

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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ICCB  
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Executive Director Karen Hunter Anderson, Ph.D.

ISAC  
Chair Kym M. Hubbard  
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**UPCOMING**

**November 8, 2013**

**[Governor Quinn announces Illinois awarded grant to bolster STEM programs](#)**

Governor Pat Quinn announced on October 30, that Illinois has been awarded a technical assistance grant to help three institutions of higher learning bolster their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs. The non-monetary grant will provide assistance and guidance to the University of Illinois at Chicago, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and City Colleges of Chicago, and complements the ongoing work in this area for Illinois.

"This grant will help three of our finest institutions produce more graduates who are prepared for 21st century careers," Governor Quinn said. "STEM education opens more doors for the students of Illinois and gives them the opportunity to participate in today's competitive job market. On behalf of one of only five states in the nation to receive this grant, I want to thank the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust for seeing the promise in Illinois' future graduates."

Illinois is one of five states to receive a Complete College America Award from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to help select schools bolster their STEM degree programs. The University of Illinois at Chicago, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and the City Colleges of Chicago will receive training to help strengthen STEM and design pathways to ensure students who sign up for these programs can get into the required courses, graduate on time, and receive assistance in finding employment in their fields upon graduation.

"This award speaks to the visionary leadership of Governor Quinn and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, as well as their unwavering commitment to college completion," Complete College America (CCA) President Stan Jones said. "This ambitious plan will lead to more high-skilled, high-wage Illinois jobs by dramatically increasing the number of students with valuable STEM degrees. I'm confident that these efforts will serve as a blueprint for the rest of the country."

A 2011 report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce shows that Illinois will have an estimated 319,000 STEM-related job openings by 2018. About 93 percent of those jobs will require postsecondary education or training. CCA is a national nonprofit organization working with states to significantly increase the number of Americans with quality career certificates or college degrees. Illinois is an alliance member state of the CCA.

"We are thrilled Illinois has committed to help develop a set of high-impact, evidenced-based strategies to improve STEM instruction and opportunities for its college students," Helmsley Charitable Trust's Education Program Director Rich McKeon said. "Working with CCA, these three higher education institutions in Illinois, as well as several additional universities and colleges across the other states involved in this initiative, will build vital frameworks for states throughout the Country to address our Nation's urgent and increasing demand for skilled STEM graduates." The grant is made possible through funding support to CCA from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

During the two year grant period, the three campuses will develop STEM completion goals and analyze local STEM labor markets. This will contribute to state level plans for improving college training needed to support Illinois' workforce development in these fields. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) will serve as the project's coordinating agency. Through training institutes, technical assistance from the grant also will be shared statewide with other Illinois colleges and universities, including use of the analyses of the State's labor market projections for STEM careers.

**NOVEMBER**

**13** **[ISAC Commission Meeting](#)**,  
Truman College, Chicago

**[Performance Funding Steering Committee Meeting](#)**, Northeastern  
Illinois University, Chicago

**15** **[IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council](#)**, MacMurray  
College, Jacksonville

“The three campuses selected are led by chancellors who are establishing reforms to improve student achievement in STEM fields, and are primed to maximize the in-depth technical assistance provided by this grant,” IBHE Executive Director Dr. Harry J. Berman said. “I want to thank City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor Cheryl Hyman, SIUC Chancellor Rita Cheng, and UIC Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares for their partnership.”

In early 2012, Governor Quinn launched the Illinois Pathways Initiative, an innovative public-private partnership between Illinois’ public education institutions and the business community to foster STEM learning. The Complete College America Award will complement the progress already made through the initiative.

### [Lt. Gov. Simon releases College Completion Playbook](#)

To reduce costs and boost graduation rates at Illinois universities and community colleges, Lt. Governor Sheila Simon released a [College Completion Playbook](#) while hosting the two-day Scaling Up: Effective Practices in Higher Education invitational conference in Bloomington on October 30-31. More than 150 higher education administrators from around the State received the guide on effective practices from national experts and successful Illinois educators. “Illinois wins big



when more of our students earn college credentials that translate to good-paying jobs in growing fields,” Simon said. “So this week, administrators from across the State are sharing their new and best practices.

The conference was hosted in partnership with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), Lumina Foundation, College Productivity Strategy Labs, Complete College America, and Microsoft. Speakers included: Jamie P. Merisotis, President and CEO of Lumina Foundation, the Nation's largest private

foundation committed solely to enrolling and graduating more students from college; Harvard Graduate School Professor, Dr. Christopher Dede; Dr. Larry Abele, Provost Emeritus of Florida State University; state agency heads, Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, ICCB; Eric Zarnikow, ISAC; and Dr. Harry Berman, IBHE; and Illinois State University President Dr. Timothy Flanagan. Representatives from all of Illinois’ public universities and more than 30 community colleges from across the State attended. [Click here](#) for additional information about the conference, including resources on college completion and student success.

