

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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June 21, 2013

[Gov. Quinn sets July 9 for General Assembly to act on comprehensive pension reform](#)

Governor Pat Quinn set July 9 as the deadline for legislators to act on comprehensive pension reform. His announcement follows the General Assembly's vote to establish a conference committee, an idea proposed by the Governor to break the legislative gridlock. The Governor proposed a conference committee to bridge the differences between the House and the Senate, and forge agreement on a comprehensive pension reform plan.

The Governor met with leaders of the four legislative caucuses during the Special Session of the General Assembly he called for June 19, and asked them to quickly appoint their members to the conference committee and propose a comprehensive pension reform bill by July 9. Leaders agreed to extend today's special session, and immediately convene the committee. The conferees are: Senate President John Cullerton, Senator Dan Biss, Senator Linda Holmes, Senator Kwame Raoul, Senate Leader Christine Radogno, Senator Bill Brady, Senator Matt Murphy, House Speaker Michael Madigan, Representative Elaine Nekritz, Representative Arthur Turner, Representative Michael Zalewski, House Leader Tom Cross, Representative Darlene Senger, and Representative Jill Tracy.

**UPCOMING**

**JUNE**

**21** [Illinois Student Assistance Commission Meeting](#), Michael A. Bilandic Building, Chicago

**JULY**

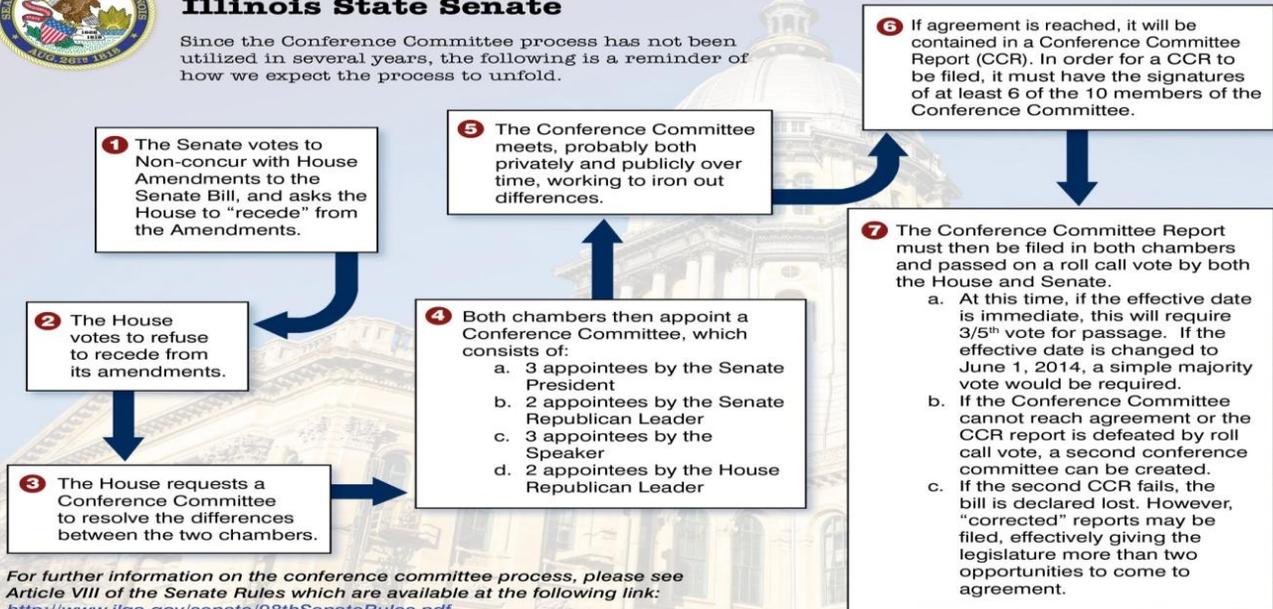
**9** **General Assembly Deadline/Special Session on pension reform**

**11** [College Changes Everything Conference](#), Tinley Park Convention Center



**Conference Committee Process  
Illinois State Senate**

Since the Conference Committee process has not been utilized in several years, the following is a reminder of how we expect the process to unfold.



## University presidents offer SURS pension stabilization compromise

With the unanimous support of presidents and chancellors of all Illinois public universities, a pension stabilization solution for the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) was discussed at the Senate Executive Committee on June 18. Two bills encompass the plan: a combination of Senate Bill 1687 and Senate Bill 2591.

## **Gun violence**

A new White House report details the completion of or significant progress on 21 of 23 executive actions President Obama laid out in January to help reduce gun violence and the continuing work toward completing all 23. As part of this progress, the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security (led by FEMA), and Justice (led by the FBI) jointly released guidance to institutions of higher education on how to work with first responders and other community partners to plan and prepare for emergencies, such as active shooter situations, tornadoes, and earthquakes (fact sheet). Moreover, Homeland Security and Justice have expanded access to training on active shooter situations for law enforcement, first responders, and school officials with further outreach, new online resources, and improved training curricula (fact sheet).

