

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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

ICCB
Chairman Alexi Giannoulis
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC
Chair Kym M. Hubbard
Interim Executive Director John Sinsheimer

August 19, 2011

PAYING FOR PERFORMANCE

[Governor signs HB 1503](#)

On August 12 Governor Pat Quinn furthered his goal of making education accessible and affordable for all Illinois students by signing legislation to reform how Illinois funds colleges and universities. House Bill 1503 (now [Public Act 97-0320](#)) will create performance standards for higher education institutions to increase accountability and improve student outcomes. "When it comes to the education and graduation of our students in college, we must demand excellence," Governor Quinn said. "This new law raises the bar for our universities to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students so they have a better opportunity to graduate and find meaningful employment."

[Performance Funding Steering Committee rolls up its sleeves](#)

The Performance Funding Steering Committee has been established as a direct response to Illinois' new performance funding law. At its first meeting on July 21, the Committee learned of its charge to assist the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) in devising a system for allocating state resources to public institutions of higher education based upon performance in achieving state goals related to student success and certification and degree completion, by linking the goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* to the state's higher education budgeting process. The [next meeting](#) is set for August 30 at Governors State University, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

[Consultant on performance funding meets with IBHE](#)

At the Board of Higher Education meeting on August 16, Brenda Norman Albright, a consultant in higher education, and former deputy executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, discussed the implementation role for higher education boards adopting performance funding. She described the approaches being used in other states, and identified the trends of shifting demographics, the public management focus on outputs and costs, the decline of higher education funding over time, and state government focus on increased college participation and completion rates as a base for state economic development as important backdrops for the implementation efforts in Illinois.

UPCOMING

August

30 [Performance Funding Steering Committee](#),
Governors State University

September

8 [Niagara Foundation Forum](#),
Dr. George Reid, IBHE executive director,
speaking on *Illinois Public Agenda*, Chicago

[Illinois DREAM Act becomes law](#)

Gov. Quinn has signed legislation to pave the way for children of immigrants to gain access to privately funded financial aid.

“All children have the right to a first-class education,” Governor Quinn said. “The Illinois DREAM Act creates more opportunities for the children of immigrants to achieve a fulfilling career, brighter future and better life through higher education.”

Senate Bill 2185, sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago) and Rep. Eddie Acevedo (D-Chicago), establishes a nine-member Illinois DREAM Fund Commission to manage the program, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The commission will help establish privately-funded scholarships for students who have resided with their parents while attending high school in Illinois, earned their high school diploma, attended school in Illinois for at least three years, and have at least one parent who immigrated to the United States.

[Reid outlines the ‘Number One Agenda’ for implementing Public Agenda](#)

Dr. G.W. Reid, IBHE executive director, outlined plans for agency initiatives to implement the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* for the Board of Higher Education this week. The focus of the plan is to reduce the achievement gap affecting minority and low-income students. Entitled, “The Number One Agenda, Closing the Achievement Gap: Consumer Protection, Dual Credit, Performance Funding, and Dropout Re-enrollment Made Real,” the plan has four prongs:

- Reducing the achievement gap through public awareness of the value of quality college degrees;
- Increase the number of dual-credit programs;
- Develop performance funding metrics for the FY13 budget; and
- Develop a dropout re-enrollment proposal to reduce the achievement gap by leveraging state funds.



[Governor names Giannoulis as new chair at ICCB](#)

Governor Pat Quinn has appointed Alexi Giannoulis to serve as chairman of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) as it works to increase graduation rates at the state’s community colleges and advance Illinois’ competitive edge in the global economy. Giannoulis will lead the non-paid, voluntary 11-member board, which governs the state’s 48 community colleges – the third-largest system in the country.

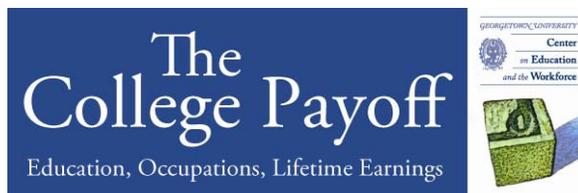
[ICCB Adult Education program receives Accelerating Opportunity Initiative design grant](#)

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Adult Education program has been awarded a \$200,000 grant as a part of Accelerating Opportunity, a Breaking Through Initiative. Illinois is one of 11 states to receive the grant. Accelerating Opportunity seeks to change the way adult basic education is delivered by getting adult students on track to earn a postsecondary credential.

