

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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February 21, 2014

Spring Session of the Illinois General Assembly gets underway

The General Assembly has convened the last two weeks, including holding Higher Education Committee hearings in both the House and Senate. Legislators are introducing new pieces of legislation, and the calendar countdown has begun to the March 28 deadline for substantive legislation to be considered and passed out of House and Senate committees for floor action. Click here for a list of [Bills of Special Interest to Illinois Higher Education](#), which includes chief sponsor and latest action in the General Assembly.

The House Appropriations Committee for Higher Education met for the first time on the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget on February 20. Southern Illinois University President Glenn Poshard fielded questions on unfunded mandates and fiscal pressures on higher education institutions and programs. Additional hearings are planned to continue these discussions with Illinois' higher education agencies, colleges, and universities.

[SURS conducting Pension Reform Webinars](#)



The State University Retirement System (SURS) are offering webinars that will provide an overview of changes to SURS benefits based on PA 98-599 (SB1) that was signed by Governor Quinn December 5, 2013. Admission is FREE. [Registration is required](#) The webinars will be most beneficial for SURS Tier I members. They are scheduled for March 5, March 18, and April 4.

Items discussed will include:

- Employee Contributions
- Retirement Age Eligibility
- Maximum Pensionable Earnings Cap
- Effective Rate of Interest
- Money Purchase Actuarial Changes
- Automatic Annual Increase (AAI)
- New Defined Contribution Plan
- Funding Changes

Heartsaver AED Fund Grant announcement

The Heartsaver AED (automated external defibrillator) Fund Grant program provides matching funds for AEDs to any Illinois School, Public Park District, Municipal Recreation Department, Conservation District, Forest Preserve District, and **public or private College or University**. The application is available on the Department of Public Health's Electronic Grant Administration and Management System (EGrAMS), which can be found at www.idphgrants.com.

UPCOMING

FEBRUARY

- 21 [IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council](#), College of DuPage, Glenn Ellyn
- 25 [Senate Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 400, Capitol, Springfield
- 26 [House Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 413, Stratton Bldg., Springfield
- 27 [House Approps-Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 114, Capitol, Springfield

MARCH

- 1 [IBHE-Student Advisory Committee](#), Columbia College, Chicago

The Heartsaver AED Fund Grant award for FY 2014 is \$450 or at 50% of the purchased AED price if less than \$900. All AEDs purchased between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, will qualify for the grant. Questions regarding the grant application process can be directed to: paula.attedberry@illinois.gov or at (217) 785-2083.



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. The form is available on the College Changes Everything [website](#).



The Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE) will award a one-time [\\$1000 scholarship](#) to two eligible Latino/a students from Illinois. High school seniors and undergraduate students are eligible to apply. Selection will be based on careful review of the following areas: 1) campus involvement, 2) community involvement, 3) academic achievements and goals, and 4) career aspirations. Complete applications with all the required supporting materials must be submitted (postmarked) by **May 1, 2014**.

[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 for more information about this position. For full consideration, submit application materials by February 24 (AA/EOE).

People in the News



The SIU Board of Trustees has announced that [Dr. Randy J. Dunn](#) has been chosen to serve as the eighth President of Southern Illinois University (SIU). Randal Thomas, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, called Dunn's selection an important step in the continuation of the proud history of the SIU system. "I am pleased to share with our university community the selection of someone the Board believes will be a strong voice as we work to meet the challenges ahead of us," said Chairman Thomas. "Randy Dunn has both the skills and the background to ensure that SIU continues to live up to its mission of providing a quality education for thousands of students, serving as an academic and economic engine and meeting the healthcare needs of individuals and families in central and southern Illinois." Dunn currently serves as the President of Youngstown State University, Ohio, and will replace Dr. Glenn Poshard who has served as President of SIU since 2006.



athletics.

