

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Congressionally mandated report on access for minority males to colleges and universities](#)

The National Center for Education Statistics issued a congressionally mandated report on August 28, on access for minority males to colleges and universities entitled, "[Higher Education: Gaps in Access and Persistence Study](#)."

"This report confirms that we have a long way to go to close the persistent gaps in college access and college completion for minority male students, especially those who are less well-off," U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said. "Improving college access and ensuring that more of these students complete college won't only aid disadvantaged minority males, it will strengthen the entire country by better preparing us all for a 21st century economy."

The report presents 46 indicators and multivariate analyses to document the scope and nature of gaps in access and persistence in higher education by sex and race/ethnicity. Among beginning higher education students who were recent high school graduates in 2004, the odds of attaining an associate's or bachelor's degree by 2009 were 32%, lower for males than females, after accounting for background variables. Likewise, compared to white students, black students had 43% lower odds and Hispanic students had 25% lower odds.

Common Education Data Standards Version 3 public review draft released: Comments due September 28

The draft of the Version 3 Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) has been released for public comment. All are encouraged to review this draft of the standards and submit comments by September 28th, via the CEDS website at <http://ceds.ed.gov/Version3Draft.aspx>.

CEDS supports the development of a common vocabulary for P-20W (early learning through workforce). It is a collection of definitions and formats for the most commonly used P-20W education data elements. CEDS does not dictate how individual data systems collect, store, and report data. The Version 3 draft includes additions to the early learning, K12, and postsecondary elements, and expands CEDS into adult education and workforce, as well as support for interoperability for the Race to the Top assessments.

UPCOMING

SEPTEMBER

- 12** IBHE Proprietary Advisory Committee, DeVry University, Tinley Park
- 21** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills
- 21-23** IBHE Student Advisory Committee Meeting, NIU, DeKalb
- 25** IBHE Board Meeting, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove



[States Perform: An interactive database from The Council of State Governments—includes higher education measures](#)

States Perform provides users with access to interactive, customizable and up-to-date comparative performance measurement data for 50 states in six key areas: fiscal and economic, public safety and justice, energy and environment, transportation, health and human services, and education. Compare performance across a few or all states, profile one state, view trends over time, and customize results with graphs and maps.

[Scholarships for Latino college students](#)

The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) will soon be awarding twenty \$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.

[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.

People in the News

[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.



Yanantali (Janice) Mejia is a Ph.D. candidate in the Curriculum Studies in the Mathematics Education program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering and management sciences from Northwestern University, a master's degree in applied professional studies from DePaul University, and a master's degree in educational leadership in higher education from Northeastern Illinois University.

Prior to beginning her doctoral studies, Janice interned at the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics in Washington D.C. In this capacity, she coordinated the Education sub-working group for the U.S. Federal Interagency Working Group on Immigration Integration to inventory existing programs and draft a set of achievable recommendations. She

facilitated meetings between groups, and served as the communication liaison between offices within the Department of Education and the White House. This experience increased her interest to understand how federal, state, and local policies impact Latino educational outcomes.

Currently, her research interests include Latino higher education access and completion challenges, and she is particularly interested in Latino students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields and the factors that influence their academic success in college. By exploring Critical Race Theory and Latina/o Critical Theory as interpretive frameworks, she would like to understand the roles that federal laws and educational policies intersect with race, socioeconomic status, gender, and identity to produce the educational experiences and outcomes of Latino students in STEM fields.

[State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia](#) (D-83) has been named Waubesa Community College's Distinguished Alumnus for 2012. Currently in her third term in the Illinois legislature, Rep. Chapa LaVia has dedicated herself to issues of education and veterans' affairs.

The Government and Nonprofit Section of the American Accounting Association honored Southern Illinois University Carbondale [Chancellor Rita Cheng](#) with the "Enduring Lifetime Contribution Award." The award, presented during the association's annual convention in Washington, D.C., recognizes her "outstanding contributions to the field of government and nonprofit accounting research and education." Cheng, who served as president of the Government and Nonprofit Section in 2000-01, is the 15th individual -- and only woman -- to receive the award since it was created 25 years ago.

Former Nurse Educator Fellow **Patrick Robinson** (2009), most recently the president of the Chicago campus at Chamberlain College of Nursing, has joined Chamberlain's national academic team as dean of undergraduate curriculum and instruction. Another former Nurse Educator Fellow, **Zepure Boyadjian-Samawi** (2010), associate professor at Saint Xavier University School of Nursing in Chicago, received a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach and perform research during the 2012-13 school year at Bethlehem University in Palestine.

Campus News



[Roosevelt University and Oakton Community College announce innovative degree completion program](#)

Roosevelt University and Oakton Community College signed a new Dual Degree Program agreement that makes it easier for students to earn their associate's and bachelor's degrees. Roosevelt has established transfer credit guides for specific degree programs, including the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Other degree completion articulations in development include the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, the Bachelor of Arts in Information Technology, the Bachelor of Arts or Science in Math with a Secondary Education Certification, the

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and the Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Marketing Communications. Once Oakton students select their intended Roosevelt major, their degree requirements will be locked in for three years. Oakton Community College President Margaret B. Lee and Roosevelt University President Chuck Middleton sign the new Dual Degree Program at Oakton's Des Plaines campus on August 29 (pictured above).

There are also financial advantages to the program. Dual Degree Program students receive a Roosevelt tuition discount based on their Oakton GPA when they matriculate to Roosevelt. In addition, high-achieving Oakton students are eligible to compete for special \$15,000 and \$12,500 annual Roosevelt scholarships and \$1,000 awards.

