

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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Interim Executive Director Donald Sevenser

ICCB
Chairman Guy Alongi
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC
Chairman Don McNeil
Executive Director Andy Davis

December 3, 2010

[Stalwart supporter of Illinois higher education dies](#)



Representative Rich Myers, (R-Colchester), minority spokesperson on the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee and member of the House Higher Education Committee, succumbed to prostate cancer on December 1. Myers had been in the Illinois House for 16 years and was re-elected last month. Myers was a farmer in the Colchester area and was a Western Illinois University (WIU) alumnus. He was also an adjunct instructor in WIU's Centennial Honors College. He taught the general honors course Inside State Government for 10 years.

"Rich Myers was a loyal Western Illinois University alumnus and was a tireless advocate for higher education in the state of Illinois," WIU President Al Goldfarb said.

[General Assembly and Governor receive Report from Higher Education Finance Commission](#)

On December 1, Don Sevenser, interim executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), sent to the Governor and the General Assembly the final Report as required by SJR 88. The recommendations focus on making a stronger connection between the funding of higher education and performance goals of increasing educational attainment and enhancing college affordability, as articulated through the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*.

In the transmittal message, Sevenser thanked the Commission members, including the four legislators, Senator Ed Maloney, sponsor of SJR 88; Senator Pam Althoff; Representative Fred Crespo, House sponsor of the resolution; and Representative Bob Pritchard, "...for their hard work and their sense of public service." He describes the final recommendations as representing "...the consensus of many individuals who came together with a common purpose: student success. Its recommendations serve as an action blueprint to guide the General Assembly, the Administration, state agencies, colleges and universities, and other policymakers to leverage state resources to ensure that taxpayers have an efficient, effective system of higher education to meet the workforce and economic needs of the state and its citizens."

[Senator Maloney calls on General Assembly to make higher education a higher priority](#)

After reviewing the final report of the Higher Education Finance Study Commission, State Senator Ed Maloney (D-Chicago), Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, and a member of the Study Commission, renewed his calls that the General Assembly reform funding, state mandates, and financial aid standards for Illinois' imperilled public universities and community colleges. "Illinois has world-class public universities and community colleges," Maloney said. "But that is going to change if we don't do something." In the statement released on December 2, Maloney went on to say: "I believe that this report should result in legislation in the 97th General Assembly, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that students from every rung of the socioeconomic ladder have access to a high quality education for years to come."

UPCOMING

December

4-5 IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Chicago State University

7 IBHE Board Meeting, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago

IBHE Disabilities Advisory Committee, Chicago

10 IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council, Springfield

General Assembly completes Veto Session leaving some issues for final consideration in early January

On issues being followed by the higher education community, one was decided when the Senate voted with the House to override the Governor's amendatory veto of [HB 5154](#) which exempts performance evaluations from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Governor recommended that the performance evaluations of only State and local peace officers (instead of all personnel) be prohibited from disclosure under the FOIA. This means that disclosure of public employee performance evaluations in response to a FOIA records request is prohibited.

A bill to ensure that universities (as well as other state agencies) can utilize the best business practices to address uncollectible debts from vendors, [HB 2263](#), is still in discussion in both the Senate and House. It addresses changes made in [SB 377](#) which are proving unworkable.

The Senate unanimously approved [HB 5057](#) which gives Governor Quinn 30 days after enactment of the legislation to nominate—or re-nominate—people from appointed staff and boards and commissions whose terms have expired. These nominations must then be confirmed by the Senate. Members of universities' boards of trustees, as well as members of IBHE, ISAC, and ICCB, are included. The bill's Senate sponsors, Senators Cullerton and Radogno, have both made it clear that the legislation does not prohibit those serving under expired terms from being reappointed to their positions by the Governor. The House will consider the bill, sponsored by Representative Madigan, when it returns on January 3, 2011. The Senate returns to Springfield the following day, January 4. Both chambers will be in lame-duck session up until January 12 when the new 97th General Assembly will be sworn in, and Governor Quinn will be inaugurated.

