

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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September 13, 2013

[IBHE-FAC Symposium: Delivering Higher Education in Five Years](#)

On September 20, the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council is presenting a symposium on delivering higher education in five years from now. The symposium will feature brief presentations by several distinguished speakers followed by a panel discussion. It will take place from 9:30 a.m. until Noon at the iHotel and Conference Center in Champaign.

Issues of interest include: New means for delivering course content, how effective might they be? How do we ensure maintaining quality and accreditation in light of new models of delivering contents? How do we ensure affordability and accessibility in light of financial challenges facing higher education?

Space is available on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information about IBHE-FAC or this symposium, please contact: Prof. Abbas Aminmansour, FAC Chair, at AAmin@Illinois.edu.

[Serve Illinois releases the 2014-2017 AmeriCorps Request for Proposals](#)

The Serve Illinois Commission is looking for programs interested in administering AmeriCorps funds. AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education and healthcare, protecting public safety, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief, and promoting civic engagement.

AmeriCorps members dedicate a year to helping communities meet their human service, education, public safety, or environmental needs. They receive a modest living allowance, student loan deferment, and training. Full-time members are also eligible to receive health insurance. Members who successfully complete their service receive an educational award of up to \$5,645 to help pay for college, graduate school, vocational training, or to pay off student loans.

Serve Illinois will host **mandatory meetings for interested parties** in Belleville, Chicago, Dixon, and Springfield. Proposals are due by November 22, 2013. Funded programs will begin work in July, 2014. Details on the meetings and the application process can be found at www.Serve.Illinois.gov.

UPCOMING

SEPTEMBER

- 13 **["PARCC 101"](#)**, Marriott, Bloomington/Normal
- 13-14 **[ICCTA Board of Representatives](#)** and committee meetings
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield
- 16 **[Illinois Student Assistance Commission Meeting](#)**, James R. Thompson Center, Chicago
- 20 **[Illinois Community College Board Meeting](#)**, Black Hawk College, Moline
- [IBHE-FAC Meeting](#)**, iHotel, Champaign

Get Ready to ShakeOut.

October 17, 2013 Register Now at shakeout.org/centralus



The **[Great Central U.S. ShakeOut](#)** earthquake drill is a great opportunity for campus communities to learn, get prepared, and practice what to do during earthquakes ("Drop, Cover, and Hold On!"). More than 2.9 million people participated in February. All colleges and universities are encouraged to participate in ShakeOut on Thursday, October 17, at 10:17 a.m. For the first time, this will be part of a large-scale ShakeOut involving millions of participants from more than 40 states and territories and several other countries. Currently, there are only 3 colleges in Illinois registered to participate in the ShakeOut. Colleges can register at: www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/register.

People in the News



On September 7, the [IBHE-Student Advisory Committee](#) held its Orientation Meeting of the 2013-14 year. Student leaders from community colleges, public universities and private colleges and universities were hosted by DePaul University. IBHE-SAC Chair Sarah Rens, conducted the meeting, at which she named the following students as Subcommittee Chairs: Academic Affairs: **Abraham Mulberry**, Elmhurst College; Access & Diversity: **Debi Rodriguez**, Northeastern Illinois University; Budget: **Jerry Wang**, Lake Forest College; Non-Academic Affairs: **Katherine Gogins**, University of Chicago; and Special Operations: **Clara Moravec and Laura Licari**, Harper College. The next IBHE-SAC meeting is planned for November 2, at University of Illinois at Springfield.

The John Wood Community College Board of Trustees, has accepted a request for retirement from President [Dr. John Letts](#). JWCC's fifth president will retire effective March 31, marking more than 25 years of service to the College.

State Superintendent of Education [Christopher A. Koch](#) has been named to two national organizations aimed at improving education policy to better prepare students for the workforce and higher education. Dr. Koch, a former teacher and longtime policy maker, will serve a two-year term as the Vice Chair of the Finance Committee of the policy-focused Education Commission of the States (ECS) and as a member of the inaugural Board of Directors for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the new accreditation body for educator preparation.

On Saturday, September 21, Illinois College's 14th president, [Barbara A. Farley](#), Ph.D., will be inaugurated.

News from Higher Education

[Business leaders praise new education standards](#) (Bloomington Pantagraph)

Business leaders said they support the new Common Core Standards in Illinois education as a way to produce better employees in the future.

[Crushed](#) (Illinois Times)

Illinoisans struggle as student debt robs America's future.

[President's proposal renews debate over how to measure college quality](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The debate over President Obama's plan to rate colleges based on access, affordability, and outcomes is beginning to take shape and lobbying groups and think tanks are already warning of unintended consequences.

[Pondering Pell](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Proposals to do everything from slightly tweak to completely transform the Pell Grant Program have begun churning through the higher education policy world, driven by the view (held by many, but not all) that the program's expanded costs warrant a reboot.

Little Alexa gives new meaning to the term college 'kid' (Quincy Herald-Whig)

(H-W Photo/Phil Carlson)



Not too long ago, 4-year-old Alexa Mosley was watching "Toy Story 3" and grew curious when Andy went off to college, leaving Buzz Lightyear and the rest of his long-time pals behind.

That sad storyline, however, is not what affected Alexa the most. She told her grandma, Ruth Kinnamon, "I've got to be thinking about what college I am going to go to."

Alexa's thoughts that day eventually led to the September 11, visit to John Wood Community College (JWCC).

She received a grand tour of the JWCC campus at 48th and Harrison, where she also received a one-on-one meeting with the college's president, John Letts. Alexa was accompanied by her parents, Kirk and

Cassie Mosley, and Grandma Ruth. "I've been in this business more than 40 years and this is one of the most interesting things I have been a part of," Letts said.

Letts learned of Alexa's desire to tour a college during a casual conversation with her mom during a recent Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce event. When Letts told others at the school, the wheels were immediately set in motion to make Alexa's wish become a reality.

"I want to be a ballerina teacher," Alexa told Letts during their meeting. During her tour of the JWCC campus, Alexa was able to visit the Mary Ellen Orr Auditorium and made her way to the stage and curtsied for everyone.

"Who would think a 4-year-old would be thinking about college?" Cassie Mosley said. "But it is something all parents should be thinking about very early, to start saving for the expenses." Letts agreed. "The big picture is very important, pre-planning is very important," he said. "She's a smart little girl and let's hope we can keep her interested for the next 14 years."

When Alexa was finished with her 45-minute tour, she was asked if she would like to return some day as a student. Her eyes sparkled and she could hardly wait to provide her answer. "Yep!" she said.

Alexa's story has already had an effect at JWCC. The school will host its first "Kids on Campus" event from 4-6 p.m., Sept. 19. The concept is geared toward children in kindergarten through third grade, but all ages are welcome to attend free of charge. Children will be able to tour the campus with their parents, meet Letts, and learn about future careers through various activities planned for that night. Students will be able to get inside a fire truck, police car, honk the horn of a semi-truck and learn how to take blood pressure with the help of JWCC faculty and students. Parents will be able to learn about how to save for college expenses, plus receive information about scholarships and financial aid.

For more information about the "Kids on Campus" event, contact Rachel Buhr, the JWCC director of admissions, at 641-4337 or rbuhr@jwcc.edu.

The *Friday Memo* will return on September 27.

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