[Rend Lake College graduation rate fifth in the U.S. among peer institutions](#)

Rend Lake College (RLC) lands fifth on the latest top-10 list of public community colleges in the nation with the best graduation rates. First-time, full-time students at RLC complete their degree 50.3 percent of the time, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education's *Almanac of Higher Education*. In the article "Colleges With the Best 6-Year and 3-Year Graduation Rates in 2010," the Chronicle compared public two-year colleges across the country with at least 500 freshmen entering in the fall of 2007. It tracked these students to find out how many earn their degree within 150 percent of the normal time it takes to do so.

President Terry Wilkerson said he is proud to see RLC representing Illinois on a list of the best colleges across the country. He also said there is still much work to be done. "We need to continue to strive to improve on this," said Wilkerson. "The fact that 50 percent makes us fifth in the nation is not acceptable. That's not good enough. We are going to keep our focus on our students and their success, and work hard to help them accomplish what they come here to do."

[USO, Army honor Black Hawk College for help with soldier transition](#)

Black Hawk College and its president, Dr. Thomas Baynum, were honored by the USO of Illinois for the college's involvement in the inaugural USO Life Skills Resources Program. The USO works with the Army's Community-Based Warrior Transition Unit to help soldiers transition from military life to civilian life. Since last spring, Black Hawk College staff has assisted more than 170 members of the military with their résumés, cover letters, interviewing skills and more through the USO Life Skills Resources Program.

[Rep. Jason Barickman to teach course at Illinois State University during Fall semester](#)

State Representative Jason Barickman (R-105) will be taking on the role of adjunct professor at Illinois State University during the 2012 fall semester. Barickman will be teaching a Political Science course that explores the inner workings and functions of state and local governments.

[WIU-QC Riverfront Campus Phase II groundbreaking](#)

On August 29, the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities campus the expansion of WIU's presence in the Quad Cities continued with the official groundbreaking for Phase II of the Riverfront Campus location in Moline. Throughout the years, businesses, industries, local organizations, government leaders and higher education have worked together to support legislation and funding for the expanded Riverfront Campus. "We are so thankful for our many partners. Because of these relationships and the support Western Illinois University has received from a variety of constituency groups, we have moved the expansion of Western Illinois University's Quad Cities' campus forward to provide the region with outstanding public higher education opportunities," said WIU President Jack Thomas.

"Today, I'm pleased to once again mark a milestone in the 100-year history of the Western Illinois University's Riverfront Campus," Gov. Pat Quinn said. "This investment will create jobs now and in the future by expanding the educational opportunities that are so vital to our students competing in the 21st century economy." In addition to the grand opening of Building One and moving forward with Phase II, Western marks another milestone in 2012: the 100th anniversary of Western's presence in the Quad Cities. In 1912, Professor E.E. Van Cleve began teaching extension classes in various locations throughout the region, including Moline-Rock Island.

"We are not just breaking ground a new building; we are breaking ground on the future of the Quad Cities. This is a great example of what can be accomplished when leaders from both the public and private sector come together and work for a common goal. I am grateful for all of the hard work that went into this worthwhile project," noted Rep. Richard Morthland.

[Governor announces new advanced science building at UIC](#)

Gov. Pat Quinn announced on August 29 that the State of Illinois has released \$64 million for the new Advanced Chemical Technology Building at the University of Illinois at Chicago, a project that will strengthen biotechnology research in Illinois and bolster the state's economy. The Advanced Chemical Technology Building (ACTB) will house select UIC faculty from chemistry, biology and physics and support cutting-edge interdisciplinary research focused on connections between chemistry, physics and biology such as tumor growth, HIV/AIDS, immunology, dental services, orthopedics and environmental science.

"The best investment a state can make is in education," Quinn said. "Today's announcement means more jobs, more innovation, and a stronger University of Illinois at Chicago that will support our students as they prepare to enter the 21st-century workforce."

"This state-of-the-art facility will bring together top researchers who will pool their expertise to develop pioneering solutions to society's most critical problems," said University of Illinois President Robert Easter. "By working together, they will forge cutting-edge approaches that might never have surfaced working alone. On behalf of the university, I'm deeply grateful to Gov. Pat Quinn and the General Assembly for their generous financial support of this critical investment in Illinois' future."

"On behalf of the entire UIC community, I express our gratitude to Gov. Quinn and the General Assembly for support of higher education and research -- two foundations of a strong economy," said UIC Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares.

[Loyola University Chicago unveils the Newhart Family Theatre in honor of its famed alumnus, Bob Newhart](#)

Loyola University Chicago has announced the opening of The Newhart Family Theatre, located in the Mundelein Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. The new theatre, which will debut this fall, has been named in honor of Loyola alumnus and comedian Bob Newhart, who graduated from Loyola's Quinlan School of Business in 1952. All three of Newhart's sisters attended Mundelein College, including Joan Newhart, BVM, who also served as an administrator at Mundelein.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Legislative panel passes performance funding measure](#) (The Hechinger Report)

A Nevada legislative committee passed a new performance-based funding formula for the state's public colleges and universities, as well as financial incentives for the state's public higher education institutions to concentrate on fields important to the state's economy. The new formula would allocate 100 percent of the state's annual base budget for higher education by calculating the number of completed credits, instead of student enrollment.

[Pell spending levels off](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Pell Grants might not be such an appealing target to federal budget cutters after all, because the program's total cost decreased last year, surprising many.

[Obama, GOP duel over rising college expenses](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

President Barack Obama would make tax credits for college expenses permanent and expand Pell grants for students from lower-earning families. The Republican team of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan would emphasize the need to curb rising tuitions and federal education spending that are burdening families and the government.

[The pernicious jobs gap](#) (Chicago Tribune)

A just-released report from the Brookings Institution rated Chicago and other cities by how well job openings line up with workers' education. Like most big cities, Chicago has a larger share of available jobs that require higher education — a bachelor's degree or more — than job seekers who hold those degrees.

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