

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

IBHE
Chairwoman Carrie J. Hightman
Interim Exec. Director Harry J. Berman, Ph.D.

ICCB
Chairman Alexi Giannoulis
President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC
Chair Kym M. Hubbard
Executive Director Eric Zamikow

February 15, 2013

[Lt. Governor Simon issues higher education report](#)



Lt. Governor Sheila Simon was the featured guest speaker on February 12 at the Union League Club in Chicago. Simon released a white paper on “game-changing reforms” that will make college more affordable and increase graduation rates.

“We need to make sure that our high school students are ready for college and complete certificates and degrees on time and with less debt,” said Simon, Governor Quinn’s point person on education reform. “The return on educational investment is proven for graduates seeking living-wage jobs and a state seeking high-quality employers. College is worth it.”

According to Simon, affordability is the most significant barrier to students seeking degrees at public universities. Simon’s white paper includes game-changing reforms, such as dual degree programs that enable students to enroll simultaneously in community colleges and universities. Students are able to pay lower community college tuitions rates and later transition seamlessly to a university. Reverse transfer programs enable students who have transferred from community colleges to continue earning credits toward an associate degree when their university classes overlap with community college requirements. Simon also suggested targeted income taxes waivers for students who earn bachelor’s or advanced degrees and choose to live and work in Illinois post-graduation.

UPCOMING

FEBRUARY

15 [IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council Meeting](#), Kaskaskia College, Centralia

22-23 [IBHE Student Advisory Committee Meeting](#), Roosevelt University & UIC, Chicago

MARCH

8-9 [ICCTA Seminar & Board/Committee Meetings](#), Westin Hotel, Lombard



The paper follows Simon's College Affordability Summits for students, teachers, and administrators held this fall at the State's 12 public universities. Attending the Union League session were two students Lt. Gov. Simon met on her tour. She introduced them as two students "who will complete." After the presentation ended, **Dr. Harry J. Berman**, interim executive director, IBHE, greeted the two students: **Nekira Cooper** (left), a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Springfield, who is from Chicago and is majoring in criminal justice and **Noemi Rodriguez** (right), is a sophomore at Northern Illinois University, who is from Chicago and is majoring in nursing.

[Governor Quinn proclaims February as Financial Aid Awareness Month](#)

Governor Quinn has proclaimed February as Financial Aid Awareness Month (FAAM) in Illinois and encourages students and families to take full advantage of the college preparation and planning resources available in their communities. To help students and families increase their financial aid literacy, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is hosting nearly 200 events across the State offering help in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and an opportunity to learn about the wide range of college financial aid opportunities and the college selection and admission process.

[State of the Union: College Affordability](#)

In his 2013 State of the Union address, President Obama outlined a series of proposals to increase access to a high-quality education. Among them were initiatives to make quality early education accessible to every child, to redesign the Country's high schools to meet the needs of the real world, and to tackle the spiraling cost of college. Here is what the President said about higher education:

Holding Colleges Accountable. "Now, even with better high schools, most young people will need some higher education. It's a simple fact that the more education you have, the more likely you are to have a job and work your way into the middle class. But, today, skyrocketing costs price too many young people out of a higher education, or saddle them with unsustainable debt. Through tax credits, grants, and better loans, we've made college more affordable for millions of students and families over the last few years, but taxpayers can't keep on subsidizing higher and higher costs for higher education. Colleges must do their part to keep costs down, and it's our job to make sure that they do. So, tonight, I ask Congress to change the *Higher Education Act* so affordability and value are included in determining which colleges receive certain types of federal aid. And, tomorrow, my Administration will release a new College Scorecard (see below) that students and parents can use to compare schools based on a simple criteria: where you can get the most bang for your educational buck."

A day after the State of the Union address, the USDOE released an interactive [College Scorecard](#), part of the President's continued efforts to hold colleges accountable for cost, value, and quality -- includes five basic pieces of data about an institution: costs, graduation rate, loan default rate, average amount borrowed, and employment. The data will be updated periodically, and the Agency plans to publish information on earnings potential in the coming year.

