

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Testimony on campus safety on behalf of Illinois Colleges and Universities heard by House Judiciary Committee](#)

At the request of the Illinois House of Representatives, Jerry Blakemore, Vice President and Legal Counsel for Northern Illinois University, and David Tretter, President of the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities, provided [testimony](#) to the House Judiciary Committee on February 19 on behalf of the state's public and private colleges and universities regarding "Conceal Carry" on college campuses. Blakemore and Tretter presented amendatory language to the committee for consideration as they develop legislation in response to a recent ruling by the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals that the state's ban on carrying a weapon in public is unconstitutional.

The proposed amendment language, jointly developed by public and private higher education institutions, encourages the General Assembly to strengthen and clarify higher education's authority and responsibility in this area by explicitly authorizing, consistent with U.S. Constitutional Second Amendment Rights, public and private higher education institutions to establish reasonable regulation.

[Record number of Illinois graduates take AP Exams and post successful scores](#)

The number of Illinois graduates who take AP exams during high school has more than doubled in the last decade, with low-income and minority students continuing to make record gains toward closing the achievement gap on these rigorous tests. In 2012, more than 26,400 graduates scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam, with 17.6 percent of these students coming from low-income backgrounds, according to the 9th Annual AP Report to the Nation. Illinois ranks 16th in the nation for the percentage of 2012 graduates – 19.9 percent – who scored at least a 3 on an AP exam during their high school career.

"The AP program complements our state's focus on college and career readiness by giving students the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school and acquire the knowledge and problem-solving skills necessary to succeed in challenging postsecondary course work," said State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch. "Increased participation and significant achievement gains by students of all backgrounds show that our efforts are paying off."

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>.

UPCOMING

FEBRUARY

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

27 **[House Higher Education Committee](#)**, Room D-1 Stratton Bldg. Springfield

28 **Education 101 Seminar for Legislators**, Illinois National Bank Conference Center, Springfield

MARCH

1 **[House Higher Education Committee](#)**, Room 114, Capitol

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

15 **[IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council Meeting](#)**, Joliet Junior College

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 **March 1**.

[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 on 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.

ILACHE Scholarship

The Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE) will award a one-time [\\$1000 scholarship](#) to two eligible Latino/a students from Illinois. High school seniors and undergraduate students are eligible to apply. Selection will be based on careful review of the following areas: 1) campus involvement, 2) community involvement, 3) academic achievements and goals, and 4) career aspirations.

To be considered, an applicant must be an Illinois Latina/o graduating high school senior or a continuing undergraduate level college student and enrolled full-time during the fall term of the upcoming academic year at a four or two-year regionally accredited college or university in Illinois. Past awardees are not eligible. Complete applications with all the required supporting materials must be submitted (postmarked) by MAY 1, 2013. Incomplete and late applications will not be considered. Awardees will be notified by September 2013. If awarded the ILACHE Scholarship, the recipient must send proof of full-time registration for the Fall 2013 term

[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

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



Eureka College: Douglas Owen Collins, is from Coupeville, Oregon, majoring in Religion and Philosophy.



Governors State University: Katherine Rhea Baggerly, is from Chicago Heights, majoring in education.



Greenville College: Ross Baker, is from Fisher, majoring in math education.

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



Student Aldo Quinones, Oak Lawn, at Pinning Ceremony

[SXU honors future teachers at School of Education Pinning Ceremony](#)

Saint Xavier University's (SXU) School of Education hosted its first Pinning Ceremony on February 5 in honor of SXU's teacher education students earning candidacy status in the School of Education, the first major benchmark in their program leading to teacher licensure. State Superintendent of Education Dr. Christopher Koch attended the ceremony, which was held at the University's Chicago campus.

"This ceremony is a way to celebrate the achievements of more than 200 SXU education majors that have reached the first major benchmark in their educational journey," said School of Education Dean Beverly Gulley, Ph.D.

Each student pledged to follow the Illinois Educator Code of Ethics throughout their careers, which contains five core principles providing a foundation for the responsibilities and commitments of all Professional Educators. These core principles, including meeting the educational needs of all students, are considered fundamental to the profession SXU candidates have chosen to enter.

[Major education investment to expand job training in South Suburbs](#)

As part of his commitment to create jobs and grow the Illinois economy, Governor Pat Quinn announced a major state capital investment at South Suburban College (SSC) on February 21. The \$52.5 million project for an allied health addition at SSC will be supported by \$41.6 million in funding from Illinois Jobs Now! capital construction program and will create an estimated 750 jobs. Once complete, the addition will dramatically expand opportunities for students in the south suburbs to pursue essential professional training for good-paying jobs in fast-growing medical field.

[Governor Pat Quinn announces investment in Fine Arts Complex at Illinois State University](#)

Gov. Pat Quinn announced on February 21, a \$54 million capital investment to build a Fine Arts Complex that will strengthen Illinois State University's arts programs. The *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital construction program will start with \$7.5 million for design and planning. The project includes renovation of existing buildings and construction of space for instruction and performance. It will create more than 775 construction and related jobs, and spending by those workers will support an additional 775 jobs in the community.

News from Higher Education

[Los Angeles Community College District's chief to step down](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Daniel LaVista announced that he would resign this summer after having served three years as chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District, the Los Angeles Times reported. The district is the nation's largest and, with a history of budget problems and lagging student-completion rates, one of its most challenged, the newspaper said.

[Northwestern, University of Chicago see rise in donations](#) (Crain's Chicago Business)

University of Chicago and Northwestern University were the only large Chicago-area schools that saw donations increase in 2012 compared with the previous year.

[Biting the bullet on completion](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Research has identified several ways for colleges that enroll lesser-prepared students to improve their graduation rates. But college leaders are often wary of those solutions, because they can take a whack at the bottom line and challenge a tradition of open doors.

[Colleges become major front in fight over carrying guns](#) (The New York Times)

Public colleges and universities have become a major front in the nation's debate over guns as gun-rights advocates press to expand the right to carry concealed weapons, a campaign that gained steam after the 2007 shooting rampage at Virginia Tech, which left 33 people dead. And though guns remain banned from most state colleges, pro-gun forces, in a series of high-decibel legal and political battles, have made inroads on the issue in a handful of states, most recently Colorado.

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