

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

January 20, 2012



[Lt. Governor Simon issues report based on her 2011 Completion Tour](#)

Giving evidence that college completion leads to better jobs and a health state economy, Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon urges community colleges to shift their focus from access to completion in a newly released report. "Illinois Community Colleges: Focus on the Finish" offers recommendations for higher education reform based upon a fact-finding tour of all 48 Illinois community colleges conducted by Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, Governor Quinn's point person on education. Simon's tour was for the purpose of learning how the

state can work with Illinois colleges to increase completion rates and connect students to the workforce.

Simon introduced [the report](#) in a speech to the City Club of Chicago on January 19. "Our request of community colleges is deceptively simple: Help more of your students finish what they start," Simon said. "As a state, we must stay focused on the finish."

The report's [recommendations](#) include: strengthening college readiness in high school, especially for math courses; preparing annual campus report cards that chart the college's progress in meeting the state's goal that 60% of Illinois adults have a postsecondary degree or credential by 2025; and implementing a funding system that "focuses on the finish," and is phased in over time. Simon refers to the plans of the Performance Funding Steering Committee--on which she sits-- to implement performance funding for community colleges and universities in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget.

Simon said the next step is for her office to work with stakeholders to introduce legislation where needed and to work with higher education governing bodies on reforms at the administrative level. She expects bills to be introduced later this month when the General Assembly returns to Springfield.

[Madigan sues national for-profit college](#)

On January 17, Attorney General Lisa Madigan filed a [lawsuit](#) against the national, for-profit college Westwood for engaging in deceptive practices that left Chicago area students with up to \$70,000 each in debt for degrees that failed to qualify them for careers in criminal justice.

Madigan's lawsuit alleges that, through marketing its criminal justice program, Westwood falsely convinced students they could pursue a law enforcement career with agencies such as the Chicago Police Department, Illinois State Police and suburban police departments, even though those employers don't recognize a Westwood degree due to its lack of regional accreditation.

UPCOMING

January

20 IBHE Faculty Advisory Council meeting, Columbia College, Chicago

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

ISAC Commission Meeting, Loyola University, Water Tower Campus, Chicago

February

4 IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Joliet Junior College

7 IBHE Board Meeting, Kendall College, Chicago

Schools receive fall term MAP payments

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has been informed by the Comptroller's Office that all Monetary Award Program (MAP) vouchers processed until December 31, 2011 for a total of \$200,551,975.81 have been paid. Higher education institutions had claimed these payments on behalf of low-income students enrolled during the fall term of the current 2011-12 academic year.

Get Ready to ShakeOut.

February 7, 2012 Register Now at shakeout.org/centralus

The Great Central U.S.

ShakeOut

The **Great Central U.S. ShakeOut** earthquake drill is an opportunity for Illinois' college campuses and communities to learn, get prepared, and practice what to do during earthquakes. ("Drop, Cover, and Hold On!") More than 3 million people participated in 2011. The 2012 ShakeOut drill is scheduled for **February 7 at 10:15 a.m.** This date coincides with the 200th anniversary of the last of the 1811-12 New Madrid earthquakes. Schools can register at: www.shakeout.org/centralus/register

People in the News.

The Kendall College Board of Directors has named [Emily Williams Knight](#) president of Kendall College. Knight brings more than 15 years of experience in the education and hospitality industry to her role at Kendall College. Dr. Karen Gersten, who served as president of Kendall College since 2010, has been named Vice President of Academic Affairs in the Institutional Quality and Integrity Unit of the Global Products and Services Group at Laureate Education, Inc. Both positions were effective as of January 16.

[Dr. Johnny Lin](#), professor of physics at North Park University, is chairing the January annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society devoted to Python, a computer programming language growing in popularity among people working in the atmospheric and oceanic sciences.

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



Marlena Ceballos, *Dominican University*, is a senior from Chicago, Illinois, majoring in Education.



Cassie Lynn Fuller, *Eastern Illinois University*, is a senior from Ottawa, Illinois, majoring in Communication Disorders and Sciences.



Hannah M. Thompson, *Elmhurst College*, is a senior from Glenview, Illinois, majoring in Communication.

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



[Cole Hall opens](#)

With the spring semester beginning on January 17, Northern Illinois University (NIU) unveiled the renovated and super-high-tech Fay-Cooper Cole Hall. The 1960s-era building, located at the heart of campus, has been transformed into a collaborative-learning setting that university officials believe will be looked to as a national model. On February 14, 2008, the building was the site of a shooting that claimed the lives of five students. In the wake of the tragedy, there was talk of demolition, but NIU surveys of students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends discovered an overwhelming desire to see the building remain standing.

[Governor Quinn opens \\$18 million "Building One" on Western Illinois University Riverfront Campus and announces new funding](#)



Governor Pat Quinn joined local officials at Western Illinois University (WIU), including President Jack Thomas, to open the \$18.4 million "Building One" at the school's Riverfront Campus in Moline, a facility that will house the university's undergraduate programs in the Quad Cities. Governor Quinn also announced the release of an additional \$38 million in state capital funds for the next phase of the Moline campus expansion that will create hundreds of jobs and triple university enrollment when complete.

In addition to the ribbon-cutting and the Phase II funding announcement, the WIU-QC Riverfront Campus atrium was also dedicated as the Alvin and Elaine Goldfarb Grand Atrium in honor of President Emeritus Goldfarb's and his wife's support for Western and the new campus.

[University Center adds new programs for 2012](#)

Three new programs were added to the University Center of Lake County for 2012 in action taken by the Center's Governing Board at their December 7, 2011 meeting. Southern Illinois University Carbondale has added two

undergraduate programs and Concordia University Chicago has added a graduate program.

[SXU and Palmer College of Chiropractic sign 3+3 articulation agreement](#)

Saint Xavier University (SXU) and Palmer College of Chiropractic (PCC) recently signed an articulation agreement that will allow SXU biology majors to more easily transition to pursuing Doctor of Chiropractic degrees at PCC. The 3+3 agreement allows qualified students to enroll in a six-year dual degree program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree from SXU and a Doctor of Chiropractic from PCC.

News from Higher Education

[MTV's latest Facebook app is about scholarships, not Snooki](#) (The New York Times)

MTV, home to television shows like "Jersey Shore" and "Teen Mom," might be the last place many students would think to turn for guidance about financial aid. The network is launching a Facebook application to help students efficiently navigate the financial aid morass.

[Career Ed sued over job-placement claims, stock moves](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Shareholders of Career Education Corp., a for-profit college based in Schaumburg, have sued, claiming company officials misled investors about job-placement rates for graduates, which led to a scandal and contributed to a lower stock price.

[Big target, bigger cuts](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Per-student state funding for public research universities dropped about 20 percent between 2002 and 2010, according to a report released by the National Science Board, the policy-making arm of the National Science Foundation.

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

[Sign up](#) to Friday Memo mailing list

