

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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

ISAC
Chair Kym M. Hubbard
Executive Director Eric Zamikow

October 4, 2013

[Supports and services for veteran college students discussed at IBHE Board meeting](#)



Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) Director Erica Borggren and Assistant Director Rodrigo Garcia presented at the Illinois Board of Higher Education's (IBHE) meeting on October 1, outlining the best practices and promising efforts underway for Illinois veterans to ensure success on college campuses for veteran students. Director Borggren has established Education and Training Working Groups, under the [Illinois Joining Forces](#) banner, involving Illinois educational institutions, state agencies, and non-profit organizations working to improve access to education benefits, academic credits for military training, and trained and accessible faculty and staff to support veteran students. Assistant Director Garcia reminded the Board that over 35,000 Post-9/11 veterans will be returning to Illinois over the next four years, so more tutoring, veterans support organizations, and veteran-friendly policies will be needed on college campuses. The IDVA, IBHE, Illinois Community College Board, and uSelect are coordinating efforts for making military training count for articulation programs in mechanics, computers, health, police, and security fields. Veteran's coordinators on Illinois campuses are also assisting with training on campus for faculty and students. Over 20,000 veterans are currently enrolled at Illinois' public colleges and universities, receiving counseling and assistance valued at \$7.9 million, and \$32.5 million in financial aid provided through the Illinois Veterans Grant program.

[IBHE continues collaboration for student success starting with early childhood education](#)

In recognition of the importance of implementing the *Illinois Public Agenda's* Goal 1 of increasing educational attainment, Theresa Hawley, executive director of [the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development](#), joined by Stephanie Bernoteit, associate director of academic affairs at IBHE, discussed with the IBHE Board, at the October 1 meeting, the facts that confirm readiness for college, careers, and citizenship begins in early childhood. It is known that 85% of brain development occurs by age three, and research supports that high-quality early childhood programs have

UPCOMING

OCTOBER

- 10-11 [Illinois Community College Faculty Association Teaching and Learning Excellence Conference](#), Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield
- 16-17 [Illinois Community College Chief Financial Officers Conference](#), Rend Lake
- 17 [P-20 Council Meeting](#), Bloomington/Normal
- 18 [IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council Meeting](#), Chicago State University, Chicago
- 22 [Performance Funding Refinement Committee](#), IBHE, Springfield
- 24-25 [Illinois Association for Institutional Research 43rd Annual Forum](#), Peoria
- 30-31 **SCALING UP Invitational Conference**, ISU, Bloomington/Normal

long-term benefits for children through increased educational attainment, employment, and earnings, resulting in return on investment estimates ranging from nearly \$3 to \$10 for every dollar spent on early childhood programs. Therefore, Hawley identified the efforts that are underway in Illinois to improve early childhood education through rigorous teacher preparation, including recruitment of best candidates; initiatives to enhance early childhood education curriculum, taking Common Core State Standards into account; and cooperating on a new quality rating and improvement system for early learning services. These initiatives are dependent upon the ongoing collaboration of the Governor's office with IBHE, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and the Illinois Network of Childcare Resource and Referral Agencies.

[MAP Advising Workgroup commences](#)

Following the recommendation of the [MAP Task Force](#) to convene a working group on the best practices in student advising, [House Resolution 296](#) was approved during the 2013 spring session of the Illinois General Assembly. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has established the MAP (Monetary Award Program) Advising Workgroup for the purpose of promoting retention and degree completion among MAP recipients. The meetings are open to the public. Universities, colleges, institutions, organizations, students, and stakeholders are encouraged to attend. The group is required to report its findings to the Commission and the General Assembly by February 3, 2014. Any requirements relating to academic advising and student support services are to be implemented by ISAC as soon as feasible, but no later than the 2015-16 academic year. The [first meeting](#) was held on September 25; with the next meeting planned for October 25 at Heartland Community College's Astroth Community Education Center, Normal. Background resources, audio recordings of meetings, presentations, and a schedule for the Workgroup are available at [ISAC's website](#).

