

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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**February 3, 2012**

**[Governor Quinn reports on the state of Illinois](#)**

On February 1, Governor Quinn delivered his State of the State, kicking off the new legislative session with many aspirational proposals for job creation and economic development. The Governor’s Budget Address on February 22 is expected to fill in the blanks on the costs and benefits for his new programs and ongoing investments, including for education.

The Governor did announce his support for the 60 X 25 goal, acknowledging that both he and Lt. Governor Simon share a “...mission in Illinois—by 2025, we want at least 60 percent of adults in our state to have a college degree, an associate degree or a career certificate.”

The Monetary Award Program (MAP) also received attention in the Governor’s speech. He called for the General Assembly to “...make a significant investment in more state MAP scholarships to help our bright young students attend college.”

Other educational proposals included investing more dollars in early childhood education, and raising the minimum school attendance age to 18 to increase high school graduation rates. He also referred to a major investment in upgrading classrooms for the 21<sup>st</sup> century to help prepare high school students for college and 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs.

***Higher ed highlights from the State of the State speech:***

*“Thanks to our Illinois Jobs Now! plan, Illinois has the largest capital construction program in our history....We’ve also built and renovated more than 400 schools from Western Illinois University’s new riverfront campus in Moline to the new Transportation Education Center at SIU in Carbondale and from the repurposed Cole Hall at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb to the new electrical and computer engineering building at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.”*

*“The best economic tool a state can have is a strong, innovative education system. Jobs follow brainpower. So, I want to thank Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon for doing an outstanding job on her community colleges report. Having visited all of Illinois’ 48 community colleges, Sheila has proposed many good reforms that need to be implemented in the coming year. Sheila and I have a mission in Illinois—by 2025, we want at least 60 percent of adults in our state to have a college degree, an associate degree or a career certificate. Right now, we’re at 43 percent—better than the national average, but not good enough. If we want 60 percent of Illinois adults to have a meaningful career certificate or degree by 2025, we must invest in our students from birth to higher education.”*

*“Now, at a time when student loan debt is more than credit card debt, too many deserving students don’t have access to higher education. While nearly 150,000 Illinois students received state MAP scholarships last year to attend college, just as many qualified applicants were denied because of lack of funding. So today I ask the members of the General Assembly to invest in our students. I urge you to act in the coming year to make a significant investment in more state MAP scholarships to help our bright young students attend college.”*

UPCOMING	
<b>February</b>	
<b>4</b>	IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Joliet Junior College
<b>7</b>	IBHE Board Meeting, Kendall College, Chicago  House Higher Education Committee, D-1 Stratton Bldg. Springfield
<b>March</b>	
<b>12-13</b>	<u><a href="#">ICBHE Conference</a></u> , Statehouse Inn, Springfield
<b>23</b>	<u><a href="#">LACHE Conference</a></u> , DePaul University, Chicago

### [Maloney responds to Governor's State of the State](#)



State Senator Ed Maloney, Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, responded to Governor Quinn's stress on the importance of funding MAP grants and other avenues to education funding in the State of the State. He stated, "I am happy to see that Governor Quinn still holds higher education funding as a priority to the success of Illinois. To keep Illinois competitive nationally and globally, we must have an educated work force. We can only accomplish this if we provide opportunities for our youth to seek higher education. Unfortunately, we are seeing tuition costs rise excessively as funding cuts are affecting colleges and universities and this is making college affordability harder for families. We must continue to work alongside Governor Quinn in the effort to adequately fund MAP grants and similar higher education funding avenues to give opportunities for a successful future to our children."

### [New version of Common Education Data Standards released by U.S. Department of Education](#)

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) announced the Version 2 release of the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) on January 31. The CEDS project is a national, collaborative effort to develop voluntary data standards to streamline the exchange, comparison, and understanding of data within and across P-20 (early learning through postsecondary) institutions and sectors.

### [Scaling Up Pathways to Results 2012 - Registration open](#)

The ***Scaling Up Pathways to Results*** meeting takes place on February 24 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. The meeting gives educators, employers, policy makers, and other stakeholders an opportunity to learn how the Pathways to Results (PTR) process are scaling up in Illinois. The event features opening remarks from Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon, and a keynote by Janet Bray, Executive Director of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), on 21st Century Skills and College and Career Readiness. The cost is \$50 for all attendees, and covers registration, lunch, and all materials.

### [IBHE releases FY12 GYO Planning Grant Application](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has released a planning grant application for the Grow Your Own Teachers Initiative (GYO), available on the IBHE website. The GYO Act provides funding for consortia in communities across the state to assist local community members who desire to become highly skilled, committed teachers in hard-to-staff schools in hard-to-staff teaching positions.

### [Call for Proposals and Papers](#)

The tenth Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium will be held on June 11-12, 2012, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Tinley Park, IL. The event, sponsored by the Illinois Education Research Council, is calling for proposals for presentation or for the poster session. Submissions that use data from other states to inform Illinois education policy are encouraged. This unique forum provides education practitioners, policy makers, and researchers with the opportunity to learn from one another about research that is being done on Illinois education from pre-school through higher education.

## People in the News.

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[Dr. David L. Parkyn](#), president of North Park University, Chicago, has begun a three-year term as one of 48 members of the board of directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

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



**Meaghan Karaffa, *Illinois College***, is a senior from Girard, Illinois, majoring in Computer Science.



**Urba R. Mandrekar, *Illinois Institute of Technology***, is a senior from the United Arab Emirates, majoring in Psychology.



**Elizabeth E. Flores, *Illinois State University***, is a senior from Berwyn, Illinois, majoring in entrepreneurship and small business management.

***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

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### [Moraine Valley's Tinley Park campus gets highest "green" rating](#)

Moraine Valley Community College's Southwest Education Center (SWEC) in Tinley Park recently received platinum certification, the highest ranking possible, by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

## News from Higher Education

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### [Endowment returns rise to 19%, but trouble may lay ahead](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Despite the continuing struggles of the economy, university endowments continued to grow in 2011, bringing in a 19-percent return on their investments.

### [Education Department turns policy attention to college completion](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Following a flurry of higher-education policy proposals by President Obama; the U.S. Department of Education on Monday hosted a symposium meant to advance the administration's goal of increasing the nation's number of college graduates.

### [Fewer students attending their first-choice colleges, survey shows](#) (The New York Times)

A survey of nearly 204,000 college freshmen who started school in 2011 indicated that only 58 percent of them enrolled at their first-choice college, the lowest percentage to do so since the question was first asked in 1974.

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