

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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January 4, 2013

[Senator Ed Maloney, chair of Higher Education Committee, retires from Illinois General Assembly](#)



Sen. Edward D. Maloney, who served as Senate Higher Education Committee Chairman, will retire when the 97<sup>th</sup> Illinois General Assembly ends on January 9, 2013. He has served for ten years in the Illinois Senate representing District 18 in Chicago. His service to the State was recognized on the Senate Floor by his colleagues on January 3, and [Senate Resolution 1059](#), detailing his accomplishments, passed unanimously.

“My experience as the Higher Education Chairman convinced me of the importance of higher education to individuals, communities and to the State of Illinois. To that end, I have attempted, in my position, to advance legislation aimed at better preparing students for college, helping students complete their degree, and making a college education more affordable,” stated Senator Maloney. “I have been privileged to work with so many outstanding professional people in higher education, whose efforts were so valuable in achieving some common goals. There continue to be challenges to higher education, and I hope, in some way, to be involved helping meet those challenges so the full value of a postsecondary credential or degree can be realized.”

Thanking him for his leadership on higher education issues, Carrie J. Hightman, IBHE chairwoman, cited examples in a letter sent to Senator Maloney on January 4. “On the eve of your retirement from the Illinois General Assembly, we want to recognize your important contributions to our state,” Hightman wrote. “Your hard work as a legislator and policymaker are evidenced by your sponsorship of key legislation and your contributions to the successful implementation of these initiatives. Included among your achievements are:

- the College and Career Readiness Pilot Program, establishing a model program to promote preparation for college and the workforce and reduce the need for remedial coursework for students entering college,
- House Joint Resolution 69, initiating the development of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*,
- Senate Joint Resolution 88, convening the Higher Education Funding Study Commission, resulting in legislation calling for the development of a system for allocating funding based upon performance in achieving the goals for student success, and

**UPCOMING**

**JANUARY**

- 6-9** **Lame-Duck Session**, Illinois General Assembly
- 9** **98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Inaugural**
- 18** **[IBHE Faculty Advisory Council](#)**, Loyola University, Chicago
- 23** **[P-20 Council](#)**, Thompson Center, Chicago & ICCB Office, Springfield
- 24** **[ISAC Commission Meeting](#)**, Thompson Center, Chicago

**FEBRUARY**

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

- most recently, Senate Joint Resolution 69, establishing the Monetary Award Program (MAP) Eligibility Task Force to deliberate options with the goal of improving the outcome for students who receive MAP grants.”

In addition to his legislative duties, Sen. Maloney also served on the Midwestern Higher Education Compact as an executive committee member for Illinois.

### [MAP Task Force submits report to General Assembly](#)

In a report delivered to the General Assembly on December 31, the Monetary Award Program (MAP) Task Force cautioned that increased demand for the successful program, coupled with rapidly increasing tuition and fees and flat program appropriations, have stretched MAP’s ability to provide sufficient grant aid to all students who are eligible to receive it.

That was one of 11 broad conclusions reached by the 18-member MAP task force following 6 months of deliberations and 6 public meetings held in Bloomington-Normal, Chicago and Springfield.

The main conclusions include:

- MAP is a very successful program and is a good value for the state;
- The single biggest problem for MAP is insufficient funding;
- Facilitating access to college for low-income, often first generation students should be MAP’s primary goal, as there are many other efforts that support completion goals for all students;
- MAP dollars should go to the students from the lowest income families;
- The MAP application processing deadline needs to be extended for returning older, non-traditional students or first-time students unfamiliar with the application process;
- MAP recipients could benefit from additional nonfinancial support such as financial aid and academic counseling, both before starting and while attending a postsecondary school; and
- Future decisions about MAP would benefit from more research about the optimal level of student financial aid to most efficiently incent attendance and completion.

The task force was created by Senate Joint Resolution 69 during the Spring 2012 session of the General Assembly. The complete report as well as all public submissions and reference documents are posted to the ISAC website. [www.isac.org/about-isac/monetary-award-program-MAP-task-force/index.html](http://www.isac.org/about-isac/monetary-award-program-MAP-task-force/index.html).

### **2013-14 FAFSA Available**

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is making students and their families aware of the following information: The 2013-14 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available online. Specific details, including links to several resources (such as the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet and a PDF version of the FAFSA) are provided via the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) ISAC webpage (which is located within the [Students & Parents – During College – Applying for Financial Aid](#) area). Students are encouraged to complete and submit the 2013-14 FAFSA as soon as possible. Students are urged to check out the [College Awareness & Preparation \(CAP\)](#) webpage for information regarding resources that are available to help complete the financial aid process. Several [events](#), including FAFSA completion seminars, will take place across the State of Illinois from now through March.

