

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

IBHE  
Chairwoman Lindsay Anderson  
Executive Director Harry J. Berman

ICCB  
Chairman Alexi Giannoulis  
Executive Director Karen Hunter Anderson, Ph.D.

ISAC  
Chair Kym M. Hubbard  
Executive Director Eric Zamikow

**August 23, 2013**

**[Governor Quinn signs legislation to improve educational opportunities for veterans](#)**

Governor Pat Quinn signed two new laws on August 10, that improve educational opportunities for Illinois veterans. The laws extend National Guard tuition waivers and allow students using their GI Bill of Rights benefits to be billed for tuition as in-state students.

Under [SB 2229](#) (P.A. 98 - 314), anyone with at least 10 years of service in the Illinois National Guard will be eligible for six years of tuition waivers instead of the current maximum of four. This recognizes the fact that older service members may take a longer time to complete their studies. The new waiver takes effect in the upcoming 2013-2014 school year.

Governor Quinn also signed [HB 2353](#) (P.A. 98 – 306), which allows students using their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to be billed as in-state students for the purpose of tuition. The benefit only applies to tuitions at Illinois public community colleges and universities. The law is effective immediately.

**Student loan interest rates**

On August 8, President Obama signed into law a [bipartisan compromise](#) cutting interest rates on all new student loans this year and saving a typical undergraduate student \$1,500 over the life of his or her loans. The plan allows borrowers to benefit from the low interest rates currently available in the marketplace and guarantees borrowers are able to lock-in rates over the life of their loans. In the future, fixed rates will be determined each year by market conditions, helping ensure that borrowers' rates are more in line with the government's own cost of borrowing, while capping how high rates can rise.

Also, a [new analysis](#) by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau takes a closer look at the more than \$1 trillion in outstanding federal student loans, as well as alternative repayment plans to lower payments.

**UPCOMING**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 7 [IBHE-SAC Meeting](#), DePaul Center Building, Chicago
- 11 [IBHE Performance Funding Steering Committee Meeting](#), Governors State University, University Park
- 13 ["PARCC 101"](#), Bloomington/Normal Marriott
- 16 [Illinois Student Assistance Commission Meeting](#), James R. Thompson Center, Chicago
- 20 [Illinois Community College Board Meeting](#), Black Hawk College, Moline
- [IBHE-FAC Meeting](#), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## **Veterans' educational success**

As part of the Administration's ongoing effort to foster postsecondary educational opportunities and dramatically improve employment outcomes for returning service members, the Departments of Education and Veterans Affairs have announced a challenge to education institutions to adopt best practices supporting educational success. Over [250 colleges and universities](#) across 24 states and the District of Columbia immediately answered the call to implement the [8 Keys to Success](#), with more expected to rise to the challenge in the coming months. These keys build on the Administration's [ongoing work](#) to provide veterans and military families with a high-quality, affordable education. (Note: The Department's Military Families and Veterans landing page is [here](#).)

## **Obama's Ratings for Higher Ed**

WASHINGTON -- President Obama appears to be making good on his vow to propose a "shake-up" for higher education. Early Thursday, he released [a plan](#) that would:

- Create a new rating system for colleges in which they would be evaluated based on various outcomes (such as graduation rates and graduate earnings), on affordability and on access (measures such as the percentage of students receiving Pell Grants).
- Link [student aid](#) to these ratings, such that students who enroll at high performing colleges would receive larger Pell Grants and more favorable rates on student loans.
- Create a new program that would give colleges a "bonus" if they enroll large numbers of students eligible for Pell Grants.
- Toughen requirements on students receiving aid. For example, the president said that these rules might require completion of a certain percentage of classes to continue receiving aid.

Read more:

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/08/22/president-obama-proposes-link-student-aid-new-ratings-colleges#ixzz2cifkvpQB>.

## **100th Illinois MAP-approved college signs-up for ISAC College Illinois Transcript Exchange**

The College Illinois Transcript Exchange (CITE) enables the electronic exchange of transcript information for Illinois students. Launched in the fall of 2011, the service provides the opportunity for students to request that transcripts be sent electronically to the college(s) of their choice. ISAC provides the CITE service at no charge when students request that transcripts be sent electronically to Monetary Award Program (MAP)-approved Illinois colleges and participating colleges in Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) states. More information is available at the ISAC website: <http://www.isac.org/e-library/college-illinois-transcript-exchange.html>.

## **Illinois High School to College Success Report useful, needs refining**

The Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) has released a report with findings from an evaluation of the newly designed Illinois High School to College Success Report (HS2CSR). The new HS2CSR is one of the first collaborative endeavors among the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to combine their fairly disparate data systems. The first HS2CSR report was released in June 2011, followed by the second report during February 2013.

