

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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March 4, 2011

Major higher education issues emerging in legislature

As legislative committees have rolled up their sleeves to undertake consideration of bills of note to higher education, several issues have begun to crystallize. Here are a few major themes from early or impending action by committees:

Performance funding – [HB 1503](#) (Rep. Rose) has passed out of the House Higher Education Committee. It directs IBHE to build performance funding into the FY 2013 higher education budget. Other bills with similar intents are being drafted in each chamber.

Tuition – Sen. Sandoval has proposed [SB 114](#) to freeze tuition at 2010 levels and [SB 135](#) to remove authority to set tuition rates from universities and have the General Assembly set rates annually. [HB 3219](#) (Rep. Pihos) would require IBHE to audit a university's finances when it raises tuition beyond 10%. [HR 4](#) (Rep. Cole) directs IBHE to study out-of-state tuition rates.

A subset of the interest in tuition is the growing attention to **tuition waivers**. Several legislators have proposed repeal of the General Assembly scholarships – HBs [201](#) (Pihos), [227](#) (Rep. Franks), SBs [1317](#) (Sen. Radogno), [2233](#) (Sen. Frerichs). Senate Minority Leader Radogno also has filed [SB 1318](#) to repeal 50% tuition waivers for dependents of university employees. [HB 1353](#) (Rep. Pritchard) would ban legislators from nominating a relative for a General Assembly scholarship and give ISAC the authority to award the scholarships in the future. [SB 2097](#) (Sen. Dillard) goes in the opposite direction – establishing a new limited waiver for high school graduates who complete their studies in less than four years.

Mandates/Procurement – Rep. Rose has filed two bills to lessen the burden of state regulation on universities. [HB 89](#) would establish a separate procurement code for universities. His [HB 1079](#) would limit IBHE oversight of non-instructional capital projects to only those that involve state funds. Provisions of companion bills – [SB 1883](#) (Sen. Maloney) and [HB 3382](#) (Rose) would exempt projects below \$2 million from IBHE scrutiny. Rep. Pritchard's [HB 2857](#) would permit universities to opt out of CDB oversight of capital projects under certain conditions and with CDB approval.

Accountability – Companion bills in both houses ([SB 1883](#), Maloney, and [HB 3382](#), Rose) grant authority to IBHE to close out low enrollment/degree programs after consultation with universities. [SB 131](#) (Sandoval) would create a separate inspector general for higher education. Presently, universities are within the jurisdiction of the Office of the Executive Inspector General.

Aid for at-risk students – Bills sponsored by Sen. Sandoval are aimed at assisting 1st-generation students. [SB 120](#) directs community colleges and public universities to establish offices of advising for 1st-generation students. [SB 122](#) would include 1st-generation students in the data collected annually for the IBHE Underrepresented Groups report to the General Assembly.

UPCOMING

March

8 [Senate Higher Education Committee](#) 212 Capitol

[Senate Education Committee](#), 409 Capitol

9 [House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee](#) 114 Capitol

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

[Senate Appropriations II Committee 212](#) Capitol

[MAP 2 + 2 = savings for college students](#)

On February 28th, Andy Davis, executive director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, contacted college presidents to invite them to apply for participation in a pilot program involving the Monetary Award Program (MAP) for the 2011-12 school year. The pilot is called MAP 2 + 2 and is one of the initiatives ISAC is pursuing toward the college completion goal of helping Illinois increase to 60% the proportion of adults with a postsecondary credential by 2025.

MAP 2+2 complements the 2+2 programs that many schools already offer. Students would be admitted to a baccalaureate degree program but attend a community college that has an articulation agreement with the bachelor's degree-granting school and then transfer to the baccalaureate degree-granting institution to complete their degrees. Since the dollar amounts of students' MAP grants are smaller for attendance at a community college, students are allowed to carry forward the difference between the amount that their MAP grant would have been at their bachelor's degree institution of choice and their community college MAP award. The difference in the award amount for each of the freshman and sophomore years is saved and added to the student's MAP grant for his/her junior and senior years.

[Annual Digital Accessibility Expo planned at UIC](#)



The UIC Office of the Chancellor, Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, the Great Lakes ADA Center, UIC Disability Resource Center and DAE Committee at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) have announced the 3rd Annual 2011 UIC Digital Accessibility Expo to be held April 11th at the UIC Forum in Chicago.

