

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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July 20, 2012

College Changes Everything (CCE) Conference focuses on the 60% by 2025 Goal



(Tinley Park- July 12) ISAC's **Sam Nelson**, conference coordinator, along with **Sen. Miguel del Valle**, P-20 Council Chair and ISAC Commissioner, Illinois **Lt. Governor Sheila Simon**, and **Jamie Merisotis**, Lumina Foundation President, kick off the CCE Conference.

Governor Pat Quinn proclaimed July 12 in Illinois "["COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING DAY."](#) and nearly 400 education leaders from all over the state convened at the Tinley Park Convention Center to discuss strategies that are putting Illinois on a path towards increased college access and completion. As a response to the Illinois P-20 Council, state education agencies, and colleges and universities adopting the goal of increasing a proportion of Illinois adults with a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential to 60% by 2025, this is the second year in a row for a professional development conference for academic peers to showcase effective best practices for increasing college enrollments and student success toward degree completion. **Lt. Governor Sheila Simon** encouraged the attendees to keep up the necessary efforts to reach the goal.

In his opening [keynote](#), Lumina Foundation President **Jamie Merisotis** described how Illinois' current 41.3% of adults with an associate's degree or higher needs to grow to fill the workplace requirements for 64% of the more than two million jobs available in the State by 2018, that will require postsecondary credentials.

In addition to sessions presented by state and national leaders on college access and completion issues, attendees heard from members of [the ISACorps](#) of near-peer mentors who are working with secondary students all over Illinois helping them make plans for college-going. Also featured were two Elgin Community College students who transitioned from English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction to the completion of a college-level vocational welding certificate to employment at Elgin Sweeper, the nation's leading manufacturer of street sweepers, by participating in an integrated

UPCOMING

JULY

25 P-20 Council Meeting,
Harper College, Palatine

AUGUST

7 Illinois Board of Higher
Education board meeting,
Chicago State University,
Chicago

bridge program. They received basic skills instruction through a free adult education class where they studied reading, writing, math, and English in the context of welding and received intense support services through an assigned transition coordinator.



Pictured here are **Mary Kay Devine**, Director of Community Initiatives, Women Employed, introducing left to right: **Pete Almeida**, Program Coordinator, Integrated Career & Academic Prep System (I-CAPS), Elgin Community College; **Luz Gonzalez**, successful adult student completer, Elgin Welding Bridge Program – currently employed at Elgin Sweeper; and **Juana Rodriguez**, the first woman ever to complete the welding certification at Elgin Community College – also currently employed at Elgin Sweeper.



“The session content was of the highest value to the institutions, organizations, and individuals who are engaged in fulfilling the college completion agenda. The stories shared by the ISACorps members and the women from Elgin Community College were also compelling examples of the breadth of the ways that we impact lives in Illinois.” observed **Kim Savage**, **College of DuPage Trustee and Illinois Student Assistance Commission member**, who attended.



Eric Zarnikow, executive director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), and **Dave Tretter**, president of the Federation of Illinois Independent Colleges and Universities, co-presented the [College Changes Everything 2012 Champion Award](#) to **Sen. Ed Maloney** (D-18), Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, who is retiring at the end of this year after ten years of service in the General Assembly. “The Senator has been an advocate for college access and an ally of the students that all of us serve. He’s been a steady and effective Higher Education Committee Chair who genuinely cares about helping students

to achieve their goals, and he cares about the impact that higher education has on society and the economy,” stated Zarnikow.

The CCE Conference was 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; and sponsored by KnowHow2GoIllinois.

For more details and information on Illinois’ College Changes Everything movement visit: www.collegechangeseverything.org

And get connected through the Facebook and Twitter sites:



[Treasury Report makes economic case for higher education](#)

A new analysis released by the U.S. Treasury Department, produced in tandem with the Education Department, calls higher education “an important driver of economic mobility” that is vital to economic growth and competitiveness. Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the report found that in 2011, median weekly earnings were 64 percent higher for a full-time, full-year bachelor’s degree holder than they were for a high-school graduate. The report also found that without a degree, children born to parents in the lowest income bracket have a 45-percent chance of staying there as adults. With a degree, they have less than a 20-percent chance of remaining there.

