

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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May 10, 2013

Two pension proposals being discussed in the General Assembly

On May 9, the Senate passed [SB 2404](#) (amended by Senate Amendments) by a 40-16 vote. The bill is sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton and supported by key public employee unions. Earlier, on May 2, the House passed [SB 1](#) (amended by House Amendments) by a 62-52-2 vote. Speaker Mike Madigan is chief sponsor of this bill. Both leaders are committed to their respective bills, so neither Cullerton nor Madigan have decided when or if to take up the other's bill in their chambers. SB 2404 offers both active and retired workers choices between keeping the current COLA, or receiving state-subsidized health insurance in retirement. SB 1 changes the COLA and other benefits without a choice to retirees, and is estimated to save \$140 billion over 30 years, compared to \$46 billion under SB 2404. The State Universities Retirement System of Illinois (SURS) has prepared useful summaries of [SB 1](#) and [SB 2404](#).

Speaker Madigan starts discussion on pension cost shifting with local school districts, community colleges, and public universities

On May 9, Speaker Madigan called a special House meeting and invited testimony from K-12 administrative associations, the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA), and representatives for the Public University Presidents and Chancellors about shifting the cost of pensions for downstate schools and public colleges from the State to the schools. Emphasizing the very negative fiscal condition of the State of Illinois, Speaker Madigan stated his strong view that the discussion about pushing all normal costs to the universities, community colleges and school districts is not about if, but rather how soon. He announced the committee will continue hearings on the cost-shift proposals next week.

Tom Ryder, testifying on behalf of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, emphasized three key points, in light of the [ICCTA's pension proposal](#):

- Community colleges are proud to be units of local government and are willing to take on the responsibility of bearing the employer costs of public community college pensions;
- Community colleges also wish to be part of the process in developing the mechanism to implement the cost shift, including a cap on the amount assumed by community colleges; and
- A transition (or 'phase-in') period must be provided so that local community college employers can establish appropriate budgets and manage the impact on payroll, students, and other resources.

Speaker Michael Madigan noted that "the community college system has been very cooperative" during the year-long negotiations on this issue.

UPCOMING

MAY

15 [Senate Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 409, Capitol, Springfield

[House Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 115, Capitol, Springfield

Steve Cunningham, Northern Illinois University, and Avijit Ghosh, University of Illinois, provided testimony citing the principles contained in the [April letter](#) the public university presidents and chancellors sent to the legislative leaders and Governor Quinn regarding support for [a six-step proposal](#) that includes a phased shift in the normal costs over time up to 6.2% predicated on (among other things):

- It is part of a package that mitigates the severity of benefit reductions for university employees and retirees in order to recruit and retain talent;
- There is a gradual phase-in at 0.5% of pay per year, along with assurance of stability of General Revenue funding to lessen the impact on tuition and finances in general; and
- There is also implementation of Tier II reforms to improve university workforce recruitment.

A very useful [comparison of the Six Simple Steps Plan and SB 1 and SB 2404](#) has been prepared by Northern Illinois University.

Eleventh Annual IERC Symposium

The 2013 Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium's [registration material](#) and [registration form](#) are now available. Sponsored by the Illinois Educational Research Council (IERC), the Symposium is scheduled for June 13-14, and will be held at the I-Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign. Registrations are **due by May 24**.

In case you missed this week's Tweets...*



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CCE Illinois
[@CCE_Illinois](#) 7 May
Making that crucial **#college**
decision.
<http://bit.ly/10g1X86> Many,
many factors to balance.

CCE Illinois @CCE_Illinois 6 May
Congrats grads! RT
[@ILConnected](#) Pantagraph: Good
luck to all!IWU graduates ready for
new beginning ...
<http://on.fb.me/10gqXBN>

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Before Choosing a College
or Career
<http://shar.es/l9k2o> via
[@visually](#)

*College Changes Everything is a College Access Movement of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, a state agency of Illinois - Follow us on Twitter @CCE_Illinois.

People in the News



Timothy Flanagan, President of Framingham State University in Framingham, Mass., has been appointed 18th president of Illinois State University. The ISU Board of Trustees voted to hire Flanagan, who will begin his service at ISU August.15. Flanagan has served as president of Framingham State University since 2006, and also is a professor of sociology. Flanagan said he was drawn to Illinois State because of its reputation as one of the top public universities in the Country. He noted the academic strength of the student body, with retention and graduation rates at an all-time high, and a faculty that promotes high standards in teaching, scholarship, and public service.