### [Fall 2013 opening enrollments for Illinois community colleges](#)

The Illinois Community College Board Research and Policy Department has released the report on the Illinois Community College System opening Fall 2013 enrollments, which are slightly down compared to last fall. These opening enrollments reflect the end of the regular fall registration period which is usually the 10th day of class. Fall 2013 enrollments show a decrease in headcount (-2.2 percent), and a decrease in the number of Full-time Equivalent enrollments (-1.8 percent), compared to last year. The Fall 2013 headcount enrollments and Full-time Equivalent (FTE) enrollments reflect the return to pre-recession enrollment levels. System wide, 350,852 students enrolled at Illinois Community Colleges in credit coursework in Fall 2013. The number of students enrolling in credit courses at Illinois community colleges as of the end of regular registration for Fall 2013 is 7,710 less than in Fall 2012.

photograph by Studio 131 courtesy of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois



### [Lincoln Academy Ceremony at Old State Capitol recognizes the top students from Illinois' colleges](#)

Governor Pat Quinn announced the names of the State's outstanding college students who were honored by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois during the annual Student Laureate Convocation November 2, at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield.

"These students have exhibited a personal commitment to excel as seen by their remarkable academic accomplishments," Governor Quinn said. "They serve as role models to all Illinois students. With hard-working and dedicated young leaders such as these, Illinois and the rest of the Nation can look forward to a bright future." The Lincoln Academy's Student Laureate Awards are presented for excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities to seniors from each of the State's four-year, degree-granting colleges and universities, and one student from among all the community colleges in Illinois. Each Laureate received a Student Laureate Medallion, along with a \$1,000 educational grant, and a certificate of achievement. This event marks the 39th year that students have been honored by the Academy.

**COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING**

## Save the Date

Please mark your calendars for the fourth annual College Changes Everything Conference on **Thursday, July 17, 2014**, at the Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois. This conference is a "must attend" for stakeholders working to help Illinois reach its Goal 2025: to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025.

Be thinking about a session you might like to present at the conference next year as we'll be doing a call for proposals early in 2014. We encourage you to like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and share the date with other interested colleagues.



Thank you,  
2014 College Changes Everything Planning Committee

## State Leaders Convene a Discussion about the Future

*On Nov. 12, leaders from aging, education and service will initiate a conversation about aging in Illinois, the economic implications, and collaboration between generations.*



L to R: John Holton, director, Illinois Department on Aging; Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director, Illinois Community College Board, Harry Berman, executive director, Illinois Board of Higher Education, and Brandon Bodor, executive director, Serve Illinois Commission

**When:** Tuesday, November 12, 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon

**Where:** Springfield, Illinois  
**Illinois Board of Higher Education**  
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Chatterton Room

**Sponsors:** The Lifelong Learning and Service Coalition (LLSC), Generations Serving Generations, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Department on Aging, Council of Community College Presidents, and the Serve Illinois Commission, Office of Governor Pat Quinn

**Business Meeting LLSC:** 12 to 2:00 p.m., Chair Doug Brauer, VP, Richland Community College

**For information:** [GenServeGen@gmail.com](mailto:GenServeGen@gmail.com)

**Tentative Topics:** Helping Students and Younger Generations Succeed, Elders Staying Independent, Sharing Workforce Wisdom, Preparation for Retirement and the Role of Technology

## [Neediest students most likely to miss aid deadlines](#)

Students with the greatest need for financial aid for college are the least prepared to submit the applications early enough to receive it, according to a study by a researcher at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and an Illinois financial aid official at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). "Among all low-income students who qualify for need-based aid, those with a slightly higher expected family contribution are more likely to complete the application in time, as are those who had at least one parent who attended college, and who had better grades in high school," said Mary Feeney, UIC associate professor of public administration.

Feeney conducted the study, published in the *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, with John Heroff, outreach policy specialist at ISAC. They analyzed economic, social and academic data on a random sample of 4,000 among 169,000 aspiring freshman students who qualified for the Illinois Monetary Award Program, which allocates need-based aid on a first-come, first-served basis; and who completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, which is used not only for federal aid, but also by states and colleges in making grants. The researchers cite several barriers that face low-income students and their parents in applying for aid.

## People in the News

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### [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.



As a part of her Master's research at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale's (SIUC) College of Agriculture, **Catrina Johnson** is looking at *Bottlenecks Impacting Genes Governing Food Responses Among African Americans*. The information generated will not only yield benefit to the scientific and medical communities, but it will represent a model approach to scientific inquiry. This study deals with environmental factors that act upon the genetics of food responses. Her graduate program concentration is in Plant, Soil and Ag Systems, Genomics, and Bioinformatics. While an undergraduate, Johnson was a member of the SIUC Honors program, Golden Key International Honor Society, the National Agricultural Honor Society-Alpha Zeta, and the national four year college honor society, the Gamma Beta Phi Society. She was awarded the Dr. James Walker Presidential Fellowship in 2008; the Louis Stokes Minority Alliance Award; and the Statistical Genomics Scholarship.

