

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

IBHE  
Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman  
Executive Director G. W. Reid

ICCB  
Chairman Guy Alongi  
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC  
Chairman Don McNeil  
Executive Director Andy Davis

March 11, 2011

### Higher education legislation progresses

Both Senate and House Higher Education and Higher Ed Appropriations Committees met this week. Next Thursday, March 17, is deadline day for substantive bills to be reported out of committee. This means the hearings scheduled for next week, will be considering those bills expected to progress. Here are a few major bills and their status:

**Performance funding** – [HB 1503](#) (Rep. Rose) has passed out of the House Higher Education Committee and has been placed on House calendar. It directs IBHE to build performance funding into the FY 2013 higher education budget. [SB 1773](#) (Sen. Maloney) outlines the process to be used to develop a performance funding budgeting process for FY 2013 budget. It is scheduled for Senate Higher Ed Committee consideration on March 15.

**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 and is posted for House Higher Ed Committee consideration on March 16. [SB 1883](#) (Sen. Maloney) and [HB 3382](#) (Rose) would exempt non-instructional projects below \$2 million from IBHE scrutiny, and both will be considered in Higher Ed committees next week.

**Accountability** – [HB 3220](#) (Rep. Pritchard) requires public universities in this State to develop annual academic, financial, and enrollment plans in conjunction with the goals set forth in the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. This bill awaits House floor action. Companion bills in both houses ([SB 1883](#), Maloney, and [HB 3382](#) (Rose) include a proposed amendment to grant authority to IBHE to receive reports on the close out of low enrollment/degree programs from universities. These bills are on the Higher Ed Committees agendas also for next week. [HB 3219](#) (Rep. Pihos) includes a proposed amendment to direct IBHE to report tuition increases and program closures at universities on IBHE website, as well as report annually to the Board. It is scheduled for consideration in House Higher Ed Committee on March 16. [SB 131](#) (Sen. Sandoval) awaiting Senate floor action, 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** – [HB 1710](#) (Pritchard) establishes a program, to be administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, to target low-income and potential 1<sup>st</sup>-generation students for college awareness and planning. The bill awaits House floor action. [SB 122](#) (Sen. Sandoval) would include 1<sup>st</sup>-generation students in the data collected annually for the IBHE Underrepresented Groups report to the General Assembly. It is on the Senate Higher Ed committee agenda for March 16.

### UPCOMING

#### March

15 [Senate Higher Education Committee](#) 409 Capitol

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

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

## [Complete College Illinois TEAM attends national Completion Academy](#)



**(Left to right) Rep. Bob Pritchard, College of Lake County President, Jerry Weber, ISAC executive director Andy Davis, SIU-C Chancellor Rita Cheng, Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, Sen. Ed Maloney, ICCB vice president, Elaine Johnson, State Liaison to CCA, Candace Mueller from IBHE, Illinois Business Roundtable President, Jeff Mays, and IBHE executive director, George Reid.**

A ten member team from Illinois was invited by Complete College America (CCA) to attend a three day academy to discuss policies and programs to increase the number of Americans with a college degree or credential of value. As a CCA Alliance member state, Illinois joined teams from other Alliance states, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and South Dakota, on March 4-6 in Miami to listen to content experts on performance funding transforming remediation, shortening time-to-degree, and making structure changes to accelerate student success. The Illinois Team focused on strategies for improving student success through well-tested remediation programs as well as examining various models for implementing performance funding for higher education closely aligned with the goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. The Team will be developing action steps and expanding the conversation to include all higher education stakeholders in the ambitious plan to increase from the current 41% of Illinoisans (ages 25-64) with a college degree or certificate to 60% by 2025.

### [Survey shows broad support for college and career readiness](#)

According to the MetLife *Survey of the American Teacher: Preparing Students for College and Careers*, there is broad agreement among parents, teachers, and business executives on the importance of college and career readiness for high school graduates. About 93 percent of secondary school parents, 85 percent of secondary teachers, and 80 percent of business executives said graduating each and every student from high school ready for college should be a priority.

