

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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ICCB
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President/CEO Geoff Obrzut

ISAC
Chair Kym M. Hubbard
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March 1, 2013

[College bound students need to fill out FAFSA by midnight tonight, March 1, to be eligible for MAP grant](#)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has announced students who file their FAFSA forms after midnight tonight, March 1st, will be added to the suspension list, making it less likely they will qualify for a Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant for the 2013-14 college year. This deadline is the earliest in MAP history. ISAC still urges students to file their FAFSAs, since the application is the key not just to MAP but also to federal student aid and even institutional grants. Applicants should also be aware that FAFSAs filed after March 1st will essentially be placed on a 'waiting list.' If additional awards become available, they will be offered to eligible students according to the date on which they applied. For example, students who file on March 2nd would be offered awards before students who file March 3rd or thereafter.

[House and Senate Higher Education Committees hold joint hearing on college affordability in Illinois](#)



Photos by Jeff Stearns, Senate Communications Department

UPCOMING

MARCH

- 5 [Senate Higher Education Committee](#), Room 400, Capitol, Springfield
- 6 **Governor's Budget Address**, Capitol, Springfield
[House Higher Education Committee](#), Room D-1 Stratton, Springfield
- 8-9 [ICCTA Seminar & Board/Committee Meetings](#), Westin Hotel, Lombard
- 14 **IBHE-Proprietary Advisory Council Meeting**, DeVry University's Loop Campus, Chicago
- 15 [IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council Meeting](#), Joliet Junior College, Joliet

Higher Education Committee Chairs, Senator Mike Frerichs (D-52) and Rep. Naomi Jakobsson (D-103), co-chaired a special hearing on February 27 about college affordability. Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, who was accompanied by Harry J. Berman, interim executive director of Illinois Board of Higher Education, and Eric Zarnikow, executive director of Illinois Student Assistance Commission, testified first and described her state-wide tour of all community colleges and public universities. "I learned a great deal at each stop along the way," Simon said. "The bottom line is college is worth it." She also presented findings from her report entitled, "[Game Changers: Innovative Practices in Illinois Higher Education](#)," which discusses approaches such as dual-enrollment in high school and community college, reverse transfers and tax credits for graduates working in certain geographic and skill areas.

Students from Eastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, University of Illinois Springfield, and Heartland Community College, testified about the difficulties of affording college, including the costs of textbooks. Representatives from the three universities along with Jennifer Timmons, senior director for student development at Illinois Community College Board provided information on tuition, particularly examining Illinois' truth in tuition law that maintains the same tuition rate for up to four years for entering students at public universities. Fees and expenses incurred by students for textbook and housing costs were also discussed.

[Sen. Frerichs](#) announced, "I look forward to continuing this conversation while visiting colleges and universities this spring and learning the most effective ways to make sure Illinoisans, including first-generation and non-traditional students, continue to find the door of opportunity wide open at our State's institutions of higher learning."

[National Student Clearinghouse reports on state level college completion rates](#)

Illinois public universities lead the nation in supporting nearly three-quarters of their students through to college completion, according to the results of The National Student Clearinghouse's just-released [National Completions Report](#). The report offers state-by-state analysis of college student attainment rates based on data from more than 3,300 institutions throughout the United States. The study followed first-time, degree-seeking students starting in the fall of 2006, through the spring of 2012. The report includes a number of key findings related to college completion in the states.

In the category of four-year public institutions, Illinois is one of only five states that rank 20 percent above the national average for total completion and completion at the starting institution, due mainly to its high part-time completion rate. For full-time students attending two-year public institutions, Illinois is one of only five states that rank 20 percent above the national average with the highest rate of students that subsequently complete at a four-year institution.

"I am pleased that Illinois continues to perform well above the national average in the completion rates of college students," stated Dr. Harry Berman, interim executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. "But our goal, as presented in the [Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success](#), Illinois' policy plan for higher education, is not just to be above the national average, but rather to be among the top-performing states in educational attainment. By continuing to focus on the action steps outlined in the Public Agenda across all sectors of higher education and for all students, we will achieve that goal."

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

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, Illinois Community College Board, 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 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., 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 today, **March 1**.

COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING

[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. The deadline is today, **March 1**.



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 Latino/a 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 today, **March 1, 2013**.

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 June, 2013. The search is underway and the Board expects to have a new executive director in place on July 1, 2013. Information about the position and application procedures can be found at <http://www.iccb.org/executive.search.html>.

[People in the News](#)



Columbia College Chicago Board of Trustees approved [Dr. Kwang-Wu Kim](#) as president-elect on February 26. Dr. Kim has a BA in philosophy from Yale University and a doctorate in music from Johns Hopkins University. He is currently the dean and director of the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State University, and was former president of the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He will begin in July, succeeding Dr. Warrick L. Carter, as president and chief executive officer.

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Illinois College: Joshua Walters, is from St. Charles, Missouri, majoring in Chemistry with minors in Mathematics and Physics.



Illinois Institute of Technology: Robert M. Morrison, is from Owasso, Oklahoma, majoring in Biomedical Engineering and Electrical Engineering with a minor in Pre-medical Studies.



Illinois State University: Nancy Jean O'Neill, is from Algonquin, majoring in Music 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

Feedback requested for evaluation of Illinois High School to College Success Report

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has contracted with the Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) and Applied Research Consultants to conduct an evaluation of the dissemination and usefulness of the High School to College Success Report (HS2CSR). Email invitations are currently being distributed to principals, superintendents, workshop participants, and postsecondary administrators asking for their participation in an online survey and in focus groups. Individuals will be asked to provide information regarding their knowledge and opinions about the HS2CSR. Additionally, descriptions of collaborative efforts utilizing this report and input regarding potential changes for future reports are requested. IF YOU HAVE NOT USED THE HS2CSR, YOUR INPUT IS ALSO NEEDED to find out what prevents you from doing so and suggestions you have for improving the report. Questions about the evaluation study should be directed to the IERC at 866-799-4372 (toll-free).

Governors State University's Dual Degree Program wins national award

Governors State University's (GSU) Dual Degree Program (DDP) has been selected to receive the Outstanding Program/Project Award from the Commission for Admissions, Orientation, and First Year Experience, a unit of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA).

“We are pleased that the ACPA has recognized the unique qualities and success of the Dual Degree Program,” said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. “This program has been a partnership with our community colleges, and I want to thank them for working so closely with us for student success. The DDP has put GSU at the forefront of the national efforts to create seamless pathways from the community colleges to university graduation.”

[“Immigration: Undocumented Students in Higher Education” research findings unveiled](#)

Jesuit university and college presidents, senators, and members of Congress joined more than 50 students and dozens of faculty and administrators on February 26 at an event, “Immigration: Undocumented Students in Higher Education,” held in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. There, researchers unveiled the findings of a Ford Foundation-funded study, Immigrant Student National Position Paper, an endeavor led by Fairfield’s Center for Faith and Public Life in Connecticut, in collaboration with Loyola University Chicago’s Center for Urban Research and Learning and Santa Clara University in California. The study proposes a new model of leadership in higher education regarding access to education, particularly for the undocumented.

News from Higher Education

[Sequestration presents uncertain outlook for students, researchers, and job-seekers](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

As the deadline came and went, steep federal spending cuts were set in motion, leaving college students, administrators, and researchers bracing for the effects of impending reductions in financial-aid, research, and job-training programs. Adding to the anxiety is the fact that no one is certain exactly how or when those effects will be seen.

[Community-college grads out-earn bachelor’s degree holders](#) (The Hechinger Report)

Berevan Omer graduated on a Friday in February with an associate’s degree from Nashville State Community College and started work the following Monday in his new job as a computer-networking engineer at a local television station, making about \$50,000 a year.

[More universities try the MOOC model by moving professors’ lectures online](#) (The Washington Post)

Philip Zelikow packs a lot into his modern world history course, roaming in a given week from the Napoleonic wars to Latin American revolutions to India circa 1800.

[White House delivers new open-access policy that has activists cheering](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Obama administration has announced a major new policy aimed at increasing public access to federally financed research. The policy, delivered in a memorandum from John P. Holdren, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, applies to federal agencies that spend more than \$100-million a year to support research and development.

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