

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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**November 19, 2010**

**General Assembly receives two reports on higher ed concerns**

**[Blue Ribbon Committee examines higher education mandates](#)**

Last spring, the Illinois House of Representatives passed House Resolution 918 creating a Blue Ribbon Committee on Higher Education Mandates to review state mandates on Illinois public universities. The Committee, which included public university faculty, staff, and governing board members, Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) staff, members of the business community, and representatives of faculty unions, met throughout the summer and fall of 2010. The Committee analyzed a comprehensive list of statutory and regulatory mandates imposed on public universities and developed a set of focused recommendations that would provide the universities with administrative and financial relief without sacrificing the health and welfare of their students or the academic integrity of their campuses.

**[Higher Education Procurement Commission studies impact of Illinois Procurement Code on universities' operations](#)**

House Resolution 919 directed IBHE to establish a commission to study the Illinois Procurement Code for potential ways in which purchases by public universities can be completed more efficiently. In response, the IBHE formed a commission of representative procurement staff from the universities, appointed by their respective presidents. The commission's research included contacts with faculty, peer public and private institutions, and discussions with the National Association of Educational Procurement and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The report submitted to the General Assembly discusses various issues related to the impact of the Procurement Code and Public Act 96-795, reviews information related to peer institutions, and recommends revisions to the Illinois Procurement Code that would allow public universities to manage procurement functions more efficiently while maintaining compliance and transparency.

**[Teacher preparation should require more classroom experience](#)**

A national panel composed of education experts and critics has called for teacher education to be revamped by placing clinical practice at the center of teacher preparation. This new vision of preparation also will require the development of partnerships with school districts in which teacher education becomes a shared responsibility between P-12 schools and higher education. The report was issued by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Preparation and Partnerships for Improved Student Learning, convened by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) to improve student learning.

**[Bad news \(what else?\) on economic front](#)**

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities has compiled a background white paper on major financial issues facing states and higher education, and the picture isn't pretty. Tepid U.S. growth, no relief from cost-shift in who pays for college, pressures in state budgeting – all gloomy.

**UPCOMING**

**November**

**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

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



## People in the News

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Southern Illinois University Carbondale Chancellor Rita Cheng announced the appointment of [Gary L. Minish](#) as provost and senior vice chancellor. His appointment, effective December 15, is subject to ratification by the SIU Board of Trustees. Minish served as dean of SIUC's College of Agricultural Sciences and professor of animal science, food and nutrition from 2004 until his retirement earlier this year.



[Mark Ahern](#), **University of St. Francis**, is a finance major from Homewood, Illinois. He is the President of the Student Government Association, a Peer Minister, and member of the Fighting Saints baseball team.



[Summer Hallaj](#), **Lewis University**, is a Political Science and Philosophy of Law double major from St. Charles, Illinois. She has served as a Resident Assistant, Vice President of the Pre-Law Club, founder and president of People to End Animal Cruelty and Endangerment (PEACE), and co-captain of the Mock Trial team.



[Kate Green](#), **Northern Illinois University**, is a political science and economics major, minor in Chinese, from Geneva, Illinois. She is a peer adviser for the NIU Honors Program, member of the student ministry team for the Newman Catholic Student Center, and serves on the Student Advisory Council for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**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." The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement, campus leadership and extracurricular activities among Illinois college and university seniors.

## Campus News

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### [UIS Downstate Illinois Innocence Project receives major grant](#)

The University of Illinois Springfield's Downstate Illinois Innocence Project with the support of the UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership has been awarded a \$687,448 grant to clear downstate Illinois innocence cases where DNA testing might decide the outcome. U.S. Senator Dick Durbin helped to facilitate the grant, which is one of the largest in UIS' history.

## News from Higher Education

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### [Fewer Latino children enrolled in preschool, study finds](#) (Chicago Tribune)

In Illinois, Latino children were half as likely to enroll in preschool as white and African-American students, a disparity that threatens to widen the academic divide between them, according to a new report out.

### [With revenue drying up, educators look to productivity as the way to serve more students](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Of all the meetings this year that will debate the future of higher education, the gathering in this Midwestern city might seem among the humblest. But its goals are lofty.

### [California: big win for undocumented students](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The California Supreme Court unanimously upheld a state statute affording some undocumented students in-state tuition status, overturning an earlier decision by an appellate court on Nov. 15. California is one of only 10 states in which undocumented students are eligible to pay in-state tuition.

### [China overtakes India as No. 1 source of foreign students in U.S.](#) (The Washington Post)

China zoomed past India as the main source of foreign students coming to the United States to attend college, with a 30 percent jump in Chinese students in a single year, according to a new report. It was the first time that China had sent the most students to American schools.

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