Search for ICCB executive director underway

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) has established a special committee to conduct a search for its Executive Director. President Geoffrey Obrzut announced his plans to retire at the end of the June, 2013. The search is underway and the Board expects to have a new Executive in place on July 1, 2013. Information about the position and application procedures can be found at <http://www.iccb.org/executive.search.html>.

Education 101 Seminar

The Legislative Education Caucus will sponsor a seminar for all Illinois state legislators on February 28, to provide a broad overview of PK-20 education in Illinois and an update on progress toward implementing major reforms adopted over the past few years. The seminar will be held at the Illinois National Bank Conference Center at 4th and Capitol in Springfield from 4-6 p.m.

The State University Annuitants Association and the Illinois Community College Board of Trustees will provide hospitality for the event. The Ounce of Prevention, Voices for Illinois Children and Action for Children, will review the State's commitments to early childhood learning and the role for incorporating early childhood into the K-12 education continuum. The Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission are coordinating their overview and comments on key issues facing our State. Their focused comments and briefing documents will span educational issues from kindergarten through college.

Legislators are being strongly encouraged to attend this important briefing that will assess progress toward Illinois' state goal of college and career readiness, and the challenges facing our educational system.

Faculty and Staff Seminar on student support services for veterans planned for April 3

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Illinois Community College Board, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Parkland College, are hosting a one-day training seminar for faculty and staff members from all institutions of higher education in Illinois in response to the increasing responsibilities of Illinois' colleges and universities for serving veteran students. Scheduled for **April 3, from 10:00 am until 4:30 pm, at Parkland College in Champaign (Room D-244)**, the seminar will offer practical strategies for developing faculty and staff awareness of student veterans' needs and closing the military-civilian gap on college campuses. Reservations can be made to Gailyn Draper at draper@ibhe.org or 217-557-7383 by **February 15**.

[College Changes Everything Save the Date: July 11](#) [Seeking proposals, share your knowledge on college access and completion](#)

The third annual **College Changes Everything Conference** will be held on July 11, at the Tinley Park Convention Center. This one-day conference focuses on effective practices for improving college access and completion in support of Illinois' Goal 60 % X 2025—an effort to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with postsecondary degrees to 60 percent by the year 2025. The conference is attended by a diverse audience from across the State, including college access practitioners, high school and college administrators, and elected officials invested in higher education.

The conference is currently seeking proposals for sessions centered around your knowledge and enthusiasm for college access and completion. Sessions should provide in-depth information, practical ideas, and specific strategies, therefore promoting positive steps that address these issues. For more information, [view complete details about the Call for Proposals](#) and submit proposals to isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov.

[IERC request for research presentations and fellowship](#)

The 11th IERC Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium will be held June 13-14, 2013, at the I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign, IL. A call for proposal submissions for a presentation or poster session has been issued by the Illinois Education Research Council (IERC). This unique forum provides education practitioners, policy makers and researchers with the opportunity to learn from one another about research that is being done on Illinois education from pre-kindergarten through higher education (P-20). The Illinois Education Research Council has also announced its faculty research fellowship application for the 2013-14 academic year.

[Illinois Dream Fund Scholarships](#)

The Illinois Dream Fund, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, will be awarding scholarships for college tuition to children of immigrants who possess at least a 2.5 GPA on a 4 point scale (GPA must be from high school, if an incoming freshman, or from college, if a current undergraduate), and who resided in Illinois while attending high school for at least three years. Undocumented students are encouraged to apply. Scholarship applications may be obtained at the Illinois Dream Fund website: illinoisdreamfund.org. The date for accepting applications has been extended from February 1 to **March 1, 2013**.

[People in the News](#)

Judson University's Board of Trustees has announced that [Dr. Gene C. Crume, Jr.](#) has been approved as the institution's seventh university president. Dr. Crume's tenure will begin April 7, as President-elect, followed by a brief transition time before he assumes the role of President on May 10.

