

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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December 16, 2011

UPCOMING

January

6 Performance Funding Steering Committee meeting, Chicago State University

20 IBHE Faculty Advisory Council meeting, Columbia College, Chicago

27 ICCB Board Meeting, Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center, Springfield

ISAC Commission Meeting, DePaul University, Chicago

February

4 IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Joliet Junior College

7 IBHE Board Meeting, Kendall College, Chicago

Peace on earth



Joy to the world

People in the News

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has named Mr. [Kent Custer](#), CFA, agency Chief Investment Officer to manage agency investment portfolios including the College Illinois Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund and the Illinois Designated Account Purchase Program (IDAPP). "Mr. Custer brings extensive experience and knowledge to address the challenges facing the College Illinois! program," said John Sinsheimer, ISAC Interim Executive Director. "We're confident that under his direction the program will maintain high professional standards accompanied by the level of transparency owed to College Illinois! program contract holders, students and Illinois taxpayers."

The Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees voted to approve the appointment of [Dr. Debra Daniels](#) as the next college president at their December 13 meeting. Daniels will become the college's eighth president when she begins her contract March 1, 2012. Daniels is currently the president of San Bernardino Valley College in California. Previously, she served as district vice president for academics and student services for Polk State College in Florida

[John Blackburn](#), currently the Chief Executive Officer at COUNTRY Financial, will succeed Jon Astroth as Lincoln College President. Astroth, who accepted the position on an interim basis in May of 2010, will continue to serve as the College's President until August of 2012, during which time he will oversee a transition process that will begin next spring. Blackburn has served on Lincoln College's Board of Trustees since 2002 and also served three years as Board Chair.

Rend Lake College President [Charley D. Holstein](#) announced December 13 at the Board of Trustees monthly meeting that he will not seek to renew his contract as president when it expires June 30, 2012.

[Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored](#)



Salvatore Ursino, *Lewis University*, is a senior from Park Ridge, Illinois, majoring in Computer Graphic Design.



Samuel J. Randall, *Rockford College*, is a senior from Caledonia, Illinois, majoring in Biochemistry and Classics.



Margaret M. Motto, *University of St. Francis*, is a senior from New Lenox, Illinois, majoring in Social Work.

Editor's note: In the upcoming issues of The Friday Memo, the Illinois Student Laureates from Illinois' colleges and universities will be featured in "People in the News." The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement, campus leadership and extracurricular activities among Illinois college and university seniors.

Campus News



Pictured above , L-R: Griff Powell, Site Coordinator, SIUC/UC Elementary Education Program; G. Gary Grace, Executive Director & Dean, University Center of Lake County; Edward D. Maloney, Illinois State Senator, 18th District; Lynn C. Smith, Department Chair, Curriculum & Instruction, SIUC; Edward Noyes, SIUC Clinical Supervisor, immediately after SIUC's December 10, 2011 commencement ceremony.

[Senator Edward D. Maloney addresses SIUC graduates](#)

State Senator Edward D. Maloney was the commencement speaker on December 10 at a ceremony honoring the 16th cohort of adult students to earn the Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education at the University Center of Lake County through a program offered by Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Sen. Maloney told the group that, as the Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, he saw colleges and universities playing a vital role in the State's economy in addition to making a difference in the lives of individuals and communities. Citing a statewide research finding that to remain competitive and meet future workforce needs, Illinois must increase the number of adult students who attain a quality post-secondary credential, he congratulated the class on becoming part of the solution. "Perhaps in the past it was possible to under-educate a significant portion of the population without causing serious harm to a state or the nation - but not any longer," he told the group.

[Governors State awarded \\$875,000 education grant by Kresge Foundation](#)

Governors State University (GSU) has received an \$875,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation, which will be used to enhance the university's innovative Dual Degree Program (DDP). The Kresge Foundation announced the three-year grant on November 29. During the grant period, GSU will use funding from the Foundation to strengthen the DDP, which is already recognized as a national model for degree completion.

[Mayor Emanuel announces 'College to Careers' program for City Colleges](#)

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced during a speech to the Economic Club of Chicago that City Colleges of Chicago is launching an innovative program called "College to Careers" to ensure Chicago residents are ready for jobs in high growth industries - jobs that are available today but remain unfilled because of a skills gap. The program will forge partnerships between City Colleges, corporations and organizational partners to drive the creation of jobs in growing fields and help increase the competitiveness of Chicago's companies.

[UIC professor applauds ECC's college readiness partnership](#)

A University of Illinois at Chicago professor was impressed to see elementary, middle school, and high school teachers collaborating with Elgin Community College administrators and faculty to develop ways to help students succeed in science. A concept where college faculty work with K-12 faculty, like ECC's Alliance for College Readiness, is not common, James Pellegrino, PhD, told more than 100 area science educators and alliance members during a meeting on December. 7 at Elgin Community College.

News from Higher Education

[Is Florida's "prepaid college" a good option?](#) (The Miami Herald)

With more than 1.4 million plans sold over the years, Florida's prepaid tuition program is without question one of the most popular ways for families to save for future college expenses.

[Report: College Illinois! could need \\$1.6 billion bailout](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

Illinois' financially tanking prepaid college tuition program could require a \$1.6 billion bailout from the state to remain solvent during the next 25 years, a new study shows.

[Performance anxiety](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The higher education equivalent of the proverb "A journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step," might look something like this: To increase the proportion of Americans with degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025, you have to start by turning freshmen into sophomores. Indiana's Commission on Higher Education lent credence to that idea last week when it adopted the newest iteration of its performance-funding formula.

The Friday Memo will return in the New Year. Happy Holidays.

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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