

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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October 18, 2013

[Governor Quinn announces career veterans training partnership with manufacturers and community colleges](#)

On October 16, Governor Pat Quinn was joined by President and CEO of GE Transportation Russell Stokes, President and CEO of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association Greg Baise, President of Harper College Dr. Kenneth Ender, and actor Gary Sinise to announce a first-of-its-kind partnership between the State of Illinois, manufacturers, and community colleges to train veterans for in-demand careers. The Get Skills to Work coalition, a collaborative program from GE, is a new statewide veterans' skills partnership between Illinois, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, and participating community colleges that will locate employers who want to hire returning veterans and provide the training necessary for those jobs. Illinois is the first state in the Nation to join GE's New "Get Skills to Work" Coalition.

[How can states attract more high achieving minority teachers? IERC at SIUE releases study on teacher supply pipeline](#)

An Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) study focuses on the racial diversity and academic composition of Illinois' teachers and the factors that influence the makeup of the State's teacher corps. Bradford R. White and Eric J. Lichtenberger, both from the IERC, and Karen J. DeAngelis from the University of Rochester, collaborated on the study and found that several factors contribute to the composition of the State's teacher corps. "Research has found that academically skilled teachers have positive impacts on student achievement and racial/ethnic minority teachers have a positive impact on minority student outcomes," White said. "As a result, there are currently numerous efforts underway to improve the selectivity and the diversity of the teaching force, both nationally and in Illinois."



The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

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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 college students in Illinois during the 39th annual Student Laureate Convocation at 11 a.m. Saturday, November 2, in the House Chambers of the Old State Capitol in Springfield. At the Student Laureate Convocation, each individual 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.

UPCOMING

OCTOBER

- 18 [IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council Meeting](#), Chicago State University
- 22 [Performance Funding Refinement Committee](#), IBHE, Springfield
- 24-25 [Illinois Association for Institutional Research 43rd Annual Forum](#), Peoria
- 25 [MAP Advising Workgroup](#), Heartland Community College, Normal
- 30-31 **SCALING UP Invitational Conference**, ISU, Bloomington/Normal

NOVEMBER

- 2 [IBHE-Student Advisory Committee Meeting](#), UIS, Springfield
- [Student Laureate Convocation](#), Old State Capitol, Springfield



Creating the Future for Early Childhood Education Teacher Preparation Higher Education Regional Faculty Meetings

Registration Now Open: Click on Links to Register

[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

SPOTLIGHT: 2013 - 14 DFI Fellows

One hundred and seven Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Program Fellows, 48 new and 59 renewals, were awarded a Fellowship for the 2013-2014 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.





Rachel Mills is a Master's Degree student in the Health Systems Management program at Rush University Medical Center. She is originally from the small Chicago south suburb of Robbins. She received her B.S. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 2012. Rachel has an interest in population health management, healthcare disparities, and health policy research. She is a former participant in the Summer Research Opportunity Program at UIUC, and the Summer Residential Enrichment Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, in which she studied barriers to obtaining healthcare services. Rachel is currently working as an intern at Rush University Medical Center to help improve ambulatory operations. In this role, Rachel played an integral role in the implementation of the Rush University Medical Home Network. The Medical Home Network is a collaboration of providers in Chicago that proactively manage the care of their patients to reduce fragmentation and ensure that patients are connected to their primary care provider. Rachel is finishing up her last year of graduate school with a research project focused on improving emergency department operational metrics by connecting patients to primary care services. After finishing her degree, she anticipates pursuing a doctorate and researching in health care policy studies.

[University of Chicago professors Eugene F. Fama and Lars Peter Hansen](#) have been awarded the [Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2013](#). The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences honored Fama and Hansen, along with Robert J. Shiller of Yale University, "for their empirical analysis of asset prices." This research helps to explain how and why the prices of stocks and bonds change over time.



University of Illinois student and wheelchair athlete [Tatyana McFadden](#) not only won the Chicago Marathon on October 13, but also set a record in doing so. She knocked almost two minutes off the 21-year-old course record set by Ann Cody (an alumna of the University of Illinois and the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services' (DRES) adapted athletics program). McFadden adds her Chicago victory to wins in Boston and London earlier this year and hopes to complete a "grand slam" by winning the New York City Marathon on November 3. The first woman to win six world titles at a single International Paralympics

Committee Athletics World Championship, Tatyana already has identified her post-marathon season goal: making the U.S. cross-country skiing team for the 2014 Winter Paralympics. After the Chicago race, McFadden said, "It really came down to a sprint. I didn't even know what was happening. My muscle memory was there and I knew I needed to go. The crowd just took me forward. It was extremely tough." She credits her teammates in the DRES wheelchair track program and coach Adam Bleakney with pushing her to succeed.



[Major Roman Ortega Jr.](#), United States Army Reserve Officer and director of Veterans Affairs and Recruitment at Lewis University, received the National Organization of Mexican American Rights Meritorious Service Award at the 2013 Annual NOMAR Meritorious Service Awards Banquet in San Antonio. The 2013 NOMAR Meritorious Service Award honors military members and Department of Defense civilian employees, men and women, who supported the DOD mission, overseas contingency operations, and demonstrated role model qualities and the core values of their respective Military Service or Agency.

Campus News

[U. OF I. Library acquires archives of acclaimed writer Gwendolyn Brooks](#)

The University of Illinois Rare Book and Manuscript Library has acquired the literary archives of Gwendolyn E. Brooks, the first African-American to win a Pulitzer Prize and the poet laureate of Illinois for the last 32 years of her life, until her death in 2000. The archives, which had been kept by Brooks' daughter Nora Brooks Blakely, comprise more than 150 boxes stuffed with manuscripts, drafts, revisions, correspondence, scrapbooks, clippings, homemade chapbooks in which Brooks neatly handwrote her earliest (unpublished) poems, and heavy bronze awards ensconced in velvet-lined boxes collected later in her career.

News from Higher Education

[Study: Poor children are now the majority](#) (The Washington Post)

A majority of students in public schools throughout the American South and West are low-income for the first time in at least four decades, according to a new study that details a demographic shift with broad implications for the country.

[Success in the states](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Keeping up with the national college completion "agenda" can be tough.

[Heartland eyes curbs for rising textbook costs](#) (Bloomington Pantagraph)

Heartland Community College is looking at options to make textbooks more affordable for students.

[Tracking high school-to-college rates](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Newly-released data from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center tracks how 2.3 million high school graduates fared in transitioning to college over a three-year period.



As you get ready for a beautiful fall weekend, please check out the Illinois Office of Tourism's brand new website feature that showcases the many outdoor activities available in the Land of Lincoln. [Off-Road Illinois](#) is a one-stop shop for all of the hiking, biking, running and rock climbing you can dream of – right here in Illinois!

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