

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[A guide to major U.S. college completion initiatives](#)

While the United States has focused on improving access to higher education, many other nations have made steady progress over recent decades in increasing educational attainment. As a result, the U.S. has slipped to 15th place in the proportion of younger workers (ages 25-34) who hold a postsecondary degree or certificate; this is a threat to the nation's global competitiveness. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities' latest policy brief provides background information on the topic and summarizes 13 major college completion projects.

[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.

[2011 ICCCA Conference Information](#)

The Fall 2011 Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) Conference will be held November 16-18, 2011, at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel in Decatur, IL. This year's theme is "A Case for Success: College Completion."



[How to improve parental involvement in education – a Public Agenda survey](#)

Research and anecdotal evidence alike indicate that children whose parents are involved in their education tend to do better in school. Teachers also say that parent involvement in education, at home and in school, improves learning and discipline. At the same time, teachers often express frustration over lack of parental involvement, especially for students who could benefit most. So why isn't every parent involved in their child's education?

[Summit keys in on priorities for linking generations and improving education, health, and elderly independence](#)

On September 26, the Summit on Aging, Education and Service connected younger, older, and middle generations to discuss mobilizing older adults. Preliminary [recommendations](#) target three priorities in Illinois: education success, particularly for students who are struggling; healthy lifestyles, key to a productive workforce, educational attainment, and livable communities; and independence of older generations.

UPCOMING

October

- 24** IBHE Performance Funding Steering Committee, SIU-Carbondale
- 25-27** General Assembly Veto Session

November

- 2** ICCB Board Meeting, Harry L. Crisp Community College Center, Springfield
- 8-10** General Assembly Veto Session
- 18** ISAC Commission Meeting, Robert Morris University, Chicago

December

- 3** IBHE Student Advisory Committee meeting, Harper College, Palatine
- 6** IBHE Board Meeting, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills

[Implementing universal design for education in Illinois](#)

The Web Accessibility Consortium of the Illinois Board of Higher Education conducted a survey, the 2011 IBHE Instructional Technology Accessibility Survey, in order to identify what technologies were currently being employed around the state of Illinois to create and deliver instructional materials, how best to learn about these technologies, and what interests were in learning about accessible techniques and universal design. In response to this survey, a free webinar series, Implementing Universal Design for Education in Illinois, sponsored by the Great Lakes ADA Center and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, is available. [Register online.](#)

[People in the News.](#)

On October 19, the University of Illinois at Chicago's Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Blacks and The Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education paid tribute to former University Of Illinois Trustee **Frances G. Carroll** for her dedication and service to access and equity in higher education. Carroll also serves on the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

[Susan Winters](#), director of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Regional Nursing Program, has been selected through competitive application for the year-long Leadership Development Program for Simulation Educators, a faculty leadership development initiative offered by the National League for Nursing (NLN). The program is designed for those interested in assuming a leadership role in the research or administration of simulation programs in nursing education.

Lake Land College's [Mike Rudibaugh](#) received the Illinois Community College Faculty Association's Instructor of the Year award during the annual Teaching and Learning Conference on October 20. Rudibaugh teaches geography and earth science courses and specializes in geospatial technology.

[Campus News](#)

[Governors State begins \\$22.6 million science building renovation](#)



On October 18, Governor State University's (GSU) President Elaine P. Maimon and members of the Board of Trustees symbolically "tore down the walls" of the university's E and F science wing by removing paneling from the walls of the renovation site. The project will bring world-class laboratories and classrooms to the University Park campus' science buildings.

State Senator Toi Hutchison (D-Olympia Fields) and Julie Smith, Governor Quinn's deputy chief of staff, participated along with Lorine S. Samuels, Chair of the GSU Board of Trustees at the event attended by students, university employees, and community members.

[Moraine Valley gets technology grant](#)

Moraine Valley Community College is receiving a \$3.7 million grant as part of The National Information, Security, and Geospatial Technology Consortium (NISGTC), a national syndicate of seven community colleges (and 19 affiliated colleges) composed of National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Centers. This consortium recently received roughly \$20 million for job training and workforce development in the Information Technology industry. Moraine Valley will be the lead college for cybersecurity and virtual labs.

News from Higher Education

[Record percentage of Illinois schools fail to meet federal targets](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Two-thirds of Illinois public schools this year failed to meet federal test targets that signal students can read and do math well, marking a record rate of failure for the state's school system.

[High school test scores fall to a new low](#) (Chicago Tribune)

About half of Illinois public high school students flunked state exams in reading, math and science this year, the worst performance in the history of the 11th-grade Prairie State Achievement Examination, statewide test results show.

[Community-college dropouts cost taxpayers nearly \\$1-billion a year, report says](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Students who drop out of community college before their second year have cost taxpayers nearly \$1-billion annually, says a report released by the American Institutes for Research.

[Student loan debt hits record levels](#) (USA TODAY)

Students and workers seeking retraining are borrowing extraordinary amounts of money through federal loan programs, potentially putting a huge burden on the backs of young people looking for jobs and trying to start careers.

Illinois Board of Higher Education
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404
Phone: (217) 782-2551
<http://www.ibhe.org>
FridayMemo@ibhe.org

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