

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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Illinois higher education leaders go to the White House

Yesterday, January 16, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama welcomed more than 140 higher education leaders, college presidents, and representatives from national organizations, such as Complete College America, and nonprofits, foundation, and business leaders to discuss ways to make college accessible and affordable for more Americans. Several Illinois leaders, including **Julie Smith**, Governor Quinn's Deputy Chief of Staff for Education, attended.

"The energy in the room was inspiring. There was such a diversity of education sectors represented, and we were all in agreement that we need to scale up our efforts to improve access and completion for low-income and at-risk students. The time to accomplish these goals is now, for the good of our students, our colleges, and our economy," stated **Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson**, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), who was invited to participate in a press conference after attending the event.

Quoted in a [Chronicle of Higher Education report](#) on the Summit, **Kenneth L. Ender**, president of Harper College, said that while the federal government can act as a "catalyst" for change, the ultimate responsibility rests with the colleges. "While we can describe the problems as being national," he said, "the solutions have got to be local." Ender, along with others, submitted information and made [voluntary pledges](#) to do more to increase college participation and student success resulting in more degree completions. Harper College's initiative, the [Northwest Educational Council for Student Success](#), works with high schools to prepare students for college courses. For example, the number of recent high school graduates placing into college level math at Harper College has risen from 45 percent to 57 percent.

Augustana College president **Steve Bahls** was also in attendance. Speaking to the [Quad-Cities Times](#), Bahls said that there is a "significant financial need" by students interested in attending Augustana, a private, four-year liberal arts college in Rock Island. "We have been asking for about the last year how we can become accessible for more students," Bahls said. "When (Obama) made the special call in November, that encouraged us to take the next step." In December, Augustana announced plans to launch the Close the Gap Award program that will provide a grant of \$2,500 to \$7,500 to eligible students starting in the 2014-15 school year.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) reported that University of Chicago President **Robert Zimmer** announced a \$10 million gift to boost its efforts to reach-out to disadvantaged youths from University Trustee Steven Kersten and his wife, Priscilla Kersten. "We know that not enough low-income students are taking the steps required to prepare for college," President Obama said at the event. "That's why I'm glad the University of Chicago — my neighbor, and the place where Michelle and I both worked in the past — is announcing a \$10 million college success initiative that will reach 10,000 high schools over the next five years."

Illinois Board of Higher Education reported on efforts of the State, including ICCB, Illinois State Board of Education, and Illinois Student Assistance Commission, to reduce remediation. Other Illinois higher education institutions represented in the ["Commitment to Action to College Opportunity" report](#) and whose Presidents were invited participants to the Summit, were Knox College president **Teresa L. Amott** and Northwestern University president **Morton O. Schapiro**.

UPCOMING

JANUARY

- 17 [IBHE Faculty Advisory Council](#), John A. Logan College, Carterville
- 21 [Illinois P-20 Council](#)
University of Illinois at Springfield and Chicago
- 25 [IBHE-Student Advisory Committee](#), NIU, DeKalb
- 29 [State of the State Address](#), State Capitol, Springfield

USDOE focuses on higher education through events all week

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) sponsored a series of events to promote higher education access, affordability, and completion. First, on January 13, Secretary Arne Duncan moderated a one-hour [#StuVoice Twitter chat](#) to obtain feedback from students on keeping college affordable and how the Administration's proposed college rating system can be useful for students and families. Just a few of the great responses are posted [here](#). Next, on January 15, the White House, the Departments of Education, the Treasury, and the General Services Administration hosted an "[Education Datapalooza](#)" to highlight the role that private sector apps, tools, and services can play in helping students get into and complete college. More than 500 of America's entrepreneurs, software developers, and education experts explored products for choosing and applying for college, online teaching and learning, and new pathways for acquiring 21st century skills (see [fact sheet](#) and [blog post](#)). Then, on January 16, the White House hosted the Summit on expanding postsecondary opportunity. See the White House links for [fact sheet](#), [remarks](#), and [White House report](#).

The logo for the 2014 College Changes Everything Conference. It features the text "COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING" on the top line and "CONFERENCE" on the bottom line, both in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a black rectangular background.

2014 COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING CONFERENCE CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND SAVE THE DATE: JULY 17, 2014

Please join us for the [2014 College Changes Everything Conference](#) on July 17, 2014, at the Tinley Park Convention Center. This one-day conference will focus on effective practices and showcase resources available to help with increasing college access and completion that support the State's Goal 2025 – to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025.

One of the strengths of this conference is that it brings together a diverse audience from across the State: college access practitioners; high school leaders; counselors and case managers; college and university leaders and administrators; and policymakers and elected officials interested in higher education. Sessions presented by state and national leaders provide purposeful information and engage the audience in thoughtful discussions on the serious issues we face in reaching Goal 2025.

Call for Proposals – The Conference Planning Committee is making a call for proposals for the 2014 Conference. Help make this conference a valuable professional development experience by sharing your knowledge, enthusiasm, and your questions with colleagues from all over the State.

Sessions should provide in-depth information, practical ideas, and specific strategies for the audience, and demonstrate and promote positive steps taken to address college access and completion issues and sharing of specific lessons learned.

