

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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August 24, 2012

[Lt. Governor Simon addresses State Higher Education Executive Officers Higher Education \(SHEEO\) Policy Conference held in Chicago](#)

Lt. Governor Shelia Simon listed the top 10 questions to ask education reformers during her remarks at the opening night dinner of the SHEEO gathering on August 8. Among them: How can we make sure financial assistance reaches students who need it most, and should we weigh merit or completion in those awards? She shared with the nearly 250 state higher education leaders that this is a question she will consider this year as a member of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's MAP Grant Eligibility Task Force.

The next day, August 9, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel discussed his educational efforts for the City's residents and its economic development, and introduced U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan to the conference. The Secretary discussed the States' progress toward [reaching President Obama's 2020 college completion goal](#) and initiatives to expand college access and increase transparency around college costs.

[MAP Eligibility Task Force gets underway](#)

The Monetary Award Program (MAP) Eligibility Task Force created under [Senate Joint Resolution 69](#) (Maloney/Biss and Pritchard) will hold its second meeting August 30, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in room 2-025 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. The Task Force is directed to advise the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) on the development of new rules for MAP, with the objective of improving outcomes for MAP grant recipients. At the meeting, the Task Force will hear from several speakers on MAP-related issues and will begin to evaluate simulations in which eligibility requirements for students or for institutions are altered. All Task Force meetings are open to the public and meeting recordings and materials from the first Task Force meeting, held July 26, are available [here](#).

[A million reasons why...](#)



**UPCOMING**

**AUGUST**

- 28** Performance Funding Refinement Committee, IBHE, Springfield
- 30** [MAP Eligibility Task Force](#), Thompson Center, Chicago

**SEPTEMBER**

- 11** Performance Funding Steering Committee Meeting, Governors State University, University Park
- 25** IBHE Board Meeting, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is undertaking a new strategy to reach out to alumni and students, which have included marching with students in the Du Quoin State Fair as well as the Illinois State Fair, donning T-shirts with the message, "A million reasons why." The campaign is to raise awareness of the strengths of the community college system in Illinois, entitled ["Illinois Community Colleges A Million Reasons Why."](#) The slogan is multifaceted in that the "million reasons why" can refer to the million students per year that the colleges currently educate, or the million students or alumni who were educated each year through the generations, or the million community members who have been positively impacted by their local community colleges, or the million reasons why students, faculty, staff, administrators, or community members chose their community college as the place to be educated, to work, and to play.

### [Illinois schools more innovative, but still trail powerhouses](#)

(Crain's) — Researchers at Illinois universities are stepping up their patents and commercializing more of the technology developed on campus, but they still lag the nation's powerhouses and some neighbors. The number of patents licensed by the state's universities rose to 142 from 130 between 2007 and 2010, according to the most recent data from the Deerfield-based Association of University Technology Managers. That's faster than California, which grew at seven percent, but slower than Florida's 33 percent growth. However, Illinois lags far behind California in the amount of technology it licenses. California licensed 461 patents. Michigan universities licensed 148, up three percent from 2007.

The patent data is included in a look at technology transfer at the State's universities as part of the [Illinois Innovation Index](#), released on August 22, by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, World Business Chicago, Illinois Science and Technology Coalition, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. This Index is tracking several of the performance measures adopted by the [Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success Goal 4](#) for integrating Illinois' education, research, and innovation assets to meet economic needs of Illinois.

### [Illinois earns top ACT score among states that test all students; Number of students College Ready increases](#)

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced on August 22, that the high school graduating Class of 2012 received the highest composite ACT score among the nine states that tested 100 percent of 2012 graduates. Additionally, the State has shown continued improvement in the percentage of graduates who meet ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks over the last five years. Illinois tested nearly 2,400 more students than the previous year while maintaining its composite score of 20.9. In addition, the percentage of students meeting all four College Readiness Benchmarks increased from 23 percent in 2011, to 25 percent in 2012.

"Since Illinois began administering the ACT to all 11th grade students more than a decade ago, the State has been ahead of the curve in emphasizing college and career readiness," said State Superintendent of Education Christopher A. Koch. "Illinois, once more, had the highest composite ACT score among states that require the ACT for all students, showing that our efforts are paying off. We are confident that our more rigorous learning standards will not only improve test scores, but ensure that more students excel in their academic pursuits after high school."

