

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Governor Quinn delivers budget address](#)

On February 22, Governor Pat Quinn delivered his fiscal year 2013 budget address to the Illinois General Assembly, a plan for budget stability through major reductions and efficiencies, pension and Medicaid stabilization, fundamental tax reform and jobs and economic growth. The Governor proposed a budget that takes steps to restore fiscal stability to Illinois, ensure job growth, and a strong education for children across the state.

The Governor proposes maintaining funding for higher education, including operations of the colleges and universities at fiscal year 2012 levels. Additionally, the Governor's budget includes a \$6.5 million reallocation for performance funding for universities and a \$720,000 reallocation for performance funding for community colleges.

Asserting that "No state is going to out-educate Illinois," Governor Quinn is calling for a \$50 million investment in the Monetary Award Program (MAP). However, the net increase for MAP is only \$12.5 million in FY 2013, due to the loss of \$4.0 million in Federal funding and the loss of \$33.5 million received from the Student Loan Operating Fund in FY 2012, which was a one-time payment.

Governor Quinn's FY 2013 capital budget proposal supports the continued release of the Illinois Jobs Now! Capital projects and provides \$575.0 million in new appropriations for higher education capital improvements. The Governor's budget includes \$191 million in capital renewal funding needed to address deferred maintenance at public universities and community colleges.

[Education highlights from the Governor's speech](#)

"Another area we are not cutting is education. I believe in the power of education to create opportunity for everyone in our society. This is why I have maintained our basic investment in education, despite extremely hard times. No state is going to out-educate Illinois. I believe in early childhood education, special education, bilingual education, kindergarten to 12th grade education, community college education, and university education. This year's budget calls for close to \$9 billion in education spending with priorities on early childhood education and scholarships for qualified students who have been admitted to college, but have financial need. At a time when student loan debt is more than credit card debt, too many deserving Illinois students are denied access to higher education because they cannot afford it. That's why this budget allows for \$50 million in additional investment in our Monetary Assistance Program, to help our bright young students attend college. 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. We must invest in their brainpower."

[President Obama proposes FY 2013 budget](#)

For the second consecutive year, President Obama released his annual budget proposal at an institution of education, visiting Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus. "An economy built to last demands that we keep

UPCOMING	
February	
28	<u>Senate Higher Education Committee</u>, 409 Capitol, Springfield
29	<u>House Higher Education Committee</u>, 413 Stratton Bldg., Springfield
	<u>Senate Appropriations II Committee</u>, 212 Capitol, Springfield
March	
1	<u>House Higher Education Appropriations Committee</u>, C-1 Stratton Bldg., Springfield
12-13	<u>ICBHE Conference</u>, Statehouse Inn, Springfield
23	<u>ILACHE Conference</u>, DePaul University, Chicago

doing everything we can to help students learn the skills that businesses are looking for," he said. "The budget that we're releasing today is a reflection of shared responsibility. It says that, if we're serious about investing in our future and investing in community colleges, new energy technology, and basic research, we've got to pay for it. And, that means we've got to make some choices."

Some higher education budget highlights:

- [Aligning education with workforce demands](#). The budget includes \$8 billion in mandatory funding for a Community College to Career Fund. Jointly administered with the U.S. Department of Labor, this competitive program would provide funding to develop new partnerships between businesses and two-year colleges in order to train and place two million workers in high-growth industries.
- [Raising up the teaching profession](#). The budget includes \$5 billion in competitive funding to support states and school districts as they pursue reforms to better recruit, prepare, support, and compensate teachers. It also establishes a new 25% set-aside of Title II funds (about \$620 million) that would go toward creating and expanding high-performing pathways into teaching and school leadership, reducing shortages of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) teachers, and investing in efforts to enhance the profession.
- [Increasing college affordability and quality](#). The budget includes \$1 billion for a new Race to the Top: College Affordability and Completion competition to drive reform at the state level and help students finish faster. It also offers \$55 million for a First in the World competition to spur innovation among colleges and universities, including minority-serving institutions, and help them scale up practices that increase college completion rates.