[Michael Elbe](#) has been selected as the next president of John Wood Community College (JWCC). The Board of Trustees, by unanimous vote, made the announcement following its regular meeting at the Quincy campus on February 19. Elbe will assume his new post April 1. He succeeds Dr. John Letts, who will retire March 31, following more than 25 years at JWCC, serving as president in his final two years at the College. Elbe has served as JWCC's vice president for student services since 2012, leading in the areas of admissions, records, career and advising, educational support grant programs, financial aid, veterans' affairs, student life and

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.



Ikechukwu P.N. Ohu is an Electrical, Electronics, and Industrial engineer. He worked for some years as an analyst with the largest fertilizer plant in sub-Saharan Africa, and was instrumental in the successful diversification of some of the assets of the parent company and subsequent creation of successful start-ups using the existing assets base. Mr. Ohu has a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, a master's degree in Industrial Engineering, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. His research is focused on the complexity analysis of surgical motions, robotics, computer integrated manufacturing, and workplace ergonomics.

Oakton Community College President [Margaret B. Lee, Ph.D.](#), and Board Chair Joan W. DiLeonardi, Ph.D., has announced Lee's request that her contract not be extended beyond its June 30, 2015, expiration. Lee said she made the request with very mixed emotions, but wanted the Board to have time to develop and conduct a thoughtful search process to identify her successor. In a statement at the February 18, Oakton Community College Board of Trustees

meeting, Lee said, "I have been blessed so abundantly and have had the privilege to serve in this College and in this community for 30 years. Oakton, its people, and its students, are woven into the fabric of my life and the life of my family. We are all connected. I have a sure and certain confidence the ties that bind us will not be broken. My heart is overflowing with gratitude."

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Judson University: Cassandra E. Criminger is from Flanagan, majoring in Visual Communications.



Lake Forest College: Anali N. Vargas is from St. Louis, Missouri, majoring in Spanish and Politics.



Lake Land Community College: Kolten A. Postin is from Moweaqua, majoring in Agriculture.

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.

Campus News

[Northeastern Illinois University's summer transition program for incoming freshman earns national recognition](#)

Northeastern Illinois University's Summer Transition Program, "Access and Outcomes: Supporting the Student Transition at a Hispanic Serving Institution Through a Successful Summer Bridge Program," has been selected as the NASPA Excellence Award Gold Honoree. NASPA represents student affairs administrators in higher education.

“Our Summer Transition Program is a truly collaborative effort between students, staff and faculty across the University. The program employs best practices and has demonstrated a positive impact on the successful transition of entering students at Northeastern,” said Frank Ross, vice president for student affairs at Northeastern Illinois University. The program, which provides incoming freshman a head start to help them be ready for college-level work, is being recognized in the category for enrollment management, financial aid, orientation, parents, persistence, first-year, other-year and related.

[Three universities partner with school districts in \\$4.6 million federal grant to study principal preparation](#)

The \$4.64 million U.S. Department of Education School Leadership Grant prepared by The Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University (ISU) is a five-year grant project designed to study the effectiveness of the new principal preparation program internship and partnership development for preparing effective principals to work in high-needs schools. **Western Illinois University and Quincy Public Schools, ISU and Bloomington Public Schools, and North Central College and the East Aurora District** are the three participating program sites. Erika Hunt, senior policy analyst in ISU's Center for the Study of Education Policy and project director for the grant, said the focus of the project prepares candidates for building leadership by working a full semester in a high-needs school with a principal mentor through the university-district partnership.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Are U of I engineering grads headed out of state?](#) (Crain's Chicago Business)

Nearly half the engineering and computer science graduates from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign stay close to home.

[Community colleges see fewer incoming students ready in math, English](#) (Peoria Journal Star)

A troubling trend building in local education hit its worst mark yet when more than 500 incoming students at Illinois Central College last semester tested at the eighth grade level for math or lower.

[Study shows racial gap in on-time college graduations in Indiana](#) (The Indianapolis Star)

Black students in Indiana are nearly three times less likely to graduate on time from four-year state colleges as their white classmates, according to state data.

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