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



**CCE Illinois**  
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[CCE Illinois @CCE\\_Illinois 17 Jun](#)  
Today starts [#CorpsCon2013](#)  
Welcome all of our new ISACorps members and wish them luck!  
<http://bit.ly/11sOiiP>

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Student Loan Totals Break 1 Trillion Mark <http://shar.es/xGuuW> 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

### 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* features DFI Fellows throughout the year.





In 2011, **Carol Collum** began the Ed.D. Program at Chicago State University. She holds a master degree in educational leadership and organizational change from Roosevelt University, a master degree in social work from Chicago State University, and a bachelor degree in criminal justice from Chicago State University. Also in 2011, Ms. Collum was awarded the Research Assistant Award from Chicago State University, Department of Doctoral Studies. She has presented on various research topics at two national and three regional conferences.

Ms. Collum's career goals entail collaborating with an administrative team of educational leaders who devise and develop behavior modifying systems that result in an increase in the self-image of at-risk youth and negotiating with viable service providers to determine ways to better serve at-risk youth. In doing so, Ms. Collum hopes to bring a voice of diversity to Illinois higher education institutions that reflects

African-American insight and culture, and a voice of advocacy for at-risk youth that commits to upholding their best interests.

The [Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee](#) (IBHE-SAC) met on June 15, at the Schaumburg campus of Roosevelt University, and elected its leadership for the upcoming 2013-14 year. **Justin McDermott**, DePaul University senior, was re-elected to serve as the nontraditional student member of the IBHE Board. **Adrian Miller**, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale's student body president, will serve as IBHE student board member, taking on the position held for the past two years by **Ari Shroyer**, from Roosevelt University. **Sarah Rens**, vice-president of DePaul University's student government, was elected Chair of the IBHE-SAC, and she is joined by **Regina Haynes**, student at Governors State University, who was elected the IBHE-SAC Secretary. **Anthony Cozzi**, Governors State University student, and **Courtney Jennings-Hope**, Northeastern Illinois University student, completed their terms of service as IBHE-SAC's Chair and Secretary, respectively.

Waubonsee Community College President [Dr. Christine Sobek](#) recently began her one-year term as President of the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, having completed her term as Vice President. The Illinois Council of Community College Presidents is an advisory group to the Illinois Community College Board.

## Campus News

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### [Oakton Community College selected for Achieving the Dream National Reform Network](#)

Demonstrating a strong commitment to student success and completion, Oakton Community College is one of 13 institutions selected this year for inclusion in the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network. Oakton will immediately begin the challenging work of identifying and implementing evidence-based strategies for closing achievement gaps and increasing student retention, persistence, and completion rates. "With student success at the core of Oakton's new strategic plan, *Connecting What Matters*, Achieving the Dream will enable the College to identify and address gaps in achievement," noted College President Margaret B. Lee, Ph.D.

### [RVC grows its own nursing faculty](#)

Four years ago, the Rock Valley College (RVC) Nursing program applied for a Rock Valley College Foundation grant to fund an initiative aimed at preparing two full-time nursing lab employees to move into nursing faculty positions at the College. The *Grow Our Own Nursing Faculty* grant funded tuition and fees for two students to complete their Master's degree in Nursing Education.

Kaye Eckstaine and Ellen Storm both had their Bachelor's degree in Nursing and were full time employees in the nursing lab at RVC, but they would need a Master's degree to teach clinicals and nursing courses at the College. Both Kaye and Ellen finished their Master's studies with a 4.0 grade point average and will be teaching clinical courses at RVC in the fall, as well as continuing with clinical skills instruction in the nursing lab.

### **[Regional economic development issues focus of collaboration among area colleges and universities](#)**

The 12 universities and community colleges, who comprise the 21-year old [South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium](#) (SMHEC), convened at Moraine Valley Community College on June 12, to hear the economic development leaders from the Chicago Southland discuss their visions for the region, and ways in which the groups could work together to enhance outcomes and how to collaborate more fully on regional development issues.

Members of South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC) are: DeVry University, Governors State University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Joliet Junior College, Kankakee Community College, Lewis University, Moraine Valley Community College, Northwestern College, Prairie State College, Saint Xavier University, South Suburban College, and University of St. Francis.

### **[News from Higher Education](#)**

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#### **[Widening achievement gap hurts U.S. competitiveness, report says](#)** (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The United States' global competitiveness is suffering in part because recent policies at all levels of education have widened the achievement gap between rich and poor, according to a report released by the Council on Foreign Relations.

#### **[Teacher ed takedown](#)** (Inside Higher Ed)

The vast majority of teacher education programs -- housed in universities and colleges across the United States -- are not sufficiently preparing future teachers to run their own classrooms says a highly critical new report from the National Council on Teacher Quality.

#### **[Everything you need to know about the student loan rate hike](#)** (The Washington Post)

Congress is, as ever, facing a deadline. Rates on some student loans are set to double on July 1, if it doesn't act. How much does this matter, and to whom? Let's break it down.

#### **[Brown retreats from conditions on university funding](#)** (Los Angeles Times)

Governor Jerry Brown has backed off his proposal to tie some money for California's public universities to such requirements as improving graduation rates, enrolling more low-income students and freezing tuition for four years.

#### **[House Republicans introduce bills to help with college costs](#)** (Springfield State Journal-Register)

Illinois House Republicans have introduced legislation aimed at giving the State's residents a break on college costs.



ILLINOIS  
MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE®

Looking for something to do this summer? Check out the [Illinois Office of Tourism's official website](#) for travel and fun.



*The Friday Memo* begins its summer schedule.  
Next edition is July 12.



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