College Changes Everything social media launch

College Changes Everything [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts offer Illinoisans the opportunity to reflect on personal obstacles and successes through academic careers, and understand the importance that higher education plays into creating better communities. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is administering the social media sites, based on feedback received from the College Changes Everything conference held in July, 2011. ISAC is asking for people to join in the conversations exploring the variety of avenues to college success.

[Boosting college completion for new economy](#)

The Rocket, the Education Commission of the States' Boosting College Completion (BCC) Newsletter, is for state legislators, their staff, and others who work to create state postsecondary education policy. It provides insights on how state legislatures can spur economic growth by increasing college attainment among their residents.

ISACorps out and about during Financial Aid Awareness Month

With many schools' deadlines for financial aid approaching, the Illinois Student Assistance Corps (ISACorps) is hosting events across Illinois during February, Financial Aid Awareness Month, to help those pursuing higher education in the fall. From community-based organizations to high schools, the ISACorps is spreading the word about financial aid and helping students complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

As ISACorps Coordinator [Anjali Pattanayak recently told Galesburg's Register-Mail](#), a range of assistance is available to the public during Financial Aid Awareness Month and throughout the year. "We also have several presentations that we give to students that range from resume-writing, college and scholarship applications, to choosing what the best college fit is for you," Pattanayak explained. "We also work with students using our interactive web-based tool called www.whatsnextillinois.org."

"In the past we have done workshops with students using the website in addition to working with students individually to explore individual goals. We've worked with several of the schools in the area in a variety of capacities depending on the needs of their students."

Those interested in attending a FAFSA completion event or scheduling additional outreach opportunities can visit www.isac.org to find a local ISACorps Member in their region.

People in the News.

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



Michael J. Anderson, *McKendree University*, is a senior from Belleville, Illinois, majoring in International Relations and Religion.



Kelsey Nihiser, *Millikin University*, is a senior from Decatur, Illinois, majoring in Marketing.



Alexander B. Holt, *Monmouth College*, is a senior from Evanston, Illinois, majoring in English.

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

[New deal guarantees admission to prestigious U of I engineering program](#)

A new agreement between Harper College and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will guarantee select students admission to the university's top-ranked engineering program following an estimated two years of initial coursework toward the degree on Harper's Palatine campus. The Engineering Pathways transfer program, open to new full-time students at Harper this fall, could save students more than \$25,000 in tuition by allowing them to start their engineering bachelor's degree at Harper.

[A new Malcolm X College will be built, Emanuel says](#)

Chicago will build a new, \$251 million Malcolm X College and parking garage on the parking lot of the existing building, Mayor Rahm Emanuel's announcement comes as the mayor's "Colleges to Careers" plan prepares to convert Malcolm X into a college that prepares students to careers in health care. The new Malcolm X is part of a five-year, \$479 million capital plan to upgrade the City Colleges that includes \$7 million for so-called "smart classrooms," libraries, labs, science classrooms, and student-support centers.

[SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School dedicates STEM classroom](#)

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 23, celebrating the opening of its nearly \$1 million cutting-edge science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) classroom. The event marks a donation from Robert H. Graebe, an East St. Louis native, and his wife, Norma J. Graebe. The gift made the new state-of-the art facility, named the William Frederick Graebe, Sr. STEM Learning Center, a reality.

[Saint Xavier University establishes Vernon O. Crawley Scholarship](#)

Saint Xavier University (SXU) recently established the Vernon O. Crawley Scholarship for Moraine Valley Community College students. The scholarship will provide \$12,000 annual awards to eight full-time Moraine Valley students of merit who have earned their associate degree, taken 12 or more credit hours per semester, have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA, and have chosen to continue their academic journey at SXU.

News from Higher Education

[Durbin calls for 'careful review' of for-profit university](#) (Business Week)

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin called on the Higher Learning Commission, the college accrediting body, to do a "careful review" in its examination of Apollo Group Inc.'s University of Phoenix.

[Justices take up race as a factor in college entry](#) (The New York Times)

In a 2003 decision that the majority said it expected would last for 25 years, the Supreme Court allowed public colleges and universities to take account of race in admission decisions.

[A sure thing](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

DePaul University attracted 2,500 transfer students last year. Those students generally do well -- they average a 3.2 GPA, and 70 percent graduate within five years. But historically, too many have ended up running in place, said Lois Bishop, director of community college partnerships.

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