

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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[Illinois Innovation Index issues first Annual Report](#)

By drawing on national data, research from Illinois institutions, and proprietary surveys and analyses, the Illinois Innovation Index provides results on the cumulative innovation efforts of business, academia, research institutions, and the public sector. To facilitate comparison and discussion, the findings from the Index's first full year have been grouped into four categories—dynamism, capital, talent, and business climate—that together deliver an overview of the state's efforts to promote innovation.

Among the key findings from academia are:

- The number of academic patents increased by a record 54 percent from 1997 to 2008.
- 13 Illinois institutions of higher education ranked in the top third or higher for R&D funding.
- STEM degree completion made up 11 percent of all Illinois degrees, below the national average of 14 percent.

[Postsecondary data](#)

A new "First Look" report from the Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) presents some preliminary findings from the spring 2012 data collection of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). For example:

- In fall 2011, institutions enrolled 18.6 million undergraduate and 2.9 million graduate students. Among the 18.6 million undergraduates, 57% were enrolled in four-year institutions, 41% in two-year institutions, and 2% in less-than-two-year institutions.
- Approximately 59% of first-time, full-time students at four-year institutions in 2005 who were seeking a bachelor's degree or equivalent completed a bachelor's degree or equivalent within six years at the institutions where they began their studies.
- During fiscal year 2011, public, four-year institutions and administrative offices received 19% of their revenues from tuition and fees, compared with 29% at private, non-profit institutions and 90% at private, for-profit institutions. Moreover, 29% of expenses at public, four-year institutions were for instruction, versus 42% at private, non-profit schools and 54% at public, less-than-two-year schools.

[Census data on education](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau has released infographics representing the "Educational Path of Our Nation," which includes trends in student enrollment, costs, and educational outcomes. It also has infographics describing the employment of public educators working for college government institutions.

**UPCOMING**

**OCTOBER**

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

### [FIRST GENERATION, documentary film to air in Chicago](#)

Sponsored by the Illinois College Access Network, FIRST GENERATION tells the story of four high school students - an inner city athlete, a small town waitress, a Samoan warrior dancer, and the daughter of migrant field workers - who set out to break the cycle of poverty and bring hope to their families and communities by pursuing a college education. The screening is scheduled for October 28 at 2:00 pm shown in the Claudia Cassidy Theatre (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Chicago Cultural Center), and will be followed by a brief discussion and reception. RSVP for the screening at: [illinoiscollegeaccessnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:illinoiscollegeaccessnetwork@gmail.com) before October 22.

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

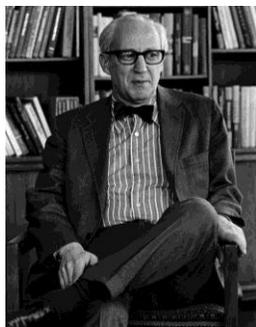
The purpose of the Nursing School Grant Program is to increase the number of registered nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning. The Nursing School Grant Program will award grants in two categories: Expansion Grants and Improvement Grants. Eligible nursing programs include Associate 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](#)

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[Jerome Sachs](#), Northeastern Illinois University's first president, died on October 12. He was 98. A lifelong educator, Dr. Sachs was a professor of mathematics at Chicago Teachers College-South before being appointed in 1962 as head of Chicago Teachers College-North, which later became Northeastern Illinois University. He was installed as president in 1966 and led the college through the transition of becoming a comprehensive state institution of higher education, first named Northeastern Illinois State College in 1967 and Northeastern Illinois University in 1971. Sharon Hahs, current president of Northeastern Illinois University, said, "Dr. Sachs' legacy includes his spirit of innovation and experimentation, ideals that we continue to strive for today as higher education navigates new challenges. Northeastern Illinois University is the thriving place that it is in part due to his vision and commitment to urban leadership and excellence."

The Illinois Community College Faculty Association (ICCFA) selected [Nicole Perry](#), associate professor of biology at Oakton Community College as its 2012 Instructor of the Year. Perry will receive the award at the ICCFA Conference in Springfield, on October 26.

The National Endowment for the Arts has selected a University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) writing professor's novel for a prestigious national reading program. "*Into the Beautiful North*," by [Luis Alberto Urrea](#), UIC College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of English, is one of three new titles selected for The Big Read program in 2013-2014.

Through The Big Read, selected communities develop reading programs to celebrate one of 34 selections from U.S. and world literature. Urrea's national best-seller joins an exclusive list of works by legendary writers such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Steinbeck, and Mark Twain.

Chicago State University College of Pharmacy's third year student pharmacists [Brandy Cooper, Abby Dunker, Jaime Brown, Michelle Dudek, and Rainier Ostil](#) were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Student Research Poster competition at the 2012 Illinois Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting.

## Campus News

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### [Chicago State, IUPUI and Argonne get \\$2.5 million for regional STEM center with goal of increasing minorities in science careers](#)

Chicago State University, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and Argonne National Laboratory are the recipients of a \$2.5 million, five-year National Science Foundation grant to establish a pilot regional Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Center of Excellence that will work to recruit and graduate minorities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics academic majors. With offices at Chicago State University and IUPUI, the Louis Stokes Midwest Center of Excellence in Broadening Participation will take a national leadership role in advocating for more minority participation and success in STEM undergraduate programs, and will develop a regional information hub providing online resources to showcase best practices in STEM research mentoring, teaching and learning. The Chicago State University-IUPUI-Argonne partnership is the only recipient of the first-time NSF grant to create pilot centers. Under the grant, Chicago State University, as one of the nation's predominantly black institutions, is the lead partner.

### [Eastern set to launch courses at Richland Community College](#)

Eastern Illinois University is offering courses at Richland College along with on-line classes to students from Richland Community College who have an interest in Eastern's Bachelor in General Studies program.

### [NIU-Waubonsee agreement to develop process to make associate degrees accessible to transfers](#)

Northern Illinois University and Waubonsee Community College have agreed to develop a process that will allow NIU students who transferred from Waubonsee without associate degrees to earn the two-year degree using credit from NIU courses.

## News from Higher Education

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### [DePaul University, Gordon Tech to join forces](#) (Chicago Tribune)

As a number of parochial schools struggle to stay open, a Catholic high school on Chicago's North Side announced an unprecedented partnership with the nation's largest Catholic university to boost its enrollment and curriculum.

### [Let's make a deal](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

When it comes to higher education, there's no hotter topic for politicians than price. State lawmakers regularly fret about the rising cost of a college degree, and lowering the student debt burden has become a talking point on the presidential campaign trail. And the pressure isn't just coming from politicians.

### [College courses in high school yield students more likely to attend, graduate from college: study](#) (The Huffington

Post)

A report by Boston-based education nonprofit Jobs for the Future urges policymakers to expand dual enrollment after determining that high school students who take college courses are more likely to attend and graduate from college than those who do not.

**[Student-loan borrowers average \\$26,500 in debt](#)** (The New York Times)

The average student-loan debt of borrowers in the college class of 2011 rose to about \$26,500, a 5 percent increase from about \$25,350 the previous year, according to a report by the Institute for College Access and Success's Project on Student Debt.

**[8 ideas to improve higher education](#)** (TIME)

TIME asked eight experts what they would change about how Americans get a college degree. Here's what they came up with.

Illinois Board of Higher Education  
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404  
Phone: (217) 782-2551  
<http://www.ibhe.org>  
[FridayMemo@ibhe.org](mailto:FridayMemo@ibhe.org)

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