

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[State and local support for college students drops, while enrollments and tuition grow in 2011](#)

The association of State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) has released its annual State Higher Education Finance (SHEF) report, which provides a comprehensive review of state and local funding and enrollment trends for public higher education. This is the third annual report since the 2007-2008 academic years when state and local support for higher education was \$88.8 billion, enrollments in public institutions reached 10.5 million full-time-equivalent students, and the national economy entered a recession. In 2011, state and local support (even with the help of federal stimulus funds) was \$1.3 billion lower and enrollments had grown by 12.5% to 11.7 million students. Due to both enrollment growth and higher tuition rates, net institutional revenues from tuition and fees grew from \$42.2 billion in 2008, to \$56.3 billion in 2011. The [report](#) includes 25 years of enrollment and funding trends for each state.

[Education Department releases FAFSA completion data](#)

The U.S. Education Department is tracking the number of students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and has released the data to the public, sorted by high school. The website lists the number of students per high school who have completed and submitted the form, and is intended to help high school counselors (and others) using data from the Education Department's systems, the first time such data has been made available. The numbers will be updated every two weeks.

[Wanted: Recent college graduates interested in helping students navigate the college-going process](#)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has several job openings throughout the state for ISAC Corps members. The full-time job is for college graduates to work as near peers with students, and their parents, involved in planning to attend colleges, especially students who will be the first in their family to go to college and/or are from low-income households. The program is a product of the College Access Challenge Grant awarded to Illinois by the U.S. Department of Education. Corps members are placed geographically in community college districts statewide.

This program provides a tremendous opportunity for recent college graduates to gain work experience in a variety of higher education fields and help make a difference in the lives of students and families. As a result of their work, Corps members have presented at state and national conferences, transitioned to graduate school, or used it as a stepping stone for future employment. Many former Corps members can be found working in high schools and colleges throughout Illinois.

Resumes are accepted online. Go to the ***College Changes Everything*** [Facebook page](#) for more information.

UPCOMING

March

21 General Assembly in session

22 [House Higher Education Appropriations Committee](#), Springfield

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

April

20 [Digital Accessibility Expo](#), UIC Forum, Chicago

[10-minute survey of Illinois educators about the Common Core](#)

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), are working collaboratively on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the implications the Standards will have for students' readiness for college and careers. To better understand the landscape of knowledge about the Common Core and to determine the degree of alignment efforts between secondary and postsecondary partners, the agencies are asking that educators, including high school, college, and university teachers/faculty complete the brief [survey](#). The survey is anonymous, and only aggregated information will be shared. No personal information is collected. Respondents can skip any questions they prefer not to answer.

Contact CCSSIL@ymail.com with any questions or to get on the statewide mailing list.

[The gender gap in African American degree attainments](#)

New data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that in 2011, 18 percent of Black men over the age of 25 had obtained at least a bachelor's degree. For Black women over the age of 25, 21.4 percent were college educated. Some 56,000 young Black women aged 25 to 29 hold master's degrees compared to only 23,000 young Black men.

[People in the News.](#)

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



Kyle A. Lowry, *Olivet Nazarene University*, is a senior from Winamac, Indiana, majoring in Christian Education.



Christian Richardson, *Principia College*, is a senior from Chesterfield, Missouri, majoring in Mathematics.



Kevin R. Hahn, *Quincy University*, is a senior from Peoria, Illinois, majoring in Political Science with a minor 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

[\\$31.6 million for City Colleges of Chicago](#)

Capital funding to finance high-technology center at Olive-Harvey College

On March 13, Governor Pat Quinn was joined by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor Cheryl Hyman to announce \$31.6 million from the *Illinois Jobs Now!* Capital construction program for a new Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL) Center at Olive-Harvey College. The facility will be the first comprehensive TDL education center in the State and supports Governor Quinn's commitment to growing high-tech jobs. The facility will prepare students for work in transportation, logistics, and other high-tech careers such as automotive technology, applied engineering, and avionics. "By investing in our community colleges, we can better prepare Illinois residents with the skills they need to compete for these high-technology jobs," Governor Quinn said. "We'll put people to work building this new facility, and we'll empower students with state-of-the-art tools and training they need to go out and get these good-paying, high-tech jobs."

[Graduate Schools to study ways to increase completion of underrepresented minority students](#)

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) has selected 20 proposals representing 21 universities to participate in a study to examine completion and attrition among underrepresented minorities in STEM doctoral programs. The project, referred to as CGS's Doctoral Initiative on Minority Attrition and Completion (DIMAC), funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), will compare data across a diverse set of institutions, including some that have been funded by NSF's Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program. The purpose of this research is to better understand the factors that promote successful completion and the policies and practices that hold promise for increasing completion and reducing attrition. Included among the research partners are the following Illinois graduate schools: **Loyola University, Chicago; Northwestern University; and University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign.**

News from Higher Education

[Graduation rates of NCAA women basketball players earns praise](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

The college graduation rate for women student athletes playing for NCAA Division I schools in the 2012 national tournament continues to be significantly higher than that for their male counterparts, and the graduation gap between Black women and their female White peers remains narrower than that for Black and White male student-athletes, says a new report.

[March Madness of graduation rates: U-Conn. loses, Notre Dame wins](#) (The Washington Post)

The next few weeks will be dedicated to the American pastime of picking a bracket, watching hours-upon-hours of college basketball and then, perhaps, cashing in on bets placed on the abilities of high-salaried coaches and unsalaried student athletes. Here's something to ponder: How many of those players will leave the court with a college degree?

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