

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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June 22, 2012

[Governor Quinn, Senator Durbin announce nearly \\$15 Million in Federal Workforce Innovation Grants](#)

Governor Pat Quinn and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) announced on June 14 that Illinois received nearly \$15 million in federal Workforce Innovation Funds from the U.S. Department of Labor. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) received nearly \$12 million to implement its innovative workforce development initiatives and the Chicago Workforce Investment Council received \$3 million. The Workforce Innovation Funds DCEO, the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) applied for are used to deliver workforce services more efficiently, facilitate cooperation across programs and funding streams, and focus on partnerships with specific employers or industry sectors to develop programs that reflect current and future skill needs. DCEO received the \$11,999,985 grant for its innovative **Illinois Pathways Initiative**, which helps to scale regional industry partnerships to the needs of both employers as well as the most vulnerable populations served through the public workforce investment system, including low-income adults and long-term unemployed workers. The Illinois Pathways Initiative will use grant funds to evaluate how state economic development, workforce development and education policies and systems can scale up to industry needs through regional public-private partnerships, with the initial project focus on the manufacturing sector.

[Education + Industry + Race to the Top = Pathways to Good Jobs in Illinois](#)

Just a few years ago, Alejandro Barrera thought he'd continue working at a local grocery store after graduating from high school in Wheeling, Ill. It wasn't a bad option, but he felt like he had no other choices. But then, Wheeling High School's advanced manufacturing program showed him that he "could do more and be more," through its innovative partnership with local industries and career certification opportunities. Now Barerra says he has a great-paying full-time job as a machinist, studies computer science part-time at Harper College, and feels in control over his future. "It's good to be me," Barrera exclaimed to more than 300 business, government and education leaders and Gov. Pat Quinn at the launch of Illinois Pathways earlier this year in Bloomington, Ill. Illinois Pathways is a Race to the Top (RTTT)-funded initiative that pulls together the state's public K-12 schools and colleges with businesses, to develop career paths in the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.

[Recent trends in the completion of STEM degrees in Illinois](#)

According to the "Illinois Innovation Index," the concentration of degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) serves as an important gauge of a state's ability to develop the right mix of talent and ultimately create and attract new, high-tech businesses and jobs. In recent years, the percentage of Illinois college graduates completing STEM degrees has trailed the national average, but recent initiatives at the state and local levels are addressing this challenge aggressively. In Illinois, the number of STEM degrees conferred peaked at 20,248 in 2003 and then declined steadily through 2007. Recent years have shown signs of life, however. From 2009 to 2010, the number of STEM degrees rose by nearly 5 percent, reaching 18,400 in 2010. They still made up just 11 percent of all degrees in Illinois that year, slightly below the national average of 14 percent.

**UPCOMING**

**JUNE**

25 [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#) Meeting, ISAC, Deerfield, IL

**JULY**

12 [College Changes Everything](#) Conference, Tinley Park Convention Center

## Survey seeks information on needs of veterans on college campuses

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) have been meeting with the Military and Family Research Institute, Operation Diploma based at Purdue University to discuss the needs of student veterans and veterans services coordinators on campuses. Veterans Coordinator at all Illinois higher education institutions are being asked to complete the survey, in or to provide feedback on best practices for serving college student veterans, their families, and faculty and staff. The survey requires just a few minutes to complete at: [https://purdue.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_6I2JXN3QbjHTdmk](https://purdue.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6I2JXN3QbjHTdmk). The survey link will **close on Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.** so please complete it before then.

## [IERC hosts its 10th annual Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium](#)

The Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville held its 10th annual Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium on June 11-12, in Tinley Park. The conference provides a forum to present Illinois-specific education research and brings stakeholders together to discuss Illinois-relevant education policy issues. This year's Symposium featured three keynote presentations: Diane Schanzenbach, Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University; Brad Phillips, California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS), and a teacher panel from Advance Illinois Educator Advisory Council and Teachers of the Illinois New Millennium Initiative. In addition, there were 27 paper presentations and nine poster presentations.



**Register Now! Space is Limited!**

### **Lt. Governor Sheila Simon to Open 2012 College Changes Everything Conference** *Summit to address pressing higher education issues in Illinois*

Illinois Lt. Governor Sheila Simon will welcome national and local leaders to the **2012 College Changes Everything Conference** in Tinley Park on July 12<sup>th</sup>. This is the Lt. Governor's first appearance at the annual summit which addresses the wide-ranging impact of higher education including social, economic, and health matters. Lt. Governor Simon will welcome the audience at 8:30 a.m. at the Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park, IL.

The daylong conference will bring other state legislators, prominent education leaders, and students together to discuss some of the strategies that are putting Illinois on a path towards increased higher education completion. For more details and information on attending the conference visit [www.collegechangeseverything.org](http://www.collegechangeseverything.org).



### Nurse Educator Fellowship Awards Ceremony

The Advisory Board for the Illinois Center for Nursing and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) recognized the 2012 Nurse Educator Fellows on June 7 at a joint ceremony held in Chicago and Springfield. The Fellowship program recognizes well-qualified nursing faculty and encourages their continuation in the higher education field by providing a one-time salary supplement.