“As Illinois develops its longitudinal data system, it is critical to evaluate the dissemination and usefulness of the HS2CSR,” said Brenda Klostermann, associate director for administration for the IERC and an assistant research professor at SIUE. “There also is a need for suggestions for improvement, in order to guide development of future reports.”

The evaluation study examined the dissemination, usefulness, and impact on collaborative efforts. IERC also solicited stakeholders’ suggestions for improving the report. The Research Brief and Technical Report, with a detailed description of the study and findings, are available at [siue.edu/ierc](http://siue.edu/ierc).

## **Number of Illinois students who are considered college ready remains steady - Illinois’ ACT score continues to rank among the best for states that test all students**

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) today announced that the graduating Class of 2013, achieved a composite score of 20.6, giving Illinois the second highest score among the nine states in the country that test 100 percent of its graduates. Illinois’ ACT composite score is just slightly below the national average of 20.9, which is based primarily on the scores of self-selected college-bound students. The vast majority of states only test students intending to go to college as opposed to Illinois, where every 11th-grader is required to take the ACT as part of the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE).

## **ACT scores dip in Illinois as more tests are counted**

Illinois is one of only nine states that require 11th-graders to take the [ACT exam](#), and in 2013, the average score for the state's students ranked near the top.

## **Green Apple Day of Service**

The USGBC-Illinois Chapter and the National Center for Green Schools are inviting communities to take action on campuses around the world for the second annual Green Apple Day of Service, September 28. On this day, K-12 and college/university students, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to plan a school sustainability project, and work with community volunteers to create positive environmental change. USGBC-Illinois is also inviting professional members of the green

building community to serve as volunteer mentors for each project. Mentors will provide planning, support, and work with schools to prepare successful one-day or year-long events.



The Lincoln Academy of Illinois will honor an outstanding senior from each college and university in Illinois and one student from among all of the community colleges in Illinois during the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Student Laureate Convocation at 11 a.m., Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the House Chambers of the Old State Capitol in Springfield. At the Student Laureate Convocation, each will receive a Student Laureate Medallion, along with a monetary award and certificate of achievement. A luncheon for the Student Laureates, their families, and academic guests will follow the ceremony at the Governor’s Executive Mansion. Nominations will be emailed to institutions in the fall. Honorees are chosen by their respective institutions to represent their college as the 2013 Student Laureate. The Lincoln Academy’s Student Laureate Awards are presented for excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities to seniors from each of the degree-granting colleges and universities in Illinois. For more information, contact: Julie Kellner, Executive Director, [jkellner@thelincolnacademyofillinois.org](mailto:jkellner@thelincolnacademyofillinois.org).

### [“PARCC 101” for Illinois higher education leaders](#)

A poster for the PARCC 101 Summit. It features a hand holding a pen writing on a document. The text includes: 'Who Should Attend: Vice Presidents of Student Services, Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs', 'PARCC 101 save the date', 'PARCC Assessment Summit For Higher Education', 'September 13, 2013 9 am – 3 pm', 'Bloomington/Normal Marriott Hotel', and 'Register at http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/parcc/'. Logos for the Illinois Community College Board, Illinois State Board of Education, and Illinois Board of Higher Education are also present.

Who Should Attend:  
Vice Presidents of Student Services  
Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs

**PARCC 101**  
**save the date**

**PARCC Assessment Summit**  
**For Higher Education**

September 13, 2013  
9 am – 3 pm  
Bloomington/Normal Marriott Hotel

Register at  
<http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/parcc/>

A three-agency partnership comprised of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois Community College Board (ICCCB), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is organizing a one-day summit on **September 13**, at the Marriott Hotel in Bloomington/Normal. The goal of the conference is to educate Illinois’ higher education stakeholders on the new initiative implementing national standards and associated assessments in Illinois’ PK-12 system. ***Please note: Both the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Vice President of Student Services at public and private colleges and universities should attend and participate in this summit.***

High-level national experts and discussants will work with participants to raise awareness of what PARCC is and how it will work. Postsecondary institutions will also develop campus PARCC teams who will lead their campus’ efforts to be ready for the opportunity these next-generation performance assessments will offer. Participants can expect to address critical questions such as: What is the PARCC plan to accurately measure college readiness? How do institutions with diverse missions optimize the use of students’ PARCC results? How will the use of PARCC as a new opportunity, help institutions of higher education institute better partnerships with high schools?

PARCC, an acronym for “Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers,” is a multi-state consortium working together to foster a competitive, world class PK-12 system across the United States. Starting in 2014, grades 3-11 students in the State of Illinois will be evaluated on

the new PARCC assessment system, which is aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for math and English Language Arts. As a result of this new system, students and their parents will be getting PARCC results that will include specific information about how they are progressing toward college and career readiness. This will eventually culminate into the grade 11 results that will include a final college and career readiness determination. Students deemed to be college-ready will be prepared to succeed in credit-bearing general education math and English courses and should not need remedial course work.

