

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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April 13, 2012

[ISAC shares 2012-13 MAP funding status with Illinois students](#)

In an effort to keep Illinois students informed regarding the status of 2012-13 Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has sent an e-mail message to the approximately 182,750 students who are MAP-eligible and are expecting to receive a MAP grant for the upcoming school year. The message contains information about the status of this year's MAP funding, including the fact that there are currently two budget proposals being considered and those two proposals would likely result in significantly different levels of MAP funding. Governor Quinn is requesting a \$50 million increase from the FY 12 appropriation, while the House spending caps could result in significant cuts for MAP funding. The message explains that students can show their support for MAP by participating in an event at the Illinois State Capitol Rotunda in Springfield on Thursday, April 19, at 10:00 a.m., and also provides information on how students can contact their legislators to encourage them to support MAP funding. The message also refers students to information on additional sources of college funding.

[Illinois college students gathering at Capitol Rotunda on April 19](#)

The Illinois Community College Board and Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committees (ICCB-SAC and IBHE-SAC) have invited Illinois students from community colleges, public and private colleges, and universities to Springfield on Thursday, April 19, to advocate to legislators that the Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding is a good investment in the State's future workforce. SAVE MAP Advocacy Day includes visits with legislators, as well as a gathering at 10:00 a.m. in the State Capitol Rotunda. Also that morning, the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee will be receiving testimony from ISAC on their fiscal year 2013 budget request for MAP, and other financial assistance programs administered by ISAC. Students are encouraged to contact their Student Advisory Committee representatives from their campus for additional information.

[The IERC at SIUE releases study on college readiness](#)

The Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has released a report highlighting the associations between college readiness and college outcomes. The report focuses on 115,677 graduates from the Illinois high school class of 2003, and follows them through postsecondary education. "Understanding how college readiness is distributed and relates to postsecondary outcomes could help pinpoint problem areas in the educational pipeline," said Eric Lichtenberger, associate director for research for the IERC and an assistant research professor at SIUE. "This knowledge could assist policymakers as they define college readiness and develop ways to measure it, not only to obtain a No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waiver, but to support the State's goal to increase the proportion of individuals with quality postsecondary degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025," he said.

UPCOMING

April

- 17 General Assembly in Session
- 19 **[House Higher Ed Appropriations Committee](#)**, C-1 Stratton Bldg., Springfield

[ICCB-SAC & IBHE-SAC "SAVE MAP DAY AT THE CAPITOL,"](#) Springfield
- 20 **[Digital Accessibility Expo](#)**, UIC Forum, Chicago
- 24-25 **[The Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education Annual Conference](#)**, Springfield



Save the Date for *Tomorrow's Teachers, Today's Standards: Summit on Integrating Common Core into Educator Prep Programs*, for Wednesday, June 6, at Parke Hotel, Bloomington, 10:00 am-4:00 p.m. Free of charge to participants, there will be presentations and discussions led by Dr. Rick Melmer (University of South Dakota), Dr. Tim Shanahan (UIC), and Dr. Mary Jo Tavormina (UIC). Deans of Colleges of Education, Deans of Colleges of Arts and Science, Education Department

Chairs, Program Coordinators, and Lead Faculty should plan to attend. Hosted by: Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois State Board of Education, and Illinois Community College Board.

[FEMA is offering two free courses on "Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Higher Education"](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is conducting FREE emergency planning and preparedness training courses for higher education institutions. The courses are scheduled at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb on May 22-24, and at National Louis University in Lisle on Aug 7-9.



College Changes Everything Conference Save the Date – July 12, 2012

Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, IL

Conference organized by: ·Lt. Governor's Office, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois State Board of Education, Women Employed, Illinois College Access Network, and Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities. **Conference sponsored by:** KnowHow2GoIllinois.

As Illinois moves forward on its goal to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025, we are pleased to announce that a second College Changes Everything conference will be held on July 12, 2012, at the same location as last year's conference – the Tinley Park Convention Center.

You've seen the statistics: The U.S. lags other countries in higher education completion. You're aware of the personal and economic benefits of higher education to both the individual and nation—in effect, how *College Changes Everything* for a student and our society.

Attend this one day conference that focuses on effective practices and showcases resources available to help with college access and increasing college completion. The conference brings together a diverse audience from across the State: college access practitioners; high school leaders, counselors and case managers; college and university leaders and administrators; and policymakers interested in higher education.

Sessions presented by state and national leaders will provide purposeful information and engage the audience in thoughtful discussions on the serious issues we face. The forum will include time for sharing best practices with peers and tools to help participants walk away with plans for moving their access and completion efforts forward. Come ready to share and learn. **Conference registration will be available soon. Watch for the announcement.**

People in the News.

The Spoon River College Board of Trustees has selected [Curtis E. Oldfield](#) as the college's eighth president. Oldfield currently serves as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) in Peosta, Iowa. He will be replacing Spoon River College president Dr. Robert Ritschel, who is retiring May 22, 2012.

[Terry Wilkerson](#), a Rend Lake College professor and administrator of nearly 15 years, has been named Rend Lake College President. Wilkerson officially assumes the position July 1.

[Katharine Johnson Suski](#) is the permanent director of undergraduate admissions at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, effective April 1. Suski, a SIU Carbondale alumna for both her bachelor's and her master's degrees, has been part of the University's undergraduate admissions office since 1999, when she became an admissions coordinator. She was campus visit coordinator from 2002 to 2007, when she became associate director of undergraduate admissions. More recently, Suski has been interim director of undergraduate admissions since August 2010.

[Matt Bierman](#), interim budget director at Western Illinois University, has been named the budget director, effective May 1, according to WIU President Jack Thomas. He has served as the interim director since July 1, 2011, when former budget director Julie DeWees was appointed interim vice president of administrative services. WIU President Jack Thomas has named [Julie DeWees](#) the vice president of administrative services, effective April 1.

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



Diamon C. Lockett, *University of Chicago*, is a senior from Berwyn, Illinois, majoring in Psychology.



Nicholas Flores, *University of Illinois Chicago*, is a senior from Chicago, Illinois, majoring in Philosophy with and minor in Psychology.



Amanda D. Wilcznski, *University of Illinois Springfield*, is a senior from Compton, Illinois, majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Accounting.

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.

News from Higher Education

[Student loan debt a growing threat to the economy](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Move over, mortgages. Get out of the way, Greece. Another economic doomsday scenario is emerging. Student loan debt has reached about \$870 billion, exceeding credit cards and auto loans, and balances are expected to continue climbing, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said.

[Education Dept. Adopts new graduation-rate measures to include more students](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Education Department released an "action plan" to capture a more complete picture of the number of students who graduate and persist at community colleges. For the first time, part-time students will be counted in national graduation rates, as well as other students who have previously attended college.

[Report highlights lagging Latino college achievement state by state](#) (The Hechinger Report)

It's no secret that the growing Latino population in America will have large implications for the U.S. educational landscape over the next generation. By 2020, Latinos are projected to account for 25 percent of the nation's population aged 18-29.

[Over 20 Years, state support for public higher education fell more than 25 percent](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Adjusted for inflation, state support for each full-time public-college student declined by 26.1 percent from 1990 to 2010, forcing students and their families to shoulder more of the cost of higher education at a time when family incomes were largely stagnant, according to a report released by the think tank Demos.

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