

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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March 23, 2012

[MAP awards suspended on March 14: earliest cut-off for the financial assistance program](#)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) announced the need to suspend making Monetary Award Program (MAP) awards for FAFSAs filed on March 14 and after. The decision was based on the large early FAFSA application volume, expected claim rates, and the initial FY12 MAP appropriation level of \$387 million. Prospective students who file FAFSAs after the suspense date will still be considered for federal Pell grants and federal Stafford loans, so they are still encouraged to file. However, applications submitted after March 13 are essentially on a "wait list" for MAP. If MAP claims for the first term are lower than expected or the program's FY13 appropriation is higher than the initial FY12 appropriation, ISAC will be able to release additional applications from the queue and make awards to additional students.

Illinois House votes to eliminate General Assembly Scholarships

[HB 3810](#), sponsored by Rep. Fred Crespo (D-44), eliminates the General Assembly scholarship program, effective June 1, 2012. The tuition waiver was received by 1,327 college students at a value of \$13.5 million in fiscal year 2011. Passed by a vote of 95 yes, 25 no, and 2 present, the bill has been picked up by Senate sponsor, Sen. Michael Frerichs (D-52), and awaits further Senate action.

[High School graduation rates increasing](#)

The 2012 report update of *[Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge in Ending the High School Dropout Epidemic](#)*, released March 19 by the Alliance for Excellent Education, America's Promise Alliance, Civic Enterprises, and the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University, shows that the nation continues to make progress, with more than half of states increasing graduation rates. The report also reveals that the number of "dropout factory" high schools—those graduating 60 percent or fewer students on time—decreased by 457 between 2002 and 2010, with the rate of decline accelerating since 2008. Illinois' rate has increased from 77.1% in 2002, to 77.7% for the Class of 2009.

[Community service honors to colleges and universities](#)

On March 12, the Department and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) honored leading colleges and universities, students, faculty members, and staff for their commitment to bettering their communities through community service and service learning. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, launched in 2006, annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measureable outcomes in the communities they serve. Twenty four Illinois colleges and universities were named to the Honor Roll. **Eureka College, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Chicago School of Professional**

UPCOMING

March

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

ICCB Board Meeting, Richland Community College, Decatur

26 ISAC Commission Meeting, University of Illinois at Chicago

[Senate Higher Ed Committee](#), 409 Capitol, Springfield

28 [House Higher Ed Committee](#), D-1 Stratton Bldg., Springfield

April

7 IBHE Student Advisory Committee, University of Illinois at Springfield

10 IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Truman College, Chicago

IBHE Board Meeting, Truman College, Chicago

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

Psychiatry, and Western Illinois University received the recognition of Honor Roll with Distinction, and **Loyola University Chicago** was named as an Honor Roll finalist. According to the annual CNCS "Volunteering in America" report, 3.1 million college students dedicated over 312 million hours of service to local communities, service valued at more than \$6.6 billion.

NASFAA Guide helps families understand education tax benefits

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) has released a new, free [Tax Benefits Guide](#) designed to help students and families navigate the task of determining which higher education tax benefits taxpayers qualify to receive when filing return by April 17.

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

[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.

[People in the News.](#)

University of Illinois President [Michael J. Hogan](#) has submitted his resignation to the Board of Trustees, and Chairman Christopher G. Kennedy has accepted it on behalf of the Board. On Friday, March 23, the Executive Committee of the Board will meet to approve the terms of Hogan's resignation and to appoint [Robert Easter](#), a long-time faculty member and former interim provost and interim chancellor on the Urbana-Champaign campus, as president-designate. Hogan will serve as President until July 1, working on a transition with Easter, who will become the University's 19th president. Hogan will remain with the University as a tenured faculty member.

[Harold Ornes](#) has been named dean of Eastern Illinois University's College of Sciences. Ornes, who has served as the dean of Winona (Minn.) State University's College of Science and Engineering since June 2008, will assume his new duties as EIU's COS dean on July 1. He replaces Mary Anne Hanner, who retired in 2011.

Loyola University Chicago has appointed [Aaron Durnbaugh](#) as its new Director of Sustainability. Durnbaugh will be tasked with designing and implementing the sustainability plan for the University, including integrating sustainability into the undergraduate and graduate curriculum, and creating a conservation ethic on Loyola's campus. Durnbaugh officially assumed his duties in February 2012. Durnbaugh most recently served as the Deputy Commissioner of Environment for the City of Chicago.

