

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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[Governor Quinn reports on the State of the State](#)

*Proposes a five-year blueprint on jobs, education, and fairness*

Governor Pat Quinn delivered the 2014 State of the State address on January 29, exactly five years after taking on the Governor's role. The Governor outlined a blueprint for the next five years focusing on jobs, education, and fairness. Among his initiatives for more jobs, he is proposing a "Ready Workforce" by mobilizing "our education system behind our '60 by 2025' goal." While the State has so far been exceeding its targets, Quinn acknowledged that there are students unable to afford a college education, so he is proposing to double the number of Monetary Award Program (MAP) college scholarships. In his speech, Gov. Quinn pointed to three students who are currently MAP recipients. **Shomari Jackson** is a University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) senior double majoring in Accounting and Business Administration, **Adriana Rivas**, also a UIS senior, majoring in biology, and **Harold Brown**, a junior at Roosevelt University, majoring in elementary education. Quinn emphasized, "By doubling the number of MAP scholarships, we can make sure deserving students in need are equipped to excel in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace."

Quinn also announced plans to expand the State's conservation corps to provide low-income and at-risk youth valuable training and work experience.

The Governor's blueprint for education focused on a Birth-to-Five Initiative, connecting expecting mothers with prenatal care, providing access to quality learning opportunities, and ensuring parents have strong support in encouraging their children's preschool education.

The Governor's Budget Address detailing his revenue and funding recommendations for fiscal year 2015, is scheduled for February 19.

**Education in the State of the Union**

On January 28, President Obama delivered his fifth State of the Union address, laying out three key principles: opportunity, action, and optimism. Among the education topics discussed, the President recommitted to making high-quality pre-K available to every four-year-old, connecting 99 percent of students to high-speed broadband over the next four years, and redesigning high schools to offer more real-world education and hands-on training. In a Fact Sheet [released](#) by the White House, plans are outlined to expand access to apprenticeships and improved job training programs at community colleges that are better-aligned with the skills that employers demand, and the Administration's commitment to increased access and affordability in higher education is stated.

[College Town Summit on alcohol diversion](#)

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission is sponsoring a College Town Summit at the University of Illinois, Union Illini Room, in Urbana on February 19. Discussions are planned with campus representatives on alcohol issues, including alcohol diversion programs, party buses, private parties, and ways to reduce high-risk alcohol consumption. [Registration](#) deadline is February 10.

UPCOMING

FEBRUARY

- 4 [IBHE Board Meeting](#),  
Concordia University, River Forest
- [House Higher Ed Committee](#),  
Room 118, Capitol
- 21 [IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council](#), College of DuPage, Glenn Ellyn

## **Version 4 of national Common Education Data Standards is LIVE**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has announced the release of Common Education Data Standards (CEDs) Version 4. CEDs is a national collaborative effort to develop voluntary, common data standards for a key set of education data elements to streamline the exchange, comparison, and understanding of data within and across P-20W institutions and sectors. CEDs Version 4 includes a broad scope of elements spanning much of the P-20W spectrum and provides greater context for understanding the standards' interrelationships and practical utility. Version 4 of CEDs can be found at the CEDs website: <http://ceds.ed.gov>.

## **Illinois School Security Grant Funds available to public colleges and universities**

Community colleges and state universities can begin applying for grants to enhance security for students and staff under a program administered by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). Grants totaling \$25 million will be awarded under the Illinois School Security Grant Program to public K-12 school, community colleges, and universities.

IEMA has emailed information about the competitive grant program to the chief official for each eligible educational entity in Illinois. The emails contained secure access information so school officials can develop and submit their grant application. Only one application from the eligible entity will be accepted.

Public community colleges and universities may request funding to install physical security enhancement equipment, inspection and screening systems, information technology, and interoperable communication equipment for academic classroom buildings.

Grant applications are due no later than Friday, March 14. Applications will be evaluated on a number of criteria, including known hazards, threats, and risks; ability of the project to enhance student safety; existence of a current Emergency Operations Plan at the facility where the project is planned; ability to complete the project within the grant period; and more.

