

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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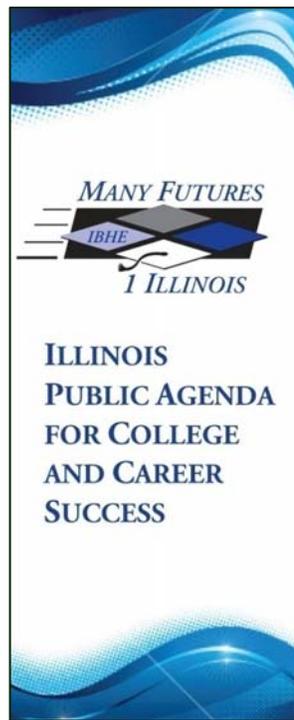
June 10, 2011

[Accountability Report shows need for improvement on affordability](#)

All indicators show Illinois heading in the wrong direction on college affordability, according to an IBHE analysis of performance on Goal 2 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*.

The second in a series of Accountability Reports on progress in achieving the goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda* documents how families with incomes between about \$18,000 and \$66,000 are losing ground on a variety of measures of college affordability. On a positive note, the report showed that Illinois colleges and universities operate efficiently. Illinois community colleges and master's level public universities in particular were significantly below the national average in the cost per degree or certificate completed. Spending per completion was larger in most of Illinois' benchmark states - California, New York, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

But the analysis found that on measures such as family ability to pay the net cost of a college degree or cover tuition and fees at community colleges, the state is losing ground. A PowerPoint presentation of the report is [here](#).



[Reid reports on Public Agenda progress](#)

Executive Director reviews success of 90-Day Agenda, announces new one-year plan

Dr. George Reid, IBHE executive director, hailed the achievement of the agency's 90-Day Agenda: College Readiness and Completion, Towards Performance Funding," to the Board of Higher Education at its meeting June 7th.

Reid initiated the 90-Day Agenda as a means to accelerate implementation of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, soon after taking the reins as executive director.

In his presentation to the Board, Reid noted that measures have been taken to increase public awareness of the *Public Agenda*, engage the higher education community in college readiness initiatives, close the achievement gap through getting college dropouts to re-enroll, and enact legislation to develop performance-based funding for colleges and universities.

The executive director also told Board members that a new one-year initiative will commence on July 1st as an extension of the accomplishments of the 90-Day Agenda. The new plan will be known as "*The Number One Agenda, Closing the Achievement Gap: Dual Credit, Performance Funding, and Dropout Re-enrollment Made Real.*"

UPCOMING

- 17 IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council meeting, UIS, Springfield
- 24 '[Using Data for Student Success](#)' Summit, Crowne Plaza, Springfield
- July**
- 8 ISAC Commission Meeting, Thompson Center, Chicago
- 27 'College Changes Everything' conference, Tinley Park Convention Center

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[New report on college success unveiled](#)

A new report showing high school graduates perform in their first year of college at public institutions was previewed for the Illinois Board of Higher Education on June 7th. April Hansen of ACT discussed the High School to College Success report, which will be formally launched at [a summit on using data for student success June 24th in Springfield](#).

The High School to College Success Report will show school principals, district superintendents, college and university leaders, and the public the performance of students during their freshman year of college. The data will show – in aggregate – how students from a particular public high school performed in grade point average at a particular college or university. It also will show patterns of college success through the lens of how well the high school curriculum prepared students for college.

[People in the News](#)

Elgin Community College has selected [Michael Mulcrone](#) of West Dundee as its new director of community engagement and legislative affairs. Mulcrone has 25 years' administrative experience in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors, previously serving as associate director of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference.

Governor Pat Quinn named [Gery Chico](#) as the chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). "Gery Chico's decades of experience in education and administration will help keep our schools competitive and prepare our students to succeed in the global economy," said Governor Quinn. "His leadership will be vital as Illinois prepares to implement ground-breaking education reform that we hope will become the model for the entire country."

[Dr. Jason Pierceson](#), associate professor of Political Science and Legal Studies and chair of the Political Science Department at the University of Illinois Springfield, has received a Fulbright grant to study the legal and political system in Canada.

[Campus News](#)

[University of Illinois launches scholarship initiative](#)

CHICAGO, Ill. — University of Illinois President Michael J. Hogan launched a \$100 million fundraising campaign that will increase financial aid to help students and their families offset tuition costs that have risen sharply as state funding for the University has declined over the last decade. The University's Board of Trustees endorsed the campaign – known as Access Illinois: The Presidential Scholarship Initiative – during a meeting at the University's Chicago campus, saying the three-year campaign will help ensure that deserving students are not shut out due to cost.

Hogan kicked off his new initiative by pledging \$100,000 to endow a scholarship – a gift from him and his wife Virginia. "There is no higher priority to me than making sure that rising costs don't deny students the life-changing opportunities that a University of Illinois education provides," Hogan said. "College is a cornerstone of the American dream, and we are committed to preserving it for our students."

[Oakton students take "lunabot" all the way to NASA](#)

Oakton Community College was one of only 37 participants from around the globe – and the only community college - taking part in NASA's Second Annual Lunabotics Mining Competition last week. The robotics contest, held at Florida's Kennedy Center, required undergraduate and graduate students from colleges and universities to design and build a remote controlled robot – commonly known as a "lunabot" -- capable of collecting and depositing a minimum of 10 kilograms of simulated lunar dirt within 15 minutes from a distance of 60 meters.



[The Student Learning Committee's website at Joliet Junior College](#) contains information on student learning outcomes assessment in an easy to find, centralized location. The website includes a link to an assessment handbook, which has been revised twice since its development in 1996; information on assessment grants for creative ways of assessing student learning; assessment tools including books, vocabulary, models, and frequently asked questions.

News from Higher Education

[Boeing and Microsoft donate \\$50 million for unusual public-private scholarships](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Boeing Company and the Microsoft Corporation agreed to donate \$25 million each over the next five years to a new scholarship fund for needy students in Washington State.

[Obama tries to focus on economic fears](#) (The New York Times)

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — President Obama, battling the public's loss of confidence in his handling of the economy, came to a community to talk up a \$2 billion program aimed at tailoring classes to match the needs of manufacturing companies.

[For-profit college students need rules' protection, Kanter says](#) (Bloomberg.com)

For-profit college students need the Education Department's regulations that were released to help protect them from crushing debt, undersecretary Martha Kanter told a U.S. Senate committee.

[Facilitating community-college transfers](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Once upon a time, community colleges, originally known as junior colleges, were meant as places where many students would attend for two years, earn an associate's degree, and then transfer to a four-year college.



It's Hot, Hot, Hot

So *Friday Memo* will commence its

Summer schedule

With this edition.

Check for us in your inboxes

July 15th and August 19th

And . . . FM will start the fall with a snazzy new design and great new features

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