Governor Quinn signs budget bills and other legislation affecting higher education

On June 30th, the Governor signed the fiscal year 2013 (FY13) budget bills for the State of Illinois, which included [Public Act 97-0729](#), (SB 2443) providing funding for Illinois’ higher education agencies and public colleges and universities, including \$371 million for the Monetary Award Program (MAP), a 4% reduction from the initial FY12 appropriation. Funding for higher education operations did not increase in FY13; from FY12 to FY13, the change in state [funding for Illinois Higher Education Institutional Operations and Grants](#) reflects a total reduction of \$128.5 million or -6.09% directly impacting on university and community college campus operations, tuition levels, student aid programs, and college affordability.

The Governor signed HB 5914, ([Public Act 97-0814](#)) requiring public universities to implement a policy limiting hiring search firms only for presidents and where justifiable need for search firm expertise exists for the position.

After September 1, 2012, the General Assembly Scholarships program is eliminated with the Governor’s signing of HB 3810 ([Public Act 97-0772](#)). This new law also creates the Tuition and Fee Waiver Task Force of eight legislators to review the use of all current waivers used by public universities.

A summary of higher education legislation acted upon by the 97th Spring Session of the General Assembly, including bills sent to the Governor for final action, is available [here](#).

[Private Business and Professional School staff and former students needed for state advisory council](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is accepting applications from owners, educators, and former students who are interested in serving on a new advisory council for Private Business and Vocational Schools. Deadline is August 15, 2012. The [purpose and description](#) of the council, as well as an [application form](#) are available on the IBHE website.

People in the News



[Pat Siebrasse](#), Northern Illinois University’s longest-serving employee, retired this summer having served the School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences for 50 years. Steve Cunningham, vice president for Administration and Human Resources, presented Siebrasse with the first “Patricia S. Siebrasse Administrative Professionals Award for Excellence.”

Three Governors State University academic leaders played a key role in the International Conference on New Horizons in Education (INTE), a gathering of scholars from around the globe that took place recently in Prague, Czech Republic. GSU President [Elaine P. Maimon](#) presented a keynote address at the conference, on the cooperative effort between academics from a number of countries across the globe. She was accompanied to INTE by [Dr. Deborah Bordelon](#), dean of GSU’s College of Education, and [Dr. Colleen Sexton](#), chair of the Division of Education.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Chancellor [Julie Furst-Bowe](#) served as one of the keynote speakers at the Advancing the STEM Agenda in Education, the Workplace and Society Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. The conference was sponsored by the American Society for Quality (ASQ).



The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy® (IMSA) has announced the employment of [Dr. Diana Sharp](#) as principal and chief academic officer. Sharp, formerly the assistant provost at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine began July 1. Previously Sharp served in other leadership roles at Harper College, including as Interim Dean for the Mathematics and Sciences, Liberal Arts, Business and Social Sciences, and Resources for Learning Divisions. Prior to Harper, she served in leadership roles at the University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Wisconsin – Parkside, Garrett, in Evanston, IL, and Carthage College, in Kenosha, WI. She received her B.S. in Sociology and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, M.S. in Higher Education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and Ph.D. in Urban Education from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

[Jim Jawahar](#), professor and chair of the Department of Management and Quantitative Methods, has been named associate provost at Illinois State University, effective July 1.

[Astrida Orle Tantillo](#), professor of Germanic studies and history at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has been named dean of the UIC College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Tantillo, a scholar of 18th-century German culture and history specializing in the scientific works of writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, has served as interim dean of the college since November 2010. She previously served as director of the UIC School of Literatures, Cultural Studies and Linguistics.

Waubonsee Community College Vice President of Student Development [Melinda James](#), of Aurora, has been elected president of the Illinois Community College Chief Student Service Officers (ICCCSSO) for the upcoming year. The ICCSSO is a commission of the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators and includes representatives from each of the state's 49 community colleges, who gather to discuss such topics as international students, financial aid, and student success and campus safety.

