

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[New toolkit helps colleges and policymakers respond to the needs of low-income single mothers](#)



In Illinois nearly 150,000 single mothers, with one or more children, live below the poverty level. Fortunately, Illinois has a large system of affordable community colleges to help move them out of poverty. Yet, low-income, single mothers entering higher education face numerous challenges that are correlated with decreased rates of college graduation. Chicago non-profit, Women Employed, recently completed a series of publications

focused on providing government officials, higher education practitioners, funders, and other stakeholders with the tools and information needed to increase single mothers' college retention and completion rates. Women Employed's latest publication, ***Low-Income Single Mothers at Community College: Recommendations for Practices to Improve Completion***, provides colleges and organizations with tools and practical examples to guide their work for single mothers. It joins ***Non-traditional Student and Single Parent Accessibility Self-Assessment***, a practical tool that provides a way for colleges to quickly see what short-term and long-term improvements can provide the most impact for low-income, non-traditional students. The complete toolkit consists of three other publications: ***Single Mothers and College Success: Creating Paths Out of Poverty***, featuring important state and federal policies affecting student parents' ability to attend and complete college; ***CCP Promising Practices: Harper College Women's Program***, a case study on how Harper College supports the educational and employment goals of low-income women; and ***CCP Promising Practices: Black Hawk College Early Alert***, a case study profiling Black Hawk College's early alert system to connect at-risk students to academic and support services. All five publications are available on the Women Employed [student supports webpage](#). For questions or to request the five publication toolkit, please contact Meegan Dugan Bassett at mbassett@womenemployed.org or 312-782-3902, extension 249.

[Enrollment down at most Illinois public universities](#)

Enrollment is down this fall at most of Illinois' public universities, and administrators and experts say the sluggish economy, rising tuition, and dwindling financial aid are likely to blame.

At least eight of Illinois' 12 public universities saw their enrollments drop this fall, while just two, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Governors State University, have reported increases. Northeastern Illinois University won't have fall figures until later this month, while Chicago State University didn't provide figures.

The sharpest drops were at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston - 6.8 percent - and at Southern Illinois' campus in Carbondale and Northern Illinois, both off by almost 5 percent.

UPCOMING

SEPTEMBER

- 14 [DFI Board Meeting](#),
Roosevelt University,
Chicago
- [ISAC Commission Meeting](#),
College of DuPage, Glen
Ellyn
- 21 [IBHE Faculty Advisory
Council](#), Moraine Valley
Community College, Palos
Hills
- [ICCB Board Meeting](#),
Moraine Valley Community
College, Palos Hills
- 21-23 [IBHE Student Advisory
Committee Meeting](#), NIU,
DeKalb
- 25 [IBHE Board Meeting](#),
Waubensee Community
College, Sugar Grove

[Illinois Community College Administrators Leadership Scholarship](#)

The Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA), the Illinois Community College Presidents Council, the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA), and the Illinois Community College System Foundation (ICCSF) have announced a new scholarship for Illinois Community College Administrators who are interested in doing studies related to the Illinois Community College System. Administrators who are working toward advanced degrees are encouraged to apply for this scholarship, worth up to \$2,000. Proposals must be received by **October 15**, to the President of the Illinois Community College Foundation, Dr. Ray Hancock, at rayhancock@sbcglobal.net, or 618-985-2828, ext. 8202.

[Heartsaver AED Fund Grants available](#)

The Illinois Department of Public Health has announced that \$100,000 is available to pay colleges and universities, and other entities, 50% of the cost of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) purchased between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013. For a copy of the grant application and any questions, contact Paula Atteberry, Special Programs Coordinator, at paula.atteberry@illinois.gov or 217-785-2083. Only mailed applications will be accepted. The deadline is **October 12**.

[4th Annual College Town Summit on reducing underage drinking on campuses](#)

Registration is open for the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's 4th Annual College Town Summit (CTS12) on October 17 at the Governor's Illinois Executive Mansion in Springfield. The Summit is a free event with lunch provided for :

- Key municipal officials (i.e., police chief, mayor, or city attorney);
- **University/college administrator (school president, health/prevention official, campus security/enforcement personnel, etc.);**
- Sheriff or state's attorney in counties where universities are located; and
- Prevention personnel from either statewide or local organizations.

