

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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**March 30, 2012**

**Illinois House passes spending limits for proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget**

The House approved [HJR 69](#) and [HR 706](#) on March 29, on a vote of 91-16. Both measures outline the limits for spending for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2013 budget. A **\$113.6 million decrease from the Fiscal Year 2012, appropriations level for high education spending** is defined by allocating 12.1% of the discretionary general revenue funds for a total of \$1,978,809,910 for Fiscal Year 2013 higher education appropriations. The House Higher Education Appropriations Committee will use this aggregate budget number when considering its work on the various components of the higher education budget bill. The Committee is still holding hearings with universities to receive testimony on their budget requests.

**Illinois House votes to maintain tuition waivers for children of university employees**

[HB 5531](#), sponsored by Rep. Luis Arroyo (D-3), would have eliminated the mandatory employee tuition waiver for any university employee with an annual household income of more than \$50,000, unless the employee or the employee's child is a veteran. The bill failed by a vote of 26 yes, 75 no, and 7 present on March 29. The employee tuition waiver was received by 2,234 college students at a value of \$8.2 million in fiscal year 2011. The current waiver program provides for half the cost of tuition for an Illinois public university undergraduate education to children under the age of 25 of employees who have been employed by Illinois public universities for at least seven years.

**[New report from Lumina Foundation finds modest gains in America's college attainment rates](#)**

According to the report issued on March 26, "[A Stronger Nation through Higher Education](#)," 38.3 percent of working-age Americans (ages 25-64) held a two- or four-year college degree in 2010. That rate is up modestly from 2009, when the rate was 38.1 percent and 2008, when the rate was 37.9 percent.

The report measures progress toward Goal 2025 - a national movement to increase the percentage of Americans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025. Illinois has adopted the 60% X 25 Goal, and Illinois Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon, speaking at the press event in Washington announcing the report, said, "It is an exciting time for higher education in Illinois. We need more students to complete college on time and with degrees and credentials that are relevant to the workforce. The Goal 2025 movement provides the direction that our states, colleges, and universities need to increase graduation rates and connect students to good jobs. Goal 2025 will lead to a more educated and prosperous Illinois."

**UPCOMING**

**April**

- 3** [Senate Appropriations II Committee](#), Michael A. Bilandic Building, Chicago
- 7** IBHE Student Advisory Committee, University of Illinois at Springfield
- 10** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Truman College, Chicago  
  
IBHE Board Meeting, Truman College, Chicago
- 12** DFI Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago  
  
[House Higher Ed Appropriations Committee](#), University Center of Lake County, Grayslake
- 17** General Assembly in Session
- 19** ICCB-SAC & IBHE-SAC "SAVE MAP DAY AT THE CAPITOL," Springfield
- 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](mailto:CCSSIL@ymail.com) with any questions or to get on the statewide mailing list.

## [People in the News.](#)

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



**Jenna R. Schneider, *Southern Illinois University Edwardsville***, is a senior from Bethalto, Illinois, majoring in Political Science and Business.



**Alberto A. LaRosa, *Trinity Christian University Chicago***, is a senior from Glendale Heights, Illinois, majoring in Theology with minors in Philosophy and Chemistry.



**David R. Mackett, *Trinity International University***, is a senior from Brookfield, Wisconsin, majoring in History and Secondary Education.

***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

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### [DePaul becomes second university in Illinois to offer doctorate in Early Childhood Education](#)

DePaul University's College of Education will begin offering a doctoral degree in early childhood education in fall 2012, to address the need for leaders in the field. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the field of early childhood education will see 19 to 26 percent job growth through 2018, outpacing the average for all professions.

### [Lewis University dedicates new Science Center](#)

Lewis University opened its new Science Center to the public with a Dedication Ceremony on Friday, March 23 and an Open House on Saturday, March 24 on the University's main campus in Romeoville. The 50,000 square-foot addition of the new Science Center features 12 labs, six prep labs, eight research facilities, three conference rooms, classrooms with Smart Boards, faculty/staff offices and gathering spaces. In the last five years, Lewis University has experienced nearly 50 percent increase in enrollment in undergraduate science programs.

### [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

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### [Higher ed establishments continue to see IOUs from state](#) (McDonough County, The Voice)

The state is once again on the hook for millions of dollars to public higher education institutions.

### [Illinois legislative scholarships: In Illinois, college can be a political favor](#) (The Huffington Post)

Politicians love to talk about the importance of education. In Illinois, legislators go a step further and personally award scholarships to state universities – sometimes to friends, donors and political allies.

### [More students are enrolled in college and on financial aid, annual report shows](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The number of students enrolled in college and the proportion who receive financial aid are both increasing, as are graduation rates, slightly, according to a report of 2010 data published by the U.S. Department of Education.

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