

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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September 21, 2012

**[Illinois launches new 'STEM' learning exchanges to prepare students for 21st Century workforce](#)**

Governor Pat Quinn unveiled a unique \$10.3 million public-private partnership that will better prepare thousands of Illinois students for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. Joined by Illinois business, high-tech, and education leaders at the innovative "1871" digital start-up center in Chicago's Merchandise Mart on September 14, Governor Quinn announced that eight organizations will be awarded contracts to develop "STEM Learning Exchanges" that link educational opportunities with business resources to prepare students to compete in the global economy. The partnership is part of the Governor's commitment to improve education in Illinois.

**[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 Dr. Ray Hancock, President of the Illinois Community College Foundation, at [rayhancock@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto:paula.atteberry@illinois.gov) or 217-785-2083. Only mailed applications will be accepted. The deadline is **October 12**.

**[4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.DontBe Sorry.org/Summit.htm).

**UPCOMING**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 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

### **[The Common Education Data Standards \(CEDS\) is pleased to announce the release of "CEDS Connect"](#)**

This innovative new tool allows users to find and create "Connections" from data elements to practical applications across the P-20W (early learning through workforce) environment. Use **Connect** to find out how others in the field are using data elements to answer policy questions, calculate metrics and indicators, report to the federal government, and share your own approaches to using data to meet these and other information needs. **Connect** is currently loaded with more than 25 Connections for users to explore, which have been derived from sources for education indicators such as the National Forum on Education Statistics and the State Longitudinal Data System community, as well as from researcher analysis.

### **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 28, 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, or 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](http://www.illcf.org).

### **[The Nursing School Grant Program accepting applications until October 31](#)**

The purpose of the Nursing School Grant Program is to increase the number of registered nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning. The Nursing School Grant Program will award grants in two categories: Expansion Grants and Improvement Grants. Eligible nursing programs include Associate Degrees in Nursing (ADN), Registered Nursing to Baccalaureate Degree Completion Programs (RN-BSN), and Baccalaureate Degrees in Nursing (BSN). Programs must meet accreditation requirements and other eligibility criteria. Expansion grants and Improvement grants shall be determined in a competitive process and will be awarded on the basis of NCLEX-RN pass rates and other performance criteria. Expansion Grant funds may be used to hire faculty, develop new programs, and increase classroom space to expand capacity. Improvement grant awards will be much smaller amounts and may be used to purchase classroom materials, increase academic support services, or make curriculum modifications to increase retention and licensing exam pass rates.

### **[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

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[Dr. Gebeyehu Ejigu](#), Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff at Governors State University, has been selected for a Fulbright Specialists project in China at South China Normal University during the Fall 2012 semester, according to the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Dr. Ejigu will present lectures and workshops designed to cover the structure, governance, financing, organization, and management of the United States educational system at all levels -- K-12 and postsecondary institutions at the two- and four-year levels, both public and private.

## Campus News

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### [Major learning, Minor travel: University Center Open House features 19 Illinois colleges](#)

The University Center of Lake County is sponsoring an Open House on October 9 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the University Center's Grayslake facility, 1200 University Center Drive. The University Center offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs from 19 Illinois colleges and universities designed to enable adult students to complete a bachelor's degree, earn a master's degree, or pursue professional development. Classes meet in the evening and on weekends at University Center facilities in Grayslake and Waukegan, and at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in North Chicago. Other classes meet via online study, eliminating any commute and providing maximum scheduling flexibility. Representatives from the full range of offerings will attend the Open House to provide information and answer questions.

### [U.S. Department of Ed's Liu finds bus stop at RLC "enriching"](#)



**FROM LEFT: U.S. Department of Education Special Assistant for Community Colleges Sue Liu, Rend Lake College President Terry Wilkerson, and Illinois Community College Board President Geoffrey Obrzut**

U.S. Department of Education officials met with Rend Lake College (RLC) students, administrators, and staff on September 19, as part of the Department's cross-country Back-to-School Bus Tour. Sue Liu, special assistant for community colleges in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, said her visit at RLC was an enriching stop in the USDE's "Education Drives America" campaign to learn about best practices and needs at community colleges across the U.S. "This is the best part of my job. I get to go around the Country and talk to students. We know, for sure, that the best ideas do not come from Washington," Liu told a group of around 15 RLC students, many of whom are part of the College's Student Transfer And Retention Support (STARS) program.

## News from Higher Education

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### [U.S. Senators host higher education accountability forum](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

If students and parents had better information about how much a college graduate from a given program is likely to earn after graduation, it would enable them to make better decisions about which college to choose.

### [Opinion: Higher-ed fraud](#) (Chicago Tribune)

More than two million U.S. college students this fall will be spending a good bit of their time reviewing what they were supposed to learn in high school, or even earlier. They are taking "remedial" education courses.

### [More colleges team with for-profit web-based educator](#) (The Wall Street Journal)

As the demand for online learning continues to grow, another 17 prominent universities Wednesday joined Coursera, a company that hosts free Internet-based college classes.

### [29 million jobs starting at \\$35,000 don't require college degree](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Navigating the job market without a college degree is harder than ever, but there are plenty of solid jobs in the U.S. that don't require degrees, according to a new report. Some 29 million so-called middle jobs — those with annual salaries of more than \$35,000 but that don't require college degrees — exist in the U.S., according to a report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

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