[Why universities are streamlining their curricula](#)

Gary A. Olson, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Idaho State University, writes in this week's *Chronicle of Higher Education* about the decisions for program closures on campuses across the country. He focuses on the need for curricular reform that is about serving students, both in terms of allowing students to meet educational requirements in a timelier manner, as well as gaining efficiencies in institutions' operations.

[Higher education advertised job openings up 64 percent in third quarter](#)

The number of advertised job openings in higher education soared in the third quarter of 2010, according to a newly released Higher Education Employment Report from HigherEdJobs. Job postings at community colleges were up 42.0 percent compared to last year when job postings at community colleges were down 29.6 percent. The report also examined data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and found that employment in higher education increased 2.9 percent over last year, translating to an increase of over 65,000 jobs. That's comparable to creating several major research institutions in one year.

[Teacher evaluation should focus on improving instruction](#)

Illinois has a good opportunity to be creative and provide leadership in the development of new evaluation systems for teachers, the executive director of the Illinois Education Association said at a gathering of some 250 education leaders. Speaking as part of the Chicago Schools Policy Luncheon Series, Audrey Soglin noted that Illinois' new state law on teacher evaluation requires school districts to incorporate student growth but allows school boards and teacher unions to decide the particulars, such as how growth is measured and, within limits, how much it counts for. A state committee also is working to develop universal methods for assessing teacher practice and defining effective teaching, something that Soglin said will give teachers a better idea of how they're being evaluated.

[College tuition the smart holiday gift that lasts a lifetime](#)

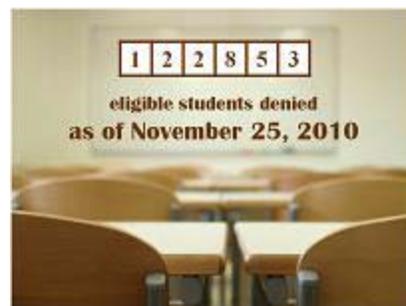
Parents and grandparents often believe that the best gifts for their children are the ones they long for the most, but what happens in a few years when those Pillow Pets are obsolete? The gift of a college education lasts a lifetime, and a College Illinois!® Prepaid Tuition Program contract makes it affordable to give to a loved one

today. In fact, contributions to a College Illinois Prepaid Tuition plan before December 31 can qualify for 2010 tax benefits.

[Illinois Student Assistance Commission recognizes Illinois' students support for MAP](#)

Harkening back to a year ago when Illinois students came together in Springfield to support the restoration of fiscal year 2010 funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP), the members of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission have issued a proclamation in recognition of, and gratitude for, the students' involvement in the successful effort. The proclamation sent to Illinois' student leaders goes on to urge them to "retain their civic spirit, to remain involved in the public sphere, to maintain their awareness of and interest in student financial assistance and the MAP program."

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



[People in the News](#)

Senate Executive Appointments Committee approved Chicago State University's newest trustees, **Gary L. Rozier and Lisa Morrison Butler**, on November 17. Rozier is Senior Vice President for Institutional Marketing and Consultant Relations at Ariel Investments in Chicago. Morrison Butler serves as Executive Director of City Year Chicago. Both will serve through January 2013.

[Mike Sullivan](#), a Moraine Valley Community College student and infantry reconnaissance in the United States Marines from 2000 to 2004, was elected as the Chicago director for Student Veterans of America (SVA) at the organization's national conference in Washington, DC.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) recognized 17,335 students from 749 different high schools from across the state as **2011-12 Illinois State Scholars**. Illinois State Scholar winners rank in the top ten percent of high school seniors. Selection is based on SAT, ACT and/or Prairie State Achievement Exam scores, and/or class rank at the end of the junior year. For a complete listing of every State Scholar by county and high school visit the agency's collegezone.com website at www.collegezone.com/407_11520.htm. "Excellent high school grades are tremendously important for laying the groundwork for future college success," said ISAC Executive Director Andrew Davis. "Illinois State Scholars are the best and the brightest in our state's high schools, and we salute them, their families, and their teachers on this achievement."



