

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Keith Sanders, former IBHE executive, dies](#)

Keith Sanders, a long-time educator in Illinois and Wisconsin and former executive director of the Board of Higher Education, passed away Wednesday, January 13th.

Sanders led the IBHE from January 1998 until his retirement in June 2002. Under his leadership, the Board adopted *The Illinois Commitment* as the higher education strategic plan, created the University Center of Lake County, and launched the Illinois Century Network and other technology initiatives.

Goodbye 96th General Assembly; Hello 97th

The 96th General Assembly that adjourned early Wednesday morning may be remembered mostly for increasing the state income tax. But for higher education, the 96th had many notable achievements.

- **P-20** – [PA 96-107](#) created the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act to establish an information system that will enable policymakers to track student achievement and mobility through the preschool-to-grad-school pipeline.
[PA 96-903](#) reforms the process for recruiting, training, and certifying school principals. The law strengthens standards and rigor in the preparation of school leaders and emphasizes the principal's central role as the school's instructional leader.
[PA 96-535](#) created the Collaborative Baccalaureate Degree Development Grant Program (still unfunded) to encourage partnerships between community colleges and four-year institutions to provide baccalaureate completion programs on or near community college campuses.
[PA 96-194](#) created the Dual Credit Quality Act to develop policies governing eligibility for dual credit coursework and codifying standards for evaluating dual credit programs.
[PA 96-1393](#) transferred administration of the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act from the State Board of Education to IBHE.
[PA 96-106](#) created the Illinois Hope and Opportunity Pathways through Education program to develop a comprehensive system to re-enroll high school dropouts in programs to attain a high school diploma.
- **Finance** – [SJR 88](#) created the Higher Education Finance Study Commission, which released recommendations to the General Assembly in December to pursue a system of performance-based funding for colleges and universities, ensure the adequacy and predictability of state funding, improve efficiency of operations while reducing the burdens of unfunded mandates, and develop a financial aid policy that expands access to success.

UPCOMING

January

- 17** Martin Luther King Day, offices closed for state holiday
- 19** MAP Task Force meeting, DeVry University, Downers Grove
- 21** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, UIC, Chicago
- 28** ICCB Board meeting, Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield
- 31** ISAC Commission meeting, Videoconference at Thompson Center, Chicago, and CMS Capital City Center, Springfield

February

- 12** IBHE Student Advisory Committee, SIU-Edwardsville
- 15** IBHE Board meeting, National Louis University, Chicago

- **College readiness** – [PA 96-1300](#) expands the College and Career Readiness Act to additional community college sites. The program diagnoses a student's readiness for college and provides remedial help while the student is still in high school.
- **College attainment** – [PA 96-1299](#) established a new grant program (so far unfunded) to encourage students to complete an associate's degree and transfer to a four-year institution to complete a bachelor's degree.
- **Affordability** – [PA 96-1293](#) standardizes practices at public universities for students whose studies extend beyond the four-year tuition guarantee.
[HJR 54](#) and [HJR 75](#) directed IBHE to undertake studies of college affordability and of the sustainability of the Monetary Award Program (MAP).
- **Diversity** – [PA 96-1064](#) requires colleges and universities to comply with the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act in state-funded capital projects.
[PA 96-1286](#) requires colleges and universities to report annually to the General Assembly on activities and progress in hiring and promoting Hispanics and bilingual persons at supervisory, technical, professional, and managerial levels.
[PA 96-1341](#) calls for creation of the African American Employment Plan with requirements consistent with the Hispanic Employment Plan.
- **Economic Development** – [PA 96-1279](#) authorizes the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to create financial incentive and grant programs to encourage private companies to share their new energy technologies with public institutions of higher education, public utilities, and state and federal agencies.
- **Veterans** – [PA 96-133](#) requires public universities and community colleges to conduct a survey of services and programs provided for veterans and the appointment of a coordinator of veteran and military personnel student services.

[Task Force begins review of proposal to augment MAP funding](#)

The Task Force created by IBHE to evaluate a proposal to sell investment notes to supplement funding of the Monetary Award Program (MAP) began its study this week. Task Force members heard a [presentation](#) by Andy Davis, executive director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), outlining the funding problems facing MAP and the low-income students it serves.

A new website has been created for public input and to share task force announcements and related information. Visit www.maptaskforce.org for more information, or e-mail comments and/or proposals in PDF format to submissions@maptaskforce.org.