### [College enrollments of Hispanic students reach new highs](#)

The nation's Hispanic student population reached a number of milestones in 2011, according to an analysis of newly available U.S. Census Bureau data by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. Hispanic students represent the largest minority group at four-year colleges and universities for the first time. Among 18- to 24-year-olds, the enrollment of Hispanic students at four-year institutions increased by 20 percent, to 1.2 million, from 2010 to 2011. Similar growth was seen at two-year colleges.

### [Scholarships for Latino college students](#)

The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) will soon be awarding 20 \$2,000 scholarships to worthy Illinois students of Latino heritage pursuing undergraduate degrees full-time at Illinois undergraduate colleges and universities. The deadline for receipt of completed scholarship applications is **October 5, 2012**. Those who are awarded scholarships will be honored at the Tenth Annual ILLCF Conference in Rosemont on November 16, 2012. For additional information, application guidelines, and application forms, please visit [www.illcf.org](http://www.illcf.org).

### [IFT files suit to preserve access to affordable healthcare for state retirees](#)

Four unions, including Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) representing state of Illinois and state university employees, are backing a class action lawsuit challenging a new law that threatens to require state retirees to pay new health insurance premiums. A group of representative plaintiffs charge that Senate Bill 1313 violates the Illinois Constitution. Governor Pat Quinn signed the legislation in June, eliminating the terms of the previous health insurance plan for retired state employees and giving the director of the State Department of Central Management Services the authority to set premium costs for retirees.

### [Improving school leadership through legislation: Lessons from Illinois](#)

Over the past seven years stakeholders throughout Illinois worked together to redesign and strengthen principal preparation to ensure schools are led by effective principals who can create a culture focused on student learning—academically, socially, and emotionally. The Illinois story has been of particular interest to other states seeking to replicate a similar school leadership model that will develop instructional leaders who can work collaboratively with teachers, students, families, and community members to raise the overall achievement of *all* students. The National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) hosted a seminar held on August 6, at the NCSL conference in Chicago that featured the key players involved in leading Illinois' principal preparation redesign work, who offered lessons learned to other states working on these issues.

### [The Nurse Educator Fellowship Program is accepting applications until October 5](#)

The purpose of the Nurse Educator Fellowship Program is to ensure the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty at institutions of higher learning that award degrees in nursing. Fiscal year 2013 awards will be used to supplement the salaries of the nursing faculty selected for the Fellowship. Participation in this program is open to Illinois institutions of higher learning with a nursing program approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). Nominations must be certified by the institution's Chief Nursing Administrator.

### **DCFS announces on-line training on child abuse and neglect reporting to Illinois' institutions of higher education**

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is inviting all institutions of higher education to designate a training coordinator to work with the DCFS Office of Training to plan and implement on-line training support to each institution, for all campus and off-campus locations. This new opportunity for training is in response to the enactment of [HB 3887](#) (Public Act 97-0711) that amends the State's Child Abuse and Neglect Act to add personnel of institutions of higher education, as well as athletic program personnel and early intervention providers, to the list of mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect to the DCFS toll-free, 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE (22873).

In a message sent to the presidents of all public and private colleges and universities, DCFS is asking that each institution of higher education designate one person, preferably a member of the human resources (personnel) department, to coordinate the mandated reporter training of their employees with the DCFS Office of Training and Professional Development. The name and contact information of the designated person for each institution should be forwarded to the DCFS Office of Training at [dcfstraining@illinois.gov](mailto:dcfstraining@illinois.gov). DCFS will work with that individual to plan and implement training and provide information and support to all institutions of higher education.



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

**David W. Harby**, Vice President of the Danville Area Community College Board of Trustees, has been honored as the top Community College Trustee in nine states by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). Harby won the 2012 Central Regional Trustee Leadership Award in recognition of exemplary service by a currently-serving community college board member. The regional

award is one of five to be given in front of a national audience during an awards luncheon at the ACCT Community College Leadership Conference in Boston in October. A national award winner will be chosen from among the five regional winners at that time.

**Jeffrey Stowell** has been nominated as Eastern Illinois University's 2012-2013 Faculty Laureate. This recognition – bestowed upon him by the Council on Academic Affairs – will allow him to spend the coming year as the University's official spokesperson on the importance of a general/liberal education. Shortly after receiving his doctorate from the Ohio State University, Stowell began teaching in Eastern's Department of Psychology. In his 12 years of teaching, he has been content to teach introductory psychology courses (including honors sections), as well as advanced courses in his specialty.

**Leah C. O'Brien**, professor in Physical Chemistry at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, has been selected as a member of its highly prestigious 2012 Class of Fellows of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Colleagues nominate ACS Fellows based on the candidate's extraordinary achievements and contributions to the sciences and for providing excellent volunteer service to ACS.

