

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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May 6, 2011

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

[Performance funding bill advances in Senate](#)

House Bill 1503, which would initiate a funding system for higher education based on performance in meeting state goals, passed the Senate Higher Education Committee this week on a vote of 8-0. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Chapin Rose and Sen. Ed Maloney. HB 1503, which is identical to Maloney's SB 1773 awaiting action in the House, directs the IBHE to form a broad-based group to deliberate on appropriate performance metrics that will form the core of outcomes-based budgeting for higher education. By FY 13, the IBHE budget recommendations to the legislature and governor must incorporate a funding model based on performance.

[Senate passes the Illinois Dream Act](#)



The Illinois DREAM Act, [SB 2185](#), passed the Senate on May 4. The bill would establish a privately-funded Illinois DREAM Fund, administered by a volunteer state commission, to make scholarships available to undocumented students at no cost to taxpayers. The bill would also open up college savings programs and prepaid tuition programs to all Illinois residents, so that the families of DREAM students will be better able to pay for tuition. "The passage

of the DREAM Act today shows that our efforts are not in vain," said Cindy Agustin, undocumented student at University of Chicago and member of the Illinois Immigrant Justice League (IYJL). "It gives us hope and strength to continue working for our right to education. We thank Senator Cullerton for his courage in moving this bill forward."

**Busy week on tap when lawmakers return to Springfield May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Several key pieces of legislation related to higher education – including appropriations bills – are set for action next week when the General Assembly begins its final push toward its scheduled May 31<sup>st</sup> adjournment.

- [SB 1799](#) – (Sen. Steans/Rep. Chapa LaVia) House Amendment 1 is proposed by the Illinois State Board of Education to revamp the system for licensure of new teachers. The bill is in the House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee.
- [SB 1773](#) – (Sen. Maloney/Rep. Pritchard) would establish performance-based funding as the mechanism for allocating resources to public community colleges and universities. The bill is in the House Executive Committee.
- [SB 1795](#) – (Sen. Lightford/Rep. Crespo) House Amendment 1 transfers authority to regulate private business and vocational schools from ISBE to IBHE. The bill is in the House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee.
- [SB 59](#) – (Sen. Silverstein) Senate Amendment 2 sets criteria for students transferring from a community college to a public university to meet to achieve junior status at the university and requirements for the universities in accepting community college transfers with an associate's degree. The bill is at passage stage in the Senate.

**UPCOMING**

**MAY**

**10** Senate Higher Education Committee, 409 Capitol, 2:30 p.m.

**11** House Higher Education Committee, C-1 Stratton Bldg, 4:00 p.m.

**12** House Appropriations-Higher Education Committee, 118 Capitol, 8:00 a.m.

Illinois Association of Agencies and Community Organizations for Migrant Advocacy Conference, Springfield

**13** ISBE Teacher Certification Board Meeting, Springfield

Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Board, Chicago

**20** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Kankakee

- [SB 1883](#) (Sen. Maloney/Rep. Crespo) requires annual reporting by public universities on the number of academic programs added and closed, and a listing of programs showing a trend of low productivity in enrollments and degrees granted. It also establishes a threshold of \$2 million for the IBHE to review a university's non-instructional capital projects. The bill is in the House Higher Education Committee.
- [HB 1079](#) (Rep. Rose/Sen. C. Johnson) – is identical to SB 1883 except that universities must also report tuition increases for the upcoming year and cost-savings achieved in the previous fiscal year. It is in the Senate Higher Education Committee.

### [Community college foundation dedicates new, taller headquarters building](#)



A building that began as a one-story bank in the 1960s is now the four-story headquarters for the Illinois Community College System Foundation. Representatives of community colleges across the state, as well as Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon and Springfield Mayor Mike Houston attended the dedication on May 4 of a \$2.1 million expansion of the Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center on Capitol Ave. in Springfield. (Springfield State Journal-Register)

*Newly renovated community college system office building*

### [‘A new reality’ for teaching profession in legislative reform proposal](#)

A major education reform bill, Senate Bill 7, has passed the Illinois Senate and is now being considered by the House. The measure gives higher priority on teacher performance when making tenure, retention and layoff decisions, and would give the state school superintendent the authority to revoke the teaching certificates of poorly performing teachers, among other measures.

Chris Roegge, the executive director of the Council on Teacher Education and director of the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative, spoke recently with University of Illinois News Bureau reporter Sharita Forrest about the bill and the changing climate toward the teaching profession in the U.S.

### [Nurse Appreciation Week](#)

#### [Central Illinois Nursing Initiatives launches new, informative website](#)

On it you will find great stories, a wealth of information and comprehensive resources to assist anyone interested in becoming a nurse.