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



[ISBE FY12 budget seeks 3.5% increase](#)

The Illinois State Board of Education has approved a fiscal 2012 state General Funds budget recommendation that would restore education funding and provide a \$261 million, or 3.5 percent increase, over the fiscal 2009 General Funds budget. This recommendation, which will be sent to the Governor and General Assembly, would allow the per-pupil FY 2011 General State Aid Foundation level of \$6,119 to increase to \$6,416 per pupil but it falls short of the Education Funding Advisory Board's recommended \$8,360 Foundation Level. State funding for education was reduced in FY 2010 and FY 2011 by nearly \$450 million.

[Lumina Foundation CEO Urges Business Leaders to Engage in Higher Education Reform](#)

In a speech Jan. 13th to the Economic Club of Indiana, Jamie Merisotis, the president and CEO of Lumina Foundation, asked business leaders to become active partners and advocates for increasing the number of Americans with high-quality credentials beyond high school.

Merisotis' address focused on how higher education and workforce development can lead to economic recovery. He cited the critical connection between college success and economic prosperity, insisting that business leaders have an important role to play in ensuring that citizens get the education they need to improve their own lives and help the economy grow.

[People in the News](#)

[Mark M. Rasenick](#), Distinguished University Professor in physiology and biophysics and psychiatry and founding director of the Neuroscience Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, has been named a Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

University of Illinois at Chicago psychology doctoral candidate [Jennifer Veilleux](#) is one of eight graduate students nationwide selected to receive a 2011 K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award from the Association of American Colleges and Universities. The award, named for a professor emerita of higher education at the University of California-Berkeley, recognizes graduate students who show exemplary promise as future leaders of higher education.

[Annice Brave](#), the 2011 Illinois Teacher of the Year, has been named one of four finalists for National Teacher of the Year. An English and journalism teacher at Alton High School, Brave was chosen 2011 Illinois Teacher of the Year last October from a field of eight finalists. She has been teaching for 23 years and was the first teacher in Alton Community Unit School District 11 to earn National Board Certification. She also serves as chair of the English department. The winner will be announced in the spring.

Illinois' Student Laureates



[Kelsey Lee](#), **Millikin University**, is a senior from Virginia, Illinois, and is majoring in early childhood education. **Kelsey** is involved in Alpha Chi Omega, Panhellenic Council, Illinois Education Association, and Order of Omega.



[Anita Ahuja](#), **Knox College**, is a senior biology major from Rock Island. Ahuja has been named to the Dean's List, inducted into the Mortar Board academic honor society, and received the CRC

Press Award for Achievement in Chemistry.



Megan Kruse, Illinois College, is a December 2010 graduate from Petersburg, Illinois. Megan majored in Spanish and elementary education and is certified to teach at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels.

*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

[IMSA has a NEW Field Office serving the Rock Island Region](#)

The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) is joining forces with educators from the Rock Island Region to help students prepare for highly skilled careers as they discover the joys of learning mathematics and science. On February 10, a ribbon cutting at the Rock Island Center for Math and Science will take place.

[Accessible math and graphics for the classroom program](#)

On January 27 at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign (UIUC) will be an opportunity to learn from one of the international leaders of math and science accessibility, when Dr. John Gardner, Professor Emeritus of Physics at Oregon State University and founder and president of ViewPlus Technologies, Inc, presents a program on print accessibility. After losing his sight in 1988 in mid-career, Gardner found there were very few tools available for blind people to convert visually-oriented information, like diagrams and structured mathematics, to a medium that could be fully comprehended through touch and sound. This led to his development of new technologies for access to complex information by people with print disabilities. He will be describing his tools for MS WORD and EXCEL, as well as for graphics using IVEO and SVG. The workshop is free, at Huff Hall in Champaign, starting at 1:00 p.m.

[UIC to host free webinar on applying for financial aid](#)

The University of Illinois at Chicago will host a free webinar, "Making College Affordable: Applying for Financial Aid," on Jan. 20 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. The webinar is intended for anyone thinking about attending a state university. The panelists include Timothy Opgenorth, director of financial aid at UIC, and Gloria Purifoy, college and career specialist at the Chicago Public Schools. Chicago Public Radio host and correspondent Richard Steele will be moderator.

News from Higher Education

[States adjust to a more frugal Washington](#) (Stateline.org)

As a new power dynamic takes hold in Washington, one thing is clear for cash-strapped states: Whether they

think of federal aid money as an essential economic boost or a wasteful bailout, the help is over.

[For minorities, a new 'digital divide'](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

When the personal computer revolution began decades ago, Latinos and Blacks were much less likely to use one of the marvelous new machines. Then, when the Internet began to change life as we know it, these groups had less access to the Web and slower online connections placing them on the wrong side of the “digital divide.”

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