

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

IBHE
Chair Lindsay Anderson
Executive Director Harry J. Berman, Ph.D.

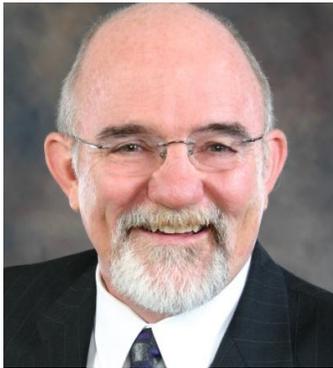
ICCB
Chairman Alexi Giannoulis
Executive Director Karen Hunter Anderson, Ph.D.

ISAC
Chair Kym M. Hubbard
Executive Director Eric Zamikow

December 13, 2013

Illinois Board of Higher Education selects experienced educational leader

Board approves appointment of its next Executive Director



On December 10, The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) announced the appointment of **James L. Applegate, Ph.D.** to serve as their next Executive Director. Applegate is an accomplished academic, policy leader, and administrator who has held faculty and administrative leadership positions at institutional, state, and national levels.

Applegate succeeds Exec. Director Harry J. Berman, Ph.D., who is retiring.

Dr. Applegate's selection is the culmination of a national search for an Executive Director who will give guiding attention to the **Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success**, a blueprint to direct state policies and resources to the higher education and career needs of Illinois citizens.

"We are extremely pleased that Dr. Applegate has accepted the Board's invitation to serve as IBHE's next Executive Director," said Lindsay Anderson, IBHE Chair. "Dr. Applegate was selected from an accomplished field of national candidates. His experience embodies the understanding, leadership, and deep-seated commitment we need to advance the **Illinois Public Agenda**, as well as guide this State in its efforts to increase the proportion of Illinoisans with high-quality college degrees, certificates, or other credentials to 60 percent by 2025. He is the perfect choice to lead us as we diligently work together to strengthen higher education in Illinois. On behalf of the Board, I also would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Berman for his tremendous leadership and service to the IBHE, as well as Illinois' students, colleges, and universities."

Currently, Dr. Applegate is a consultant advising national, state, and regional education and philanthropic organizations on increasing the effectiveness of programs to improve college access and success. Prior to this role, he served as the vice president for program development at the Lumina Foundation, where he led the development of Lumina's funding programs supporting Goal 2025, to increase educational attainment in the U.S. In addition, he served as the senior fellow and vice president for academic affairs at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education in Lexington, as well as professor of communication and department chair at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Dr. Applegate earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in Communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his B.A. in American Studies from Georgetown College in Georgetown, KY.

UPCOMING

JANUARY

- 17-18 ICCB-Student Advisory Committee**, Abe Lincoln Hotel, Springfield
- 22 Illinois P-20 Council**, Springfield
- 24 ICCB Meeting**, Crisp Community College Center, Springfield
- 25 IBHE-Student Advisory Committee**, NIU, DeKalb
- 29 State of the State Address**, The Capitol, Springfield
- 30-31 Joint meeting of the Illinois Community Council Presidents Council, Academic and Student Services Officers**, Heartland Community College, Normal
- 30 ISAC Meeting**, Thompson Center, Chicago

[IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council recognized for 50 years of leadership in higher education](#)

Governor Quinn, and both the House and Senate chambers have issued proclamations of congratulations to the IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council, (IBHE-FAC) noting the establishment of the IBHE-FAC 50 years ago. Sen. Daniel Biss sponsored [SR 661](#), in which the Senate designates **December 13, 2013** as ***Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council Day in the State of Illinois***. Rep. Naomi Jakobsson sponsored [HR 645](#), in which the House congratulates the members of the Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council on the occasion of the Council's 50th anniversary. Governor Pat Quinn, in [a letter](#) sent to the IBHE-FAC states, "Over the years, the Council has been a key partner, serving to inform state policy and strengthen Illinois' postsecondary education system." At the IBHE Board meeting on December 10, Chair Lindsay Anderson also added the Board's recognition, stating, "I want to congratulate the Faculty Advisory Council on its 50th Anniversary. Since 1963, the FAC has been a respected and valued resource in addressing issues impacting higher education in Illinois."