Cost of the summit is \$30 per participant; lunch will be provided. Registration can be made at <http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/>.

Check out [WWW.COMMONCOREIL.ORG](http://WWW.COMMONCOREIL.ORG) Resources for families and educators, including videos and downloads, and [sign-up for the Core Connection newsletter!](#) In joint partnership, Achieve, The Council of Chief State School Officers, and Student Achievement Partners have developed a Toolkit for Evaluating the Alignment of Instructional and Assessment Materials to the Common Core State Standards. The Toolkit is a set of interrelated, freely available instruments for evaluating alignment to the CCSS. Click [here](#) for more information.

## College and Career Readiness Institute

The College and Career Readiness Institute is a product of the Bridging the Gap project, which is focused on local curriculum alignment efforts centered on the Common Core State Standards. This institute is designed to showcase local alignment initiatives and innovative practices focused on remedial/developmental education reform, academic innovation, and curriculum alignment and partnerships between secondary and postsecondary institutions. The Institute will take place **September 12**, at the Bloomington/Normal Marriott and features David Conley, Ph.D., the founder and chief executive officer of EPIC, as keynote speaker.



The Illinois Community College Board is seeking local experts to present on selected topics at the Institute. The topics being requested include: Common Core Curriculum Alignment, High School and Community College Partnerships, Articulation, Remedial/Developmental Education, and Academic Innovations. **To submit a request for presentation and/or to register [click here](#)**, or follow the direct link at <http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/illinois-career-and-technical-education-professional-development-center/college-career-readiness/>.

## People in the News

---

On August 8, President Barack Obama announced the 16 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients. The Presidential Medal of Freedom was established by John F. Kennedy in 1963, and the award has been given to more than 500 individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the security and national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other

significant public or private endeavors. Among these awardees was Western Illinois University's [Rev. Dr. Cordy Tindell "C.T." Vivian](#), a distinguished author, organizer, and civil rights icon.

[Peter D. Constable](#), a Purdue University professor of veterinary clinical sciences and the head of that department, will become the dean of the University of Illinois [College of Veterinary Medicine](#) in January 2014, pending approval of the U. of I. Board of Trustees. Constable began his academic career at the U. of I. in 1993, as an assistant professor in the department of veterinary clinical medicine, and served as the interim head of the department from 2004 to 2005, before leaving for Purdue.

For the second year in a row, a Danville Area Community College (DACC) trustee has been honored by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) with a regional award. [Vickie J. Miller](#) of Jamaica, former chair and longtime member of the DACC Board of Trustees, has been recognized as the top community college trustee in nine states by the ACCT.

## Campus News

---

### [WIU-QC Grow Your Own Program graduates two cohort members](#)



For Kris Martens, pictured left of WIU President Jack Thomas, her time as part of the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Grow Your Own (GYO) program is over, but she, along with six other women, now, or will soon, have new career paths in education on which to move forward. Martens, along with Cheryl Heaton, pictured right of WIU President Jack Thomas, both took part in the WIU-QC commencement ceremony in May, after spending the last few years working toward their bachelor's degrees in special education through the WIU-QC GYO program. Martens finished her B.S.E. in May, and Heaton will complete hers after the Summer 2013 semester.

According to Darlos Mummert, an associate professor in Western's [curriculum and instruction department](#), and support coordinator of WIU-QC GYO, the program—[a state initiative that operates under the supervision of the Illinois Board of Higher Education \(IBHE\)—started on the WIU-QC campus a few years ago](#), after the State developed a grant program to help communities “grow your own” teachers.

"The program encouraged colleges and universities to partner with local schools, regional offices of education (ROES), and with community support organizations to develop programs to encourage individuals committed to their communities to earn teaching certificates," Mummert explained. "We graduated our first GYO student, Kris, in May, and Cheryl will graduate in August. We have four remaining GYO students, and if all goes well, each of them should student teach and graduate during the next school year."

## News from Higher Education

---

### [Moody's offers downbeat analysis of public colleges](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Public colleges and universities saw their revenue growth fall by more than half and their median expenses grow at almost double the rate of inflation in 2012, Moody's Investors Service said in a report.

### [Plan calls for UI to be world leader](#) (News-Gazette)

A strategic plan laying out a three-year course for the University of Illinois' flagship campus aims to position it as a world leader for decades to come through investments in the humanities, undergraduate education, international experiences, and collaborative research with other institutions, among other initiatives.



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



*The Friday Memo* is on its summer schedule.  
Next edition is September 6.



Illinois Board of Higher Education  
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404  
Phone: (217) 782-2551  
<http://www.ibhe.org>  
[FridayMemo@ibhe.org](mailto:FridayMemo@ibhe.org)

[Sign up](#) to Friday Memo mailing list