## Durbin: Illinois families leaving more than \$1 billion unclaimed in college tuition tax credit

Senator Durbin explains how to claim the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which would allow families to receive a tax credit up to \$2,500 per student on their 2009 and 2010 federal tax forms.



## [Keep IL students on the MAP](#)

The Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities' 7<sup>th</sup> annual Private College Student Lobby Day drew over 300 students and staff from 15 institutions to Springfield on March 3. Ryan Croke, Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Quinn, addressed the group during the orientation at the beginning of the day and a small sub-group was able to meet with Lt. Governor Sheila Simon in her office. An overwhelming majority of the students involved reported that they had a good experience, and the general consensus was that there remains broad support in the General Assembly for the programs that affect private college students and campuses, including the student financial assistance program, the Monetary Award Program (MAP).



## Off the MAP – eligible students missing out on need-based MAP grants



## ISAC FAFSA Challenge

Completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as possible is the first step for students and families to obtain postsecondary education financial assistance. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission will update weekly the number of FAFSAs filed by Illinois high school students, keeping track of the increasing numbers to reach the Goal for 2011-12 college year of 800,000 applications. To date, 27,256 applications have been filed.



## Securing Our Future: Strengthening the Latino Presence in the Academy

On April 1, at Northeastern Illinois University Student Union, Chicago, the Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education's (ILACHE) 19th annual professional and student development conference is being held, and the group's strategic plan will be unveiled. 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 the first annual Student Research Poster Presentation.

## People in the News

A retirement reception for Western Illinois University [President Al Goldfarb](#) will be held from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, April 27 in the University Union Grand Ballroom on the WIU-Macomb campus. Goldfarb will retire June 30. The reception is open to the public. "My nine years at Western have been the most rewarding of my professional career. I am very appreciative of all the support Elaine and I have received from the Western Illinois and Macomb communities," Goldfarb said.

## Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



[Janine Bolling](#), **Concordia University**, is a senior from Queens, New York. Janine is a theology major and plans to pursue a master's degree in counseling.



[Kevin Lipp](#), Judson University, is a 2010 graduate from Downers Grove, Illinois, who majored in visual communications. Kevin is a business owner, operating Klipp Design.



[Tanner Wright](#), Quincy University, is a senior from New York, New York, who is majoring in pre-med. Tanner is an honor student, Presidential Scholar and has served as an assistant coach at two local schools.

***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

---

### [ECC students pledge to finish college](#)

With national attention focused on community colleges and President Obama's initiative to produce five million community college graduates by 2020, members of Elgin Community College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society will encourage students to sign a pledge to finish college on Wednesday, March 16. ECC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter is among the 1,200 nationwide that are coordinating the pledge drive as part of the Community College Completion Corps, a national education initiative. The organization, through the initiative, expects to increase completion rates by 50 percent over the next decade and allow more students an opportunity to advance to a career in their chosen field. "We realize a college degree is the best way for students to get a great job," says Ali-Reza Kashani, ECC Phi Theta Kappa chapter president. "This pledge serves as a constant reminder of their commitment to work toward that goal."

## News from Higher Education

---

### [Senator Durbin seeks investigation of Westwood campuses' use of GI bill benefits](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

In a letter, Sen. Dick Durbin, Democrat of Illinois, asks the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to step up its efforts to identify colleges that are abusing the new GI Bill's education benefits.

### [Simon gets view from 'trenches' at SWIC](#) (Belleville News-Democrat)

BELLEVILLE -- Illinois Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon got what Southwestern Illinois College President Georgia Costello called an "in-the-trenches view" of the college's Belleville campus and some of its programs as part of a statewide effort to help more students earn degrees.

**[ISU brings in more than \\$600M for local economy](#)** (Bloomington Pantagraph)

Illinois State University, its faculty, staff and students contribute more than \$600 million a year to the McLean County economy, according to the results of a new university study.

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)

[Sign up](#) to Friday Memo mailing list

