

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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February 25, 2011

[House Higher Ed Committee goes to work](#)



Rep. Naomi Jakobsson

The first meeting of the 97th General Assembly's House Higher Education Committee, under the new leadership of Chairperson [Naomi Jakobsson](#) (D-103), was held Feb. 23. Dr. George Reid, Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) executive director, was welcomed by Chairperson Jakobsson, and all members present had the opportunity to introduce themselves and describe the colleges and universities in their districts. Two bills were passed out of committee on to the House floor.

[HB 1503](#), sponsored by Rep. Chapin Rose (R-110) directs the IBHE to incorporate performance based funding in its budget request, starting in fiscal year 2013, is the outgrowth of the recommendations made in the [Higher Education Finance Study Commission report](#) sent to the General Assembly in December, 2010. *Illinois Public Agenda* Goal 2 recommends that higher education financing align more closely with performance outcomes for student access and completion success.

[HB 166](#), sponsored by Rep. Dave Winters (R-68), encourages collaboration between community colleges, public universities and research centers to promote the green technology industry, including developing degree and certificate programs and alignment of curriculum with green jobs programs. IBHE and Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) are to provide information about these efforts on their websites. This bill speaks directly to *Illinois Public Agenda* Goal 3, addressing workforce goals, and Goal 4, enhancing economic growth.

Lt. Governor Simon and IBHE Executive Director Reid encourage middle school students to prepare for college

The Jefferson Middle School in Springfield held its 6th annual African American Heritage Bowl on Feb. 24. Among the guests were Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon and Dr. George Reid, IBHE executive director. Simon congratulated the students on their knowledge of African American history and encouraged the students to keep up their studies in preparation for going to college. Reid joined with her to assist with the medals ceremony.



UPCOMING

March

2 [Senate Appropriations II Committee](#), 212 Capitol

[House Higher Education Committee](#), C-1 Stratton

3 [House Higher Ed Approps Committee](#), 118 Capitol

Private College Student Lobby Day, Capitol

[Public universities adopt recommended courses in six key college majors to facilitate transfers](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Transfer Coordinators from Illinois colleges and universities jointly launched the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) in 1993. As a statewide transfer policy effort, its strength has been in the broad participation of faculty and on the successful implementation of the IAI General Education Core Curriculum. The most important improvement that was left to be made to the system was the addition of the recommendations of courses in the major for students who were undecided about their transfer destination. To address this, the IBHE and ICCB worked with the public universities to formalize the acceptance of the IAI Major Panel recommendations. This process has been in development for over a year and the first round of majors has been successfully implemented for Business, Chemistry, English, History, Political Science and Sociology. Information for students is now available on the [IAI website](#).

[College students headed to Springfield to talk about MAP](#)

Private College Student Lobby Day will be on Thursday, March 3. The event is being organized by the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges & Universities. More than 200 students are expected to attend and will be in Springfield to talk to legislators about MAP funding. Interested participants are requested to pre-register with the Federation office at: 217-789-1400.

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



Looking for some “Friends?” to “Like” Us. Three higher education groups are expanding their Facebook presence and asking for *The Friday Memo* readers to “like” them. Go to: [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#); [Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges & Universities](#); and [IBHE’s Illinois Public Agenda](#).

[People in the News](#)

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has announced the appointment of 28 education advocates, civil rights leaders, scholars, lawyers, and corporate leaders to the Department of Education's Equity and Excellence Commission. Included are **four Illinoisans**: **Jim Edgar**, former Illinois governor, **Ralph Martire**, executive director of Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, **Jesse Ruiz**, Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education, and **Jose Torres**, superintendent of School District U-46 in Elgin. The Commission will recommend ways school finance can be improved to increase equity and achievement.

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



Jessica Wozniak, Illinois State University, is a senior from Carol Stream, Illinois, and is majoring in English with a minor in Spanish. Recently, she applied to teach English at a university in Montenegro.



[Derek Huff](#), Monmouth College, is a senior from Edmonds, Washington. Derek is a Classics and Latin major who is a founding member of the new fraternity, Phi Delta Theta, founder and co-chair of Students Organized for Drinking Alternatives (SODA), and is president of the Liberal Legion.



[Blake Hansen](#), Principia College, is a senior from Beaverton, Oregon. Blake is pursuing a BA in piano and violin performance. As an orchestral violinist, he has performed as first violinist with the Mt. San Jacinto College Orchestra and served as concertmaster for the University Of Redlands Youth Ensemble Of Strings and the Principia College Orchestra.

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

[Gifted Child Today Article on Diverse STEM Talent](#)

The recently published winter 2011 edition of the journal *Gifted Child Today* includes an article "Discovering and Developing Diverse STEM Talent: Enabling Academically Talented Urban Youth to Flourish" by Stephanie Pace Marshall, Max McGee, Eric McLaren and Cathy Veal. The article highlights the Illinois Math and Science Academy, and includes case stories of a current student (from Aurora) and two alumni (from Chicago and East St. Louis).

[Saint Xavier University speech professor discusses "The Kings' Speech"](#)

The hit film "The King's Speech" is up for 12 Oscar nominations at the 83rd Annual Academy Awards on Sun., Feb. 27. The movie tells the story of King George VI's efforts to overcome his stutter with the help of an unorthodox speech therapist. Saint Xavier University Prof. Karen A. Czarnik, Ph.D., a stuttering expert in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, discuss the level of realism in the portrayal of stuttering in the movie.

[University Center Night on March 8](#)

The University Center of Lake County will showcase 90 programs available in Grayslake, in Waukegan, at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, or via online study. Representatives from the University Center's eighteen member institutions will be on hand to answer questions and provide further information about their programs. Offerings include the junior/senior years of bachelor's degrees, so that students who have completed the first two years of study at the College of Lake County (or elsewhere) can remain in Lake County to complete their degrees.

[DePaul to implement test-optional alternative for freshman admission](#)

DePaul University will implement a test-optional admission policy for freshman admission starting in fall 2012. DePaul is believed to be the largest private non-profit university in the nation to implement the test-optional program. Under the program, applicants would submit their high school transcripts and can choose to submit either their ACT or SAT

test scores or answer a number of open-ended essay questions.

News from Higher Education

[Mobile app a new way to learn at Lincoln College](#) (Bloomington Pantagraph)

NORMAL — New technology at Lincoln College-Normal may mean more efficient learning and is an emerging trend in higher education, said the college's instructional technologist and designer.

[Why they are rallying](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Between the colorful rallies and counter-rallies, and legislators fleeing their own states, the debate over the right of public employees to unionize has captured national attention in the last two weeks.

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