Grant awards are expected to be announced this spring. More information about the Illinois School Security Grant Program is available at [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov).

## **ILACHE 22nd Annual Professional and Student Development Conference *The Latino Impact: Education, Politics, and Leadership* March 21, 2014 -- Roosevelt University**

Call for Proposals Deadline is Monday, February 17, 2014  
Submissions: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ILACHE2014>

## **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.

Debra Bragg, higher education professor and OCCRL director, said the conference will focus on many forms of pathways. "We are very pleased to have speakers from throughout the Country who will present research and information about pathways to and through education and employment that are closing equity gaps for students historically underserved by P-20 educational systems," Bragg said. Breakout session topics include secondary to postsecondary transitions, evaluation and benchmarking, and career pathway policies and practices. For more information visit [OCCRL website](http://OCCRL website).

## [Web & Database Developer wanted for state higher ed efforts](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education is seeking applicants for a Web and Database Developer. Primary duties include development, design, and maintenance of the IBHE and affiliated websites, and the creation of database-driven web applications. Visit the website at [www.ibhe.org](http://www.ibhe.org) for more information about this position. For full consideration, submit application materials by February 24 (AA/EOE).

## People in the News

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**Phyllis Wise**, the chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has been named to the board of trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. “Phyllis Wise has a deep respect for the vital role that research and evaluation play in improving the health of the people of our nation, and as an organization that understands how evidence-based information can lead to positive change, we are delighted to welcome her,” said Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., the president and chief executive officer of the foundation.

## *Lincoln Academy of Illinois’ Student Laureates honored*



**Eastern Illinois University:** Zachary D. Samples is from Decatur, majoring in History.



**Elmhurst College:** Emily A. Darow is from Palatine, majoring in Special Education.



**Eureka College:** Lauren M. Schwanke is from Eureka, majoring in Psychology with minors in Leadership and Communication.

**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.

### **EIU receives single largest gift in University's history**

Eastern Illinois University (EIU) has received the largest single gift in university history, according to Vice President for Advancement Robert Martin. "We have received a \$3.68 million gift from the estate of Paul L. Ward, former professor of Educational Psychology at EIU, to provide scholarships for students majoring in counseling and student development," Martin said.

The bequest – given through the EIU Foundation -- creates an endowment that will fund scholarships for graduate students as endowment earnings accumulate. "The dedication of our faculty at EIU runs deep," said EIU President William L. Perry. "Professor Ward worked tirelessly in the classroom and gave his students individualized attention, but the creation of this legacy gift shows a commitment and generosity of spirit of the highest order."

### **Capital Campaign a success**

Western Illinois University President Jack Thomas, along with the WIU Foundation and its Board of Directors, announced the successful completion of the \$60 million Higher Values in Higher Education campaign. The campaign officially ended Dec. 31, 2013, raising a total of \$62.1 million. The Higher Values in Higher Education Campaign set out to raise \$60 million in support of four objectives: student scholarships, faculty support, capital improvement, and information and technologies.

### **News from Higher Education**

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#### **New U.S. system aims to help veterans report complaints about colleges** (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The federal government has started an online complaint system that will make it easier for veterans, members of the armed services, and their families to report problems with colleges that receive funds from veteran and military education-benefits programs.

#### **Sweeping higher ed overhaul** (POLITICO)

The Education Department's regulatory machine will be churning at high speed for the next year, with results that could affect which for-profit colleges get federal financial aid, whether parents can easily get loans for their children's college education, and how colleges and programs like Teach for America prepare teachers for the classroom.

#### **High textbook prices affect student grades, study shows** (USA TODAY)

Students spend an average of \$1,200 on books and supplies every year, according to The College Board. "Students are either sharing text, an entire class will share one textbook in the library, some students have turned to illegal downloading, or they'll just entirely go without," Ethan Senack, the higher education associate for U.S. PIRG, says.

**Modest uptick for income-based repayment** (Inside Higher Ed)

The number of federal direct student loan borrowers who were enrolled in an income-based repayment program rose by 20 percent in the last three months of 2013, as the Education Department launched a large outreach campaign to get more people to use the benefit.

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