008. Early analyses show that the program increased the number of credits attempted; increased full-time enrollment; increased the number of credits earned; and reduced educational debt.

[Illinois Student Assistance Commission pays down debt, realizes revenue](#)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has announced that as a result of its recently-concluded tender offer for its own bonds, it paid down \$145 million of agency debt and realized over \$70 million in one-time revenue. "This transaction – in addition to helping the agency manage its balance sheet more efficiently, with less debt burden – earned the agency over \$70 million that can be used over time to deliver programs and services to Illinois students and their families," said ISAC Executive Director Andrew Davis.

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



People in the News



[M. Elizabeth Judson](#) of Galesburg was selected as Eureka College's recipient of the 2010 Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate Award. The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement, campus leadership and extracurricular activities among Illinois college and university seniors. The awards ceremony, held Nov. 6, included a speech by Judson about the honor on behalf of the more than 50 recipients from Illinois colleges and universities in attendance. Judson is a biology major enrolled in the pre-veterinary program.

Judson with Eureka College's President J. David Arnold and Lincoln Academy's Vice Chancellor Gayl Pyatt

Editor's note: In the upcoming issues of [The Friday Memo](#), the Illinois Student Laureates from Illinois' colleges and universities will be featured in "People in the News."

Campus News

Governors State wins Governor's environmental sustainability award

Governors State University (GSU) has received the 2010 Governor's Sustainability Award for significant achievements in protecting the environment, helping sustain the future, and improving the economy. GSU continues to reduce pollution and its carbon footprint through innovative improvements ranging from permeable paving parking lots that prevent public waterway contamination to solar panels that heat the swimming pool and other campus areas to a new heating system that significantly cuts energy consumption. GSU has a successful, university-wide recycling program and was ranked number one among Illinois universities under the "Waste Minimization" category in the national Recyclemania competition. The university has turned to efficient lighting systems and earth-friendly cleaning materials. GSU was recently awarded a state grant that will be used to construct a wind turbine on campus.

[Center for Systems Security and Information Assurance \(CSSIA\) at Moraine Valley making bigger impact across the country](#)

CSSIA at Moraine Valley Community College, which focuses on cyber security education programs at the secondary and post-secondary levels, has been transitioning into a national resource center with the assistance of a four-year \$1.8 million grant from the National Security Agency (NSA). Since 2003, Moraine Valley has been the lead institution for CSSIA as a regional center for five states with a focus on curriculum development, outreach, and faculty development and mentoring. The college was recently designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Two-Year Education by NSA. By expanding nationally, the focus now centers on high school and college cyber security skills competition, academic mentoring for faculty and students for competition, and faculty development.

News from Higher Education

[California community-college leaders to recommend one million new graduates by 2020](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

California's community colleges should increase the number of certificates and degrees they award by one million by 2020, a panel of the state's community-college leaders will announce next week.

[Hundreds Rally Against Louisiana Higher Education Cuts](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

BATON ROUGE Louisiana – About 500 college students and faculty from around Louisiana rallied at the state Capitol against higher education budget cuts they say will cripple their campuses, directing much of their anger at Governor Bobby Jindal.

[British Rebellion Over Cuts](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Waving placards with slogans including "Where's your (arts and) humanity?" "Knowledge: £9,000 per annum," and "Students are broke: the system is broken," demonstrators marched from Whitehall, through Westminster and along Millbank. The protest, which took place under the banner "Fund Our Future: Stop Education Cuts," rang out with the chant: "No ifs, no buts, no education cuts."

[Proficiency of black students is found to be far lower than expected](#) (The New York Times)

An achievement gap separating black from white students has long been documented — a social divide extremely vexing to policy makers and the target of one blast of school reform after another. But a new report focusing on black males suggests that the picture is even bleaker than generally known.

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