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) has honored [Daniel Sylvester](#), a DePaul University law student and U.S. Army veteran, as its July 2012 "Veteran of the Month." Sylvester served on active duty as an officer in the Army from 1988 to 1999, including humanitarian operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1993-1994), and then as part of the Dayton Peace Accords Implementation Forces (1995-1996). Sylvester currently is a Juris Doctor candidate at the DePaul University College of Law and is a lifetime member of the VFW. He currently is working with the DePaul University officials to add a Veteran's Legal Clinic to DePaul's extensive list of pro bono clinics.

[Three students](#) who will serve on the University of Illinois Board of Trustees in 2012-13 were seated during a ceremony at the board's July meeting on the U of I's Chicago campus. **John Tienken** of the University of Illinois at Springfield and **Kenneth Thomas** of the University of Illinois at Chicago were re-elected to one-year terms as student trustees last spring in votes by students on their campuses. **David Pileski** of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign also was elected to a one-year term, replacing former student trustee Hannah Ehrenberg. Student trustees have served on the 13-member board since 1973 to give students a voice in University governance.

[Campus News](#)

[UIS part of \\$450,000 Gates Foundation grant to improve access to online education](#)

The University of Illinois Springfield is part of a national consortium of leading community colleges and universities, who are designing a plan to make higher education more accessible and affordable to low-income young adults. The *Learning First* consortium plans to develop a pilot program that will increase online seat capacity and help more students learn from

home. The pilot program is made possible thanks to a \$450,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which was awarded to the League for Innovation in the Community College.

[Mennonite College of Nursing Receives \\$1.1 Million Grant](#)

The Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) at Illinois State University is the recipient of a grant of more than \$1.1 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support developing diversity in the nursing workforce. The three-year Nursing Workforce Diversity grant, distributed through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), will allow \$370,000 each year toward recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups to the nursing profession, as well as leadership development throughout the educational experience.

[SXU awards scholarships to local Moraine Valley students](#)

Saint Xavier University (SXU) recently awarded its new Vernon O. Crawley Scholarship to eight local students. Named for Moraine Valley Community College's former president, the scholarship provides \$12,000 annual awards to full-time Moraine Valley students of merit. Administrators at both institutions recently signed a 2 + 2 articulation agreement that allows Moraine Valley students a seamless path to earn their four-year degree at SXU upon completing their associate degrees at Moraine Valley. Through the new agreement, students will receive academic advising and transfer planning assistance from both institutions from the time they start at Moraine Valley until they transfer to SXU. This scholarship continues to address the region's need for a highly educated workforce and correlates with the national agenda to increase the number of citizens with degrees.

[Iconic old oak tree on EIU Campus to continue as a 'Giving Tree'](#)



Eastern Illinois University (EIU) President Bill Perry has issued a reprieve for the giant sentry which has stood guard over the campus “castle” since it was built more than a century ago. The reprieve is not without conditions. Work will begin in July to drastically trim the tree in order to make it safe for the campus community.

For decades, a huge bur oak tree – estimated now to be 300 years old as evidenced by its 61-inch-wide trunk – has provided shade and shelter to students at work, at play and in love. The tree is as much a fixture on campus as nearby Old Main, EIU’s administration building.

“Retirement is inevitable,” said David Crockett, associate director with EIU’s Facilities Planning and Management. “A

significant part of the tree is already dead and will not come back. It might last another year or it might last 10 more years. We just can’t predict.”

[News from Higher Education](#)

[The single most important experiment in higher education](#) (The Atlantic)

A year-old startup may well have become the most important experiment yet aimed at remaking higher education for the Internet age.

[More college students living at home](#) (The New York Times)

About half of college students lived at home in the most recent academic year to cut education costs, an increase over the

last two years, according to a new study from Sallie Mae, the student loan giant.

[Retirement spike in Illinois](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Many universities these days try to make retirement more attractive by providing generous incentives. But something quite the opposite happened at public universities in Illinois, when there was a spike in retirements because the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois made an adjustment to how it calculated annuities.

[Small rise in college completion for young adults](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

The percentage of young adults earning a college degree has increased slightly but still remains far below the level needed to reach the president's goal of having the U.S. rank first worldwide in college graduates.

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