

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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May 17, 2013

General Assembly sends bills to the Governor, still awaiting action on fiscal year 2014 budget and pension reform

While behind the scenes efforts continue in the development of the General Assembly's proposed budget for fiscal year 2014, both the House and Senate have been considering bills passed in the other body, and are sending bills to the Governor for his consideration and signature. Among the bills of interest to higher education that have passed both houses are:

- [HB 2353](#), Cloonen (Hastings), provides that beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year, if a person is utilizing benefits under the federal Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, or any subsequent variation of that Act, then the corresponding Board of Trustees for public universities and community colleges shall deem that person an Illinois resident for tuition purposes.
- [SB 1900](#), Biss (Burke), requires each public university to establish an Open Access to Research Task Force, with designated members appointed by the Board of Trustees to (i) consider how the public university can best further the open access goals laid out in this Act, whether by creation of an open access policy for the public university, creation of an open access policy for the State, or some other mechanism; (ii) review how peer institutions and the federal government are addressing issues related to open access and ensure that any institutional or statewide policies are consistent with steps taken by federal grant-making agencies; and (iii) consider academic, legal, ethical, and fiscal ramifications and questions regarding an open access policy. Requires each task force to adopt, on or before January 1, 2015, a report setting forth its findings and recommendations, and requires the Board of Higher Education to publish a list indicating which public universities have submitted the required report.

One way to keep track of final action on pending legislation is to go to IBHE website: [Special Bills of Interest to IBHE](#) for an updated listing, including the dates of latest action.

Speaker Madigan held a second talk on cost-shift of pension costs to public universities and community colleges on May 16, and indicated talks would continue next week with the possibility of looking at legislative language. Further action on either the House or Senate pension reform bills in the other chamber has not yet been scheduled.

Eleventh Annual IERC Symposium

The 2013 Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium [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**.

UPCOMING

MAY

23 [House Appropriations-
Higher Ed Committee](#),
Room 114, Capitol,
Springfield

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



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Great read! RT
[@educationweek](#) Blog:
Counseling High School Freshmen
Can Influence College-Going
Rates <http://bit.ly/147qh0T>
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Get involved. Change education in
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14 May

What Degree Should You Get?

<http://shar.es/Z3wYN> via

[@visually](#)
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*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

[Travis Clayton](#) graduated Magna Cum Laude from SIUC's College of Education and Human Services on May 11. Clayton was one of the first students accepted into the Southernmost Grow Your Own (GYO) program at SIU in August 2007, and is the recipient of a TEACH grant as well as the GYO scholarship. For 20 years, Clayton worked as an aide in special/alternative education classrooms. The last 18 years were with the Illinois State Board of Education's Regional Safe Schools program, including nine years at Cairo and the last three years at the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna. "My experience with SIU and GYO has transformed my perceptions. It was not possible for me to do this any other way. I have to work just to make ends meet," Clayton stated. "But SIU has been unique, in my experience, not just in terms of the expertise and commitment of the faculty and staff but in the degree of support and encouragement I received."

The Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees unanimously elected SIUE alum [Randal Thomas](#) as its chairman. Gov. Pat Quinn appointed him to the panel, along with former SIUE professor [Dr. Shirley Portwood](#). [Donna Manering](#) was elected as vice chair.



The Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) has named [Theresa Bashiri-Remetio](#) of Park Ridge, IL as the recipient of its 2013 Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Award, which recognizes one outstanding student leader from Illinois community colleges. In 2012, Bashiri-Remetio served a one-year term as the student trustee on the Oakton Community College Board of Trustees. Recently re-elected to fill a two-year vacancy on the Board, Bashiri-Remetio will receive her award, which includes a \$500 scholarship, at the ICCTA banquet in Chicago on June 7. She also served as a student representative on the Monetary Award Program (MAP) Task Force convened by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission in 2012.

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



Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: Jessica Colleen Thompson is from Troy, majoring in Industrial Engineering.