Now that **Tatyana McFadden** has completed an unprecedented Grand Slam sweep of the Boston, London, Chicago, and New York marathons in a single year, she can put away her racing chair and take out the skis. After winning the New York City Marathon on Sunday with ease, McFadden will return to school at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, take an exam, compete in a Nordic skiing World Cup race in early December, **graduate** (and give the graduation speech to her class), then head to national championships in January, and likely the Sochi Paralympics in February.

## Campus News

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### [Northeastern makes \\$1,000 promise to 400 CPS students](#)

Northeastern Illinois University teamed up with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) to host the HACU Youth Leadership Development Forum for middle and high school Chicago Public Schools students on October 25. To close out the day's events, Northeastern announced that the 400 students in attendance would receive a \$1,000 scholarship if they chose to attend Northeastern after high school.

"The promise scholarship from Northeastern is what these students need to realize their college dreams," said Wendy Stack, director of the Chicago Teachers' Center at Northeastern. "It makes the path to college real for them because now they have some money for college and a university that wants them to enroll." Sharon Hahs, president of Northeastern, added, "Northeastern Illinois University is committed to extending outreach to the local community. Through our programs at the Chicago Teachers' Center, we help young students prepare for college-level coursework, encourage them to apply and enroll in college, and demonstrate that careers in math and sciences are within their reach."

## Southern Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium colleges and universities attend GPS Institute sponsored by Complete College America



On November 1, the community colleges, public, and private universities represented by the [Southern Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium \(SMHEC\)](#), participated in a Complete College America (CCA) Institute on Guided Pathways to Success (GPS).

Mike Baumgartner, CCA vice president, finance and special projects, and Larry Abele, Provost Emeritus and Director, Institute for Academic Leadership at Florida State University led the training at Governors State University. The South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC) is a unique 22 year old partnership of 12 higher education institutions: **five public community colleges** (Joliet Junior College, Kankakee

Community College, Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State College, and South Suburban College); **one private, for-profit 2-year college** (Northwestern College); **one public university** (Governors State University) and **five private universities** [three Catholic universities: Lewis University, St. Xavier University, and University of St. Francis; one private, for-profit university (DeVry University); and one Research 1 university: Illinois Institute of Technology]. The GPS components, including meta-majors, academic maps with milestone courses, full-time enrollment at 15 hours, intrusive, on-time advising, use of early warning systems, were viewed as complementary structure and strategy components to work SMHEC is doing with reverse transfer and the National Student Clearinghouse data reviews, according to Genevieve Boesen, SMHEC executive director.

### News from Higher Education

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#### [Editorial: Who's ready for college?](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Illinois rolled out its new, information-chocked school report card recently and provided an easy-to-understand figure of how many Illinois high school graduates are ready to go to college.

#### [Public hearing on college ratings](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

A federal college ratings system has the potential to curb access to higher education for disadvantaged minority and low-income students, several college leaders and student advocates told U.S. Education Department officials.

#### [You've got mail](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The Obama administration plans to send email directly to about 3.5 million borrowers of federal student loans over the next month in an effort to boost enrollment in the government's income-based repayment programs.

#### [As deferred maintenance piles up, colleges face hard choices](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

'There is not going to be enough money to fix everything.'

#### [Prospective adult students miss key data on college options, report says](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Most adults who are considering college—either completing a degree or starting one for the first time—aren't tapping into the wealth of information about costs, graduation rates, and job prospects, and as a result they aren't finding the right fit, according to a report released by Public Agenda, a nonprofit research group.

[Our Opinion: Common Core deserves a chance](#) (Springfield State Journal-Register)

Raise your hand if you're a parent feeling utterly overwhelmed by the homework arriving in your child's backpack each evening since school began in August.

### **From the Illinois Office of Tourism...recognizing Illinois Veterans**

It's that time of year when we start thinking of the people who have made it possible for us to be standing here today; those proud men and women who sacrificed so much for our freedom. So many of those brave souls came from the Land of Lincoln, each with their own story to tell, and that's why I'm proud to share this Illinois story with you.

The Livingston County War Museum in Pontiac is staffed by volunteer workers who are veterans of past wars. Here you can listen to the tales of battles waged from the men and women who were a part of history making. So take a few minutes and watch the video, and find out about the museum with a big heart located in a small town in Illinois. And stop on by for a history lesson next time you're in Pontiac, because this and so many other stories can only be told in Illinois.

**The Illinois Office of Tourism wants to hear about what Illinois college campuses have going on!** If you have info, events or updates you'd like the Illinois Office of Tourism to consider for media opportunities and on social media channels, send your releases to: [illinoisnews@fleishman.com](mailto:illinoisnews@fleishman.com) and social media campaigns you're launching to: [illinoissocial@fleishman.com](mailto:illinoissocial@fleishman.com)

Jen Hoelzle, Deputy Director, Illinois Office of Tourism



[Click here to watch the video.](#)

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