RSVP by October 5 by visiting www.DontBe Sorry.org/Summit.htm.

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.

[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 full-time undergraduate degrees at Illinois colleges and universities. The deadline for receipt of completed scholarship applications is **October 5**. Those who are awarded scholarships will be honored at the Tenth Annual ILLCF Conference in Rosemont on November 16. For additional information, application guidelines, and application forms, 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, or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. Nominations must be certified by the institution's Chief Nursing Administrator.

[People in the News](#)

[Patrick J. Ormsby](#), a business and community leader in the Chicago Southland, has been appointed to the Governors State University (GSU) Board of Trustees. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn named Ormsby, of Olympia Fields, to the Board on August 20; his term expires in 2017. Ormsby is president of Bimba Manufacturing Company, with corporate headquarters in Monee. Ormsby started at Bimba in 1980, after a career in both public and private accounting. He earned a B.S. degree in accounting from Regis University in Denver and is a Certified Public Accountant. Ormsby is currently president of the GSU Foundation, the University's primary fundraising and gift-receiving division.

[Campus News](#)

[Diverse - Issues in Higher Education ranks NEIU as top producer for ethnically diverse graduates](#)

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) is among the top universities in the U.S. in the number of bachelor's and master's degrees earned by students of diverse ethnic backgrounds, according to *Diverse - Issues in Higher Education's* annual publication of the "Top Degree Producers 2012." NEIU values the inclusion of a broad spectrum of students, staff, and faculty in the life of the University.

[University of St. Francis receives donation of downtown Joliet building from BMO Harris Bank](#)

Representatives from BMO Harris Bank, Joliet Mayor Tom Giarrante, and members of the University of St. Francis (USF) community joined local officials Sept. 7, for a ceremony commemorating the donation of the Mode Theatre building to the university for expansion of its educational programs. "By collaborating with the City of Joliet and the University of St. Francis, we will be able to jumpstart an important economic development project to help spur growth in downtown Joliet," said Chris McComish, executive vice president, Retail Banking, BMO Harris Bank. USF President Michael J. Vinciguerra said the building donation enhances the University's downtown presence.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Senators are urged to help protect state money for higher education](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

A panel of higher-education leaders outlined for a U.S. Senate committee the ways that states and public colleges are trying to hold down costs and produce a greater number of graduates. At the same time, they asked senators to strengthen the federal government's role in forcing states to preserve appropriations for public colleges and student financial aid.

[U says it will freeze tuition if state OKs more funding](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune)

The University of Minnesota is getting creative in asking for new money. President Eric Kaler's proposed \$1.18 billion biennial request to the Legislature trades increased funding for an undergraduate tuition freeze. It collects a pot of money only if the university meets three of five goals, including improved graduation rates. It hatches a new fund, for research only.

[U.S. students struggle more than global peers to top parents.](#) (The Wall Street Journal)

Receiving a better education than one's parent's sounds like a tenet of the American Dream, but it's a reality more commonly achieved in other developed nations. The U.S. ranked fourth-worst among 29 developed countries for children obtaining a higher level of education than their parents, according to a report released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

[Gates Foundation offers grants for MOOC's in introductory classes](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Hundreds of thousands of students worldwide are flocking to free online courses in topics like artificial intelligence and data analysis. But what about the student who's struggling with basic algebra or English composition?

[The community college pipeline](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The notion that community colleges are key to putting students on a path to a four-year degree is not a new one; large numbers of Americans begin their postsecondary studies at two-year colleges, and transfer is one of the institutions' traditional functions.

[Debt collectors cashing in on student loans](#) (The New York Times)

At a protest last year at New York University, students called attention to their mounting debt by wearing T-shirts with the amount they owed scribbled across the front — \$90,000, \$75,000, \$20,000.

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