“The fastest growing occupations in Illinois will require post secondary education and training; yet 42 percent of adults in Illinois have not completed any college-level coursework,” said Geoffrey Obrzut, the president and chief executive officer of the ICCB. “To help reduce the unemployment rate, we need to increase the job skills and educational credentials of our workforce.”

[New study finds growing connection between college degree and economic opportunity](#)

As millions of students prepare to return to college, a new study by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce confirms that the value of college degrees is increasing. Experts from Georgetown and Lumina Foundation say that postsecondary education has become the new gateway to the middle class and one of the most important economic issues of our time.



[Duncan urges reform of teaching profession](#)

On July 29, in a speech to the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said the U.S. should radically transform the way that teachers are recruited, assigned, evaluated, and compensated, in order to recognize and reward its great veteran teachers, attract top students into the field, and make the country more competitive. He called on teachers to rebuild their profession, to give themselves more autonomy in exchange for performance-based accountability.

[College Board report examines student transfer issues from four-year institutional vantage point](#)

As the nation prepares to meet President Obama's goal of eight million new college graduates by 2020, the transfer process — the pathway between community colleges and four-year institutions — will take on an increasingly vital role. For many four-year colleges and universities, however, this pathway is uncharted territory.

Yet these four-year institutions, both public and private, are responsible for admitting transfer students, evaluating and accepting students' course credits, and awarding financial aid. Four-year colleges and universities represent the pivotal gatekeepers in the transfer pathway, although they have rarely asserted their role in the transfer process.

A new College Board report gives greater voice to the four-year institution perspective from institutional leaders who are concerned with and committed to the needs of the community college transfer student.

“Without properly consulting with the institutions that award the baccalaureate degree, the transfer process can never function in a way that supports the nation’s need for an educated citizenry — in particular, a citizenry that authentically represents the diversity of this nation.”

[Study finds gender gap a barrier to innovation](#)

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workforce is crucial to America's innovative capacity and global competitiveness. Yet women are vastly underrepresented in STEM jobs and among STEM degree holders despite making up nearly half of the U.S. workforce and half of the college-educated workforce. That leaves an untapped opportunity to expand STEM employment in the United States, even as there is wide agreement that the nation must do more to improve its competitiveness. A study by the U.S. Department of Commerce sheds new light on women in STEM fields, the gender gap, and the need to bring more women into STEM disciplines.

[The FY2012 Nurse Educator Fellowship Program Application is now available on IBHE website](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is seeking nominations for the Nurse Educator Fellowship Program. The purpose of this program is to ensure the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty at institutions of higher learning that award degrees in nursing. Awards will be used to supplement the salaries of the nursing faculty selected for the Fellowship. Application deadline is Oct. 3.

[Uniform reporting of high school grad rates expected to reflect more accurate portrait of completion](#)

This summer, states will begin reporting high school graduation rates for the 2010-11 school year using a more rigorous four-year adjusted cohort, as developed by the nation's governors in 2005. Since data reporting requirements were first implemented under *No Child Left Behind*, states have calculated graduation rates using varying methods, creating inconsistent data from one state to the next. The transition to a uniform high graduation rate requires all states to report the number of students who graduate in four years with a standard high school diploma, divided by the number of students who entered high school four years earlier, and accounting for student transfers in and out of school. The U.S. Department of Education anticipates that the more rigorous method will result in lower reported graduation rates, but it will reflect a more accurate calculation of how many U.S. students complete high school.

[College Changes Everything Conference focuses on Illinois' goal of 60% by 2025 for college completion](#)

On July 27 at the Tinley Park Convention Center, nearly 300 high school counselors, college student services staff, college presidents and state legislators attended a day-long conference to discuss the issues of college access and completion and how Illinois will achieve its goal to increase the percentage of adults with a postsecondary credential to 60% by 2025. Kim Cook, executive director, National College Access Network, started the day with a description of how to help students prepare and get accepted into college. Stan Jones, president, Complete College America, challenged the group to transform the way colleges 'do college' to support greater completion and student success. U.S. Undersecretary Martha J. Kanter closed the conference with a call to action to support students in their pursuit of postsecondary education and successful completion of a degree or credential of marketable value. A post conference website will keep discussions and ideas generated at the conference moving forward to the 60 X 2025 goal.

