

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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Executive Director G. W. Reid

ICCB
Chairman Alexi Giannoulis
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ISAC
Chair Kym M. Hubbard
Executive Director Eric Zarnikow

March 9, 2012

**General Assembly Committees get bills out for further consideration
Higher Education Appropriations Committees ongoing**

Friday, March 9, the deadline for substantive bills to be reported out of committee resulted in a few bills proceeding. While other avenues do exist for bills to be considered after this deadline, the work of the General Assembly this week focused on getting bills out of committee. In addition, the Senate and House appropriations committees met.

On March 7 and March 8, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) participated in Senate and House Appropriations hearings. During Executive Director George Reid's testimony, he acknowledged the work the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Quinn collectively must do to stabilize and strengthen the state's economy.

Dr. Reid highlighted several key initiatives of IBHE, including the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* and its four goals; performance funding and its impetus for closing the achievement gap, by increasing graduation rates especially among underrepresented and underserved college students, and increasing the number of STEM graduates; and the ongoing implementation of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System and the need to create a governance structure to collect pertinent data on Illinois students.

In addition, he urged that once the economy improves and new money is available that higher education be considered for funding.

Included among IBHE's FY 2013 budget recommendations are the following:

- Level funding for public universities and community colleges, including \$6.5 million for universities and \$720,000 for community colleges to be utilized as performance funding as recommended in Governor Quinn's budget request;
- \$50 million in additional funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP), also recommended in Governor Quinn's budget request;
- The restoration of funding for the University Center at Lake County and the Quad Cities Graduate Center at the FY 2011 level;
- The restoration of the IBHE operating budget to the FY 2011 level;
- \$340 million in capital renewal funds to address critical repair and maintenance needs on public university and community college campuses; and
- The full release of the remaining \$800 million in the *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital program.

UPCOMING

March

- 12 [House Higher Education Appropriations Committee](#), Thompson Center, Chicago
- [Senate Appropriations II Committee](#), Bilandic Bldg., Chicago
- 12-13 [ICBHE Conference](#), Statehouse Inn, Springfield
- 23 [ILACHE Conference](#), DePaul University, Chicago

[Lt. Governor Simon urges education groups to answer survey about broadband availability](#)

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon has extended the following invitation statewide:

*"I am asking you to complete a [new online survey](#) about high-speed Internet usage that will help policymakers to understand how businesses and organizations like yourself can utilize high-speed Internet – also known as broadband - to access new markets, develop new ways of doing business and improve productivity. Participating in this research project will help the non-profit Partnership for a Connected Illinois develop a comprehensive broadband strategy that will help you compete in the 21st century economy. I hope you can take a few minutes before **March 17th** to participate in this research and help shape future broadband services for Illinois. Please click [here](#) to access the High Speed Internet Usage Survey."*

People in the News.

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



Hannah A. Haugen, North Park University, is a senior from Milwaukie, Oregon, majoring in Business and Economics, with a minor in French.



Jessica Mamola, Northeastern Illinois University, is a senior from Chicago, Illinois, majoring in Elementary Education.



Nora K. Lindvall, Northern Illinois University, is a senior from DeKalb, Illinois, majoring in English and Political Science.

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

[UIS Downstate Illinois Innocence Project exonerates man with the help of police and prosecutors](#)

The [Downstate Illinois Innocence Project](#) (DIIP), housed at the University of Illinois Springfield, has helped to exonerate Jonathan Moore, of Aurora, who was previously convicted of murder and attempted murder. "Aurora Police found evidence of the innocence of Jonathan Moore, who was convicted in 2002 of murder and sentenced to 76 years in prison," said Larry Golden, director of the DIIP. "Moore asked for the help of the DIIP, who proceeded to negotiate over a period of months with the Kane County State's Attorney to gain his release."

[ISU again earns Tree Campus USA designation](#)



For the fourth straight year, Illinois State University has earned Tree Campus USA recognition for its campus forestry management and environmental stewardship. The award is part of a national program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota Motor North America, Inc. to honor colleges and universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation.

News from Higher Education

[Illinois bill would end a prized perk: tuition discounts for faculty and staff](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Illinois lawmakers are weighing whether to eliminate a faculty benefit that is highly prized by many professors and other university employees: tuition discounts for their children.

[Problem with a private student loan? Federal agency will take your complaint](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will begin collecting complaints regarding private student loans, its director announced.

[Fed study of student debt outlines a growing burden](#) (The New York Times)

A report released by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York renews concerns about the growing debt load of college students and graduates.

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