Since we will have a broad group of stakeholders attending the conference, we are encouraging proposals that cover a wide range of themes related to college access and completion such as, but not limited to:

- college and career readiness
- student retention, persistence, and completion
- education, business, and the economy
- college costs and affordability
- after school programs and their role in college and career readiness

Deadline – Completed session proposal forms must be submitted to the Conference Planning Committee no later than **March 3, 2014**, by emailing the form to: isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov. The form is available on the College Changes Everything [Website](#).

[IBHE Faculty Fellows Program accepting applications](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Faculty Fellows Program is for selected faculty members of public and private institutions of higher education in Illinois. This program was proposed by the Faculty Advisory Council to the Board as a new opportunity for faculty to conduct research relevant to higher education in Illinois and for the faculty to gain a perspective on higher education policies and priorities. Fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis for the purpose of encouraging research in specified higher education topics and professional development for the mutual benefit of the Board, the institution of higher education, and the faculty member.

The IBHE is currently accepting [applications](#) for the following terms: Fall 2014, Spring 2015, and Summer 2015, with the expectation that fellows may apply for one term or for consecutive terms based on their proposed research. The budgeted stipend from the Board is \$2,500 per term and will be available for one or two fellows. Applications must be submitted to the Board's office no later than **Monday, March 3, 2014**.

[Community College Film Competition gets underway](#)

[The Reel Illinois](#) short film competition is seeking captivating films about community colleges from students that attend the 48 community colleges in Illinois. The competition is intended to enhance school engagement, pride, and awareness. Utilizing the power of social media and the innate creativity and talent on local campuses, Illinois community college students will create five-minute films about their colleges, community, or a local small business.

The competition is co-sponsored by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) and the Chicago International Social Change Film Festival.



Applications are being accepted for **NEWLeadership Illinois 2014**. The application process is open for IGPA's NEWLeadership Illinois program, which will be held June 2-6 in Chicago. NEWLeadership Illinois is a week-long residential program for college women designed to increase women's representation in all elements of public life, including elected office. IGPA partners with the Conference of Women Legislators of the Illinois General Assembly to hold the program each year. Twenty students are accepted for each program.

[Click here for application information.](#)

[SCI Summer Intern Program begins sixth year](#)

Summer internships will be offered for the sixth summer at Simmons Cancer Institute (SCI) at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Four positions will be awarded to qualified undergraduate college students who plan a career in medicine or research with a focus on cancer.

[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.





Jermaine Martinez has been teaching for over 10 years. After receiving his B.A. in communication & philosophy from Grand Valley State University in 2001, Martinez completed a Masters Degree in Communication Studies from Illinois State University in 2004. He has taught with community colleges, private colleges, and state universities before arriving here at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2008, to pursue a Ph.D. in Rhetorical Theory. He is a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Communication, and during the summer months, he teaches with Upward Bound College Preparatory Academy and has been awarded Instructor of the Summer. Martinez has been recognized as Honorary Coach by the Fighting Illini Football Team, Teacher of Excellence by the Illini Women's Basketball Team, and was awarded the University of Illinois' Student Senate Excellence in Teaching Award. His current research interests are in the rhetoric of emotion and feeling. His dissertation examines public discourses on clinical depression. He has presented at local, national, and regional conferences on topics from personal significance, love, and the rhetoric of autobiographical accounts of clinical depression. His long-term goals are to teach at a small teaching college, liberal arts college, or community college and create his own online university offering an intensive humanities-based curriculum with a focus on personal development.

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Blackburn College: Ashley Donoho is from Luka, majoring in Psychology.



Bradley University: Jonathan Teich is from Bay City, Michigan, majoring in Communications.



Chicago State University: Christopher D. Muldrow is from Oak Forest, majoring in Criminal Justice.

Editor's note: In the upcoming issues of *The Friday Memo*, the Illinois Student Laureates from Illinois' colleges and universities will be featured in "People in the News." The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement, campus leadership, and extracurricular activities among Illinois college and university seniors. Photographs by Studio 131, courtesy of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

[Tracking alternative credentials](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The federal government for the first time has data on the 50 million U.S. adults who hold some form of educational credential that isn't a college degree.

[Budget agreement would give NIH and Pell Grants a boost](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Federal lawmakers reached agreement on a long-overdue spending bill for the 2014 fiscal year that would provide an additional \$1-billion for the National Institutes of Health and raise the maximum Pell Grant by an estimated \$85, to \$5,730.

[U.S. urged to give college funding incentives](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The federal government should create a matching grant program to reward states that maintain and increase their funding for public colleges, by linking the maximum Pell Grant awarded to students in states to per-student funding or higher education, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities argues in a new report.

[Illinois Innovation Index: Dynamism in Illinois](#) (Chicago Tribune)

An innovation ecosystem's ability to assemble, coordinate, and support the necessary components for technology transfer — R&D funding, infrastructure, and capital — has a direct bearing on the success of universities in the development and commercialization of promising research.

And ***Friday Memo*** thought our readers should know....

[Happy Birthday to the State Library!](#)

This year the Illinois State Library celebrates its **175th birthday!** Conceived in 1839 when the young Secretary of State, Stephen A. Douglas, reserved space next to his new office for a small, fledgling library, the Illinois State Library has evolved into a 21st-century organization characterized by new online information resources and access to the regional, national and global collections of numerous multitype libraries. To stay informed about the Illinois State Library, subscribe to the Illinois State Library's [Inform newsletter](#). Email Mhenninger@ilsos.net if you would like to subscribe to this e-newsletter.

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