

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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Chairman Guy Alongi  
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC  
Chairman Don McNeil  
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June 3, 2011

## BUDGET PASSED

*Higher ed takes \$35 million cut in General Assembly spending plan*



Overall, General Fund higher education spending in fiscal 2012 will decline by \$34.7 million, or 1.6 percent, from FY11 appropriations.

The General Assembly-passed budget reduced funding for public universities \$15 million or 1.1 percent, but held community colleges essentially flat, compared with this fiscal year. The budget cut \$18.2 million, or 4.3 percent, from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, most of it a \$17.2 million reduction in support for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). Major surgery was done on the University Center of Lake County, which will lose 41% of its state support, a \$700,000 cut to \$1 million. Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) grant programs, on the other hand, were largely unscathed.

**Legislative action: Bills passed both the Senate and House, being sent to the Governor**

- **Performance Funding** -- [House Bill 1503](#), sponsored by Rep. Chapin Rose and Sen. Ed Maloney, directs IBHE to form a steering committee comprised of representatives of the Office of the Governor, the General Assembly, public institutions of higher education, the business community, and other vital stakeholders. The committee's role is to devise performance metrics that will be used to measure contributions to state goals of college completion, retention, and success with underserved populations. The new funding scheme is to form the basis of IBHE budget recommendations for fiscal 2013. HB 1503 is the result of groundwork laid by the creation of the Higher Education Finance Study Commission, which recommended that performance funding should be pursued by the General Assembly.
- **College Planning Act** -- Under [HB 1710](#), an initiative of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission which was sponsored by Rep. Bob Pritchard and Sen. Ed Maloney, ISAC will use its College Illinois Corps, a platoon of recent college graduates, to target low-income and potential first-generation college students with programs to promote college awareness and planning.
- **Illinois DREAM Act** -- [SB 2185](#), sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton and Rep. Edward Acevedo, creates the Illinois DREAM Fund Commission, appointed by the Governor, which will review applications for scholarships from the children of immigrants and issuing scholarships to selected student applicants. ISAC is required to establish an Illinois DREAM Fund to provide scholarships funded entirely from private contributions.
- **University Efficiency** -- [SB 1883](#), sponsored by Sen. Maloney and Rep. Naomi Jakobsson, and [HB 1079](#), sponsored by Rep. Sandra Pihos and Sen. Christine Johnson, each require public universities to report annually to IBHE on programs added, closed or consolidated, and those showing a trend of low productivity in enrollments, degrees, or cost per degree. SB 1883 also limits IBHE review of university non-instructional capital projects to those exceeding \$2 million, and doubles, to \$1,000, the value of equipment required to be

## UPCOMING

### JUNE

- 3 ICCB Meeting, Normal
- 4 IBHE-Student Advisory Committee Meeting, UIC, Chicago
- 7 IBHE Meeting, St. Augustine College, Chicago
- 24 'Using Data for Student Success' Summit, Springfield

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inventoried by universities. HB 1079 does not contain those provisions but adds reporting requirements for universities regarding tuition increases for the upcoming academic year and cost-saving measures implemented for the preceding fiscal year.



### [A tectonic shift in funding higher education](#)

*AASCU policy paper examines performance-based funding*

Boosting college completion rates in an austere funding environment has led to a national productivity agenda for higher education. Led by the Lumina Foundation for Education, the agenda aims to identify, measure, and increase institutional effectiveness; share best practices through pilot programs; and explore alternative educational delivery systems. These efforts are aimed at offering more high-quality college opportunities to a greater number of students within existing budgetary constraints.

One component of the productivity agenda involves re-visiting *performance-based funding (PBF)* as a means of improving institutional effectiveness. PBF is a decades-old higher education finance strategy that links state funding for public colleges and universities with institutional performance. PBF represents a fundamental shift in higher education finance—a shift from state inputs to campus outcomes, and from institutional needs to state priorities.

### [Payback!](#)

*Bachelor degrees a good investment, but some college majors bring much better return*

On average, bachelor's degrees pay off. But a new [study](#) confirms that some undergraduate majors pay off a lot more than others. In fact, the difference in earnings potential between one major and another can be more than 300 percent. Using United States Census data available for the first time, the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce is helping Americans connect the dots between college majors and career earnings. In the new report, *What's it Worth? The Economic Value of College Majors*, this first-time research demonstrates just how critical the choice of major is to a student's median earnings.

