

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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February 14, 2014

**[A new report identifies demand for STEM college graduates](#)**

Burning Glass Technologies, a Boston-based labor market analytics firm, has conducted an analysis of STEM job postings in 2013. The report, "[Real-Time Insight Into the Market for Entry-Level STEM Jobs](#)," describes research that reveals that the demand for STEM talent is significantly greater than commonly reported, and the supply of STEM college graduates continues to lag far behind employer STEM talent needs. The report includes national data, as well as data for each state.

Key findings include:

- In 2013, there were 5.7 million total postings in STEM fields. Of those, 76%, or 4.4 million, require at least a bachelor's degree, and 41%, or 2.3 million, are entry-level jobs requiring less than two years of experience.
- Nearly half ( 48%) of all entry-level jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher are in STEM fields, while only 29% of bachelor's graduates earn a STEM degree. At the sub-baccalaureate level, 24% of entry-level jobs are in STEM fields, while 32% of sub-baccalaureate degrees are in STEM concentration.
- There are 2.5 entry-level job postings for each new four-year graduate in STEM fields compared to 1.1 postings for each new bachelor's degree graduate in non-STEM fields.

**Introducing OCTAE**

The U.S. Department of Education announced that the name of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education has been changed to the [Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education](#) (OCTAE), acknowledging that "career and technical education" is a more accurate term to describe what and how students are studying to be career-ready. The office provides critical funding and technical resources, for example, to the career pathways movement. OCTAE continues to be the office responsible for administering federal CTE programs, as well as the partner to adult education programs. Two years ago, the office issued a [blueprint](#) calling for effective, high-quality CTE programs aligned with college- and career-ready standards. Students in such CTE programs graduate with industry certifications/licenses and postsecondary certificates/degrees that prepare them for in-demand careers within high-growth sectors.

**[Durbin meets with leaders from Illinois colleges and universities; introduces Affordable College Textbook Act](#)**

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) met with Barbara Farley, President of Illinois College to discuss higher education issues including reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, making college textbooks more affordable, and student loan reform measures. Durbin also met with representatives from the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities. "Illinois is home to some of the finest colleges and universities in the country," Durbin said. "I was pleased to meet with both President Farley and the leaders from the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities. We agree

**UPCOMING**

**FEBRUARY**

- 18 [Senate Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 400, Capitol, Springfield
- 19 [House Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 413 Stratton Bldg., Springfield  
  
[Senate Approps I and II Committee](#), Room 212, Capitol, Springfield
- 20 [House Approps-Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 114, Capitol, Springfield
- 21 [IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council](#), College of DuPage, Glenn Ellyn

that reforms in higher education and investing in our students must continue to be one of our country's highest priorities." Senator Durbin and Senator Al Franken (D-MN) have introduced the [Affordable College Textbook Act](#). This bill would create a competitive grant program for institutions of higher education, working with professors and other organizations, to create and expand the use of textbooks that can be made available online and licensed under terms that grant the public the right to freely access, customize and distribute the material, also known as "open textbooks."

## ISACorps recruiting new Corps members

Join the **ISACORPS** and **MAKE COLLEGE A REALITY** for students across Illinois

learn more @ [FACEBOOK.COM/ISACORPS.RECRUITMENT](https://www.facebook.com/ISACORPS.RECRUITMENT)

apply online @ [ISAC.ORG/JOINTHEISACORPS](https://www.isac.org/jointheisacorps)

Each year, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) seeks to fill openings in the ISACorps program for individuals interested in helping students as they navigate the college-going process, especially students who will be the first in their family to go to college and/or are from low-income households. The ISACorps program provides a unique opportunity for recent college graduates to gain experience in a variety of education settings and help make a difference in the lives of students and families.

Requirements for the positions include:

- Bachelor's degree. For candidates that have not yet earned a bachelor's degree, offers will be contingent on graduating prior to the summer 2014 start date.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Office
- Pass a background check
- Though not required, ISAC is seeking candidates with strong verbal and written command of a foreign language, such as Spanish, Polish, or Mandarin.

To apply, visit [isac.org/jointheisacorps](https://www.isac.org/jointheisacorps). Interviews begin in late March.

### [College Town Summit on alcohol diversion](#)

A limited number of seats are still available for the FREE **February 19 College Town Summit** on college-age alcohol use. The Illinois Liquor Control Commission is sponsoring the Summit at the I-Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign. 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](#) here.

