

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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October 25, 2013

News from the U.S. Department of Education: Focus on higher education

USDOE's college affordability plans

Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter addressed the annual conference of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, highlighting President Obama's [proposal](#) to make college more affordable for students and families and resources that provide consumers with easy-to-understand information about college costs, including the [College Scorecard](#) and [Financial Aid Shopping Sheet](#). Also, Secretary Arne Duncan joined more than a dozen college presidents from Hispanic-serving institutions, briefing participants on the President's higher education agenda and gathering feedback on those proposals.

Student Loan data

Late last month, the Department announced the official FY 2011, two-year and official FY 2010, three-year [federal student loan cohort default rates](#). The national two-year cohort default rate increased from 9.1% for FY 2010, to 10% for FY 2011. The national three-year cohort default rate rose from 13.4% for FY 2009, to 14.7% for FY 2010. For-profit institutions continue to record the highest average two- and three-year rates at 13.6% and 21.8%, respectively, followed by public institutions (at 9.6% and 13%) and private, non-profit institutions (at 5.2% and 8.2%). As required by the *Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008*, the Agency is in the process of switching from a two- to a three-year cohort default rate calculation. Congress mandated this transition because there are more borrowers who default beyond the two-year window. Thus, the three-year rate better reflects the percentage of borrowers who ultimately default on their loans. Schools with excessive default rates (of at least 40% in a single year or 25% or greater for three consecutive years) may lose eligibility from one or more federal student aid programs. This year, eight institutions are subject to sanctions. (Note: The public can search for [individual school default rates](#) online.)

Speaking of borrowing:

- "[Degrees of Debt](#)," a new report from the Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), examines the rate of borrowing and cumulative student loan debt of three cohorts of bachelor's degree recipients a year after they attained their degrees.
- Another new NCES report, "[Student Financial Aid](#)," presents data findings on student financial aid, including the number of undergraduate students receiving aid and the amount of aid received by those students for the 2011-12 academic year.
- Moreover, the College Board issued its [annual studies](#) on trends in college pricing and student aid, as well as the benefits of postsecondary education.

UPCOMING

OCTOBER

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

5-7 **Illinois General Assembly Veto Session**, Springfield

Also, the Departments of Education and Justice released [new guidance](#) offering colleges and universities information about the ruling in *Fisher v. University of Texas* and reiterating the agencies' steady position on the voluntary use of race to achieve diversity in higher education.

[Illinois Senate passes resolution calling on U.S. Congress to address student debt crisis](#)

[SR 640](#), sponsored by Sen. Michael Frerichs (D-52) and Sen. Jacqueline Collins (D-16), and adopted by the Senate on October 23, urges the United States Congress to provide equality of treatment under the law for all students by restoring full bankruptcy protections for student loans, both private and federally guaranteed, and to restore other consumer protections to student borrowers.

[Illinois House recognizes 45th Anniversary of the NIU CHANCE Program](#)

[HR 613](#), sponsored by Rep. Bob Pritchard (R-70), and adopted by the Illinois House of Representatives on October 22, recognizes the establishment of the CHANCE - Counseling Help Assistance Necessary College Education - Program in 1967, to identify minority and first-generation students, in order to admit and support them with tutorial and counseling assistance to become successful Northern Illinois University (NIU) graduates. The Program has grown to admitting nearly 500 students per year, and has made an impact on more than 15,000 students over the past 45 years. With a national reputation, the CHANCE Program has served as model for other states and universities, and is now reaching out to expand the number of successful students majoring in the STEM fields.

House Higher Education Committee holds hearing on Illinois performance funding model for public colleges and universities

At a subject matter hearing, on "performance funding," members of the Illinois House Higher Education committee convened on October 22, to receive reports on the implementation of [Public Act 97-320](#), that established the development of a system to allocate public funding to public higher education institutions based upon performance goals for student success and certificate and degree completion. The Committee heard from President Bob Easter and Vice-President Christophe Pierre of the University of Illinois, Illinois Community College Board's Executive Director Karen Hunter Anderson and Chief Financial Officer Ellen Andres, Illinois Community College Trustees Association Legislative Counsel Tom Ryder, Illinois Board of Higher Education's Executive Director Harry Berman and Executive Deputy Director for Fiscal Affairs Al Phillips. How performance funding has been implemented, including the impact of the funding set-aside rather than new funding and the effectiveness of the relatively small amount being set aside, were discussed.

[Common Visions, Common Goals conference discusses preparing educators for the Common Core State Standards](#)

Looking ahead to an era of new standards and assessments driven by Illinois' Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for math and English Language Arts (ELA), and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), under consideration to become Illinois' science standards, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Center for the Study of Education Policy (CSEP), hosted a conference on October 17, *Common Visions, Common Goals*, at the Illinois State University. The conference was 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.

Two internationally known researchers, with particular knowledge of CCSS, NGSS, and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exams currently under development to reflect the new standards and enhanced expectations, were the Conference's featured speakers. **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, are both professors at the University of Illinois-Chicago. In addition to these keynotes, the conference featured project presentations and discussions facilitated by our keynote speakers and **Dr. Jeffrey Barrett**, Associate Director of

the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology at Illinois State University, and **Dr. David Racine**, Director of the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield, who gave the afternoon keynote. Their remarks are available at the conference link: <http://www.ibhe.org/conferences/cvcg/default.htm>.