SPOTLIGHT: GYO Teachers



The Friday Memo is spotlighting [Grow Your Own \(GYO\)](#) Teachers and Candidates in upcoming issues. The goal of the GYO Initiative is to recruit and prepare parent and community leaders and para-educators statewide to become effective teachers in hard to staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students. There are 224 GYO active candidates enrolled in colleges and universities across the State. Since inception of the program, 81 candidates have graduated, 74% of them are currently teaching.



With support from the Grow Your Own Teachers program, encouragement and resources, [Romanetha Looper](#) graduated in 2010 at the top of her class at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). Looper is in her second year of teaching sixth, seventh, and eighth grade science and world history at William Penn Elementary school in the Lawndale neighborhood of west Chicago. The community is mostly African-American and low-income, Looper says "It takes a village to raise a child." Romanetha was president of the PTA at her son's school, and vice president of the local school council, but she never dreamed she would become a teacher. As a GYO candidate she attended NEIU and completed the program in under four years. "I'm teaching now in Chicago Public Schools, and I love what I do," she said. "The parents and students realize, and even my administrators realize, that I love what I do."

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Dominican University: Edgar Nieto, is from Mundelein, majoring in criminology and sociology with a minor in social justice and civic engagement.



Eastern Illinois University: Jaclyn L. Carstens, is from Charleston, majoring in special and elementary education with a concentration in social sciences.



Elmhurst College: Jessica K. Wadleigh, is from Geneva, majoring in Biology.

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

NIU pauses to mark fifth anniversary of Feb. 14

NIU President John Peters led a ceremony on February 14 to mark the fifth anniversary of [the Feb. 14, 2008, tragedy inside Cole Hall](#). "By most measures, five years is a fleetingly brief time. On a college campus, however, that span approximates a generation. So it is that as we come together today, almost no undergraduate student currently enrolled at Northern experienced firsthand the terrible tragedy of five years ago. None of them experienced the shock, the heartbreak, or the despair that gripped our campus that day," stated Peters. "However, while they may not realize it, today's students are touched by the presence of those five students each and every day. Because what happened in Cole Hall five years ago forever changed Northern. It taught us lessons that have transformed what it means to be a Huskie."

Governor Pat Quinn also [attended a wreath-laying ceremony](#) at Cole Hall in memory of each of the five lives lost. In 2010, the Governor dedicated \$8 million through the Illinois Jobs Now! capital program to repurpose and renovate Cole Hall following the tragedy.

[Heartland Community College receives \\$1.5 million gift from State Farm Companies Foundation](#)

Heartland Community College will receive a \$1.5 million gift from State Farm Companies Foundation to support students in Central Illinois. The majority of the donation will provide scholarships for economically disadvantaged students to acquire the workforce skills necessary for employment in high-demand areas such as technology.

[Dominican University and Triton College announce partnership](#)

Dominican University and Triton College have announced a partnership that will allow Triton College students to take classes online and on-site leading to a bachelor's degree in legal studies from Dominican's School for Professional and Continuing Studies. In addition, the partnership will provide Dominican with office space at Triton's University Center which will give Triton students the opportunity to meet conveniently with Dominican staff who can facilitate their seamless transfer to the private four-year institution.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Illinois bill would bar students at for-profit colleges from state aid](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

A bill introduced by State Sen. Chapin Rose, a Republican, would prohibit students enrolled at for-profit colleges from receiving grants under the State's need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP), which has faced challenges in recent years.

[Degrees of debt battling college costs, a paycheck at a time](#) (The New York Times)

If Steve Boedefeld graduates from Appalachian State University without any student loan debt, it will be because of the money he earned fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan and the money he now saves by eating what he grows or kills.

[Harper's partnership with high schools netting positive results](#) (Daily Herald)

In fall 2010, Harper College and its feeder high school districts formed an unprecedented partnership to shrink student success gaps and better prepare students for college and careers. More than halfway through the four-year pilot program, leaders believe they're onto something.

[Durbin proposing fix for veteran tuition costs](#) (Daily Herald)

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin says veterans attending public colleges shouldn't be burdened with out-of-state tuition and fees.

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

[Sign up](#) to Friday Memo mailing list