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon has announced that **Kati Phillips** will serve as her new Chief of Staff effective August 15. Phillips has served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications in Simon's office since January 2011, and will continue to fulfill that role. She replaces **D.K. Hirner** who plans to work in Missouri.

### **SPOTLIGHT: 2012-13 DFI Fellows**

Thirty-nine new Diversifying Higher Education Faculty (DFI) in Illinois Program Fellows were recently awarded a Fellowship for the 2012-2013 academic year. The purpose of the DFI program is to increase the number of underrepresented faculty and staff in Illinois institutions of higher education. The complete list of new and renewal Fellows by institution and program major can be viewed on the IBHE website at <http://www.ibhe.org/DFI/fellows.asp>. **The Friday Memo** will feature DFI Fellows throughout the year.



**Douglas Arnell Williams** is a Ph.D. candidate in the landscape architecture department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). He holds a bachelor's degree in ornamental horticulture from UIUC and a master's in landscape architecture from Cornell University. He is the first in his immediate family to complete a college degree. His professional vocation includes both public and private work, ranging from the intricacies of floral design to city and regional planning. Doug has taught landscape architecture at the undergraduate and graduate levels. One of his most enjoyed design experiences was designing a memorial garden for the George Washington Carver National Monument while working within the National Park Service.

Working with Master Gardeners and inspired by his grandfather who grew a community garden in his backyard, he became aware of the importance of working with the land. Renovation projects to convert abandoned lots into community gardens, participation in neighborhood garden walks, and doing odd landscape/home gardening jobs provided the Chicago native with a rudimentary understanding of horticulture. His design philosophy is inspired by the likes of W. H. Whyte, J. B. Jackson, Ian McHarg, Walter Hood, and Rachel and Robert Kaplan. Currently, his research focus is on the relationship between social capital and community gardens.

### **Campus News**

#### **Governors State program aims to answer Obama's call to raise graduation rates**

At age 40, and after five different careers, Addison Jackson plans to earn a doctorate in social work. Kayla Randolph-Clark, 27, has her sights on a law degree, after bouncing around at various colleges since high school. For both students, signing up for Governors State University's Dual Degree Program marked the first step toward their goals. The nationally acclaimed initiative is designed to help students complete their associate's degree at their local community college and

then seamlessly transfer to GSU in University Park to earn their bachelor's, getting both degrees within four years. [Read More](#) about the students and the program.

### [UIC, City Colleges channel minority transfer students into science, engineering](#)

The University of Illinois at Chicago and City Colleges of Chicago have won funding to develop ways to channel more underrepresented minority male students from community college into baccalaureate degree programs in STEM fields -- science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. UIC's Minority Male STEM Initiative has received a two-year, \$100,000 grant from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, funded by the Kresge Foundation, to address the shortage of transfer students pursuing STEM majors at four-year institutions.

### [University of St. Francis, Joliet Junior College announce nursing partnership](#)

A new collaboration between University of St. Francis (USF) and Joliet Junior College (JJC) is helping to pave the way for students on the nursing track. Aspiring nurses can take fast track from RN to BSN through a bridge program through the USF 3+1 Nursing Program which will enable licensed RNs who have completed their AAS degree at JJC to transfer all relevant credits to USF to more efficiently earn their BSN. This convenient "3+1" arrangement allows students to begin USF coursework while still learning at the community college. Subsequent courses at USF are online. The arrangement also offers a significant cost savings by offering the initial upper division nursing course and any remaining general education courses needed for the BSN at the lower community college tuition rate.

### [News from Higher Education](#)

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#### [College of DuPage unearths financial aid scam](#) (Daily Herald)

Forty-four College of DuPage students and two organizers of a financial aid fraud ring used student aid for their personal use after dropping out of online classes they enrolled in last spring, college officials said.

#### [College Illinois tuition program to resume Oct. 1](#) (Daily Herald)

The state's College Illinois prepaid tuition program will soon be back in business.

#### [Sen. Durbin calls for passage of student loan bill](#) (Daily Herald)

There are big differences between private student loans and federal student loans. U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin is encouraging students to know the differences.

#### [Job losses persist for the less-educated](#) (The New York Times)

After suffering the largest share of job losses in the recession, Americans with no more than a high school education have continued to lose jobs during the sputtering recovery while better-educated people have gained millions of jobs, according to a Georgetown University study.

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