

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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Illinois Community College System 2014 Spring Enrollment Report

There are decreases from last year shown in the Illinois Community College System statewide results of the fiscal year 2014 Spring enrollment survey. With Illinois Community College System enrollments spiking during the recession, current enrollments are more comparable to pre-recession levels. Statewide Spring 2014 headcount enrollments and full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments both decreased compared to the same term one year ago. The Spring 2014 semester headcount was 341,933 compared to 366,618 last year (a headcount decrease of 24,685 or -6.7 percent). The latest FTE count was 192,383 compared with 206,196 a year ago (an FTE decrease of 13,813 or -6.7 percent). While Spring enrollment is down, Illinois community colleges continue to increase the number of graduates annually. With 69,036 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2013 again set an all time high in the number of graduates from the Illinois Community College System.

Focus on higher education at USDOE

FAFSA completion: President Obama has laid out [details of his plan](#) to equip all Americans with the education and skills they need to compete in today's global economy and launched a new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion initiative to give more students the opportunity to attend, afford, and graduate from college. "Unfortunately, there are still a lot of young people all across the Country who say the cost of college is holding them back," he asserted. "Some of you may have sat around the kitchen table with your parents, wondering about whether you'll be able to afford it. FAFSA is – by far -- the easiest way to answer that question." Under the [FAFSA Completion Initiative](#), the Department will partner with states so that they can identify individual students who have not completed the FAFSA. States can then use this limited information to support school and district efforts to increase FAFSA completion, starting in the 2014-15 school year.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) supports this important work being done by USDOE. In fact, for the past several years, ISAC has also offered a similar service for Illinois high school counselors, at no cost. Each participating school receives student-specific data, either monthly or twice-monthly, depending on its unique needs. In addition, the [FAFSA Completion Initiative](#) page at [isac.org](#) provides non-student-specific 2014-15 FAFSA completion data, by Illinois high school, which may be sorted by region, county, district, high school name, high school city, number of FAFSAs completed, and percentage of students who have completed the FAFSA. Timely FAFSA completion rates have increased for Illinois students attending participating high schools.

UPCOMING

MARCH

- 14 [Illinois Community College Presidents Council meeting](#), Sheraton Hotel, Lisle

- [Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Committee meeting](#), Sheraton Hotel, Lisle

- 15 [ICCTA Board of Representatives meeting](#), Sheraton Hotel, Lisle

- 19 [Senate Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 400, Capitol, Springfield

- 20 [House Higher Ed Committee](#), Room C-1, Stratton Bldg., Springfield

- 21 [House Approps-Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 114, Capitol, Springfield

- [Senate Approps II-Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 212, Capitol, Springfield

- 21 [ICCB meeting](#), Danville Area Community College, Danville

- [IBHE Faculty Advisory Council](#), Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove

- 26 **Governor's FY 15 Budget Message**, Capitol, Springfield

Gainful employment regulations: The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) today announced new steps to address growing concerns about burdensome student loan debt by requiring career colleges to do a better job of preparing students for gainful employment -- or risk losing access to federal student aid. The [proposed regulations](#) will help to strengthen students' options for higher education by giving all career training programs the opportunity to improve, while stopping the flow of federal funding to the lowest-performing programs that fail to do so.

Illinois Veterans Policy Webinar being offered on March 18

Participation is welcomed for an upcoming webinar about Illinois veterans' policies that will be conducted by the [Illinois Joining Forces Education Working Group](#) on Tuesday, March 18 at 10 a.m. (CT). Staff members from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs will discuss the latest in Illinois higher education policies related to veterans. In addition, the webinar will conclude with a review of best practices presented by the Financial Aid Director at Danville Area Community College.

Topics that will be covered include:

- in-state tuition;
- priority registration;
- recent changes to the Illinois National Guard Grant Program;
- helping students maximize state and federal veteran educational benefits; and
- promoting the recognition of knowledge and skills gained during military service for purposes of academic degrees and professional licenses.

School administrators, veteran coordinators, faculty, and students are all encouraged to join in this informative webinar. [To register for the webinar, click here.](#)

"COMBAT TO COLLEGE" CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON ILLINOIS STUDENT VETERANS SUCCESS AT COLLEGE

- WHAT:** A free conference for Illinois College Student Veterans and Veterans Coordinators on college campuses to develop a network of support to assist veterans attending Illinois colleges and universities in successfully completing postsecondary degrees
- WHEN:** Tuesday, April 15 9:00 a.m. – 3: 30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Illinois State University, Bone Student Center Ballroom
100 North University, Normal, IL
- WHO:** 300 Student Veterans, Veteran Coordinators, and Administrators from Illinois colleges and universities, College staff and faculty, Veterans Services experts, and State Leaders from Veterans Affairs and Higher Education Agencies discussing programs and services to facilitate student success

Key Note Speakers:

Dr. Charlotte Warren
Veteran and Current President, Lincoln Land Community College
and
The Honorable Linda Chapa LaVia
Veteran and Illinois State Representative

Go to link for: [Combat to College Registration](#)
Visit [Conference Agenda](#) for more information about topics and speakers

Conference Hosted by:

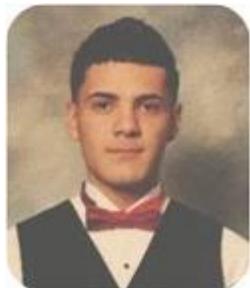
*Illinois Board of Higher Education, *Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, *Illinois Student Assistance Commission,
*Illinois Community College Board, *Illinois Campus Compact, and *Illinois State University



Each year, the *Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education* (ILACHE) is pleased to offer two \$1000 scholarships to Latino/a students in Illinois who exhibit outstanding commitment to learning, community service, and leadership. This year, close to 250 applicants were considered. Guadalupe Lopez and Ruben Rodriguez will be acknowledged at the annual conference on March 21, at Roosevelt University.