University of Chicago: Nancy Pantoja is from Chicago, majoring in Psychology.



Trinity Christian College: Adam Perez is from Racine, Wisconsin, 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.

A sampling of commencement announcements for Illinois colleges and universities

- ❖ Lewis University will present Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) member **Jay Bergman** with an honorary doctorate degree at its [Graduate Commencement Ceremony](#) on Saturday, May 18, in recognition of his civic and philanthropic leadership throughout the region, and outstanding commitment to higher education. Bergman has been a trustee at Illinois State University for 10 years. In 2007, he was appointed as a member of the IBHE. Bergman has served on numerous higher education committees and commissions, including the committee that drafted the *Illinois Public Agenda*, current master plan for public higher education in Illinois. He is currently a member of the Higher Education Performance Funding Steering Committee. **Dr. Michael Vinciguerra**, who is retiring as president of the University of St. Francis after 10 years, will also be presented with an honorary doctorate degree at this ceremony in recognition of his exemplary leadership of St. Francis and many contributions to the local community during his tenure.
- ❖ One president. Thirteen years. Seventy-two thousand degrees conferred. This is the legacy of Northern Illinois University President John G. Peters. On May 10 and 11, Peters presided over [commencement activities](#) for the last time, including a Friday evening Graduate School ceremony and three separate events on Saturday.
- ❖ Rock Valley College will graduate 1,346 students this spring, and a record number 443 of them will participate in [RVC's 47th annual commencement exercises](#) on Friday, May 17, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., in the Physical Education Center (PEC) on the main campus at 3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford. This is the third straight year RVC will see a record number of participants in commencement. Speakers for this year's ceremony include RVC Assistant Professor of Sociology Crystal Dinwiddie, winner of the RVC 2013 Faculty of the Year award, and graduating student speaker, Christopher McGill.

[Flying Salukis continue national prominence](#)

For a third consecutive year the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Flying Salukis are among the top three collegiate precision flight teams in the nation. And for a second straight year, Courtney L. Copping earned top-scoring female competitor honors, while Taylor B. Breum captured the simulator ground trainer event to pace the team to a third-place finish Saturday, May 11, at the 2013 National Intercollegiate Flying Association championships at The Ohio State University Airport in Columbus, Ohio. Twenty-nine teams competed May 6-11. "This was another great performance on the national stage by our students and coaches," Chancellor Rita Cheng said. "The Flying Salukis perform at an extremely high level every year, and their commitment is an inspiration across our campus."

[SIUE receives grant from NSF's STEM Talent Expansion Program](#)

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's School of Engineering has received a grant valued at nearly \$830,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Graduate 10K+ is a special funding mechanism within NSF's STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP). The focus is on creative approaches to retaining undergraduates in engineering and computer science during the first two years of college.

[Area industries guarantee job interviews for manufacturing employment from Rend Lake College](#)

Four area industries are guaranteeing job interviews for students who qualify through Rend Lake College's new course, Manufacturing Employment Skills. "An opportunity like this doesn't come along very often," said Chris Nielsen, Dean of Applied Science and Technology at RLC. "If a student completes this course with a B or better, and they meet the employment requirements for the specific company, they will be given a job interview." Industries participating in the partnership are Continental Tire, Aisin, Crownline, and Pepsi MidAmerica.

News from Higher Education

[How counselors can shape the college plans of first-generation students](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

High-school counselors can influence whether ninth-graders whose parents do not have bachelor's degrees plan to attend college, suggests a report released by the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

[HCC grad boosted by scholarship worth up to \\$30,000 a year](#) (Bloomington Pantagraph)

Mihir Patel is graduating from Heartland Community College in Normal with his eyes on the stars — and a major scholarship in his pocket.

[Lack of financial literacy complicates student-aid process, report says](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

A lack of reliable and transparent data on college costs and a complicated financial-aid-application process create an information gap that makes it difficult for students to pay for their higher education, according to a new report on overhauling the federal student-aid system.

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