

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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September 9, 2011

[New Student & Parent Call Center launched](#)

A newly redesigned call center for the students and parents who look to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) for answers about going to college is now available by calling the toll-free number for students and parents **800.899.4722**, or e-mail isac.studentservices@isac.illinois.gov. Building on the theme of Before College, During College, and After College from ISAC website (collegeillinois.org), the comprehensive design of the new **ISAC Call Center** ensures that callers' questions can all be answered in one place, regardless of their stage in the college experience. The call center is staffed by individuals experienced in all areas of planning and paying for college.

[Summit linking aging, education, and service ask: How Can I Help](#)

Sponsored key Illinois agencies and organizations along with the National Governors Association, the Illinois Summit on Aging, Education, and Service will bring leaders together to discuss how the involvement of older generations can help meet the challenges and priorities of education. The summit is the outgrowth of a **[Senate proclamation](#)** encouraging generations to work together to improve reading achievement for all ages.

The summit will be held September 26th at the new Alumni Center at ISU in Normal.



Women Employed

Women Employed reports examine steps to success for college-going single parents, and a promising practice at Harper College

[Single Mothers and College Success: Creating Paths Out of Poverty](#) details important state and federal policies affecting student parents' busy lives. It describes how key policies, including financial aid, income assistance, child care, and housing, should work in unison to better support single mothers in higher education, especially at community colleges. It recommends practical changes that will improve single mothers' experiences and success at college, and could open the door to opportunities for better lives for themselves and their families.

[Promising Practice: Harper College Women's Program](#) examines a proven college program that has shown great success serving single mothers and other women. Since 1970, the Women's Program at Harper College in Palatine has sought to help women meet their career goals. Today, it combines an array of student services with experienced staff and partnerships with local nonprofits to meet women's needs and give them the support to succeed. Though its participants face immense barriers and have to balance great responsibilities, the Women's Program boasts semester completion rates and GPAs at or above those of the general student body.

UPCOMING

September

- 16** ICCB Board Meeting, Kennedy-King College, Chicago
- ISAC Commission Meeting, SIU-Carbondale
- IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Western Illinois University, Macomb
- 26** **[Illinois Summit on Aging, Education and Service](#)**, Illinois State University, Normal
- 28** Performance Funding Steering Committee, Governors State University, University Park

"QUOTABLE"

"Our students chose us and we chose them. Making every effort to support our students at the first sign of trouble is the right thing to do."

EIU President William Perry
In [address](#) to faculty and staff

[Gallup poll: College-degree completion key](#)

College-educated individuals are the least likely to be unemployed or underemployed, says a new Gallup poll. Study results show that even in times of economic uncertainty, most Americans believe postsecondary degree completion is the best way to secure a good job and achieve financial security. Watch a [Webcast](#) on Gallup's release of the study's findings.

[A glimpse of graduates with disabilities 6 years after leaving high school](#)

A new [study](#) from the U.S. Education Department's National Center for Special Education Research has found that young adults with disabilities were less likely to enroll in postsecondary education after high school than their same-age peers in the general population – 55 percent of young adults with disabilities compared to 62 percent in the general population. However, high school graduates with disabilities were equally likely to have a paid job as their same age peers in the general population – 71 percent.

Eighty-five percent of students with disabilities were reported to be productively engaged in the community either through being engaged in employment, postsecondary education, or job training since leaving high school. They were less likely to engage in these activities than were their same-age peers in the general population, of whom 95 percent reported being engaged in employment, postsecondary education, or job training since leaving high school.

[SHEEO study shows gains in college completions, but STEM fields lag](#)

The State Higher Education Executive Officers organization has released a report showing that, while student enrollments and college completions are up from 2004-09, growth in completing a college credential in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) disciplines was an anemic four percent.

Across disciplines, Health (37%) experienced the largest increase in the number of total completions, while total completions in Trades grew by 24%.

