

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Community Colleges' 2012 Report shows enrollment down from last year, but still strong by historical standards](#)

Illinois community colleges are reporting lower Spring 2012, headcount and FTE enrollments than last year. Yet, the number of enrollments is still at the third highest level in the 38 years that a separate Spring opening enrollment survey has been collected by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). The survey also shows that enrollments in online courses continue to grow. ICCB uses a web based survey that collects student enrollment data as of the end of registration for the semester, usually on the 10th day of the term.

[Illinois residents invited to participate in important broadband survey](#)

Illinois residents have the opportunity to participate in a survey that will help shape the State's future broadband (high-speed Internet) plan that will help create jobs, improve medical care, and enhance educational opportunities. The statewide survey is being conducted by Broadband Illinois, also known as the Partnership for a Connected Illinois (PCI). The survey reaches out to households, businesses, anchor institutions such as colleges and hospitals, and community organizations throughout Illinois. As a result of this outreach, Broadband Illinois will develop broadband plans in the following categories: agriculture, energy & the environment, economic development, education, health care, public safety, and government performance.

The survey has been deployed electronically and can be accessed on the Broadband Illinois website. It is open to the general public. To take the survey, visit www.broadbandillinois.org, click the "Research" tab, and then click the "Broadband Availability Survey" link.

An action step for [Goal 4 of the Illinois Public Agenda](#) calls for this effort: "Provide assistance, including the extension of affordable broadband Internet service to all rural communities and incentives for regional collaboration for innovation and economic development." Both the Governor and Lt. Governor released announcements encouraging all residents and businesses across the state to take advantage of this important tool for developing a comprehensive broadband strategy.

[Reminder – February 24th deadline for proposals](#)

The Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) invites submission of proposals for presentation at the 2012 IERC Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium, June 11-12, at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Tinley Park.

UPCOMING

February

22 Governor's Budget Address

[House Higher Education Committee](#), 413 Stratton Bldg. Springfield

March

12-13 **[ICBHE Conference](#)**, Statehouse Inn, Springfield

23 **[ILACHE Conference](#)**, DePaul University, Chicago

People in the News.

The University Professional & Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) has named [Ray Schroeder](#), associate vice chancellor for online learning at the University of Illinois Springfield, as its first Innovation Fellow.

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



Allyson M. Bain, *Lake Forest College*, is a senior from Vernon Hills, Illinois, majoring in Communications



Kiersten Kasey, *Lake Land College*, is a second year student from Ashmore, Illinois, majoring in Agriculture.



Matthew T. Stock, *MacMurray College*, is a senior from Chapin, Illinois, majoring in Nursing.

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

[Happy 175th Birthday, Knox College](#)

Knox College celebrated its 175th anniversary on Founders Day, February 15. The college was officially established on February 15, 1837, when the Illinois General Assembly granted a charter to what then was Knox Manual Labor College. The Rev. George Washington Gale and other social reformers had moved from upstate New York to found the college and a town, Galesburg, on the prairies of western Illinois.

[Eureka College receives Caterpillar Foundation grant for students to study in China](#)

Eureka College has received a \$75,000 grant from the Caterpillar Foundation to enable students to study in China. The grant is part of Caterpillar's \$1 million pledge to the U.S. State Department's "100,000 Strong Initiative" to increase the number of American college students studying in China.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Longhorns who take too long](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Partly in response to outside criticism that its four-year graduation rate of 50 percent is too low, the University of Texas at Austin outlined a number of ambitious proposals aiming to raise that measure by 20 points for its next class of entering freshmen.

[Education gap grows between rich and poor, studies say](#) (The New York Times)

Education was historically considered a great equalizer in American society, capable of lifting less advantaged children and improving their chances for success as adults.

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