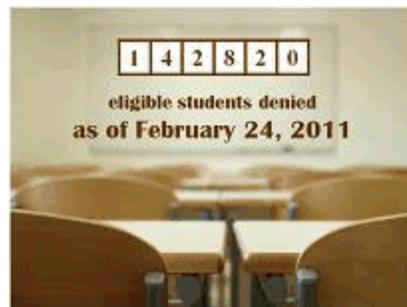
This year's scheduled keynote speakers include Daniel Hubbell, Accessibility Technical Evangelist for Microsoft's Trustworthy Computing division, and Daniel Goldstein, Outside Counsel for the National Federation of the Blind.

The Digital Accessibility Expo focuses on improving the access to digital materials for all people, including those with disabilities. Information and instructional materials that are developed with accessibility in mind are universally designed to improve access for everyone. The Digital Accessibility Expo presenters will be showing participants how to implement accessibility of online information in their organization.

[ILACHE conference focuses on strengthening Latino presence in academy](#)

The Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE) is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Professional and Student Development Conference on April 1st at Northeastern Illinois University. At the conference, the organization will unveil its strategic plan and engage participants in discussions on ways to be an integral part of ILACHE's new future. The conference agenda also includes professional development workshops and forums that promote discussion and networking opportunities for educators and students. Students will also have an opportunity to present their research at our first annual Student Research Poster Presentation. Dr. Carlos Munoz, Jr., a prominent political scientist, historian, and journalist, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Rogelio Saenz, a sociologist and professor at Texas A&M University, will deliver a plenary address.

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



People in the News



Two Western Illinois University biological sciences professors have received grants from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to research Illinois creatures. [Tim Spier](#) has received a grant of \$1,100 for his project, "Freshwater mussel surveys of the Lamoine and Spoon river basins," while [Ken McCravy](#) was awarded \$1,964 for his project, "Woodland bee and wasp diversity at Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station."

[Rosa Cabrera](#), an anthropologist who works on issues of cultural understanding and environmental conservation, has been named director of the Rafael Cintrón-Ortiz Latino Cultural Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

[Christopher Z. Mooney](#), professor of political science at the University of Illinois Springfield and U of I Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) has been named the first Honorable W. Russell Arrington Professor in State Politics. Mooney is a leading national expert in the field of state politics and policy, with a special focus on legislative decision-making, legislative leadership, and morality policy.

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



[Joseph Wydra](#), **Trinity Christian University**, is a senior from Tinley Park, Illinois. He is a theology and philosophy major and plans to attend law school after graduation in May 2011.



[Jordan Kabat](#), **Southern Illinois University - Carbondale**, is a senior from Scheller, Illinois, who is majoring in civil engineering. Jordan has been a member of the Future Farmers of America, Future Business Leaders of America, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.



[Heather Goodrich](#), **Rockford College**, is a senior from Tinley Park, Illinois, who is majoring in Mathematics. Her Rockford College activities include Volleyball and Track & Field.

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

[IIRA Co-Sponsoring March 15 Tour of Eastern Illinois Renewable Energy Center](#)

MACOMB – A March 15 meeting of the Illinois Biomass Working Group will provide an opportunity for IBWG members to hear about recent national developments in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Biomass Crop Assistance Program, as well as tour the Eastern Illinois Renewable Energy Center in Charleston. The IBWG is comprised of farmers, business owners, university and public agency officials who meet to collaborate to advance biomass energy in Illinois. According to Fred Iutzi, agriculture and renewable energy program manager at the [Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs](#) at Western Illinois University and the IBWG facilitator, the meeting at Eastern Illinois University will include a plant tour of the Eastern Illinois Renewable Energy Center.

[ISU again honored with a 'Tree Campus USA' designation](#)

For the third straight year, Illinois State University has earned Tree Campus USA recognition for 2010 for its dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship.

News from Higher Education

[Illinois probing Washington Post's for-profit Kaplan schools](#) (Daily Herald)

Washington Post Co.'s Kaplan Higher Education Corp. operations, already being investigated by a U.S. Senate committee and the Florida attorney general's office, are now the subject of an Illinois probe.

[UI senate criticizes proposed command changes](#) (News-Gazette)

URBANA – The faculty-student senate has approved a resolution criticizing efforts to centralize decision-making at the University of Illinois and calling for an Urbana chancellor who is truly "chief executive officer" of the campus.

[U.S. Secretaries Solis, Duncan Promote Job, Community College Collaborations](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

PHILADELPHIA – The U.S. secretaries of education and labor toured a job-training center and dropped in on a community college summit on Monday to promote collaborations that help adult learners join the workforce and obtain college degrees.

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