[Nicholas Fahnders](#), **Bradley University**, is the Lincoln Academy's Student Laureate. Fahnders is a senior from Pekin, Illinois, majoring in Psychology and Advertising. Fahnders has been active on campus as the Hall Director in Heitz Hall and as an advisor to the Heitz Hall Council. He is the Student Aide Coordinator for the campus orientation program; is the chair of the Student Activities Budget Review Committee; and serves on the Student and University Senates.



[Shammrie Brown](#), Aurora University, a senior from Naperville, Illinois, received the Lincoln Academy's Student Laureate award. Brown is majoring in social work. He is a resident assistant, Vice President of the Black Student Association and an acrylic artist.



[Adnan Mujagic](#), Benedictine University, is the Lincoln Academy's Student Laureate. Mujagic is a senior Political Science major from Naperville. Mujagic is president of the Political Science Student Association and president of STAND, a student organization committed to ending genocide. He grew up in Bosnia, from which he and his family fled more than 10 years ago.

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

[Si Se Puede conference motivates hundreds of high school students at Lewis University](#)

Nearly 600 high school students from across the Chicago area participated in Lewis University's Sixth Annual Si Se Puede Conference Nov. 16. It was the largest crowd in the history of the conference, which began in 2001 to provide workshops on choosing a college, navigating the financial aid process, and motivation on reaching one's fullest potential. The keynote speaker was Enrique Rodriquez, weekend anchor and general weekly assignment reporter for Noticias Univision Chicago.

[ECC 13th in fastest-growing U.S. colleges](#)

In a November 29 special report by *Community College Week*, Elgin Community College was named the nation's 13th fastest-growing community college among institutions with enrollments of 10,000 or more. On this same list, ECC ranked number one in the state of Illinois. The report tracked enrollment for the period between the fall 2008 and fall 2009 semesters; ECC's enrollment increase during that time was 19 percent.

[Illinois College hosts Summer Institute on the Midwest frontier](#)

An upcoming opportunity for K-12 educators to participate in a four-week Summer Seminar in June-July 2011, is being hosted by Illinois College under the leadership of James E. Davis, Emeritus Professor of History and Geography. The competitive seminar, which includes a stipend, is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The topic of the seminar is "The Frontier Experience in the American Midwest."

[Eureka College plans 'Reagan and the Midwest' Conference](#)

Authors, scholars, and former Reagan administration officials including former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III, Fred Barnes, Peter Hannaford, Martin Anderson, Annelise Anderson, and Craig Shirley will discuss the impact of the Midwest on Ronald Reagan's life and career at the "Reagan and the Midwest Conference" January 14 at Eureka College. As part of the Ronald Reagan Centennial Celebration at Eureka College the conference, which is open to the public, will begin at 9 a.m. and end with a keynote address by former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

[UIS professor's Beatles podcast the second most downloaded on iTunes U](#)



The University of Illinois Springfield has reached a major milestone on iTunes U, a cross-platform multimedia distribution and learning environment that offers free educational content. Professor Michael Cheney's podcast "Unit 1: Beatles as Mosaic" was recently listed as the second most downloaded podcast on iTunes U. Cheney, a professor of Communication, teaches an online Liberal Studies course on The Beatles. "The Beatles: Popular Music and Society" series has also been listed for the first time in

the "Noteworthy" section of iTunes U. Cheney's podcasts can be heard at the UIS iTunes U page at <http://itunes.uis.edu/>

[News from Higher Education](#)

[As state budgets shrink, college advocates seek regulatory relief](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Last year's annual conference of higher-education government-relations professionals was focused largely on ways of persuading state lawmakers to spare institutions from devastating budget cuts.

[Looking ahead to 2013](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

WASHINGTON — At the request of Education Secretary Arne Duncan, a subcommittee of the department's advisory board on accreditation will develop a set of legislative recommendations for the 2013 renewal of the Higher Education Act.

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