

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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Chairman Guy Alongi
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ISAC
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[Performance funding, university procurement, tuition bills on legislative docket](#)

The General Assembly returned to Springfield this week after last week's blizzard cancelled three session days. A Senate deadline for introduction of bills (House members have until Feb. 24) created its own blizzard of legislation. Among the more notable measures affecting higher education are:

- [House Bill 1503](#) (Rep. Chapin Rose) would require the Illinois Board of Higher Education in FY 2013 to incorporate performance-based funding into its budget request to the General Assembly, as recommended by the Higher Education Finance Study Commission.
- [House Bill 89](#) (Rep. Rose and several others) would remove public universities from the Illinois Procurement Code and set up a separate State University Procurement System.
- [House Bill 152](#) (Rep. Monique Davis) would create a new Department of Education that would have oversight of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Community College Board
- [Senate Bill 135](#) (Sen. Martin Sandoval) would remove the power of the boards of trustees at community colleges and public universities to set tuition and fee rates, and give the authority to the legislature. Another Sandoval bill ([SB 114](#)) would freeze tuition and fees for the next two years at the rates in place for the 2010-2011 academic year.
- [Senate Bill 131](#) (Sen. Sandoval) would amend the state ethics act to create a separate Office of Inspector General for Higher Education to investigate allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, misconduct, and other violations of the law. Public universities currently fall under the jurisdiction of the Office of Executive Inspector General.
- [Senate Bill 59](#) (Sen. Ira Silverstein) would create the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act to require that a community college graduate with an associate's degree is eligible to transfer into a public university baccalaureate program with a minimum of 60 credit hours earned with at least a grade point average of 2.0.

UPCOMING

February

- 12** IBHE Student Advisory Committee, SIU-Edwardsville
- 14** MAP Task Force meeting, Roosevelt University, Chicago
- 15** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council meeting National Louis University, Chicago

IBHE Board Meeting, National Louis University, Chicago

Senate Higher Education Committee meeting, 409 Capitol, Springfield
- 16** Governor's Budget Address, Capitol, Springfield

House Higher Education Committee meeting, C-1 Stratton Building, Springfield

[Education dashboard...for the nation](#)



President Obama has established a goal that, by 2020, the United States will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world. Meeting this goal is vital to our long-term economic security and to preparing young people and adults to be active citizens. To monitor the country's progress towards reaching that goal, the U.S. Department of Education has launched a web site providing access to key national and state education data, highlighting the progress being made at every level of the education system and encouraging communities to engage in an informed conversation about their schools. This first version of the U.S. Education Dashboard contains a set of 16 indicators, ranging from student participation in early learning through completion of postsecondary education, as well as indicators on teachers and leaders and equity.

[Education accountability report...for Illinois](#)

The Board of Higher Education has undertaken its own Accountability Report related to the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. The first of several performance updates to come focuses on Goal 1, increasing educational attainment to match best-performing states.

[ACT Calls for National Skills Credentialing System](#)

ACT, Inc. has released a report, "Breaking New Ground: Building a National Workforce Skills Credentialing System," presenting the case for the need to intensify national efforts to improve and validate the skills of our current and prospective workforce to correct the mismatch between skill demand and supply. The report sets forth the reasons America needs a national workforce skills credentialing system. A key recommendation of the report is the need for a "layered" credentialing system, recognized nationally, that begins with a single foundational skills credential with increasingly more-targeted occupational and job-specific skills credentials layered on top.

[MHEC partners with National CooperativeRx for prescription benefits](#)

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) has awarded National CooperativeRx a competitive bid to help higher education institutions in the compact's member states with their pharmacy benefit costs. As part of MHEC's exploration into implementing regional initiatives to improve higher education productivity for universities, colleges, community colleges and technical schools that continue to face increasing costs in employee and student health care, National CooperativeRx has been selected to help control prescription drug costs.