Chicago – Left to right, Sarah Katula, PhD, APN; Glenda Morris Burnett, PhD, MUPP, RN; Bertha Paul, DNP(c) , MSN, RN; Jay Stewart, IDFPR Director; Michele Bromberg, MSN, APN, ICN Chairperson; Matthew Sorensen, PhD, RN; Shamin Huda, MSN, RN; Doris Van Byssum, PsyD, MS, RN.



Springfield - Left to right, Vera Yee, DrPH, RN; Albertina Amelia Perez, PhD, RN; Cristina Myers, DNP(c), MSN, RN; Kimberly Mitchell, PhD, RN,CNE; Alan Phillips, EdD, IBHE Deputy Director; Brenda Lessen, PhD, RN; Kelley Obringer, MSN, RN; Kim Astroth, PhD, RN; and Cindy Kohtz, EdD, RN, CNE.

[Janet K. Holt, Ph.D.](#) joins the Illinois Education Research Council as its new executive director on August 1. Holt brings 18 years of experience in quantitative methods and analysis of large-scale data to the Council. Her contributions to educational research are in the areas of growth modeling of educational data, persistence of women and minorities into STEM fields, adult literacy reading practices, reading comprehension in college students, growth of early reading fluency, multivariate methods, and other areas. Holt comes to SIUE from Northern Illinois University, where she most recently held the position of Professor and Program Coordinator of Educational Research and Evaluation and Methodology Strand Chair of the Center of Interdisciplinary Study of Language and Literacy. She received her B.S. in Zoology with University Highest Honors from SIUC in 1981 and graduated with her Master of Science in Education (Educational Psychology) in 1990 and Ph.D. in Education (Educational Psychology - Statistics and Measurement) in 1994 from SIUC.

**Courtney Kohn Sanders**, Governors State University's vice president for enrollment management and marketing, has received The National Women In Management Woman of Achievement award, also known as the Charlotte Danstrom Award. Sanders was appointed to her position at Governors State University in July, 2011. She is responsible for recruitment and outreach, admissions and admissions processing, financial aid, registration and student records, and international student services. She is also responsible for marketing and public relations, and for the university's new Dual Degree Program (DDP).

The [IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council](#) has selected its leadership team for the upcoming 2012-13 year. **Abbas Aminmansour**, UIUC, Chair; **Marie Donovan**, DePaul University, Vice-Chair; **Steve Rock**, WIU, Secretary, **Aida Shekib**, GSU, Public Universities Caucus Chair; **Gisele Atterberry**, JJC, Community Caucus Chair, and **Shawn Schumacher**, DeVry University, Private/Independent Caucus Chair.

[Mitra Dutta](#), distinguished professor and head of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a former senior executive with the U.S. Army Research Office, has been named vice chancellor for research at UIC, pending approval of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Dutta has served as interim vice chancellor since January, overseeing a research enterprise with annual expenditures of more than \$340 million. UIC ranks 52nd among U.S. universities in federal research funding.

## Campus News

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### [IMSA Team wins distinction award at Singapore International Math Challenge](#)

A team of four IMSA students competed against 45 other teams from 25 countries and four continents to earn a Distinction Award in the Singapore International Math Challenge.

IMSA students Henry Deng, Mathew Gietl, Andrew Ta, and Matthew Yang (*pictured*) worked on the problems for 33 hours, submitting a full solution paper. They then had another day to prepare an oral presentation to the problems. This is the first time IMSA competed in the invitational Singapore International Math Challenge, which began in 2008 and is held every two years. The students were coached by IMSA Mathematics Faculty Member Dr. Steve Condie of Naperville.



### **University of Illinois wins national innovation award**

University of Illinois student financial services staff have won a national award for an innovative program that increases student retention, increases participation in loan repayment plans, and improves collection of tuition and fees. Staff in the University Student Financial Services and Cashier Operations (USFSCO) developed a series of communications that proactively address the twin challenges of student withdrawal from the university and student loan defaults. The program – called Six Strategies of Communication – includes live educational webinars, open houses for parents, individual consultations with students and parents, and customized payment plans for students. USFSCO (University Student Financial Services and Cashier Operations) efforts are being honored by the National Association of Colleges and University Business Officers (NACUBO) with a 2012 INNOVATIONS AWARD that recognizes higher-education institutions that have created a program that improved service delivery in response to a campus need. USFSCO Executive Director Judith Flink will accept the award at the NACUBO annual meeting in Maryland in July.

### [Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs honors College of DuPage with Governor's Award](#)

Going above and beyond basic veterans' services while fostering a veteran-friendly atmosphere, the College of DuPage (COD) has been chosen as the spring 2012 winner of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) announced on June 11, "On behalf of Governor Pat Quinn, we applaud the exemplary efforts of the College of DuPage on behalf of its student veterans," said IDVA Director Erica Borggren. "Moving from the military back into civilian life and college can present many challenges for veterans, and COD's leadership has demonstrated a lasting, tangible commitment to helping veterans overcome these challenges."

## News from Higher Education

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[Researchers are rallied to help improve remedial education, not scrap it](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

In recent years, developmental education has been the focus of much research and scrutiny, especially given the Obama administration's mandate that community colleges graduate five million more students by 2020 and the number of students who need remedial courses before they can tackle the course work required for a degree.

[States' postsecondary performance records graded in new report](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

In the ongoing push for more accountability and transparency in higher education, researchers released a new "report card" that shows which states lead and trail on a variety of postsecondary measures.

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