

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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January 24, 2014

[Governor Quinn hosts Private Higher Ed Diversity and Inclusion Forum on Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#)

Governor Pat Quinn hosted the State's private colleges and universities at a Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education Forum held on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 20. The forum was held at the University of Chicago and sponsored by the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities.

"I am proud to continue collaborating with these institutions of higher learning as they enhance diversity and inclusion on their campuses throughout Illinois," Governor Quinn said. "Meaningful programs like this are helping us ensure a level playing field for everyone in Illinois. I thank these schools for honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by working to increase their diversity on campus."

[Report on Illinois' independent colleges and universities describe benefits to Illinoisans](#)

The Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities released its [2014 Report to the Governor and Legislature](#) on January 23, with a Statehouse news conference. The report highlights the real value private colleges and universities provide to Illinois, through hundreds of thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity created by the campuses and the strong student performance at an increasingly competitive cost value.

[Scaling Up Pathways to Results 2014](#)

The Office of Community College Research and Leadership along with the Pathways Resource Center at the University of Illinois are holding the *Scaling Up Pathways to Results 2014* conference on Wednesday, March 5, at the I-Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign, IL. Marcy Drummond, Lead Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is the keynote speaker. The focus of the *Scaling Up Pathways to Results 2014* conference is on building, evaluating, and improving P-20 education through career pathways to achieve equitable outcomes for all students. The conference will include keynote and breakout presentations, round tables, and posters that focus on the broad application of the Pathways to Results process. Topics such as developing partnerships, utilizing data in decision making, benchmarking, aligning curriculum, engaging P-20 students in pathways, and using continuous improvement processes to raise achievement will be highlighted. For more information visit [OCCR website](#).

UPCOMING

JANUARY

- 24 **[ICCB Board Meeting](#)**,
Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center, Springfield
- 25 **IBHE-Student Advisory Committee**, NIU, DeKalb
- 29 **State of the State Address**, State Capitol, Springfield
- 30 **[ISAC Meeting](#)**, Thompson Center, Chicago

FEBRUARY

- 4 **[IBHE Board Meeting](#)**,
Concordia University, River Forest

COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING CONFERENCE

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, as well as 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](#).

[People in the News](#)

[Christopher G. Kennedy](#) was re-elected as chairman of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees during its annual organizational meeting on January 23. Kennedy, a Chicago businessman, has served as chairman since he was first appointed to the Board in 2009. He is chairman of Joseph P. Kennedy Enterprises Inc., and is founder and chairman of Top Box Foods, a nonprofit organization that provides low-cost food staples to families in need. From 2000 to 2011, he was president of Merchandise Mart Properties, a commercial property management firm based in Chicago.

[David Pierce](#), who served at the helm of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) for almost a decade in the 1990s, passed away on January 16. He was 78. During more than four decades in higher education, Pierce's professional career comprised every major level of campus activity, from math instructor to division chair to dean of instruction to college president. From 1980 to 1990, he served as executive director of the Illinois Community College Board, and from 1990 to 1991, as chancellor of the Virginia Community College System. He was selected president of AACC in 1991, becoming the seventh association CEO in its 80-year history.

On January 13, [Hugh Van Voorst](#) of Union Hill resigned, ending 34-years of service on the Kankakee Community College (KCC) Board of Trustees. Van Voorst began his service as a trustee for KCC in 1980, served as secretary from 1993 to 1995, and then served as board chair from 1995 to 2014.

[Jackie Jimenez](#), a 2010 graduate of Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC) in Illinois, served from September to December, as an intern in the Office of Presidential Correspondence, and also served on the White House Comment Line. That experience fueled her love for public service, but its roots stem from her days as a student at MVCC. "Moraine Valley was really where my passion for service started. The motivation that they provided really gave me the confidence to go out and pursue my dreams," said Jimenez who, in March, will complete her bachelor's degree in public policy, with a minor in Latino studies, at DePaul University.

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Columbia College: Allison C. Shuman is from Cranston, Rhode Island, majoring in Arts, Entertainment, and Media Management.



DePaul University: Caelin Niehoff is from Algonquin, majoring in American Studies.



Dominican University: David C. Gayes is from Oak Park, majoring in Spanish Studies with minors in Theology & Social Justice and Civic Engagement.

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.

[WIU sees improved retention](#)

Students at Western Illinois University (WIU) are performing better in the classroom, retention rates have improved, and more students are finishing their first semester in good academic standing, according to Provost and Academic Vice President Ken Hawkinson.

Hawkinson noted that programs such as the Building Connections mentor program, which pairs first year students with a faculty or staff mentor, and a First Year Experience course, are having a significant, positive effect on first-year student success. The fall-to-spring retention rate has improved to 89.3 percent (Fall 2013 to Spring 2014), from 82.2 percent (Fall 2012 to Spring 2013). The percentage of new first-time freshmen in good academic standing or semester honors after their first semester was 78.2 percent in Fall 2013, compared to 70.4 percent in Fall 2012.

[U. of I. honors Roger Ebert with lifetime journalism achievement award](#)

Roger Ebert, who was a Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic and journalist for the Chicago Sun-Times, as well as an influential and groundbreaking film critic on television, will be honored posthumously with the 2014 Illinois Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism.

[SIUE's Robert Ware appears on PBS Newshour discussing potential terrorism at Sochi Olympics](#)

Robert Ware, professor of philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, appeared on the *PBS Newshour* January 21. Hari Sreenivasan conducted the interview. The topic concerned security pressures being high for the upcoming Sochi Olympics, because of the location's bloody history. Sochi was the site of a massacre 150 years ago. It potentially provides fresh symbolism for vengeful insurgents. View the interview at pbs.org.

[RVC student made an app for that!](#)

Rock Valley College (RVC) has announced the first app developed and successfully published by a current RVC student. The name of the App is *Midwest Fishing Adventures* and was developed by RVC student **Josh Glovinsky**. The app was designed for people who love to fish. It provides USGS (United States Geological Survey) water data, fishing maps, and fishing how-to videos. *Midwest Fishing Adventures* was published to the Apple App Store in early January 2014, and is now ready to download. The app is free and designed for the iPhone, iPad, or iTouch. *Midwest Fishing Adventures* was developed by Glovinsky while taking the fall 2013, Mobile App Development course (CIS-280) at Rock Valley College.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Ratings alternative](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities took issue with certain parts of the Obama administration's proposed college ratings system -- but recommended an alternative approach that embraces some of its key principles, including linking colleges' performance to how much student aid money they receive.

[Prospects: Who will reach college age in the next 14 years?](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

As the U.S. population changes, so, too, will the makeup of American colleges and universities. In the coming years, they can expect to see significant changes in the demographics of their student bodies—and the regions from which students will hail.

[State higher-education spending continues slow recovery](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Total state spending for higher education showed a marked improvement, increasing nearly six percent between the 2013 and 2014 fiscal years, according to the results of an annual survey. Beneath the numbers, however, lies a more complex story showing the slow and uneven recovery of state budgets.

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