

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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December 21, 2012

Illinois attends Third Annual Convening of Complete College America's Alliance of States



TEAM Illinois members met with Mike Baumgartner, vice president for finance and special projects at CCA (right hand corner.) TEAM members (from left to right): Rep. Bob Pritchard, minority spokesperson, House Higher Education Committee, Cheryl Hyman, chancellor, City Colleges of Chicago & CCA Board member, Elaine Johnson, vice-president for academic affairs and workforce development, Illinois Community College Board, Elaine Maimon, president, Governors State University, Harry Berman, interim executive director, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Peg Lee, president, Oakton Community College, Eric Zarnikow, executive director, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Lynne Haeffle, senior education policy director, Lt. Governor's Office, and Rep. Naomi Jakobsson, chairwoman, House Higher Education Committee.

UPCOMING

JANUARY

- 2-8** **Lame-Duck Session,**
Illinois General Assembly
- 9** **98th General Assembly**
Inaugural
- 19** **[IBHE Faculty Advisory Council](#), Loyola University, Chicago**

FEBRUARY

- 5** **IBHE Board Meeting,**
Kendall College, Chicago
- 22-23** **[IBHE SAC Meeting](#),**
Roosevelt University & UIC, Chicago

Invited by Complete College America (CCA), teams from 33 states and the District of Columbia met on December 14 to network and learn about the progress being made to implement strategies to increase college completion and student success. Under the theme of "Building Guided Pathways to Success for States and Students," participants heard presentations on directing student choice and reducing time to graduation; new structures at community colleges, including changes to remediation; and the use of metrics, dashboards and value-added funding for data driven changes. Illinois joined as one of CCA's inaugural alliance states in 2009. Illinois is pursuing a plan of action at the state and campus levels to meet the goal of 60% of all Illinoisans holding a postsecondary degree or credential of marketable value by 2025. This is being done with the guidance of the **Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success**, as well as statewide training opportunities such as the "**College Changes Everything**" conferences held in 2011 and 2012, CCA is providing technical assistance to states as all pursue their completion plans, and assisted Illinois' with the first year implementation of performance funding for higher education.

[Governor Quinn, college students discuss impact of pension squeeze on financial aid for higher education](#)

On December 12, Governor Pat Quinn was joined by Illinois college students to discuss how inaction on pension reform is threatening Monetary Award Program (MAP) college scholarships and access to higher education in Illinois. One after one, the students made clear how access to higher education changed their lives and prepared them for a job and career. The event is part of the Governor's [ongoing effort](#) to educate and activate the people of Illinois to push for pension reform as he continues to work with legislators on the issue.

"A college degree gives students the foundation they need to launch a successful career," Governor Quinn said. "Nobody has more at stake in pension reform than the students of Illinois. We must make sure every student has the chance to pursue their dreams and the degree of their choosing, and that's why we must work together to enact comprehensive pension reform by January 9."

[The economic benefits of a college degree](#)

The association of State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) has released a new State Policy Resource Center (SPRC) [report](#), "The Economic Benefit of Postsecondary Degrees: A State and National Analysis." The report shows that postsecondary degree attainment clearly results in higher earnings for the vast majority of individuals in all 50 states. Moreover, the evidence indicates that almost without exception, despite variation across states and disciplines, each successive level of higher educational attainment yields additional economic benefit. According to the analysis, those who obtain a bachelor's degree have a median income of \$50,360 compared to a median of \$29,423 for people with only a high school diploma. An associate's degree leads to a median income of \$38,607, more than \$9,000 higher than a high school diploma. Those with a graduate degree have a median income of \$68,064, 35.2 percent more than those with a bachelor's degree.

Listing of State Scholars available online

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has announced the qualified Illinois high school students who have been designated as 2013-14 State Scholars. A [listing of all 2013-14 State Scholars](#) - displayed alphabetically by high school, within each school's county - is now available.

[Clock ticks down on billions in tuition tax credits](#)

Among the many tax breaks waiting for Congress to maintain or eliminate due to the discussions surrounding the fiscal cliff is more than \$18 billion in savings for families who pay college and university tuition. The [American Opportunity Tax Credit](#) expires on December 31st, and, with it, financial relief averaging \$1,545 per recipient who pays for college.

People in the News



SPOTLIGHT: 2012 - 13 DFI Fellows

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



Melissa Abad, a doctoral candidate in the sociology department at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), recently defended her dissertation proposal where she aims to explore how racialized and gendered meanings in suburban human service organizations affects service provision to the growing immigrant population. The project grows out of her involvement as a research assistant on the 2010 and 2011 Chicago Area Study project that explored how Lake County residents responded to the growth of the Latino immigrant population. A Chicago native, and daughter of immigrants herself, she has volunteered with Chicago community based organizations helping immigrants fill out citizenship applications. She has a long history tutoring and mentoring Black and Latino high school youth, which started while she was a Northwestern University undergraduate. These experiences not only inform her research interests, but also make more important her goal of securing a tenure track position at a research university once she completes her studies.