[Frerichs to hear from students, colleges, and universities on rising costs](#)

Senator Michael Frerichs began a college affordability tour October 2, with the first hearing at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Frerichs, Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, will host seven hearings at colleges throughout the state: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Chicago State University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Northeastern Illinois University, College of DuPage, and Lincoln Land Community College. Students and representatives from universities and community colleges will be given the opportunity to give testimony, as well as hear about state services and programs offered by ISAC to make college more affordable. "I look forward to having these conversations and learning the best ways to ensure everyone is given the same opportunities. No one should be discouraged from attending one of our state's universities or community colleges due to financial need," Frerichs said.

[FY2014 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program online site accepting applications](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is seeking new applications for its Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program (ICWS) to support student cooperative work study programs. The ICWS program aligns with Goal 2 of the *Public Agenda* by allowing students to reduce their reliance on student loans while providing a link between academic programs and employment; aligns with Goal 3 of the *Public Agenda* by prioritizing work study opportunities for students seeking degrees in high-demand fields; and aligns with Goal 4 of the *Public Agenda* by increasing the pool of funds for job training, which can result in business expansions in Illinois and full-time employment for students after graduation.

Eligible Institutions: Applicants eligible to receive grants are approved public and private, associate- and baccalaureate-degree granting Illinois colleges and universities. **Application Deadline is November 29:** The application materials for FY2014, must be submitted online. The online system can be accessed from the IBHE website at: <http://www.ibhe.org/Grants/default.htm>.

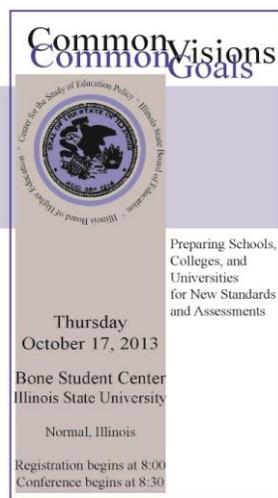
[Behavioral Threat Assessment Summit planned for November 6](#)

Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), Heartland Community College, and the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System are co-sponsoring a free one-day summit for schools and colleges showcasing best practices and standards to identify, investigate, evaluate, and manage threats of targeted violence and rampage shootings. Conducted by Ronald Ellis, the Summit is at Heartland Community College's Astroth Community Education Center, Normal, on November 6. On-line registration will be available on the IEMA website.

2013 Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation Scholarships

The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) will be awarding approximately twenty \$2,000 scholarships in 2013, to Latino undergraduate students enrolled in Illinois colleges and universities. Complete instructions and application forms may be found at www.illcf.org. The scholarship application deadline is October 18. Scholarship winners will be recognized at the ILLCF Annual Conference on November 22.

"Common Visions, Common Goals"



Looking ahead to an era of new standards and assessments, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Center for the Study of Education Policy (CSEP) at Illinois State University are hosting a one day conference on **October 17, Common Visions, Common Goals**, at Illinois State University's Bone Student Center. This conference is an opportunity to build on the progress of IBHE and ISBE Title II professional development partnerships and to discuss preparations in Illinois schools, colleges, and universities for the enhanced requirements created as a result of the new standards and assessments. The conference features two internationally known researchers with particular knowledge of the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers: Dr. James Pellegrino, Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Learning, Instruction, and Teacher Development and Dr. Timothy Shanahan, Director of the Center for Literacy. Both speakers are professors at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Invitation, Agenda, and Registration Link: <http://www.ibhe.org/conferences/cvcg/>.

Get Ready to ShakeOut.

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



The [Great Central U.S. ShakeOut](http://www.ShakeOut.org/centralus) 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 Shakeout 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 three colleges in Illinois registered to participate in the ShakeOut. Colleges can register at: www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/register.

