

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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October 12, 2012

Simon: Keep college affordable

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon is calling for state, federal, and higher education leaders to work together to keep college affordable so thousands of Illinois students can earn the credentials needed for good-paying jobs.

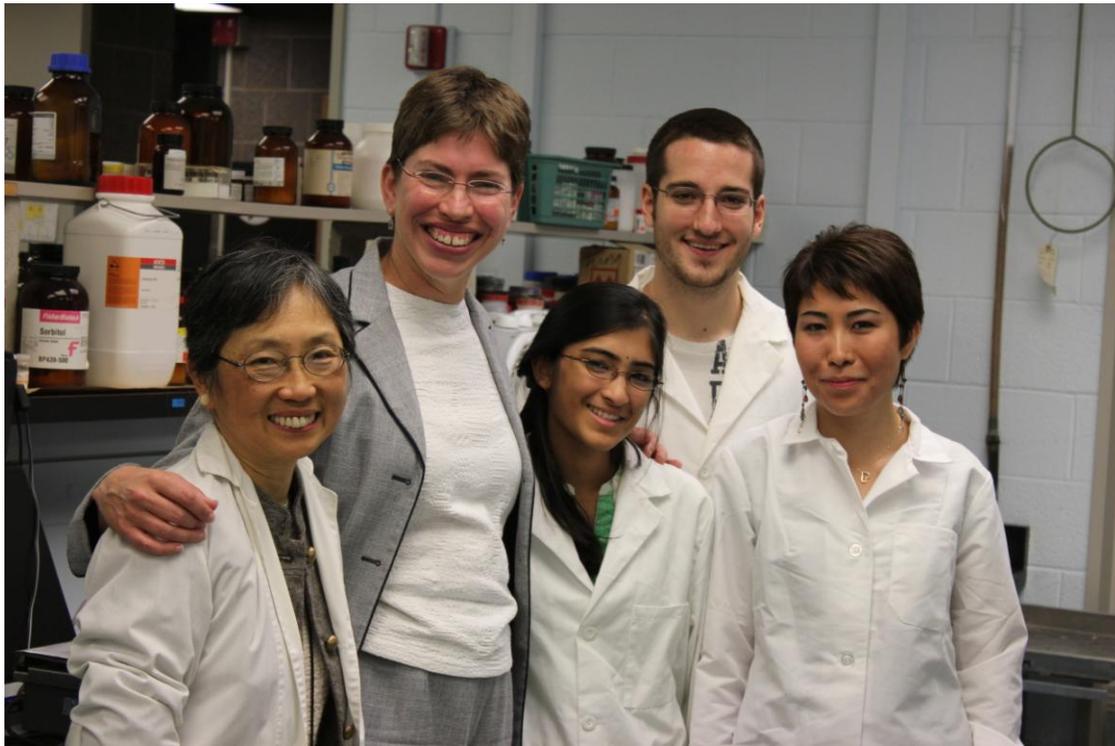
Simon will hold College Affordability Summits at the State's 12 public universities this fall and advocate for stronger transparency, targeted student aid, and a federal tax credit for middle class families. College costs have outpaced family incomes and available aid in the past two decades.

"We've set a goal to have 60 percent of working-age adults hold college credentials by 2025. To reach our completion goal, we must make college more affordable. Higher education costs should be a higher priority for our leaders," Simon said.

UPCOMING

OCTOBER

- 19 [IBHE Faculty Advisory Council](#), Danville Area Community College, Danville
- 24 [P-20 Council Meeting](#), University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana
- 31 DFI Information Meeting, University of Illinois at Chicago



Kicking off the College Affordability Summits, Lt. Governor Sheila Simon visited University of Illinois at Chicago on October 11. Simon is pictured here with Dr. Leslie Fung, professor of chemistry, and chemistry work-study students.

Illinois' public universities and the Illinois Board of Higher Education join the national Project Degree Completion Pledge

All 12 of Illinois' public universities and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) have joined nearly 500 four-year public colleges and universities nationwide in signing a Commitment Statement pledging their support to enhance the nation's global competitiveness by guaranteeing 60 percent of U.S. adults earn marketable college credentials. Through the leadership of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU), public institutions of higher education have pledged to increase college completion in this Country by 3.8 million students to aid the nation in attaining the goal of 60 percent of adults earning a college degree by 2025.

