

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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[ICCTA testifies against MAP bonding proposal; Task Force focuses on report to IBHE](#)

A proposal to sell \$500 million in bonds to supplement funding for the Monetary Award Program was criticized Thursday by the president of the Illinois Community Colleges Trustees Association, who said the plan was a risky approach to broadening access for community college students. David Harby, a trustee at Danville Area Community College, said he believed the proposal by ISAC is workable, but expressed concern about the long-term sustainability of the College Opportunity Investments Notes (COINs) idea. "It's not fair for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in school now if the money isn't there when they get to college." He also said the trustees' organization believes it unfair to single out community college students to repay the bonds through increased income taxes generated by their completion of a college credential.

Meanwhile, Task Force Chairman Tom Schmidt said members would roll up their sleeves at the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting – the last scheduled by the Task Force – to begin drafting the report due to IBHE by its February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

[Roy Garcia named as Illinois Campus Security Coordinator](#)

In November, 2010, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) appointed Roy Garcia to the position of Campus Security Coordinator. Garcia is the past President of the Illinois Campus Law Enforcement Executives, former Director of Emergency Preparedness, Director of Campus Public Safety at Aurora University, and a member of the Illinois Campus Security Task Force. He has over 30 years of law enforcement experience on the local, state and federal level. The Campus Security Coordinator position is sponsored by the ITTF and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The coordinator's role is to provide oversight and assistance to higher education institutions as they strive to develop new and enhance existing campus emergency plans and violence prevention plans.

[What's a student to learn?](#)

*Lumina Degree Profile offers framework for defining the learning and quality that college degrees should signify*

Lumina Foundation for Education this week released a proposed version of a [Degree Profile](#), a framework for defining and ultimately measuring the general knowledge and skills that individual students need to acquire in order to earn degrees at various levels, such as associate, bachelor's and master's degrees. The Degree Profile is intended to help define generally what is expected of college graduates, regardless of their majors or fields of study. Lumina will fund experiments within a variety of settings.

[New focus on science education? About time](#)

No sooner did President Obama call for a new focus on math and science education in the State of the Union than new test scores showed how big a challenge this will be. The new edition of the [National Assessment of Educational Progress](#), released the day after the speech, showed only 21 percent of American high school seniors are "proficient" at science.

**UPCOMING**

**February**

- 1-3** General Assembly in session
- 4** MAP Task Force meeting, Roosevelt University, Chicago
- 12** IBHE Student Advisory Committee, SIU-Edwardsville
- 15** IBHE Board meeting, National Louis University, Chicago

## Good news . . .

### [College savings up](#)

More Illinois families are saving for college, at least according to the latest [financial report](#) by Auditor General William Holland.



A financial report for the Illinois' College Savings Program, which includes the [Bright Start College Savings Program](#) and the [Bright Directions College Savings Program](#), shows that it made significant gains from the previous year, according to the report released Thursday.

## . . . Bad news . . .

### [Pell in peril?](#)

Nearly nine million students rely on federal Pell Grants to help pay for college, but a House vote this week puts those grants in peril. The House voted to pass [Resolution 38](#), which directs the Chairman of the House Budget Committee to cut non-security discretionary spending to 2008 levels or less. Cutting Pell Grant funding to 2008 levels would lower the maximum grant from \$5,550 today to \$4,000 or even less this fall.

## Worse news

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



## People in the News

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### In Memoriam

[Samuel K. Gove](#), a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education from 1998 to 2005, died early Friday in an Urbana hospital. He was 87. Gove was director emeritus of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois, founder of Illinois Issues magazine, and a longtime fixture in Illinois state politics.

Chicago State University Board of Trustees has elected new officers for 2011: **Mr. Gary L. Rozier**, Chairman; **Ms. Zaldwaynaka “Z” Scott**, Vice Chairman and **Ms. Lisa Morrison Butler**, Secretary.



WUIS Statehouse Reporter [Amanda Vinicky](#) has been promoted to Statehouse Chief for WUIS, the Public Radio station at the University of Illinois at Springfield. She succeeds Sean Crawford who was promoted last year to fill Rich Bradley's shoes as WUIS News Director.

In Vinicky's nearly five years at WUIS, she has won numerous awards for her reporting. She is an alum of UIS' prestigious Public Affairs Reporting program where many government reporters have earned their masters degrees while covering the Illinois legislature. Her undergrad work was completed in Urbana where she studied journalism and political science.

### [Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored](#)



[Kayli Catron](#), **Greenville College**, is a senior from Decatur, Illinois, and is majoring in Urban/Cross-Cultural Ministry and Communication: Public Relations. Kayli writes for the student newspaper, *The Papyrus*, and has held positions with many student organizations.



[Danielle Paventi](#), **North Park University**, is a senior from Syracuse, New York. Danielle is majoring in Business and Economics with a double concentration in accounting and finance. Among her many extracurricular activities, Danielle is a volunteer tutor at Peterson Elementary School and a writer for the business section of the North Park Press.



[Kelli Ruppel](#), **MacMurray College**, is a senior from Chandlerville, Illinois, majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. Ruppel plays on the varsity volleyball team and has received St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) All-Academic Team honors.

*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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### [UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender receives presidential award](#)

The Center for Research on Women and Gender, Women in Science and Engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago is among four organizations and 11 individuals across the U.S. to receive the 2011 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. UIC is the only award recipient in Illinois.

## **Ag Ed students benefit from Growing Agricultural Science Teachers grant**

Six Western Illinois University students majoring in agricultural education are benefiting from scholarships this semester, provided through the Growing Agricultural Science Teachers (GAST) grant program, funded through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The six students and their GAST scholarship award amounts include: Emily Bogner (Sparland, IL), junior, \$1,500; Julie Herrmann (Hinckley, IL), sophomore, \$500; Richard Houzenga (Mount Carroll, IL), freshman, \$1,000; Kaylyn Schiber (Livingston, CA), freshman, \$500; Rachel Shriver (Ursa, IL), junior, \$1,000; and Kyle Wood (Claypool, IN), junior, \$500. WIU agricultural education graduates filled 50 percent of the beginning ag science teacher openings (six out of 12) in the state this past summer.

## **News from Higher Education**

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### **Intel Plans \$100 Million investment in university research** (Inside Higher Ed)

Intel Corp. plans to establish a series of science and technology centers on American university campuses over five years, ultimately pouring \$100 million directly into academic research, the company announced.

### **Public universities relying more on tuition than state money** (The New York Times)

COLUMBIA, S.C. — For bargain-hunting families, state colleges and universities, supported by tax money, have long been a haven from the high cost of private education.

### **College tuition: Six in 10 freshmen say economy affected choice of school** (Christian Science Monitor)

Getting into your dream college is one thing – paying for it is another. The economic downturn affected the choice of where to attend college for 6 out of 10 current freshmen at four-year schools, a new survey finds.

### **Obama calls for spending freeze but says he'll spare education** (Chronicle of Higher Education)

In the State of the Union address, President Obama proposed a five-year freeze in discretionary spending on nondefense programs and vowed to veto any bill containing earmarks. But the president said he would spare education and research from the freeze and spending cuts, calling them vital to the nation's long-term growth and competitiveness.

Illinois Board of Higher Education  
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404  
Phone: (217) 782-2551  
<http://www.ibhe.org>  
[FridayMemo@ibhe.org](mailto:FridayMemo@ibhe.org)

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