# 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 college 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 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 need to be submitted to the Conference Planning Committee by **March 3, 2014**, by emailing the form to: [isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov](mailto:isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov). The form is available on the College Changes Everything [website](#).

**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](#).

## 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

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



**Illinois Institute of Technology:** Miriam R. Schmid is from Cissna Park, majoring in Biochemistry, Mathematics, and Science Education.



**Illinois State University:** Brian M. Kulaga is from Elmhurst, majoring in Special Education.



**Illinois Wesleyan University:** Josefina Banales is from Chicago, majoring in Psychology.

**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.

Rock Valley College (RVC) Mass Communication student [Tom Doherty's](#) film, *The White Room*, has been named Best of Festival Winner for the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Festival of Media Arts in the Two Year/Small Colleges Category. This is an honor that RVC Mass Com Associate Professor Brian Shelton stated was the equivalent for a student filmmaker of "winning the NCAA basketball tournament." The film was also selected for the Beloit Film Festival.

"The Monuments Men" – the movie written by and starring George Clooney – is based on the true story of a platoon of art historians recruited to rescue masterpieces stolen by the Nazis in World War II. One of those Monuments Men was [Edwin Carter Rae](#), who taught art history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, both before and after his service with the U.S. Army.

## Campus News

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### [Lewis and Clark Community College to offer Pell Grants to university graduates who are seeking retraining](#)

Returning students who have previous degrees may soon be eligible for Federal Pell Grants to help pay for career retraining or certificate programs at Lewis and Clark Community College (L&C). While previously, students who already had degrees were not eligible for Federal Pell Grants, and had to rely on loans, scholarships, or paying for school out of pocket, the U.S. Department of Education is currently conducting research to determine whether this new eligibility can increase their employability and/or decrease federal student loan debt.

L&C has been chosen as a pilot site for this initiative, which will help students who already have bachelor's degrees, but who are unemployed or underemployed, pay for and return to school to pursue a new degree or certificate program. During the pilot program, randomly selected students will be able to receive grants to cover up to one year toward completing their new degree or certificate, which must be earned in one to two years.

"There's now a chance for many students to receive federal grant funding to further their education and increase their employability through this Federal Pell program. Lewis and Clark's participation in this initiative will help provide the necessary data for the U.S. Department of Education to determine if awarding the Federal Pell Grant to students meeting these criteria is viable," said Angela Weaver, director of Financial Aid at Lewis and Clark.

"We're pleased that we were selected by the Department of Education to take part in this experimental program. This experiment will provide a Pell grant to several students who were not eligible in the past," said Kent Scheffel, Vice President of Enrollment at L&C. "We're hoping the experiment will prove successful and all eligible students will have the opportunity to receive funding in the future."

### [Waubonsee Community College and Governors State University sign dual degree agreement](#)

At a February 3 ceremony, Governors State president Dr. Elaine P. Maimon and Waubonsee Community College president Dr. Christine Sobek, along with other key members of the schools' administration teams, signed a dual degree agreement. "The Obama administration has targeted community college and baccalaureate degree completion as a national priority," said Maimon. The dual degree initiative also supports the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Public Agenda and Complete College America coalition," she added. "Dual degree will motivate students and encourage them to aim high by deciding to pursue a bachelor's degree at the start of their college career."

"Partnerships like these provide wonderful opportunities for our students," said Dr. Sobek. "Not only do they motivate students to complete an associate degree, they also make a bachelor's degree more accessible. GSU's Naperville Education Center is a convenient option for many students in our district, and the university's competitive tuition rate makes a four-year degree affordable."

**[Donors shower colleges with nearly \\$34 billion in 2013, a record](#)** (Christian Science Monitor)

Charitable donations to colleges and universities climbed nine percent in 2013, to hit an all-time high of nearly \$34 billion, a new report says, another sign that the economy is on the rebound.

**[Earnings disparity grows between young workers with and without degrees](#)** (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The median annual earnings of today's young workers are similar to what earlier generations made at the same age. But underneath those figures, the disparity between young workers with and without bachelor's degrees has grown.

**[New alternatives to print textbooks erupt on campuses](#)** (USA TODAY)

Imagine a world where you didn't have to wait in line at the bookstore, your textbook didn't cost \$200, and you could pick whether you wanted to read it online, watch interactive videos, or open a traditional print product.

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