Guadalupe Lopez is a continuing college student at Northern Illinois University pursuing a degree in Psychology. She promotes issues of college access, choice, affordability, and support for undocumented students. In addition to involvement in fundraising activities, during the 2012-2013 academic year, Guadalupe was instrumental in coordinating Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) informational workshops in DeKalb. Under the supervision of her professors and as part of the *Huskie Research Rookies*, Guadalupe is currently conducting a qualitative research study that looks at how undocumented suburban college students' psychological well-being is affected by immigration status. The next layer to her study involves a comparative look at college students in Chicago and Los Angeles.



Ruben Rodriguez is enrolled at Aurora University where he is pursuing a degree in Business. As a high school student at Edwin G. Foreman High School, he advocated for increased parental engagement in his school and promoted the importance of collaboration between parents, students, and educators. During his free time, he helped non-English speaking parents learn how to use web-based tools to review student grades and attendance. Additionally, Ruben promotes environmental responsibility in his school and in his community.

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.

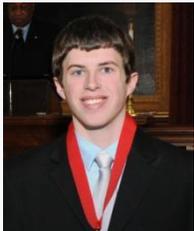


Keeshawna Brooks is currently a DFI fellow and first-year school psychology doctoral student at Loyola University Chicago. She spent her undergraduate years at the University of Chicago as a research assistant; making the dean's list and participating in the Summer Research Opportunities Program. For her master's research, also at UChicago, she explored multidimensional identity and mortality salience. After completing her master's degree, Ms. Brooks worked as a survey director and project trainer on several large-scale federal health surveys and co-founded a small research services business. Her academic and career goals include continuing her work on bullying, risk and violence prevention with Loyola's school psychology research teams, teaching in higher education, and working as a school and clinical psychologist.

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



MacMurray College: Katherine L. Schmidt is from Jerseyville, double majoring in Philosophy and Religion and in Psychology.



McKendree University: Anthony J. Rhoads is from Litchfield, double majoring in Mathematics and Computational Science and a minor in Biology.



Millikin University: Emily E. D'Ambrose is from Naperville, majoring in Education.

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

[Rock Valley College receives national recognition for manufacturing program](#)

Rock Valley College (RVC) has been designated as a *Right Skills Now* college, one of 10 *Right Skills Now* colleges in the Country. RVC has also received special recognition on the M-List from the Manufacturing Institute for its *Right Skills Now* program. *Right Skills Now* is part of the Manufacturing Institute of National Association for Manufacturers (NAM) Manufacturing Certification System that includes national, portable, industry-recognized certifications that are combined with credit education. These pathways are aligned to career pathways in manufacturing, so students can earn national certifications with labor market value, college credit towards a degree, and hands on technical skills for success on the job.

At RVC, the students take the ACT Work Keys Assessment Test, and then four programs the College offers that end in four NAMS credentials: CNC level 1, Materials-Measurement-Safety, Bench Work and Planning, and Set-up and Programming for both Mill and Lathe. For students who enroll in RVC's MET (Manufacturing Engineering Technology) program and complete basic level classes, those credentials will translate into college credits towards their certificates and degree. Local businesses have also come forward to accept students as interns.

[College of DuPage renames performance hall after Belushi brothers](#)

The performance hall at the newly built McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage (COD) will be named after alumni John and Jim Belushi. The announcement was made by COD President Robert L. Breuder at a benefit for the new arts center after a performance by Jim Belushi and The Chicago Board of Comedy. "On behalf of the board of trustees and the foundation board of directors, we are honored to name this stage the Belushi Performance Hall in memory of your brother John and in recognition of your many achievements," Breuder told Jim Belushi during the announcement. Jim Belushi, a Wheaton native who graduated from COD in 1974, said he was honored by the recognition.

[EIU's Booth Library named finalist for National Medal for Museum and Library Service](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has announced that Booth Library on the campus of Eastern Illinois University is a finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the Nation's highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for service to the community.

Medal finalists are selected from nationwide nominations of libraries and museums that demonstrate innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach. Booth Library is one of 30 national finalists for the award, and one of only 15 libraries chosen from throughout the United States. Booth Library was nominated based on its extensive program series and other events for the community.

[WIU'S School of Computer Sciences receives gift from State Farm](#)

Students earning a degree in Western Illinois University's School of Computer Science will benefit from new technology and equipment, with a \$50,000 gift for the Advanced Applications and Development Laboratory.

"Technology plays a big role in our success. To continue that success, we need employees with advanced technical skills, and we believe supporting educational programs like WIU's School of Computer Sciences is a win-win for all involved," said State Farm Executive Vice President Duane Farrington. "We are excited about this partnership and look forward to helping students realize their dreams."

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Colleges, Illinois lawmakers look for ways to cut higher education costs](#) (Rockford Register Star)

As the cost of attending an Illinois state university continues to climb, Illinois lawmakers are pushing various pieces of legislation to try and address affordability.

[Group shines light on state disinvestment](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Public university students frustrated about burgeoning debt and steadily rising tuition prices often direct their anger at campus leaders, agitated about bloated administrative spending or salaries or misguided cuts in services.

[Pension law could mean mass retirements at state universities](#) (WILL)

The courts will ultimately decide what happens to Illinois' pension reform law. But, two and a half months before the overhaul is set to take effect, thousands of public university employees may soon face a choice - retire before July, or lose a substantial portion of their retirement income.

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