[2011 Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation Scholarships](#)

The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) selects deserving young people of good character and high academic achievement to receive foundation scholarships to help them achieve their educational objectives. This year, the \$2,000 scholarships will be granted to college students whose home residence is in Illinois and who are currently attending Illinois colleges or universities. An application form can be downloaded from the ILLCF web-site (www.illcf.org). Applications must be received by Oct. 21.

[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, 10 a.m. 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 towns 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](#)

[Christophe Pierre](#) – who has held positions at top universities in the U.S. and abroad – has been selected as the vice president for academic affairs, University of Illinois President. Pierre has served as dean of the Faculty of Engineering at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, since 2005. He will replace current Vice President for Academic Affairs Mrinalini "Meena" C. Rao, who has held the position since 2007. Rao will return to the faculty in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics on the Chicago campus.

[Lawrence B. Schook](#) has been named Vice President for Research at the University of Illinois, pending approval by the Board of Trustees. Schook has served as interim vice president for research since March and also serves as a professor in the Department of Animal Sciences on the Urbana-Champaign campus and director of the Division of Biomedical Sciences. He holds joint appointments in bioengineering, surgery, nutritional sciences and pathology, and has faculty appointments with the Institute for Genomic Biology and the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

Campus News

[College of DuPage acquires beam from World Trade Center](#)



Thousands of institutions and organizations requested a relic from the World Trade Center, and College of DuPage (COD) is among only a few selected to receive a piece of this history. The 27" by 120" beam, recovered from the debris, has been installed in the Homeland Security Education Center, that serves as a training ground for first responders and houses the College's Fire Science/EMS and Criminal Justice programs, the COD Police Department, and SLEA. Once completed, this installation will also include two backboards with images from the attack.

A beam from the debris of the World Trade Center is moved inside the new Homeland Security Education Center at COD) while police recruits from the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy stand at attention. (Photo by Rich Malec/College of DuPage)

[WIU: 10 years of accreditation](#)

Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of College and Schools announced that Western Illinois University (WIU) has been reaccredited for 10 years. "I would like to thank the campus community for participating in the on-site visit. A 10-year reaffirmation recommendation is the highest recommendation a University can receive from an on-site team visit," said WIU President Jack Thomas. "It is clear that the commission representatives witnessed how we are successfully advancing our vision and mission by enacting our core values of academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility."

[EIU Maintains AACSB International Business and Accounting Accreditation](#)

The School of Business at Eastern Illinois University has maintained its business and accounting accreditation by AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business). AACSB accreditation is the mark of quality distinction most widely sought after by business schools. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees in business and accounting. Only 633 schools of business, or less than five percent worldwide, have earned this distinguished hallmark of excellence in management education. Only 177 of those have earned specialized accreditation for their accounting programs.

[NSF grant will encourage NIU students to study science, technology, engineering and math](#)

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Northern Illinois University (NIU) with a \$2 million grant to ramp up efforts to encourage more students to choose career paths in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). "This is an example of NIU's commitment to the success of our students and to the success of the State of Illinois," said NIU Deputy Provost Earl "Gip" Seaver. "The grant reflects a commitment on the part of NSF and NIU to broaden representation in the STEM workforce. This is viewed nationally as being critical to ensuring a healthy economy."

News from Higher Education

[States ask colleges to perform for money](#) (Stateline.org)

Speaking to higher education leaders from across his state, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon laid out a new goal for public colleges and universities: funding based on student performance.

[First year performance at Illinois public universities and colleges](#) (Chicago Tribune)

The newly-released High School-to-College Success Report shows how Illinois public school graduates fared when they became freshmen at the state's universities and community colleges. The ACT company tracked more than 90,000 students who graduated from public high schools between 2006 and 2008, and then enrolled full-time at an Illinois university or community college that fall.

[Committing to complete](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

If an incoming community college student was asked right off the bat to pledge to complete a degree or credential, in a moment of truth, would that student think of his promise before transferring or dropping out? What if thousands of others signed the same pledge? What if faculty and the president had signed one promising to do all they could to help the student complete?

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