

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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UPCOMING

Constitutional Amendment on public pensions on Illinois ballot

OCTOBER

There is a proposed [Constitutional Amendment \(#49\)](#) on the Nov. 6 ballot that, if passed, would impact the public pension systems, including State University Retirement System (SURS). If approved by the voters, this amendment would be added to the Illinois Constitution, effective Jan. 9, 2013. The proposed amendment will require a three-fifths majority vote of each chamber of the General Assembly or the governing body of a unit of local government, school district, or pension or retirement system to increase a benefit under any public pension or retirement system.

- 26 DFI Informational Meeting,
University of Illinois at
Champaign-Urbana
- 31 DFI Informational Meeting,
University of Illinois at
Chicago

Additional information on this proposed Constitutional Amendment can be found in [a document produced by the Secretary of State](#). In addition, the [State Universities Annuitants Association](#) has more information on how this amendment, if approved, would impact SURS employees and annuitants.

[Illinois Lt. Governor Sheila Simon met with UIS students, administrators, and faculty/staff as part of her statewide College Affordability Summit](#)

Simon, who serves as the Governor's point person on education reform, met with a group of University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) students who explained how they use federal work study and state grants to cover costs. Simon wants to maximize the use of state and federal funds to support higher education. UIS is Simon's sixth stop as she seeks to hold an affordability summit at each of the state's public universities this fall.

"It's a tough request, particularly in an era when the state has zero extra money to be spending, so we have to be really careful about how we use our resources," said Simon. "As a state, we want to increase the proportion of working-age adults with a college degree or credential to 60 percent, up from 41 percent, by 2025. The only way we can achieve this goal is if college is affordable," said Simon.

[Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon visits SIUE](#)

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon held one of her College Affordability Summits on October 19 at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). "If I had a magic wand and could improve education in Illinois, what would you wish for?" Simon asked three student workers at the Mi Cocina Restaurant in the Morris University Center. The students' replies were twofold in reference to attending college: a lower bill and more financial aid. Simon took in comments about juggling work, homework and classes from Jacob Hostettler, a senior majoring in electrical engineering; Alex Usherwood, a junior majoring in mass communications; and Krystal Smith, a junior majoring in psychology.

Fixing America's skills gap

Twelve business and education leaders outline their vision of what it will take for the United States to regain its footing as the most skilled workforce in the world in [Help Wanted 2012](#), from the [Institute for a Competitive Workforce](#). Illinois P-20 Council member, **Rick Stephens**, senior vice president of the Boeing Corporation, is among contributors to the report.

[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](#)

[Dr. Troy D. Hammond](#) will be introduced as the 10th President of North Central College on October 29 at 1:30 p.m. in Wenz Concert Hall on campus. Dr. Hammond will succeed Dr. Harold R. Wilde on Jan. 1, 2013. Dr. Hammond holds a Ph.D. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a bachelor of science in physics from Georgia Tech and a bachelor of science in mathematics from Milligan College.

[Nick Holonyak Jr.](#), a renowned innovator of illumination, is being honored with a series of campus events in October celebrating the 50th anniversary of the invention of the LED at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Holonyak holds the John Bardeen Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics and is credited with the development of the first practical light-emitting diode, or LED, a semiconductor crystal device that emits light when electrified.

[Mi Ja Kim](#), professor, dean emeriti, and executive director of the Global Health Leadership Office at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing, was one of four nursing educators in the U.S. named a "Living Legend" for 2012 by the American Academy of Nursing, whose mission is to transform health care policy and practice through nursing knowledge.

[Campus News](#)

[DePaul University and Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science establish alliance to address growing need for health care professionals](#)

DePaul University and Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science are establishing a unique, wide-ranging alliance to help address the expanding need for health care professionals prepared to meet the challenges of an increasingly collaborative and rapidly evolving field.

The [Alliance for Health Sciences](#) is designed to:

- establish curricular pathways for DePaul students to graduate professional degree programs at Rosalind Franklin;
- expand and strengthen academic programs at both schools;
- foster collaboration between faculties of the two institutions; and
- create additional research opportunities for students.

[U of I adopts policies to guard against abuse](#)

The University of Illinois is expanding safeguards to protect young people who visit its campuses – as well as all current students, employees and other visitors – following a broad, 10-month review of U of I policies that was launched in the wake of the sex-abuse cases at Penn State University. Under the policies, outlined at the Board of Trustees Governance, Personnel and Ethics Committee meeting on October 25, every University employee and student will be required to complete sexual harassment training, and all employees will undergo required training on their responsibilities under a new state mandate that all campus workers report cases of suspected child abuse and neglect.

CUC, College of DuPage announce new academic agreements

College of DuPage (COD) and Concordia University Chicago (CUC) have announced three new 3+1 educational agreements that enable students to earn Bachelor of Arts degrees in Healthcare Management, Sports & Recreation Management, and Visual Arts Administration from Concordia-Chicago at COD's Glen Ellyn campus. During the first three years of these programs, students complete between 96-104 credit hours (depending on the selected degree) of College of DuPage courses offered at COD's tuition rate. The fourth year, students complete an additional 32 credit hours of courses taught by Concordia professors at College of DuPage at a reduced Concordia tuition rate. To ensure successful program completion, students enrolled in the program also receive concurrent advising from COD and Concordia-Chicago.

News from Higher Education

U of I, City mull opening huge research center in Chicago (Crain's Chicago Business)

Mayor Rahm Emanuel made some waves when he and execs from some of Chicago's hottest tech companies traveled to Urbana-Champaign in a bid to recruit young University of Illinois engineering graduates to move up to Chicago instead of migrating to Silicon Valley.

Tuition increases slow, but net cost still hits home (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

The new College Board reports, "Trends in College Pricing" and "Trends in Student Aid," indicate that increases in public college tuition have slowed, but problems for lower income students continue because the rapid growth in federal grant aid has stopped.

WIU hosts state higher education board at long-term planning meeting (McDonough County, The Voice)

Trends in higher education are changing rapidly, and universities must assess their long-range strategic planning to keep up with those trends or risk becoming irrelevant.

Is City Colleges doing the right thing? (Crain's Chicago Business)

In 2010, with enrollment slipping and the graduation rate stuck in single digits, Cheryl Hyman, the new chancellor of City Colleges of Chicago, began what many of her predecessors had tried and failed to do: remaking one of the largest two-year institutions in the nation into something that wasn't an embarrassment.

Performing under pressure (Inside Higher Ed)

State lawmakers increasingly want to tie public funding of higher education to colleges' performance. But measuring sticks that reflect the differences between institutions and who they serve are hard to find.

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