#### [Blessing-Riemann College of Nursing gets second grant for Student Skills Lab](#) (Quincy Herald-Whig)

Blessing-Riemann College of Nursing has earned a second state grant for its Student Skills Lab upgrade, bringing the total it has received to more than \$650,000. The latest grant, for \$393,000, will buy video equipment, additional computers and other equipment for the Student Skills Lab to ensure that the simulations are realistic and expand the impact of the learning experience.

### [U.S. Food and Drug Administration national consumer education campaign on Acetaminophen](#)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has launched a national consumer education campaign called “The Safe Use of Acetaminophen.” Acetaminophen is a very common active ingredient in over-the-counter and prescription pain relievers/fever reducers, cold and flu, allergy, and sleep-aid medicines. When taking more than directed, even just a little more, acetaminophen can cause serious liver injury. Over 30,000 hospitalizations occur each year from the misuse of acetaminophen and many of these unintentional overdoses happen in young adults. Colleges and universities are being encouraged to utilize the no cost educational materials available from the FDA to promote to their students the safe choosing and using of acetaminophen.

## [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, **484,102** applications have been filed, over halfway to the Goal.



## [Register Now: Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium](#)

The Illinois education research community will gather June 7-8 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington to hear from a panel about progress on various initiatives undertaken by the Illinois P-20 Council. Several experts and renowned speakers will discuss such topics as increasing college completion, college access and finance issues, and using “value-added assessment” to enhance teacher preparation. Please register by Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. After this date, registrations will be accepted, subject to space availability.

## [People in the News](#)



On May 1, the Educational Administration and Foundations Department at Illinois State University presented the Ben C. Hubbard Leadership Award to two noteworthy individuals: [Dr. Linda Tomlinson](#), Assistant Superintendent at the Illinois State Board of Education, and [Ms. Deborah Meisner-Bertauski](#), Associate Director at the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The Department recognizes the significant effort on the parts of these two individuals in making it possible for the redesign of all principal preparation programs across Illinois through the passage and implementation of Public Act 96-903. For six years Tomlinson and Meisner-Bertauski, have brought together over 1300 stakeholders to discuss what future principals should learn to meet the challenges of 21st century schools. This ISBE-IBHE effort serves as an example of positive collaboration among state agencies.

Illinois State University President Al Bowman announced the appointment of [Larry Dietz](#) as the new vice president of Student Affairs effective June 1. Dietz succeeds Steve Adams, who retires on June 1. Dietz has been vice chancellor for Student Affairs at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) for the past 10 years.

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



**Lakeesha Harris, Northeastern Illinois University**, is a senior from Kankakee, Illinois, and has a double major in Women's Studies and English.



**Joshua Kannankeril, University of Illinois at Chicago**, is a senior from Tinley Park, Illinois, and is majoring in Biology and Chemistry.



**Amber Pierre, Chicago State University**, is a senior from Country Club Hills, Illinois, and is a business major.



**Kristy Treven, University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign**, is a senior from Libertyville, Illinois, majoring in Special Education.



**Ingrid Busching, University of Chicago**, is a senior from Rochelle, Illinois, and is an English Literature major.

***Editor's note: This completes the 2010-11 series on the Illinois Student Laureates from Illinois' colleges and universities. The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement, campus leadership and extracurricular activities among Illinois College and university seniors.***

## Campus News

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### [WIU receives Veterans' Affairs grant](#)

Because of Western Illinois University's strong commitment to serving veterans, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Dan Grant recently presented Western with a grant of \$74,998, funded through the Veterans Cash Lottery, to implement a Student Veterans' Transitional Services Program, which will provide additional academic, financial, personal and social support systems to student veterans and military personnel.

### [University Center of Lake County welcomes 19<sup>th</sup> higher ed institution member](#)

Western Illinois University (WIU) became the nineteenth higher education institution member of the University Center of Lake County (UCLC) in action taken by Governing Board on April 27. WIU will offer doctoral and education specialist programs in educational leadership. Affiliation with the UCLC will enable WIU to link via videoconferencing two small cohorts of students already enrolled in the doctoral program and studying in Moline and Palatine.

## News from Higher Education

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### [Lt. Gov. Simon tours Richland, touts virtues of finishing college degree](#) (Herald & Review)

DECATUR - Several things Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon saw at Richland Community College intrigued her. One was the Mathematics Enrichment Center.

### [Attorneys General In 10 States launch joint investigation into for-profit colleges](#) (The Huffington Post)

Top prosecutors in 10 states have convened a joint investigation into potential violations of consumer protection laws by for-profit colleges, Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway (D), who is leading the multi-state effort, said in an interview with The Huffington Post.

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