[Save the Date: 3rd Annual College Town Summit set for October 19](#)

The College Town Summit (CTS11) Task Force and Illinois Liquor Control Commission will host CTS11 on Wednesday, October 19, 10am in Bloomington-Normal. The summit is FREE and lunch will be provided. The CTS11 Task Force is comprised of key stake holders representing all sectors of Illinois' college town and higher education communities. The group will meet to discuss binge drinking and the circumstances surrounding it. Topics to be discussed include celebratory drinking, the role of social media, how to work together to manage underage drinking and related topics. [Register online](#) to reserve your seat at the table.

[People in the News](#)



[Phyllis M. Wise, Ph.D.](#), has been selected to become a Vice President of the University of Illinois and the Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, effective Oct. 1, pending approval by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees at its September meeting. Wise will take the helm of the campus from Interim Vice President and Chancellor Robert Easter. She has served in senior leadership roles at three major public research universities and is currently provost and executive vice president at the University of Washington, where she has served since 2005. During the just completed 2010-11 academic year, Wise was the interim president at the University of Washington. From 2002-2005, she was dean of the College of Biological Sciences at the University of California-Davis. She holds a bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and a doctorate from the University of Michigan. She has been awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from Swarthmore College.

Plant biologist [Lon Kaufman](#), a long-time faculty member of the University of Illinois at Chicago who rose through the ranks as department head, dean, and vice provost, has been named provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UIC. His appointment becomes effective Aug. 15, pending approval by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

[Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs](#), President of Danville Area Community College, has been elected to the Presidents Academy Executive Board for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) representing the Central Region membership.

Joliet Junior College announced the death of its president, [Dr. Gena Proulx](#), who passed away Friday, August 12, after a courageous three-year battle with fallopian tube cancer. She was 66. Proulx began her tenure as the seventh president of Joliet Junior College in July 2006. The first woman to hold the position, Dr. Proulx came to JJC after serving six years as president of Dundalk and Essex campuses at The Community College of Baltimore County. The Joliet Junior College board has appointed Frank Zeller as interim president.

[John G. Henderson](#) has accepted the appointment of assistant vice president for academic affairs for technology – a position he has held on an interim basis since November 2010 at Eastern Illinois University. “Mr. Henderson’s many years of experience with academic applications of technology make him an excellent leader for the Center for Academic Technology Support at this time,” said Blair Lord, vice president for academic affairs.

[Ron Davis](#) of Vincennes University in Indiana has been named the new vice president for instruction at John Wood Community College.

Campus News

[UIS finalizes transfer agreements with four community colleges in Illinois](#)

The Admissions Office at the University of Illinois Springfield has finalized transfer articulation agreements with four community colleges in Illinois. The new agreements are with **Illinois Valley Community College, Lake Land College, Parkland College**, and **Southwestern Illinois College**. The partnership will make it easier for students enrolled in Accountancy, Business Administration, Economics, Management, and Management Information Systems programs to transfer to UIS.

[SWIC, SIUE offer dual admission program](#)

Southwestern Illinois College’s Belleville Campus (SWIC) and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) are offering a Dual Admission Program for SWIC students interested in transferring to SIUE upon completion of an associate degree or general education core curriculum. Students who have completed fewer than 30 credit hours at SWIC and have earned a minimum 2.0 GPA can also qualify. The Dual Admission Program helps students in their first year of study at SWIC transfer as seamlessly to SIUE as possible when the time comes. Benefits of the program include general admission to the University, a waiver of the \$30 application fee and an increased likelihood of completing associate and bachelor’s degrees in a timely manner, said Darlene Wagen, coordinator of the program at SIUE.

News from Higher Education

[Illinois students inch up ACT scores](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Illinois’ Class of 2011 posted the highest average ACT score in a decade — 20.9 — but the performance fell below the national average and most graduates left high school unprepared for key college classes, data released show.

[Shifts in politics and policies complicate college-completion agenda for states](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Meeting President Obama’s goal of making the United States the nation with the highest proportion of college graduates by 2020 will be difficult for colleges but possible.

[For-profit college group sued as U.S. lays out wide fraud](#) (The New York Times)

The Department of Justice and four states filed a multibillion-dollar fraud suit against the Education Management Corporation, the nation's second-largest for-profit college company, charging that it was not eligible for the \$11 billion in state and federal financial aid it had received from July 2003 through June 2011.

[Illinois Lt. Gov visits JWCC as part of statewide tour](#) (WGEM.com)

QUINCY, Ill. (WGEM)--Illinois Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon was in Quincy to encourage people to continue their education. She came to John Wood Community College to learn how two new "career ladder" programs may help area students earn more associate's degrees.

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