Community-based housing development for students opened

Governor Pat Quinn joined by representatives of The Resurrection Project and local legislators announced on October 11, the opening of the La Casa Student Housing development, an innovative community-based residence hall for area college students. Located in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, the six-story residence hall will provide local students with the benefits of on-campus housing, including live-in resident advisors for ongoing academic support. The development project created 95 construction jobs and includes a resource center featuring an onsite computer lab and academic advisors to provide career guidance and access to financial resources.

4th Annual College Town Summit on reducing underage drinking on campuses

Registration is still 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 today, by visiting [www.DontBe Sorry.org/Summit.htm](http://www.DontBeSorry.org/Summit.htm).

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 for receipt of the Heartsaver AED Fund Grant application to the Department has been extended to November 9.

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 FY2013 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program request for proposals now available](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is seeking new applications for its Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) Program to support student cooperative work study programs. Eligible institutions to receive grants are approved public and private, associate- and baccalaureate-degree granting Illinois colleges and universities. Application deadline is November 16.

People in the News



[Northern Illinois University President John G. Peters](#) announced October 11, that he will step down June 30, 2013, closing the book on 13 years of leadership as the University's 11th chief executive officer. Peters made the announcement during his annual State of the University Address, held inside historic Altgeld Hall. "I can't express in words my love for this university and its people – for its faculty, staff, and students who every day invigorate and inspire me," Peters told the audience. "We've shared triumph and tragedy, and in some ways, I feel we've experienced an entire lifetime together. But a university presidency isn't a lifetime appointment."

SPOTLIGHT: 2012 - 13 DFI Fellows

Thirty-nine new Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Program (DFI) 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.



Amanda (Amy) Chassuel is a second year master's student at DePaul University majoring in general psychology. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in Spanish from Loyola University Chicago. Amanda is currently a teacher's assistant for Psychology of Social Justice at DePaul University, as well as the primary investigator of her own study examining cognitive diatheses models in bicultural college students. She is currently in the application process for research focused Ph.D. programs in clinical psychology, where she plans to examine cognitive vulnerability models of depression in minority youth and how these can lead to

better prevention and intervention programs. Her additional research interests include bicultural identity and equine psychotherapy.

Campus News

[ECC, school districts collaborate on new student success project](#)

A new project by the Alliance for College Readiness is anticipated to build upon its successful current efforts to ensure more graduating high school seniors are prepared for college and careers. The Alliance, a partnership between Elgin Community College (ECC) and school districts D300, D301, D303, and U-46, announced the regional college going rate project during its fall meeting on September 27.

News from Higher Education

[University of Phoenix freezes tuition](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The University of Phoenix announced an immediate tuition freeze for all new and currently enrolled students. Tuition rates will be locked in for students as they work toward degrees, university officials said, as long as they meet eligibility requirements and stay enrolled.

[Schools brace for decision on affirmative action](#) (The New York Times)

As the Supreme Court heard arguments in a case challenging race-conscious admission to public colleges, university officials across the Country watched for clues to where the court might go while contemplating what steps schools might take if the court changed the state of the law.

[College enrollment dropped last year, preliminary data show](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

After years of growth, enrollment in college dropped slightly in the fall of 2011, according to a new report of preliminary data from that year released by the U.S. Department of Education.

[Private college tuition hike lowest in 40 years](#) (Southtown Star)

Here's the bad news: Tuition at 445 of the nation's private colleges and universities increased on average about four percent this year compared with last year's tuition.

[IU plans tuition freeze for upperclassmen on graduation track](#) (The Indianapolis Star)

Debt is every college student's nightmare. But those at Indiana University who keep their grades up during their first two years of school will soon have less to worry about.

[Nonprofit goes after college dropouts to help them finish degree](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

Diana Ramirez-McCormick mirrors 10 percent of Chicagoans. The 39-year-old South Loop resident had attended college at some point in the past, leaving short of obtaining a degree.

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