A Conversation about Aging in Illinois and the Economic Implications for All Generations

On November 12, speakers Executive Director Karen Hunter Anderson, Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), Director John Holton, Illinois Department on Aging (invited), Executive Director Harry Berman, Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), and Executive Director Brandon Bodor, Serve Illinois Commission, will discuss ways older Illinoisans can help students and younger generations succeed at college and career and share workforce wisdom. The discussion will also explore ways older Illinoisans can be helped as they prepare for retirement, maintaining their independence, and maximizing the role technology plays in their lives.

Sponsored by the Lifelong Learning and Service Coalition, Generations Serving Generations, ICCB, IBHE, the Illinois Department on Aging, and the Serve Illinois Commission, the session will take place in Springfield at the ICCB, 401 East Capitol, 2nd Floor Conference Room, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The business meeting of the Lifelong Learning and Service Coalition is from Noon to 2:00 p.m. For information or to RSVP: Contact Jane Angelis, GenServeGen@gmail.com.



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



Judson University celebrated the installation of its sixth president, [Dr. Gene C. Crume, Jr.](#) in a ceremony on October 24. Dr. Crume was honored in opening remarks by Elgin Community College President Dr. David Sam and Elgin Mayor David Kaptain, as well as several members of the Judson community. Before coming to Judson, Dr. Crume served as an independent consultant working with institutions such as Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and the Peru State College Foundation (Nebraska) on issues related to external relations and strategic planning. Dr. Crume spent a significant portion of his career at his alma mater, Western Kentucky University (WKU), where he served as the Executive Director of the WKU Alumni Association and taught as an adjunct instructor. His career also includes serving as Executive Vice President and Assistant Professor at Midland Lutheran College (now Midland University) and President of the Indiana State University Foundation.

Waubonsee Community College Assistant Professor of History [Dr. Amy Powers](#), of DeKalb, was honored as the Illinois Community College Faculty Association Instructor of the Year at the group's annual Teaching and Learning Conference in October. "I'm really honored, especially since it came from my colleagues," Powers said. "It means a lot to me personally and professionally."



[TJ Tomshack](#) is the first-ever Rend Lake College (RLC) graduate to receive the Poshard Foundation Scholarship for his hard work in school and overcoming adversity. Now a Saluki at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC), Tomshack is working on a Bachelor's Degree in social work, with hopes of working in child welfare and family counseling. The 2012 RLC graduate and 2009 Benton Consolidated High School graduate said he credits his grandfather and the TRIO programs at RLC with helping him accomplish his goals. Now on track to graduate from SIUC in May of 2015, Tomshack said the scholarship will help him reduce his student loans.

Campus News

[UIC chancellor receives \\$1.4 million to recruit transfer students in sciences](#)

Backed by a \$1.4 million federal grant, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) will launch a new program to increase the number of underrepresented students who pursue degrees and research careers in the behavioral and biomedical sciences. The five-year grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one of the National Institutes of Health, partners UIC with the City Colleges of Chicago, in an effort to bolster recruitment, training, mentorship, and degree completion in health-related fields for students from underrepresented backgrounds.

[U of I team leads \\$2M NSF study on best practices for STEM education reform](#)

A new study at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will seek to provide U.S. institutions of higher education with a model of best practices and methods to reform gateway STEM courses offered in the first two years of study, where increased enrollments, student retention, and diversity are critical to meeting the growing national demand for STEM degree holders. The National Science Foundation will fund the multi-year study, slated to begin in January, through a

\$2 million WIDER (Widening Implementation & Demonstration of Evidence Based Reforms) Grant. The ambitious U of I STEM education reform project spans three colleges—Liberal Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Education—and targets 10 academic units—Physics, Mechanical Science and Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Math, School of Integrative Biology, School of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Geology, and Chemistry. The gateway courses in these units enroll over 17,000 students annually, and several of the courses are required for nearly all STEM majors on campus.

[NIU among U.S. best in innovation, economic development, finalist in national award program](#)

Northern Illinois University (NIU) is among the inaugural 16 institutions nationwide designated as an “Innovation and Economic Prosperity University” by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). The designation acknowledges universities working with public and private sector partners in their states and regions to support economic development through innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent, workforce, and community development. In addition, NIU was named one of six national finalists for APLU’s inaugural Innovation and Economic Prosperity Award.

News from Higher Education

Net price rising (Inside Higher Ed)

Even though colleges have slowed the rate at which they raise tuition, the total grant aid available to students has not been able to keep pace with tuition growth, according to two reports released by the College Board.

Higher education needed to fill skilled job deficit (The Daily Illini)

Postsecondary credentials are now required to enter the middle class, according to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Study: 15 Percent of US youth out of school, work (ABC News)

Almost 6 million young people are neither in school nor working. That's almost 15 percent of those aged 16 to 24, who have neither desk nor job, according to The Opportunity Nation coalition, which wrote the report.

Low-cost B.A. starting slowly in two states (The New York Times)

With tuition, student loan debt, and default rates all spiraling higher, what’s not to love about a \$10,000 bachelor’s degree?

The Friday Memo will return on November 8.

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