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



Rosie E. Hatzilabrou, *Roosevelt University*, is a senior from St. Charles, Illinois, majoring in Integrated Marketing and Communications.



Julie Keller, *St. Xavier University*, is a senior from New Lenox, Illinois, majoring in Accounting.



Anthony M. Graham, *Southern Illinois University Carbondale*, is a senior from Mt. Vernon, Illinois, majoring in Anthropology.

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](#)

[Six new degrees available at University Center](#)

Six new degrees were added to the University Center of Lake County's program array via action taken by the Center's Governing Board on March 14. Interests as diverse as sustaining the natural environment, teaching preschool children with special needs, completing a BSN, understanding the legal system, and tailoring K-12 classroom instruction to multiple student learning styles are addressed by these new undergraduate or graduate programs. The group includes the first bachelor's degree for off-campus students developed by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

[Loyola University Chicago students open new pizzeria](#)

Loyola Limited, Loyola University Chicago's undergraduate student-run and managed business enterprise, opened their fourth business. Felice's Roman Style Pizza. In addition to providing another local dining option in the neighborhood, Felice's offers employment and professional growth opportunities for students. The restaurant employs 40 undergraduate students and its executive team oversees all facets of the business, including operations, finance, human resources, and marketing.

Loyola Limited is the parent company of Loyola University Chicago's undergraduate student enterprises. Founded in 2010, it was established by seven undergraduates who had a vision to create several student-operated businesses around campus. To date, Loyola Limited employs more than 70 undergraduate students. All associates, directors, and C-level executives have the opportunity to receive internship credit. The company's first business, The Flats at Loyola Station, is a 10-unit luxury guesthouse. Loyola Limited launched Loyola Property Management, a firm that manages Loyola's real-estate portfolio, in July 2011. ChainLinks, a bike rental and repair business, opened in August 2011. By continuing to open and run new businesses, the enterprise teaches employees entrepreneurial skills.

[Professor revisits his past with acclaimed film on Chile's 'Woodstock'](#)

When Eastern Illinois University biological sciences professor Gary Fritz headed to South America last year to document the ramifications of Piedra Roja, Chile's 1970 version of Woodstock, he simply wanted to preserve the history of the pivotal festival that he had helped organize as a teenager.

Fritz's film, "Piedra Roja," is a two-hour, close-up look at how the festival profoundly affected Chilean society during a time of social and political upheaval -- the inception of Salvador Allende's socialist government and the subsequent military coup d'etat.

He submitted it to the IN-EDIT International Film and Music Documentary Festival in Santiago, Chile, which chose it -- over Martin Scorsese's film on George Harrison -- as its inaugural film in December. In January, it was shown in the Festival of the Arts in Valparaiso, Chile. Fritz plans to continue with the film festival circuit.

[Oakton to break ground on Science and Health Careers Building](#)

For the first time since its Des Plaines campus opened in 1980, Oakton Community College will kick off a major construction project at the site when it breaks ground on a \$39 million Science and Health Careers Building on April 5. The 93,000-square-foot building, scheduled for completion in 2014, will launch the College's \$68.5 million five-year Facilities Master Plan, approved by the Board of Trustees in December 2010.

[IMSA Student Inquiry and Research Program's twenty-fourth annual IMSAloquium](#)

The Student Investigation Showcase on April 25 will feature Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA) students presenting their investigations conducted over the course of this academic year.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Harper, Roosevelt strike a unique partnership](#) (Daily Herald)

Partnerships between community colleges and four-year institutions have become increasingly common, but a new agreement between Harper College and Roosevelt University comes with an especially attractive and unique component.

[Panel says schools' failings could threaten economy and national security](#) (The New York Times)

The nation's security and economic prosperity are at risk if schools do not improve, warns a report by a panel led by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Joel I. Klein, a former chancellor of New York City's school system.

[Community colleges should urge women to pursue science and math careers, report says](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Not enough women at community colleges—especially low-income students and those with children—are studying for careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, which are among the nation's fastest-growing fields, according to a report released by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

[Durbin targets private student loan defaults](#) (The Washington Post)

A top Senate Democrat took aim at the private student-loan industry, calling for new rules that would allow educational debts to be wiped away during bankruptcy.

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