## Pay as you earn

A new federal student loan repayment plan is now in effect late that could lower borrowers' monthly bills. The plan, known as "Pay as You Earn," caps monthly payments for many recent graduates at an amount that is affordable based on their income. The Pay as You Earn plan, which President Obama first announced in October 2011, caps payments for federal Direct Student Loans at 10% of discretionary income for eligible borrowers. The Department estimates as many as 1.6 million borrowers could reduce their monthly bills with this plan. The plan complements other repayment plans offered to help borrowers manage their debt, including Income-Based Repayment (IBR), which caps payments at 15% of borrowers' discretionary income.

## Reports of interest

- A Treasury Department report, prepared in conjunction with the Education Department, illustrates that investing in postsecondary education expands job opportunities, boosts America's competitiveness, and supports the kind of income mobility that is fundamental to a growing economy. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2012/12/the-economic-case-for-higher-education/>.
- New studies from the Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) look at first-year undergraduate remedial course taking (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2013013>) and trends in debt for bachelor degree recipients a year after graduation (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2013156>).

## 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.



**Gabriela Juarez** is a third year graduate student working on her doctoral degree in Educational Psychology with a focus on Program Evaluation at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from DePaul University. Before attending graduate school, Gabriela received a fellowship from the National Institute of Health Diversity Supplement which allowed her to work as a full-time research assistant at the University of Chicago for two years. As a fellow, she received extensive research training in community-based participatory research and was able to attend and present at national and local conferences that focus on health disparities and cancer research. Her current research interests lie in exploring the relationship between academic outcomes (i.e., classroom participation, awareness) and health promotion programs implemented

in elementary and high schools.

Gabriela is a graduate research assistant at the I-STEM Education Initiative (I-STEM) Office on the UIUC campus. Her main role consists of leading and overseeing the evaluation of several projects such as the Merit Immersion for Students and Teachers (MIST) Project, the Department of Chemistry Climate Study, and the Digital Forensics Project Evaluation. Attending and presenting at conferences has been an ongoing activity that began in her undergraduate career. Topics covered thus far range from the importance of culture and mental health of Latina women to conceptualizing culturally responsive and culturally competent evaluation. Additionally, Gabriela is significantly involved with the American Evaluation Association (AEA), where she is the Mentoring Program Committee Chair of the Multiethnic Topics Interest Group. As the chair, she manages linking novice evaluators with experienced evaluators in and outside of the AEA annual conference.

### Campus News

#### [Endowed fund allows for collaborative research between UIS and the SIU School of Medicine](#)

Former University of Illinois Springfield professor Caryl Moy is being remembered with a special gift that bridges both UIS and the [SIU School of Medicine](#). Richard Moy, M.D., former dean of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, and his sons Philip and Eric Moy have given a \$250,000 endowed fund to UIS in honor of their wife and mother, former professor Caryl Moy. The Caryl Towsley Moy, Ph.D., Fund for Collaborative Research will support faculty from UIS and the SIU School of Medicine who do team-based research.

### News from Higher Education

#### [College education is expected to remain a high priority for states](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

A slow-growing economy, political polarization, and the drive to significantly increase the number of college graduates are the factors that will keep higher education in the forefront of this year's state legislative sessions.

#### [Higher education spared cuts — For now](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

Ending weeks of tense debate, Congress and President Obama agreed to halt painful automatic cuts in higher education programs for at least 60 days while extending several education-related tax breaks important for low- and middle-income families.

#### [DREAMers, MOOCs, and Charter Schools: The coming year in education](#) (The Atlantic)

What lies ahead for U.S. grade schools and colleges? More demands on an already-strained system -- and innovative solutions to meet them.

### [Today in Illinois history](#)

On this day in 1830, the first class convened in the state of Illinois' first college building, Beecher Hall. Illinois first medical school was also housed in Beecher Hall in 1843. Beecher Hall was particularly impressive, monumental structure when constructed in the 1830s in Jacksonville, Illinois, now on the grounds of Illinois College. Throughout its history many noted persons have visited the building including Frederick Douglass, Mark Twain, Daniel Webster, Horace Freeley, Stephen A. Douglas, and, most notably, Abraham Lincoln.

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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