[Record number of credit hours and completions mark Illinois' community college efforts in FY2010](#)

A record number of students completed degree or certificate programs at Illinois community colleges during the Fiscal Year 2010, according to a report released by the Illinois Community College Board. A record number of credit hours were also taken by students during the same period, measured in Full Time Equivalency (FTE).

"We cannot emphasize enough that our community colleges are at near bursting points to accommodate the demand for the quality education our students expect to receive," said Guy H. Alongi, chairman of the ICCB. Alongi also expressed concern about the level of funding community colleges receive while they continue to serve expanding enrollments. "These continuing record enrollment figures reinforce the necessity of keeping our community colleges well-equipped and adequately funded," he said.

[ISAC challenges Illinois families to increase FAFSA completion](#)

February has been designated Financial Aid Awareness Month, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is challenging Illinois students and families to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) early, seeking 800,000 completed applications in 2011, an increase of seven percent over last year. ISAC is sponsoring or participating in more than 170 events, including [College Goal Sunday \(CGS\) events](#) during the month.

“The earlier you apply, the better,” stated Andrew Davis, ISAC executive director, noting that MAP awards were suspended the earliest in history last year. “Don’t count yourself out. You never know what kind of aid you’ll qualify for until you apply.”

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



[The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut.](#)

A statewide earthquake drill and preparedness activity will be conducted on April 28, at 10:15 a.m. This “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill will be conducted simultaneously with other states in the Central U.S. to draw attention to the earthquake hazard that exists in Illinois and in other states in the region. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is encouraging colleges, universities and other organizations to participate in this drill. Log on to the ShakeOut.org website to obtain details and reference materials, and to register for the drill.

[Number of Students Succeeding on AP Exams Has Nearly Doubled Over the Past Decade](#)

NEW YORK — More than half a million public school students from the class of 2010 scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP[®] Exam during high school, nearly double the number of successful students from the class of 2001, and exceeding the total number of students from the class of 2001 who took AP Exams. As research consistently shows that students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience stronger college outcomes than otherwise comparable non-AP peers, the data in this year’s report show how educators are enhancing the college readiness of our nation’s students by preparing them to take AP classes and succeed on AP Exams.

[People in the News](#)

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



[Evan Karg](#), Olivet Nazarene University, is a senior from Freeport, and is majoring in English. Evan is the student body president and has served as executive VP for spiritual life, freshman class chaplain, secretary of spiritual life and student representative to the Academic Ethics Committee.



[Aarika Zarnick](#), **St. Xavier University**, is a senior from Freeport. Aarika is majoring in Biology and is a member of the Tri-Beta Biological Honors Society, as well as the honor society for biological sciences.



[Danielle Belobraydich](#), **McKendree College**, is a senior from Plainfield, majoring in Mathematics. Belobraydich serves as student vice president of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society chapter and co-president of the MathCats club.

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

[SIU Med School receives NIH grant](#)

A scientist at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Michal Masternak, Ph.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, has been awarded a five-year federal grant from the National Institute of Aging, a division of the National Institutes of Health to study insulin sensitivity and aging.

[UIS students mentor children at Springfield school as part of the Black Male Initiative](#)

A group of University of Illinois Springfield students, who are members of the [Black Male Collegiate Society](#) on campus, are spending one hour a week mentoring elementary students, as part of the UIS Black Male Initiative.

News from Higher Education

[Missouri colleges to cut 116 degree programs](#) (The Kansas City Star)

More than 100 degree programs will be eliminated at Missouri colleges and universities as part of a cost-savings review ordered by Gov. Jay Nixon.

[Left in the Hall](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Nearly a third of community college students were unable to enroll in one or more classes last semester because they were full, according to a new national survey.

[Education-school deans challenge methodology of planned ranking of teacher-preparation programs](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

A group of education-college leaders is raising concerns about an ambitious effort, announced last month by the

National Council on Teacher Quality and U.S. News & World Report, to rank the nation's nearly 1,400 teacher-preparation programs.

[Durbin wants wiser spending of higher ed money](#) (Springfield State Journal-Register)

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin says college and universities need to be more wise when they spend taxpayer money.

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