

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

October 7, 2011



IBHE board members discuss performance funding, financial aid, and other issues with the Student Advisory Committee at a luncheon before Tuesday's Board meeting

[Performance funding hot topic at IBHE meeting](#)

The Board of Higher Education was briefed this week on progress toward implementation of Public Act 97-320 – the new statute requiring IBHE to incorporate performance metrics into the higher education budget. Executive Director G.W. Reid reviewed various principles that have been agreed upon by the Performance Funding Steering Committee. The Board also examined [a list of “unresolved issues,”](#) and made clear that it favors moving forward with performance funding whether additional state resources are dedicated to the effort or not.

[Trends in Chicago's schools across three eras of reform](#)

Trends in Chicago's Schools Across Three Eras of Reform finds that Chicago Public Schools has experienced tremendous growth in graduation rates over the past 20 years, but learning gains have been modest. The report tracks elementary and high school test scores and graduation rates in Chicago since 1988, when U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett proclaimed the city's public schools to be the worst in the nation. Key findings from the report include:

- Graduation rates in Chicago have improved dramatically, and high school test scores have risen; more students are graduating without a decline in average academic performance.
- Math scores have improved incrementally in the elementary/middle grades, while elementary/middle grade reading scores have remained fairly flat for two decades.
- Racial gaps in achievement have steadily increased, with white and Asian students making more progress than Latino students, and African American students falling behind all other groups.
- Despite progress, the vast majority of CPS students have academic achievement levels that are far below where they need to be to graduate ready for college.

UPCOMING

October

- 24 [IBHE Performance Funding Steering Committee](#), SIU-Carbondale

November

- 2 ICCB Board Meeting, Harry L. Crisp Community College Center, Springfield
- 14 [IBHE Faculty Advisory Council meeting](#), North Park University, Chicago
- 18 ISAC Commission Meeting, Robert Morris University, Chicago

December

- 6 IBHE Board Meeting, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills

[WEBINAR: HIGH SCHOOL-TO-COLLEGE SUCCESS REPORT](#)



On October 11, from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., a webinar will be conducted to provide an overview of The *High School to College Success Report*, a tool that can help facilitate conversations and partnerships between secondary and postsecondary institutions. The report provides a snapshot of data and information about first-time, full-time freshmen students attending Illinois public universities and colleges. April Hansen and George Schlott from ACT, Inc. will present the report as well as ways to interpret and utilize the data. Reserve your Webinar seat at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/913636961>

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[Reaching the Goal: Developing secondary and postsecondary alignment](#)

IBHE, ICCB, and ISBE are hosting four workshops throughout the state this November. These workshops will focus on Common Core College Readiness Standards and the *High School to College Success Report*, and will facilitate collaboration, as well as, further examine and identify collaborative opportunities between secondary and postsecondary institutions. Teams consisting of secondary and postsecondary individuals are encouraged to attend.

[Training scheduled to learn about Illinois DREAM Act](#)

Training for the Illinois DREAM TEAM, established through legislation passed last spring, has been scheduled for October 22 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Dominican University in River Forest. The training is for students, counselors, teachers, and community leaders who want to learn more about the Illinois DREAM Act and how undocumented students can prepare for college. This is a comprehensive training; you will learn about the Illinois DREAM Act, the Federal DREAM Act, how DREAM students can find scholarships, and more. Most important, you will learn how to take this information back to your neighborhood, school, or community organization.

[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](#)



[Dr. Vernon O. Crawley](#), president of Moraine Valley and the longest-serving college/university chief executive officer in Illinois, announced to faculty and staff September 26 that he will retire on June 30. Since Dr. Crawley's arrival in 1991, college enrollment has risen 30 percent. The college credit enrollment reached an all-time high this fall with 18,169 students. The college ranks second in enrollment among the 48 community colleges in Illinois.

[Donald Brieland](#), the founding director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and author of one of the foremost texts on social work and the law, died September 30. He was dean emeritus of the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he served from 1980 to 1990. Previously, he had been the dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1975 to 1980. His wife, Wynne Korr, of Champaign, is the current dean of the School of Social Work at the Urbana campus.

[Renee Higgins](#), Dean of Transfer Education at Spoon River College, was recently selected by the Quincy Herald Whig newspaper as one of the recipients of the 20 Under 40 award for 2011. Higgins, who also serves as the Macomb campus administrator, has been with the college since January 2010. Before joining Spoon River College, Higgins was employed for 13 years at John Wood Community College in various teaching and administrative roles, and was the director of education during her final six years at JWCC.

A University of Illinois Springfield professor of communication, [Michael Cheney](#), has been chosen to receive a national Excellence in Online Teaching award from the Sloan Consortium, a group made up of fellow online educators. He is known for his popular online courses, which include "The Beatles: Popular Music and Society," "Political Communication" and "Writing for Public Relations." Last year, Cheney's "Unit 1: Beatles as Mosaic" podcast was the second-most-downloaded podcast on iTunes U for several weeks.

[Tweet of the Week](#)



"Today I completed my tour of the state's 48 community colleges! Now, the hard work starts: Passing reform that will help 60% of Illinoisans attain a college degree or certificate by 2025. Watch for my recommendations later this year – and feel free to pass along your ideas, too!"

*Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon,
upon completing her
48-campus tour of
Illinois community colleges
on October 6th*

Campus News



[Moraine Valley students make pledge to graduate](#)

Moraine Valley Phi Theta Kappa officers Caitlin Town and Alexander Papak display the 350 signatures from students who pledged to Agree to Degree during the college's Fall Fest on September 21. The Agree to Degree campaign is an effort to increase the number of students who graduate from the two-year institution before transferring to a college or university or entering the job market.

[Eastern Illinois University holding a grand opening ceremony for Renewable Energy Center](#)

The grand opening of the Renewable Energy Center -- one of the largest biomass renewable energy projects in the country -- is set for Oct. 7. Tours will be offered before and after the event. The facility, which replaced a dilapidated coal-fired steam plant, is expected to reduce the campus's greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent. Money saved in energy costs should pay for the entire \$80 million project within 20 years



[Lt. Governor Sheila Simon visits Spoon River College](#)

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon observes a class being conducted through the IVS (Interactive Video System) at the college. Also pictured are SRC President Dr. Robert Ritschel and student Tiffany Deakin, who was participating in a class that was being taught on the Macomb campus. Deakin is a Cuba High School senior taking advantage of the dual credit courses offered by SRC.

[Scholarship targets women for chemical engineering at UIC](#)

UIC's chemical engineering department has received a \$600,000 National Science Foundation grant to attract new students, primarily freshmen. Most of the funds will be used to provide need-based scholarships. Some of the grant will be used to target high school females as they look toward careers and college programs.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Completion rates outpace growth in community-college enrollment, report says](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The percentage of students who successfully earn credentials from community colleges has increased greatly over the last 22 years, especially among students of color, according to a report released by the American Association of Community Colleges.

[Gap found between Latino population, college](#) (Chicago Tribune)

The percentage of Latino students enrolled in college is strikingly lower than the Latino population nationwide — a disparity that could have troubling implications for the workforce, experts say.

[Community colleges increasingly rely on foundations](#) (Daily Herald)

Maybe it's funding a building expansion to house a CT scan machine at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, or purchasing a human patient simulator for the nursing program at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines.

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