

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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January 21, 2011

[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) met this week at DeVry University and heard testimony from Jerry Weber, president of the College of Lake County and head of the Council of Community College Presidents, and Paula Luff, representing the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA). Weber proposed an alternative to the MAP bonding plan. His suggestion was to capture income tax revenue from all graduates of colleges and universities and earmark it as a supplement to current MAP funding. He estimated the idea could generate \$150 million within three years without the need to pay fees and interest on bonds. Luff said the financial aid administrators group understands the funding challenges facing MAP, but opposed the bonding proposal on grounds that it probably could not win legislative or public support, and there was uncertainty whether community colleges would have the financial wherewithal to accommodate a large influx of community college students. The Task Force meets next on January 27th at 2:30 p.m. at ICCB offices in Springfield.

[College Completion: Talking with middle school and high school students](#)

As a focus on President Obama's goal that, by 2020, the U.S. will lead the world in college completion, the Department of Education conducted a National Youth Listening Tour to engage youth in a conversation on what it will take to meet the President's goal. Senior officials met with over 1,800 middle and high school students and 40 youth-serving institutions from across the country during the summer. To close the tour, the Department will host a "Voices in Action: National Youth Summit" on Saturday, February 26, in Washington, D.C. There will be an opportunity for students to present their best ideas on meeting the President's goal with youth, policymakers, and partner organizations. Local "watch parties" to view the live webcast of the summit are encouraged.

[Did you get a new gaming system this holiday season? U of I researchers can tell you how good you are at playing.](#)

University of Illinois Beckman Institute director Art Kramer and his colleagues developed a new way to predict how well study subjects would do on a strategic video game, simply by analyzing activity in a specific region of their brains. The new method can predict 55 to 68 percent of the variance in learning between individuals – before they even start to play the game.

[Heartsaver AED Fund Grant Available](#)

The Heartsaver AED Fund Grant program provides matching funds for Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to schools, park, recreation, and conservation districts, and colleges and universities in Illinois. The Illinois Department of Public Health's application and guidance is now online. Awards will be made to qualified applicants who demonstrate that they have the funds to pay 50% of the cost of the AEDs for which the matching grant moneys are sought.

UPCOMING

January

- 21** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, UIC, Chicago
- 27** MAP Task Force meeting, Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center, Springfield
- 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

Deadline for submission of applications to the Division of EMS and Highway Safety is by close of business February 14.

[MHEC state reports available](#)

MHEC's annual state reports for 2009-10 are now available online. The reports outline activities in MHEC's three core functions of cost savings and cost containment, student access and success, and policy research and analysis.

The reports also provide a snapshot of performance indicators for postsecondary education that are designed to tell a story of each state's projected workforce needs, the levels of education that will be required to meet these needs, and the various factors that influence a state's ability to close the projected credentials gap. An Excel spreadsheet containing the data used to generate the graphs contained in the report, as well as additional data related to postsecondary education, is available for download at www.mhec.org/resources.

People in the News



[Dr. Jack Thomas](#), provost and academic vice president at Western Illinois University, has been named the University's 11th president, effective July 1. Thomas has served as provost and academic vice president at Western since January 2008. "As president-elect, I plan to work with all constituencies to continue to move this outstanding institution forward as a leading university in Illinois and beyond the state's borders," Thomas stated upon the announcement.

Previously, he was the senior vice provost for academic affairs and professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), Murfreesboro, and also served as the vice provost for academic affairs and as the interim dean of the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning at MTSU. He earned his doctorate in English literature and criticism from Indiana University of Pennsylvania; his master's degree from Virginia State University; and his bachelor's degree in English from Alabama A & M University. Thomas is also a 2005 graduate of the Harvard Institute for Management and Leadership Education program. Thomas and his wife, Linda, have two sons. Patrick is a sophomore at Western Illinois University, and Darius is a sophomore at Macomb Senior High School.



At Governors State University's Winter Commencement on February 5, [Mac-Z Zurawski](#) of Chicago will not only earn her Master of Arts in Political and Justice Studies, she also will be addressing the Class of 2010 as student commencement speaker. Zurawski's journey to graduation is as a single mother, with a young son to provide for. For the past 12 years, she has worked as a trash collector for the City of Chicago and continues to live in McKinley Park/Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago, where she is an active volunteer in the community. "I was inspired to go back to school for my son. I needed to look for something secure and stable. I needed to find a way to get off the garbage truck," says Zurawski.

Suzette Murray, Waubensee Community College Dean for Business and Information Systems, was recently named chair of the Illinois Career Commission, which is part of the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA). The commission represents career administrators across the state and is charged with making recommendations concerning career and technical education policy to the ICCCA.

The University of Illinois trustees re-elected **Christopher Kennedy** as Chair at the January 20 meeting. Governor Quinn has appointed two new trustees, **Ricardo Estrada**, who served on Quinn's Admissions Review Committee, and attorney **Patricia Brown Holmes**, who chaired the governor's cemetery task force. They replace **Frances Carroll** and **Carlos Tortolero**. Current trustee, **Karen Hasara**, former mayor of Springfield, was re-appointed

Campus News

[ADM Gives University of Illinois \\$10 million to found institute to reduce global postharvest loss of grains, oilseeds](#)

Archer Daniels Midland Company on January 19 founded the ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss with a \$10 million grant to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The global institute will work with smallholder farmers in the developing world to help preserve millions of metric tons of grains and oilseeds lost each year to pests, disease, mishandling and other factors.

[SIU Med School receives three federal grants](#)

Two research scientists at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Yin-Yuan Mo, Ph.D., associate professor of medical microbiology, immunology and cell biology and Aya Kobayashi, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow of medical microbiology, immunology and cell biology, have been awarded three grants by the Department of Defense U.S. Army Medical Research to study breast and prostate cancer. The grants total \$338,833.

News from Higher Education

[Learning more at selective colleges](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

A new book released, *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses*, is already creating quite a stir with its finding that an astounding 45 percent of students learn little in the first two years of college, as measured by progress on the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA).

[Amid cuts, public colleges step up appeals to alumni](#) (The New York Times)

As state legislatures cut back support for higher education, public colleges and universities across the country are turning to their alumni, hat in hand, as never before — hiring consultants, hunting down graduates and mobilizing student phone banks to raise private money in amounts they once thought impossible.

[Federal agencies announce community college grant program](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

In what is believed to be one of the largest federal investments in community colleges ever, the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Education Department announced a long-awaited \$2 billion competitive grant program on January 20 meant to support programs that help students and “trade impacted” workers secure jobs in new and growing industries.

Quotable:

“The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. guided us toward a mountaintop on which all Americans -- regardless of skin color -- could live together in mutual respect and brotherhood. His bold leadership and prophetic eloquence united people of all backgrounds in a noble quest for freedom and basic civil rights. Inspired by Dr. King’s legacy, brave souls have marched fearlessly, organized relentlessly, and devoted their lives to the unending task of perfecting our Union.... But we must recognize their achievements as milestones on the long path to true equal opportunity and equal rights. We must face the challenges of today with the same strength, persistence, and determination exhibited by Dr. King, guided by the enduring values of hope and justice embodied by other civil rights leaders. As a nation, we must expand access to opportunity and end structural inequalities for all people in employment and economic mobility.”

-- President Barack Obama, January 14th, in a proclamation commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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