

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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January 11, 2013

98th General Assembly begins; 33 new legislators join incumbents at Inauguration

In the November, 2012 election, using a new districting plans, all 177 Illinois General Assembly legislative seats were on the ballot. On January 9, the 98th General Assembly inauguration ceremonies were held at the University of Illinois at Springfield for the House of Representatives, and the Senate Chamber at the Statehouse for the Senators for those elected. Thirty three members are new; 13 members have returned after being appointed during the 97th General Assembly; six will be in a different house than in the 97th, and two former House members were elected again to the House. The Democratic party has a 40-19 advantage over Republicans in the Senate, and a 71-47 majority in the House.

The Senate re-elected John Cullerton as president for another two-year term. Republican Sen. Christine Radogno was chosen as minority leader. Michael Madigan was re-elected to another term as speaker of the Illinois House. Republican Tom Cross was re-elected minority leader.

[Longitudinal study of community college students released by IERC](#)

The [Illinois Education Research Council](#) (IERC) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville released a research [report](#) on January 9 that describes the diverse and potentially overlapping range of outcomes for community college students.

Outcomes examined include transferring to a four-year college, earning an associate degree, or earning a certificate while taking into consideration the differences in college readiness.

“Since community colleges have open enrollment and comprehensive missions, we thought it would be beneficial to explore the community college outcomes across different college readiness levels,” said Eric Lichtenberger, IERC Associate Director of Research and the author of the report.

The study focuses on 26,513 members of the high school graduates who enrolled at a community college during the fall semester of 2003 and tracks their postsecondary outcomes through the end of the spring semester of 2010.

Findings from the report indicate that community college entrants were less ready for college than other high school graduates, as measured by ACT’s college readiness benchmarks in English, math, reading and science. It also concluded a sizable portion of community college entrants was well-prepared to make the postsecondary transition, noting that one in five had met three or more of the benchmarks. “The better prepared community college entrants were overwhelmingly successful in terms of outcome attainment and many transitioned to a four-year college after earning a credential,” Lichtenberger said.

UPCOMING

JANUARY

- 18 **[IBHE Faculty Advisory Council](#)**, Loyola University, Chicago
- 23 **[P-20 Council](#)**, Thompson Center, Chicago & Crisp Community College Center, Springfield
- 24 **[ISAC Commission Meeting](#)**, Thompson Center, Chicago
- 25 **[ICCB Board Meeting](#)**, Crisp Community College Center, Springfield

FEBRUARY

- 5 **[IBHE Board Meeting](#)**, Kendall College, Chicago
- 11 **[ICCTA Board of Representatives Meeting](#)**, at Association of Community College Trustees' National Legislative Summit, Washington, DC
- 22-23 **[IBHE SAC Meeting](#)**, Roosevelt University & UIC, Chicago

This is part one of a two-part series of research reports that focus on the college outcomes of community college students. Part two will look at bachelor's degree completion among the students who transfer to a four-year college.

[State higher ed group releases its annual list of top 10 higher education state policy issues](#)

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) released its annual list of top 10 higher education state policy issues under consideration in 2013. The prevailing theme for state higher education policy in 2013 will likely be improvement in the performance of states' public higher education systems and institutions, collectively aimed at boosting measures of college affordability, productivity and student success. These include implementation of state funding allocation systems designed to incentivize institutions to improve performance on a number of outcomes. Secondary policy issues, such as immigration and campus gun control, are also likely to attract substantial media and policymaker attention this year. This paper provides a summary of what are likely to be among the top higher education state policy issues in 2013, informed by an environmental scan of legislative action, state policy activity and recent trends in higher education.

[Association of American Universities issues statement on gun violence](#)

The Executive Committee of the Association of American Universities (AAU) released a statement calling for the need for strong, meaningful action in three domains: gun control, care of the mentally ill, and the culture of our contemporary media. In response to the Newtown slaughter, the AAU stated, "... the time has come for the United States to confront our culture of violence, particularly violence perpetrated by guns."

[Projections of education statistics to 2021](#)

The number of students enrolled in college will continue to grow between 2010 and 2021, but the increases will be flatter than the previous 14 years, according to projections released on January 9 by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. This report provides projections for key education statistics. It includes statistics on enrollment, graduates, teachers, and expenditures in elementary and secondary schools, and enrollment and earned degrees conferred, and expenditures of degree-granting institutions. For the Nation, the tables, figures, and text contain data on enrollment, teachers, graduates, and expenditures for the past 14 years and projections to the year 2021. For the 50 States and the District of Columbia, the report contains data on projections of public elementary and secondary enrollment and public high school graduates to the year 2021. In addition, the report includes a methodology section describing models and assumptions used to develop national and state-level projections.

[People in the News](#)

[Paul Richard Heath, Ed.D.](#), 78, Elgin Community College's (ECC) fifth president, passed away December 27. Heath was ECC's president from 1987 to 1994. Prior to coming to ECC, Heath became the founding president of the newly formed John Wood Community College in downstate Quincy in 1974. His administrative career began in 1964 at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, Mich. Heath also was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and was honored at the White House for his work at ECC. He retired from ECC in 1994.

[Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored](#)



Augustana College: Astrid Tello-Rodriguez, is from Milan, majoring in Psychology.



Aurora University: Monica Delorio, is from Naperville, majoring in Psychology.



Benedictine University: Heriberto Diaz, is from Chicago, majoring in Political Science.

Editor's note: In the upcoming issues of [The Friday Memo](#), the Illinois Student Laureates from Illinois' colleges and universities will be featured in "People in the News." The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement, campus leadership and extracurricular activities among Illinois college and university seniors.

Campus News

[Elmhurst College admitted to University Center](#)

Elmhurst College became a member of the University Center of Lake County in action taken by the Center's Governing Board at their December 5 meeting. Elmhurst has joined the University Center to make its Master of Science in Supply Chain Management (MS-SCM) degree program more accessible to professionals in northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin. Recruiting for this new program will soon get underway.

News from Higher Education

[Lumina Foundation adopts new tactics to reach college-completion goal](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Lumina Foundation has announced a new strategic plan, identifying two broad areas of action that it will pursue in order to help the nation increase the number of college graduates.

[Pew Report finds that college degrees shelter economic stability](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

As recent college graduates have continually struggled with finding employment upon the economic downturn, many have questioned the validity and strength of a college degree. However, a recent report released by Pew Charitable Trusts found that graduates holding four-year college degrees are in actuality more protected in a pernicious economy than those with lesser education credentials.

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