

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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May 25, 2012

General Assembly moves closer to final budget

Both the House and the Senate have been working to craft their respective budgets before the proposed May 31 adjournment date. The Senate's budget plan ([SB 2404](#) and [SB 2455](#)) passed on May 23. It proposes a \$43 million (3.29%) cut to public universities. The House's budget plan ([SB 2443](#)), which awaits committee action, would cut public universities by \$79 million (6.08%). Governor Quinn proposed \$2.161 billion for higher education, while the Senate approved \$2.061 billion, which is \$85 million more than the introduced House bill at \$1.979 billion.

The Monetary Award Program (MAP) is maintained at the fiscal year 2012 level of \$386.7 million in the budget bill passed by the Senate. The House Higher Education Appropriations Committee is considering a 4% cut, at \$371.9 million.

Medicaid reform legislation passes both the House and Senate

On May 24, the General Assembly passed [SB 2840](#), Save Medicaid Access and Resources Together Act (SMART ACT). The Act provides reforms to address the Medicaid budget shortfall. It scales down Medicaid to fit existing appropriations through spending reductions, utilization controls, and provider rate cuts totaling \$1.6 billion. The House voted 94-22 to approve the measure, and the Senate approved it 44-13. Now that the General Assembly has passed Medicaid cuts, they will focus their attention on the proposed cigarette tax increase ([SB 2194](#)), estimated to generate nearly \$700 million in revenue.

Discussions continue on pension reform at the State House

Leaders for the Community Colleges and Universities continue meeting and discussing proposals for shifting the State payments to the higher education institutions for pensions from the state general revenue to institutional budgets. At this writing, the talks are aiming for final recommendations for legislative consideration before the planned May 31 adjournment.

Tomorrow's Teachers, Today's Standards: Summit on Integrating Common Core Into Educator Prep Programs



June 6, 2012
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Parke Hotel and Conference Center
Bloomington, Illinois

Institutions of higher education with educator preparation programs are invited to send a senior leadership team to develop their program's integration plans. The summit will be interactive and focused on coordination across university and college campuses. Education and Arts & Sciences deans, department chairs, or equivalent leaders are encouraged to participate. The summit will feature a national expert on Common Core implementation, updates from the Illinois State Board of Education, and innovators from Illinois who will talk about their Common Core alignment practices. Time will be devoted to developing institutions' specific plans.

Registration can be completed at the following link. **Registrations will be accepted through the close of business Tuesday, May 29.** <http://www.ibhe.org/Registration/TTTS/register.asp>
Any questions may be directed to Emily Fox (fox@ibhe.org).

UPCOMING

MAY

25 [House Higher Ed Appropriations Committee](#), C-1 Stratton Bldg. Springfield

COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING™

Registration Now Open!

College Changes Everything Conference
Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, IL
July 12, 2012 • 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Registration is now open at the conference website <http://www.collegechangeseverything.org/events/2012-college-changes-everything-conference.html>. Please join us at the second College Changes Everything conference to support Illinois as it works to reach its goal to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025.

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, such as:

- College and Career Readiness
- Retention Success
- Skill Sets for 21st Century Jobs
- Expanding Students Pursuit of STEM Fields
- Dual Credit and Dual Degree Programs
- Remediation Success
- Common Core Standards and College Access
- And more

The forum will include time for sharing best practices with peers to help participants walk away with plans for moving their access and completion efforts forward. Come ready to share and learn.

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
Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities

Conference sponsored by:

KnowHow2Gollinois



News from Higher Education

[The final frontier](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Between 2001 and 2005, Augustana College enrolled roughly 3,500 freshmen. Only three of them came from Colorado. These days, there are so many Coloradans on campus that they're forming their own club.

[Share of students receiving federal aid climbs, especially at for-profit colleges](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

As college costs and student-loan debt continue to be hot-button political issues, a new report from the U.S. Department of Education lays out how much students borrow and where they borrow the most: at four-year for-profit institutions.

[DePaul, Loyola to partner with two Chicago high schools](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

Mayor Rahm Emanuel's push to provide high-caliber high school choices to stop middle-class families from fleeing to the suburbs got a boost from new partnerships with two major universities.

[Columbia College considers selective admissions policy](#) (Crain's Chicago Business)

Columbia College Chicago is considering changing its "generous admissions policy," the keystone of the school's recent mission and one that helped its enrollment grow in recent decades to more than 12,000 students.

[Illinois legislature abolishes controversial scholarships that lawmakers awarded](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Illinois legislature has given final passage to a bill abolishing the controversial "legislative scholarships" that some lawmakers have doled out as rewards to political allies, The State Journal-Register, in Springfield, reported. Gov. Pat Quinn told reporters before the vote that he will sign the bill into law.

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