COMPARISON ACROSS MAJOR GROUPS	
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES	ENGINEERING
ARTS	HEALTH
BIOLOGY & LIFE SCIENCE	HUMANITIES & LIBERAL ARTS
BUSINESS	INDUSTRIAL ARTS & CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMUNICATIONS & JOURNALISM	LAW & PUBLIC POLICY
COMPUTERS & MATHEMATICS	PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK
EDUCATION	PHYSICAL SCIENCES
SOCIAL SCIENCE	

### [Testing teachers](#)

*Public Agenda research firm finds teachers open to evaluation but want measures that gauge effectiveness*

New York and Los Angeles are moving ahead with plans to use standardized testing designed to grade teachers as well as students. Public Agenda's research has found that it isn't so much that teachers don't think tests can play a role in grading teachers -- but they do say other ideas are more effective.

The conventional wisdom among many education reformers has been that teachers resist all kinds of evaluation, but in

fact they're open to a number of ideas, according to the research Public Agenda conducted with Learning Point Associates. Nearly all teachers (92 percent) rated the level of student interest and engagement as an excellent or good indicator of teacher effectiveness. Teachers also gave excellent or good ratings to how much their own students learn compared with other students (72 percent) as well as feedback from principals and administrators (70 percent).

While more than half (56 percent) of the teachers surveyed said how well students perform on district's standardized tests is also an excellent or good indicator, the intensity of their support is much lower. Only 12 percent of teachers gave standardized tests the top "excellent" rating, lower than they gave any of the other measures of effectiveness. By contrast, 46 percent say student engagement is an "excellent" indicator. And 75 percent of all teachers said that student test scores are a lot less important than other measures.

### [MHEC Executive Committee set to meet in St. Louis](#)

At the biannual meeting June 9-10 in St. Louis, executive committee members of Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) will engage in discussions about MHEC programs and initiatives. The meeting will also feature panelists from Missouri: Dr. Rusty Monhollon, assistant commissioner for academic affairs for the Missouri Department of Higher Education, who will present information on academic program review; Dr. Karen Weston, assistant professor of education from Columbia College, will share information on the THRIVE grant; and Ms. Jean McCann, vice president of instruction for East Central College, will speak about the developmental education placement score benchmarks for Missouri community colleges. The commissioners will also welcome former U.S. Senator John C. Danforth, a former ambassador to the United Nations, who will speak about Trends in Politics and Political Discourse.

### **'Using Data for Student Success' Summit Scheduled for June 24**

The Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education will host the summit "Using Data for Student Success: Understanding the High School-to-College Success Report." It is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, June 24, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. The summit is designed for superintendents, principals, regional superintendents, guidance counselors, CTE regional staff, curriculum directors and more in K-12; and presidents, chief academic officers, deans and enrollment and admissions management in higher education. The High School-to-College Success Report provides a snapshot of data and information about first-time, full-time freshmen students attending public universities and colleges in Illinois.

## **COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING CONFERENCE**

### **Save the Date – July 27, 2011 Tinley Park Convention Center**

You've seen the statistics: The U.S. lags other countries in higher education completion. You're aware of the personal and economic benefits of higher education to both the individual and nation—in effect, how *College Changes Everything* for a student and our society.

Attend this one day conference that focuses on effective practices and showcases resources available to help with college access and increasing college completion. It's designed for Illinois college access practitioners, college and university leaders, and policymakers interested in higher education. Sessions presented by state and national leaders will provide purposeful information and engage the audience in thoughtful discussions on the serious issues we face. The forum will include time for sharing best practices with peers and tools to help participants walk away with plans for moving their access and completion efforts forward. Come ready to share and learn.

**Conference registration will be available soon. Watch for the announcement.** Conference organized by: • Illinois Student Assistance Commission, • Women Employed, • Illinois Board of Higher Education, • Illinois Community College Board, • Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities. Conference sponsored by: [KnowHow2GO Illinois](#)

### [Student loan default rate rises](#)

The U.S. Education Department recently announced that the draft Fiscal Year 2009 national [student cohort default rate is 8.9%](#), up from 6.7% in FY 2007, and 7% in the FY 2008. The default rate is a snapshot in time, representing the cohort of borrowers whose loan repayments came due between October 1, 2008, and September 30, 2009, and who defaulted on or before September 30, 2010. Some 3.7 million borrowers entered repayment during this time, and 327,669 borrowers went into default. They attended 5,956 participating institutions. As a historical comparison, in FY 1990, nearly one in four borrowers defaulted on their federal loans when rates set an all-time high of 22.4%. The rate dropped to a record low of 4.5% in FY 2003.

### [The Condition of Education](#)

On May 26, the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released "The Condition of Education 2011," a Congressionally mandated report to the country on education in America today. Among the notable findings: from 2000 to 2009, undergraduate enrollment increased from 13 million to 18 million students; in 2009, approximately 84% of students from high-income families (the top 20% of all family incomes) enrolled in either a two- or four-year college immediately after high school, versus 67% of students from middle-income families, and 55% of students from low-income families (the bottom 20% of all family incomes); and, by 2009, about 57% of first-time, full-time students who began seeking a bachelor's degree at a four-year college in 2002-03 had completed their degree at that same institution within six years.