Richard Helldobler, Ph.D., has been appointed provost and vice president for academic affairs at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). Helldobler's experience in higher education leadership includes more than 20 years of demonstrated success collaborating with faculty and staff to meet institutional goals. Helldobler comes to Northeastern from Shepherd University, where he has served as vice president for academic affairs for three years. Previously he served for three years as associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs, six years as dean of the college of liberal arts, and 10 years as chair of the department of theatre and dance, all at California University of Pennsylvania.

Two University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) faculty scholars have been named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). **Deirdre McCloskey**, distinguished professor of economics and liberal arts and sciences, was cited for her "outstanding contributions to world economic history and for provocative scholarship on the practice of economics, extending the field in humanistic and scientific ways." **Mrinalini (Meena) Rao**, professor of physiology and biophysics at UIC and former U of I vice president for academic affairs, was honored for distinguished contributions to the gastroenterological field, particularly to intestinal epithelial transport, and for leadership in academic affairs and diversity.

Campus News

[EIU lauded by city, state officials for proactive approach to fire safety](#)

Fire officials believe, without a doubt, that fire sprinklers installed in on-campus housing at Eastern Illinois University (EIU) have saved lives. “These sprinkler activations have saved lives and property,” said Steve Bennett, assistant fire chief for the city of Charleston. “But EIU did not just do the bare minimum of installing sprinkler systems; they upgraded the fire detectors and alarm systems and installed a campus-wide alert system. Eastern Illinois University has gone above and beyond what was required of them to do.” Bennett was joined by several city and state officials, including Illinois Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis, on December 18 to publicly laud EIU for its pro-active approach to fire safety. Matkaitis presented a proclamation, commending the university for its “commitment to life safety and preservation of property.”

In January 2005, the state of Illinois enacted the Fire Sprinkler Dormitory Act, requiring all on-campus housing at post-secondary institutions to have fire sprinklers installed by 2013. In January 2011, the state further enacted the Greek Housing Fire Safety Act, requiring all Greek housing to install fire sprinkler systems by 2019. According to Bennett, EIU “has met these requirements prior to the mandated deadlines by having 100 percent of the 28 residential buildings on campus with fire sprinkler systems and fire alarm systems installed.”

[Mayor Emanuel announces expansion of program allowing CPS students to earn college credit](#)

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) Chancellor Cheryl Hyman and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett have announced the expansion of the **CCC Dual Credit program** to a total of 17 CPS high schools during the 2012-13 academic year, nearly tripling the number of schools where the program is offered.

“We are laser-focused on our students’ success,” said Chancellor Hyman, who has led City Colleges since 2010, a period in which CCC has recorded its highest graduation rate in more than a decade. “The dual credit program shortens students’ path to a college degree, helping CPS students be prepared to pursue further education and seize future career opportunities. By working with industry partners and four-year universities, we are ensuring a City Colleges of Chicago education will put students on a clear path to further college and careers.”

News from Higher Education

[College presidents call for stricter gun laws](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

More than 160 college presidents have signed an open letter that urges lawmakers to enact stricter gun laws. “We urge both our president and Congress to take action on gun control now,” reads the letter, which was released less than a week after a mass shooting at a Connecticut elementary school left 26 people dead. The letter notes that the college leaders involved in the campaign are also parents who hold a variety of political views.

[Group issues ‘call to action’ on teacher prep program reform](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

An organization of state school chiefs issued a report they described as a “call to action” for states to hold teacher preparation programs more accountable for student achievement.

[Georgia college funding to focus on graduation, not enrollment](#) (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

If Georgia's public colleges want more taxpayer money they're going to have to earn it by helping more students get a degree.

[Higher ed commission wants tuition increase held at inflation](#) (jconline.com)

The state higher education commission wants Purdue, Indiana and the other public universities to keep tuition and fee increases at or below the rate of inflation in the next two years.

Final words...The future is bright...Happy New Year!

Matthew McElwee of Edwardsville, who earned a bachelor's in business administration, delivered a speech to his fellow graduates [at SIU-Edwardsville's winter graduation exercises](#). In his address he said, "Because I see before me the future educators of our children, the future caretakers of our sick or injured, and the future business leaders tasked with reorienting this economy, all of the sudden tackling the future doesn't seem quite so intimidating when I know that so many other competent individuals are working alongside me."

NOTE: There will be no **The Friday Memo** published on December 28.

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