Gov. Patrick Quinn has appointed **Jan Spivey Gilchrist** to serve on the Board of Trustees at Eastern Illinois University. Gilchrist earned her bachelor's degree in art education in 1973. She was named a Distinguished Alumna by the EIU Alumni Association in 1992, and is recognized on the EIU Notable Alumni Website. Gilchrist's six-year appointment, which went into effect May 3, will need to be confirmed by the Illinois Senate. Her first official board meeting is scheduled to take place Monday, June 17, on Eastern's campus.

SPOTLIGHT: 2012 - 13 DFI Fellows

Thirty-nine new Diversifying Higher Education Faculty (DFI) in Illinois Program Fellows were 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.



Melizabeth Santos is in the Latin American and Latino Studies, MA Program, at the University of Illinois at Chicago. As part of her interest in a diverse higher educational setting, she is focusing her research on the way Latino immigrant families learn about the college search and selection process. Santos will be finished with her research and program in August, 2013.

The May 17 inauguration of **Troy D. Hammond** as the 10th president of North Central College is part of a week that includes honors ceremonies, concerts and a fireworks display. The inauguration occurs during Cornerstone Week, May 13-19, an annual celebration that commemorates the College's 1870 move to Naperville from Plainfield and the laying of the cornerstone for Old Main.

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Roosevelt University: Carina I. Balan is from Arlington Heights, majoring in Actuarial Sciences.



Saint Xavier University: Darryl Phillip Brown, Jr., is from Matteson, majoring in Biology, Chemistry, and Spanish.



Southern Illinois University Carbondale: Brock Edward Kabat is from Scheller, majoring in Physiology with a minor in Chemistry.

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

A sampling of commencement announcements for Illinois colleges and universities

- ❖ Newly installed Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Chancellor Julie Furst-Bowe presided over her first [Spring Commencement](#) on May 3 and 4. Ceremonies for the 1,886 eligible graduates concluded in the Vadalabene Center on campus. During her remarks, Furst-Bowe presented three points of advice to the graduates: 1) Establish priorities and set goals; 2) Get involved in your community, both locally and professionally; 3) Have and be a mentor. Along the way in regard to planning and work ethic, she quoted late Green Bay Packers head coach Vince Lombardi that "The man at the mountain top didn't fall there."
- ❖ Moraine Valley Community College's [44th annual commencement ceremony](#) will honor summer 2012, fall 2012, and spring 2013 graduates on, May 17, at 7 p.m. in the college's Cyclone Center (Building G), 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Approximately 400 of the college's 2,353 eligible graduates are expected to participate in the ceremony.
- ❖ Former federal prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald; Children's Defense Fund President Marian Wright Edelman; Michigan City, Ind., Area Schools Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins, and other civic and business leaders are the featured speakers at [college commencements](#) at the University of Illinois at Chicago May 8-12.

- ❖ More than 400 North Park University graduates will be recognized Saturday, May 11, at the [University's 120th Spring commencement ceremonies](#) at the Chicago campus. Ceremonies take place at 10 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. Preceding is a baccalaureate service to be held at 8 p.m., May 10, at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago.
- ❖ Former Illinois State Senator Edward D. Maloney will receive an honorary doctorate and deliver the commencement addresses at [Saint Xavier University's Spring Commencement](#) on May 11. The undergraduate ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Shannon Center at the University's Chicago campus, 3700 W. 103rd Street. The graduate ceremony is scheduled for 3 p.m. at the same location.

News from Higher Education

[Lawmakers propose long-term solutions for student-loan interest rates](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Members of Congress introduced two bills that propose long-term fixes to keep student-loan interest rates affordable, even as some legislators pushed to extend the current low rates.

[As Latinos make gains in education, gaps remain](#) (The New York Times)

After lagging behind other Americans in education for generations, Latinos have significantly narrowed the gap, and last year they passed a milestone, with new Hispanic high school graduates more likely than their white counterparts to go directly to college, according to a new study.

[Black and Hispanic science Ph.D.'s graduate with more debt, study finds](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Black and Hispanic students who earn Ph.D.'s in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics—the STEM disciplines—are more likely to go into debt than their white and Asian counterparts, says a report released by the American Institutes for Research.

[NIU holds farewell event for departing president](#) (Daily Herald)

The character of Northern Illinois University President John Peters was praised during a farewell ceremony for the man who led the school when a gunman opened fire on campus, killing five.

[Hundreds honor retiring President Bowman, learn 'Bowmanisms'](#) (Bloomington Pantagraph)

Hundreds of people gathered at the Bone Student Center to, as Illinois State University Provost Sheri Noren Everts put it, “say farewell but not goodbye” to retiring President Al Bowman.

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