The IBHE-FAC met at a Special 50th Anniversary meeting in Springfield today, featuring a panel discussion on "Reflections on the FAC at 50" with Kathleen Kelly, John Huther, Ed Hines, Tom Layzell, and Bill Feurer, facilitated by Harry Berman, IBHE Executive Director.

PISA 2012

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has announced the results of the latest Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). PISA is a test of reading, mathematics, and science literacy, given every three years to 15-year-olds around the world. In 2012, 65 education systems -- including the 34 member countries of the OECD -- participated in PISA.

Among the [key findings](#):

- While other nations moved ahead, there was no measurable change in U.S. average scores in reading, mathematics, or science literacy between 2012, and any of the previous U.S. results.
- The U.S. remained below the OECD average score in mathematics literacy and was not measurably different from the OECD average scores in reading and science literacy.
- In mathematics literacy, the U.S. had a higher percentage of low-performing students and a lower percentage of high-performing students, on average, than the OECD countries.

"While we are seeing some encouraging progress on many important measures, the United States' performance on the 2012 PISA is a picture of educational stagnation," USDOE Secretary Arne Duncan said in a statement. "This is a reality at odds with our aspiration to have the best-educated, most competitive workforce in the world. We must invest in early education, raise academic standards, make college affordable, and do more to recruit and retain top-notch educators. By taking those vital steps, we will ensure all of America's children have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for college and careers."

Federal college data reports now available

- A new National Center for Education Statistics(NCES) ["First Look" report](#) describes the overall price of attendance (including tuition and fees, books and materials, housing, food, transportation, and personal expenses) associated with attending two- and four-year institutions, as well as examines the net price (attendance minus financial aid).
- Also, a NCES [statistical analysis report](#) presents recent national statistics on beginning bachelor's and associate's degree students' entrance into, and attrition from, STEM fields.

Call for Proposals - Early Childhood Educator Preparation Program Innovation Grant

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois Community College Board, Illinois State Board of Education, The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning, and the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, in conjunction with the Illinois Early Learning Council's Subcommittee on Higher Education Learning and Professional Development, are collaborating to offer the ***Early Childhood Educator Preparation Program Innovation Grant***. **Through this grant, higher education institutions have the opportunity to apply for up to \$50,000 in grant funds to be used in 2014, to support program innovation and partnerships for early childhood educator preparation.** The eligible applicants are consortia of two- and four-year institutions of higher education. The four-year institution must be the fiscal agent and, accordingly, must be accredited with a currently approved early childhood educator preparation program. The [cover memo](#) and [application form](#) include the complete details. **Applications are due to IBHE by December 18, 2013.**

News from Higher Education

[Enrollments slipped this fall, with for-profit sector hit hardest](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Enrollments at American colleges slid slightly this fall as institutions faced a shrinking pool of high-school graduates at the same time that a slowly expanding economy was luring older students back to work, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reported.

[Competent at what?](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Competency-based education appears to be higher education's "next big thing." Yet many academics aren't sure what it is. And that goes double for lawmakers and journalists.

[Michigan's 15 public universities have \\$23.9 billion impact on state](#) (Stateline.org)

Michigan's 15 public universities helped contribute \$23.9 billion to the state's economy last year, according to a new report.

[15 to Finish: Class load can mean diploma in four years](#) (The Southern Illinoisan)

As the needs and demands of the average college student change, so too is what is perceived as a full-time course load in the realm of higher education.

[Women Employed finds plenty of unfinished business](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Forty years ago, when Anne Ladky co-founded Women Employed, women in Chicago were routinely barred from many jobs at banks and insurance companies.

