

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[NU students investigating shaken-baby cases](#)

Students in a Northwestern University program that gained national fame for investigations that helped free wrongfully convicted prison inmates — including some who were on Death Row — have a new cause. They are now investigating cases in which caregivers were convicted in what are called shaken-baby syndrome cases.

[Kirkland lawyers make \\$5M gift to NU law school](#)

Northwestern University's law school has received a \$5 million gift from several partners at the Kirkland & Ellis law firm and its foundation. The gift will be earmarked for student scholarships and other initiatives.

[Illinois prepaid college tuition program back in business](#)

Illinois families can again enroll in the State's prepaid college tuition program, a year after it was suspended amid questions about investment strategy and a funding shortfall.

[Benedictine University completes campus upgrades](#)



Benedictine University has announced the completion of \$7.8 million in upgrades and improvements to enhance the educational experience it offers students. Benedictine officials said the upgrades have been made possible by increased enrollment over the last decade. More than 800 new students were admitted this fall. The total included 497 freshmen, an increase of 62 percent from 10 years ago.

[Emanuel leading tech recruiting mission to U of Illinois](#)

It's no secret that too few of the top tech talent at University of Illinois heads to Chicago after graduation. So Mayor Rahm Emanuel is taking Chicago tech to Urbana-Champaign on Tuesday, joined on the road trip by representatives from some 40 of the City's tech companies, including Boeing Co., BrightTag Inc., Cleversafe Inc., Google Inc., Groupon Inc. and GrubHub Inc.

UPCOMING

OCTOBER

- 19** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills
- 24** P-20 Council Meeting, University of Illinois, Urbana
- 31** DFI Informational Meeting, University of Illinois, Chicago

[UIC gets money to study childhood obesity factors](#)

The University of Illinois-Chicago says it has been awarded a \$4.4 million grant to study environmental factors and governmental policies that affect children's nutrition, physical activity and obesity.

People in the New

[Wise surprise: Groups mark chancellor's first year](#)



University of Illinois chancellor Phyllis Wise recently celebrated her first year at the U. of I. marked with surprise campus celebrations.

Campus News

[Private gifts boosting U. of I. as state funding shrinks](#)

Growing up on a farm in Missouri, Roy Barker watched as flies, grasshoppers, and other insects destroyed his family's crops. As a graduate student at the University of Illinois, he was motivated by that childhood concern to study insect control, particularly how to eradicate pests more safely.

[Radio-TV students earn statewide recognition](#)

CARBONDALE - Students in Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Department of Radio-Television excelled once again in the 2012 Illinois Broadcasters Association Student Silver Dome Awards.

['Step in our evolution': Rockford College grows into a university](#)

The city's 165-year-old liberal arts college will change its name July 1 to Rockford University in an effort to better describe the type of higher education it provides and to make itself more appealing to international students.

News from Higher Education

[The Parent Loan Trap](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The federal PLUS Loan Program has become indispensable for parents desperate to support their kids' college dreams. But the loans often hurt the families they're intended to help.

[Public Colleges Pledge to Raise Number of Graduates, and Seek Help in Doing So](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Nearly 500 of the nation's public four-year colleges have committed to increasing the number of baccalaureate-degree holders by 3.8 million by 2025. But the colleges need help from the federal and state governments to reach that goal, say higher-education leaders.

[OPINION - Online Education Experiments at the Margin](#) (Forbes)

Psst, you want to know what academics talk about these days? Not research. Not annoying students. Not even exceptional students. No, they talk about online education. And for economists like myself, they talk about it a lot.

[The National Education Narrative](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

Improving higher education in the United States is now part of the national education narrative. Increasing the number of graduates, assessing what a graduate knows, finding fairness in remediation, corralling college costs, addressing equity and access, challenging the relationship between citizenship and admission and envisioning the 21st century university are all topics on the minds of university faculty and administrators across the country.

[A New Affirmative Action](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

A new report from the Century Foundation, released one week before the Supreme Court is set to hear what could be a landmark case on affirmative action in university admissions, argues that universities could become more diverse by eliminating the consideration of race.

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