

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Performance funding panel reviews models for colleges, universities to gauge progress](#)

The Performance Funding Steering Committee met October 24 at SIU Carbondale, to review potential measures and models for evaluating progress at [public universities](#) and [community colleges](#) in meeting state goals. The committee also heard from NEIU President [Sharon Hahs](#) on a proposed timeline for implementation of performance funding. SIUC Chancellor [Rita Cheng](#) reported on the work of a special subcommittee that has been working on a collection of “unresolved issues,” such as shielding institutions from precipitous loss of state aid, defining “underrepresented” or “underserved” populations, and distinguishing between different institutions and sectors, given diverse missions of colleges and universities.

[NIU students make voices heard in Springfield](#)



Rep. Robert Pritchard (R-Hinckley), speaks with NIU students in Springfield.

Sixty-five NIU students rolled into Springfield on two buses on Wednesday, Oct. 26, to protest potential cuts to the state’s Monetary Award Program (MAP) and address other issues impacting higher education. For many of the students, the MAP grant is a matter of college survival. More than 6,200 NIU students – more than one in three undergraduate students – rely on MAP grant funding to help pay for their education. The average MAP recipient at NIU receives about \$3,625 a year.

“It’s hugely important to my education,” said Marc Belbis, an NIU Student Association senator who is also a MAP grant recipient. He said the MAP grant was instrumental to his being able to move on from community college and attend NIU.

UPCOMING

November

- 2 ICCB Board Meeting, Harry L. Crisp Community College Center, Springfield
- 8-10 General Assembly Veto Session
- 11-12 [Illinois Community College Trustees Association's meeting](#), Chicago Marriot Downtown
- 11-12 [ICCB-Student Advisory Committee meeting](#), Chicago Marriott Downtown
- 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

The NIU students broke up into groups and met with a number of lawmakers, including Rep. Robert Pritchard (R-Hinckley), Sen. Christine Johnson (R-Shabbona), Rep. Richard Morthland (R-Cordova), Sen. Bill Brady (R-Bloomington), Sen. Sue Rezin (R-Morris) and Sen. Matt Murphy (R-Palatine).

[Shift of oversight for private business schools clears House](#)

SB 1795, which would shift regulation of some 300 private business and vocational schools (PBVS) from the Illinois State Board of Education to IBHE, passed the House this week on a vote of 115-0. The bill now returns to the Senate for concurrence on House amendments. The bill is the product of collaboration involving ISBE, IBHE, ICCB, and the attorney general's office. The purpose of the legislation is to place oversight of the postsecondary PBVS schools at IBHE, which has statutory responsibility presently for the regulation of postsecondary degree-granting institutions. The shift will entail no new general revenue funds, but rather rely on fees charged to the schools to fund the regulatory operations.

[Pension legislation focusing on 'loopholes'](#)

A number of bills were introduced within the last two weeks related to pension reform, primarily in response to recent stories in the media. With the fall veto session under way in Springfield, the main pension bill ([SB 512](#)) may be considered when the General Assembly returns on Nov. 8. Northern Illinois University is maintaining a complete listing of the latest pension bills, click on the [Pending Legislation](#) link.

[Lt. Gov. Simon visits all 48 community colleges](#)

With community colleges emerging as such a critical partner in the state's economic plan, Lt. Governor Shelia Simon wanted to know them better. So in February she embarked on a tour to visit all 48 community colleges in Illinois, which she finished this month. Visiting each college was important to Simon because it allowed her to talk to college leaders, faculty, staff and students to understand the unique and common challenges that the institutions face. It also let her see firsthand the successes, from top-notch training programs to innovations that better prepare students academically. Her office has prepared a [video](#) describing her tour.

With the tour completed, Simon will now write a report that she will send to the governor and General Assembly this winter. She will make recommendations on several key areas, including reducing time to earn a degree, decreasing student debt and increasing college transparency. A prime focus will be tackling remediation, especially in math.

[Economic dynamics influencing higher ed financing](#)

This AASCU report examines trends and economic conditions affecting funding of higher education, including economic growth, employment, state budget pressures, state revenues, and other dynamics.

[Community college enrollments dip, but demand remains strong](#)

In fall 2011, 371,898 students enrolled in credit-bearing coursework at community colleges in Illinois, the third-highest level in the past quarter century, according to the Illinois Community College Board. Community college enrollments have declined for two years since the spike of recession-driven enrollments of nearly 384,000 in 2009.

[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.

[People in the News.](#)

On October 20, Oakton lost a valued colleague with the passing of [Dr. Gregory C. James](#). Dr. James came to Oakton in August 2005 as Dean of Students and in June 2009 was promoted to Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs/Office of Access, Equity, and Diversity – the first to hold that position. Dr. James served on Oakton's Master Plan Steering Committee and on the steering committee of the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher

Education. He received a number of awards in recognition of his work, including an Equity Award from the Illinois Community College Trustee Association and an Innovation Award from the Illinois Council of Community College Administration.

[Dr. Martha Mathews Libster](#) has been appointed Chair and Director of Nursing for the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) at Governors State University (GSU). Libster comes to GSU from Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA, where she served as Director and Chair of Nursing. She is an international leader in the field of nursing history, cultural diplomacy, and holistic nursing — particularly healing traditions, nurse-herbalism, and foot reflexology.

[Deborah Pierce](#), associate provost for International Programs at NIU, has been elected as an officer of NAFSA, the world's largest nonprofit professional association dedicated to international education.

Campus News

[Teaching/research greenhouse gets boost from ISA](#)

The umbrella organization that serves the needs of all soybean farmers in the state of Illinois is making a substantial contribution, funded in part by the Illinois soybean checkoff, to Southern Illinois University Carbondale. This support will enhance educational and research opportunities for students in the College of Agricultural Sciences. A \$250,000 contribution from the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) will help build a state-of-the-art undergraduate teaching and research greenhouse facility. This new 22,000-square-foot facility replaces a 50-year-old greenhouse that is a core learning laboratory for the entire Plant and Soil Science program.

News from Higher Education

[Rise in sticker price at public colleges outpaces that at private colleges for 5th year in a row](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The State of California enrolls about 10 percent of the country's full-time students attending public four-year colleges, and about 15 percent of those at public two-year colleges. So when the state's public colleges have a big tuition hike—as they did this year—it has a big impact on the average tuition increase at public colleges across the country, says a new report from the College Board.

[Obama college loan plan aims at an old voting bloc](#) (The Huffington Post)

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is outlining a plan to allow millions of student loan recipients to lower their payments and consolidate their loans, in hopes of easing the burden of the No. 2 source of household debt.

[Realistic or radical?](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

California's community college system is among the most idealistic in American higher education, with a deep commitment to sharing resources equally among all its 2.6 million students.

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