## “Quotable”

### [Yes you did, President tells graduates](#)

“Every commencement is a day of celebration.... But this one is especially hopeful. This one is especially hopeful because some people say that schools like [Booker T. Washington High School] just aren't supposed to succeed in America. You'll hear them say, 'The streets are too rough in those neighborhoods.' 'The schools are too broken.' 'The kids don't stand a chance.' We are here today because every single one of you stood tall and said, 'Yes, we can.' 'Yes, we can learn.' 'Yes, we can succeed.' You decided you would not be defined by where you come from but by where you want to go, by what you want to achieve, by the dreams you hope to fulfill.... Today, Booker T. Washington is a place that has proven why we can't accept excuses -- any excuses -- when it comes to education. In the United States of America, we should never accept anything less than the best that our children have to offer.”

*President Barack Obama (5/16/11), in his commencement address at BTW High School in Memphis, winner of the 2011 Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge [Watch the speech here](#).*

### [People in the News](#)

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[Allan Karnes](#), a longtime faculty member and administrator at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, has been appointed to the Illinois Board of Higher Education by Governor Pat Quinn.

[Santos Rivera](#), IBHE Board member, attended the Lumina Foundation sponsored National Summit on Immigration and Higher Education, May 16-17.

[Robert T. Marshall Jr.](#) is a new appointee to the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees. Board Chair [Marc J. Strauss](#) and Trustee [Cherilyn G. Murer](#) have been reappointed to a second six-year term on the board by Gov. Pat Quinn.

SIUC law student, [Angela Rollins](#), will receive the 2011 Student Division Public Service Award from the Illinois State Bar Association at its annual meeting, June 17. In addition to a No. 2 ranking in a law school class of 120 students, Rollins' current and recent work includes the Downstate Illinois Innocence Project, the law school's Immigration

Detention Project, the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Illinois, and the law school's Domestic Violence Clinic. She recently began work as a judicial extern for federal Judge J. Phil Gilbert.

At its May meeting, the Oakton Community College Board of Trustees approved a recommendation to hire [Adam Hayashi](#) as dean of the College's Division of Science and Health Careers. Hayashi, who grew up in Oakton's district, currently serves as dean of the College of Central Florida's Citrus Campus in Lecanto. He received his B.S. in wildlife and fisheries science from Texas A&M University, an M.A. in physiology from the University of North Texas, and his Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Florida, Gainesville.

[Julie DeWees](#), director of the budget office at Western Illinois University, has been named the interim vice president for administrative services, effective June 30. She replaces [Jackie Thompson](#), who will retire June 29 after 41 years of service. A national search will begin in Fall 2011.

## Campus News

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### [University programs benefit from State Farm Companies Foundation funding](#)

Numerous academic, cultural and scholarship programs at Illinois State University are beneficiaries of \$1.8 million in support from State Farm Companies Foundation. The money, given over the course of two years, supports programs in Illinois State's six colleges, intercollegiate athletics and campus-wide minority recruitment initiatives. "We are thrilled to announce this new gift and celebrate the continuing commitment of State Farm Companies Foundation," said President Al Bowman. "Their investment in the future of Illinois State will provide numerous long-term benefits to many diverse areas of the University, and we are grateful for their support."

### [Illinois State Board of Education grant supports Lewis University STEM workshops for teachers](#)

Lewis University is the recent recipient of a \$160,000 grant through the Illinois State Board of Education. The grant is the "Illinois Math and Science Partnership Program Summer Institute Program," and is part of a national initiative to provide increased education for students in the areas of science, technology, and mathematics. Lewis plans to offer a 2-week workshop from June 20-July 1 for K-8 teachers in Joliet District 86 for 25 participants.

## News from Higher Education

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### [Federal 'gainful employment' rule tightens oversight of for-profit colleges](#) (The Washington Post)

Federal education officials are tightening oversight of the burgeoning for-profit higher-education sector with the release of a new regulation they say will require career preparatory programs to yield "gainful employment."

### [Report: Over a third of students entering college need remedial help](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

Cheyanna Wilson graduated from Chicago's Curie High School with a 3.0 grade-point average that included a B in a "College Algebra" class.

### [Former professor leaves \\$1M to Chicago State](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

A humble professor of biology who captivated both students and fellow faculty — whether waxing reverently or issuing fearless criticism on issues he was passionate about — was celebrated for making the largest donation by a faculty to a public Illinois university.

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