

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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In Appreciation...



Don Sevens, deputy director of external relations for IBHE and publisher-editor-reporter-in-chief for **The Friday Memo** since its inception, begins a new chapter today as he repositions from the IBHE workplace to becoming a SURS Annuitant at the end of this year. His fruitful years of work and public service in Illinois were recognized on November 8 by the House of Representatives of the Illinois General Assembly with the passage of [HR 600](#), sponsored by Rep. Jakobsson, chair of the House Higher Education Committee. Sen. Ed Maloney, chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee also issued a proclamation congratulating Don on his retirement.

F. Scott Fitzgerald has said, "You don't write because you want to say something, you write because you have something to say." Don has always had something to say, as documented by his major contribution to **The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success**, legislative testimony and reports, and

communications with the Board of Higher Education and the public. All of us in the Illinois higher education community have benefited from Don's superb writing talent and communication skills. We have heard what he has had to say and Illinois' college students have been better served because we have listened.

Be well, Don, do good work-retirement, and keep in touch.

-Garrison Keillor (adapted)

[Legislature acts on procurement relief for universities](#)

The state's public universities will see relief from some burdensome provisions of the Illinois Procurement Act under legislation passed by the General Assembly this week. SB 1750 exempts from the Procurement Code certain expenditures related to:

- membership in professional, academic, or athletic associations,
- events paid exclusively by revenues, private grants or gifts, or donations,
- events for which specific vendor is mandated by the event sponsor,
- artistic or musical performances.

The bill, which now goes to the Governor, also gives the chief procurement officer the ability to waive certain requirements that hinder procurements for research, broadcast facilities, library materials, or grants.

[Bill transfers oversight of private career schools to IBHE](#)

Without a dissenting vote, legislators passed SB 1795 to shift regulatory oversight for private business and vocational schools (PBVS) from the jurisdiction of the Illinois State Board of Education to the Board of Higher Education. There are some 300 PBVS postsecondary schools in Illinois, ranging from bartending schools and pet-grooming academies to allied health fields and computer technology training.

IBHE intends to streamline the application and review process to improve response times and apply greater scrutiny to institutions that have an effect on public health or safety. Fees charged to the schools will cover the expenses of regulation.

[General Assembly endorses new school report card](#)

In an effort to enhance school accountability in a more user-friendly tool, the legislature approved HB 605 this week, creating a new school report card to be inaugurated in 2013. The impetus for the new report card came from the Illinois P-20 Council, and the movement involved dozens of education stakeholders from throughout the state.

The new report card is designed to be an easy to comprehend assessment for parents and communities of key education checkpoints of school quality – school environment, student outcomes, student progress – and will contain comparisons of a school to similar schools and statewide averages.

[State university presidents ask lawmakers to slow down on pension reform](#)

Public university presidents are urging Gov. Pat Quinn and state lawmakers to put the brakes on a push to overhaul state employee pensions. In a joint letter sent to Quinn, the higher education administrators said they have "grave concerns" over a legislative package backed by House Minority Leader Tom Cross, R-Oswego, that would establish a three-tiered pension system in which employees would have to pay more to keep their current benefits.

[Fiscal Impact of the Illinois college programs and services to veterans and military personnel](#)

The Higher Education Veterans Service Act (Public Act 96-133) requires an annual analysis of the actual expenditures for the programs and services provided to veterans and active duty personnel by the public institutions of higher education. The latest report for FY 2011 has been sent to the Governor and the General Assembly. It documents the law's intent "to recognize the sacrifice of American servicemen and women, and, in a small way, repay them by chartering a concerted effort by State government, in cooperation with our public institutions of higher learning, to make its best efforts to take positive, quantifiable steps to providing a superior learning environment for student veterans and service members."

[People in the News.](#)

The City Colleges of Chicago Board of Trustees voted on November 3 to select **Dr. Joyce Ester** as the next President of Kennedy-King College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago. Ester brings more than twenty years experience in higher education administration and currently serves as Associate Vice President for Student Services at Bakersfield College in Bakersfield, CA, where she is responsible for the planning, developing, managing and evaluating of comprehensive Student Services programs.

UPCOMING

November

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

29 House in Special Session

30 Performance Funding Steering Committee, Richland Community College, Decatur

December

3 IBHE Student Advisory Committee meeting, Harper College, Palatine

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

Campus News

[Former Marine takes advantage of Spoon River College Veterans Benefits](#)



During his eight years as a United States Marine, Sgt. Rhyne Spencer, Vehicle Commander, Charlie Company, 1st LAR Battalion, traveled to 28 countries and was deployed six times. Three of those six deployments were combat missions to Iraq that occurred in the space of 17 months, the last being to Fallujah in the fall of 2004 where Operation Phantom Fury was being fought. Upon moving to Canton after leaving the service, Spencer took advantage of the Veteran's Benefits offered by Spoon River College and is currently enrolled full-time, working towards his Associate of Art and Science degree. The Illinois Veteran's Grant pays for his tuition and fees, the G.I. Bill pays for his textbooks, and he receives disability due to the PTSD. Spencer is undecided about his future career plans, but knows he wants to transfer to a four-year university to complete his Bachelor's degree.

[Governor Quinn opens new research facility at Illinois Institute of Technology](#)

On November 2, Governor Pat Quinn joined officials from the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in opening a new research facility in IIT's University Technology Park (UTP) that will provide space for more than 30 startup companies focusing on life sciences, biotech, engineering, materials and chemical research to take their innovations to the next level.

[UIS graduate honors former faculty member with professorship](#)

The University of Illinois Springfield announced the establishment of a new named professorship, the first from a graduate honoring a former professor. The Judith E. Everson Professorship in English honors Everson, an emeritus professor who taught at the university for 31 years. Everson's former student, Cheryl Peck, who served as director of public relations at UIS from 1992 to 2009, donated \$500,000 to establish the fund.

News from Higher Education

[Operation Graduation](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

When student veterans are supported by their colleges and universities, their grades, retention and graduation rates are higher than those of their peers, according to a newly released study.

[College special ed: More institutions serving students with intellectual disabilities](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Like many high school graduates, Jennifer Gans, of Glen Ellyn, wanted to go to college. But developmental delays put her in a population of students that few colleges serve: those with "intellectual disabilities."

[Generation Jobless: Students pick easier majors despite less pay](#) (The Wall Street Journal)

Biyan Zhou wanted to major in engineering. Her mother and her academic adviser also wanted her to major in it, given the apparent career opportunities for engineers in a tough job market.

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