Why we give: A minute with Harry Liebersohn, a historian of gift-giving

From the News Bureau at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Editor's note: There's more to giving gifts than just the giving, says Harry Liebersohn, the author of "The Return of the Gift: European History of a Global Idea" (2011). It's not a one-way thing, he says, but rather part of what he calls a circuit of obligation and a language. Liebersohn, a University of Illinois history professor whose research centers on encounters between Europeans and other cultures, also has written about travel, religion, literature, art, and music. He talked about gift giving in an interview with News Bureau social sciences editor Craig Chamberlain.



You talk about the language of gift giving. What does that mean?

We usually think of gifts as expressions of friendship or love. Birthday and holiday gifts are the first ones that come to mind. But gifts can express a wide range of feelings and thoughts: Think of the gifts between countries that demonstrate tribute or respect, the extravagant wedding gifts that show off the giver's wealth, or deceptive gifts going back to the Trojan horse. Like speech, the gift has many uses; whoever masters the art of giving controls a powerful means of persuasion.

What do you mean by the "return" of the gift in your book title? Was there a point when gifts went out of fashion?

The title is a pun. Americans and Europeans for the past two centuries have thought of gifts as one-sided, like parents' gifts to their children. But the great sociologist Marcel Mauss, in his famous 1925 essay, "The Gift," showed that the gift is threefold: It involves an obligation to give, to accept and to reciprocate. At one level the gift is free; at another level people expect some kind of return.

There's another meaning to the title: Europeans forgot about the full meaning of the gift during the 19th century. It returned after anthropologists discovered how basic it was to non-Western societies. Franz Boas, the key founder of American anthropology, observed the competitive gift-giving of the Kwakwaka'wakw and other native peoples of the Pacific northwest coast, while Bronislaw Malinowski charted how the Trobriand Islanders off the coast of New Guinea made exchanges of gifts in a vast circle and reinforced the givers' social status. Mauss synthesized findings like theirs into his theory; ever since he published it, there has been a torrent of writing on gift exchange.

You note that gift giving includes everything from philanthropy to the potluck. What role does it play within a community or society?

Imagine a society entirely without the spirit of the gift, in which everything had a price tag. It would lead to a general mean-spiritedness that nobody would want. Our charitable giving, our extra hours for the church or the soccer team, our philanthropy for a park or a swimming pool, create a spirit of generosity that percolates through our public life.

Look to Homer's "Odyssey" for the role of gifts in remote antiquity, when the Greek poet imagined them as a counter-force to chaotic violence; look to the historian Natalie Z. Davis' book on the gift in France in the 1500s for the gift as an expression of friendship, love, neighborliness and power in early modern Europe. In different ways, gift exchange still pervades our lives today; we can garner wisdom about managing gifts by turning to examples from our own past as well as non-European societies.

We complain endlessly about the commercialism of the holiday, and there's a sense that many may feel as much dread as joy in the required hours at the mall. Do we risk losing the point?

Every one of us makes a choice about how to give. The right start is to think about the recipient. Maybe the proud new parents need cash, not a silver spoon. An unexpected phone call, visit or letter – these too are gifts. Used well, gifts can heal an old wound, make a new connection, deepen an existing one, or reaffirm a romance. When we get it right, the gift furthers endless rounds of giving and receiving. Yes, our holiday gift giving is intertwined with commerce, but gifts have always involved mixed motives. By giving well we recognize the humanity of those around us. Their thanks are the first and best return.

To contact Harry Liebersohn, call 217-333-1155; email hliebers@illinois.edu.



*May the gifts of the Season abound for you and yours!
Happy New Year, 2014!*

The Friday Memo
Will return on January 10, 2014

Illinois Board of Higher Education
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404
Phone: (217) 782-2551

<http://www.ibhe.org>

FridayMemo@ibhe.org

[Sign up](#) to Friday Memo mailing list