Search for IBHE executive director underway

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is conducting a search for its next Executive Director due to the planned retirement of current Executive Director Dr. Harry J. Berman. The Search is being assisted by AGB Search and the Board expects to have a new Executive Director in place by January, 2014. Position and application procedures can be found at <http://www.ibhe.org/ibheexecdirsearch/>.



Creating the Future for Early Childhood Education Teacher Preparation

Save the Dates

Higher Education Regional Faculty Meetings

Chicago Region: Nov. 14-15 Oak Lawn Hilton
Northern Region: Nov. 14-15 Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel
Central Region: Nov. 21-22 Chateau Hotel, Bloomington
Southern Region: Dec. 5-6 Country Inn & Suites by Carlson, Marion

Learn what's happening in Early Childhood Education:

- Impact of Council on Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) on ECE Educator Preparation
- Redesigning ECE Programs to Meet New ISBE Requirements
- Creating Regional Partnerships to Enhance Coordination and Articulation
- Planning for Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA)
- Opportunity to apply for an Innovation Grant

Funded by the Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project and the McCormick Foundation.

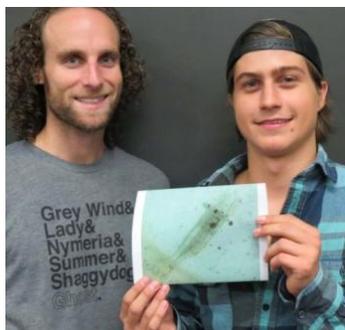
Sponsored by ICCB, ISBE, IBHE, Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project, and INCCRRA's Gateways to Opportunity

People in the News

Illinois' September Veteran of the Month is [Michael V. LaRocco](#), former dean of the University of St. Francis (USF) College of Business. LaRocco, who worked at the University for 33 years, and was honored by being named professor emeritus at his retirement, has a long history of serving his fellow veterans. He is a Vietnam War veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps after serving from 1964-1968. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) names the Veteran of the Month and chooses the recipient based on significant public service contributions made at the local, state, or national level and by excellence achieved through action above and beyond the call of duty. "Far too often the public narrative regarding veterans is incomplete, with veterans painted as victims," said Erica Borggren, Army veteran and Director, IDVA. "Dr. LaRocco is an excellent example of the more complete narrative of veterans as tremendous assets to our communities. Dr. LaRocco's service has extended long beyond days in the military and has made a marked impact on those around him."

Campus News

Oakton Community College biology student makes rare find in Des Plaines River



At first Oakton Community College sophomore Mike Buffo-Genyk thought he had found a tiny alien during an aquatic sampling of the Des Plaines River (which runs through the College's campus) in his Introduction to Environmental Science class in September. Instead, he netted a Mississippi grass shrimp (*Palaimonetes kadikensis*), a crustacean native to the Mississippi River basin. While the Mississippi grass shrimp has been sighted previously in Illinois, this marks the first documentation of this species in Cook County, according to College officials. Buffo-Genyk's assistant professor of biology, Paul Gulezan, was ecstatic about the sighting and quickly identified the creature through an Internet search. He said that the finding is significant because of what it means to the environment around the Des Plaines campus. "When the Des Plaines River is polluted, creatures like the Mississippi grass shrimp can't survive," said Gulezan. "This is a positive sign because it shows that the river's ecosystem is improving."

News from Higher Education

Government shutdown stalls military education benefits (Inside Higher Ed)

The Department of Defense has suspended a program that provides members of the military with money to attend college because of the federal government shutdown.

Financial aid continues despite Education Department shutdown (USA TODAY)

While federal financial aid continues, the vast majority of the U.S. Education Department has come to a halt, according to a contingency plan posted on the Department's official Website on September 27.

Student-loan default rates continue steady climb (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The percentage of borrowers who defaulted on their federal student loans within two years of starting repayment has increased for the sixth year in a row, while the rate for defaults measured over a three-year period rose by a similar amount, according to figures released on September 30, by the U.S. Department of Education.

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