

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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Governor Quinn delivers Fiscal Year 2015 budget and Five-Year Blueprint

Higher ed level funding reflects IBHE's Step 1 budget recommendations

Governor Quinn presented his fiscal year 2015, [operating](#) and [capital](#) budget proposal at a speech to the Illinois General Assembly on March 26. The Governor's proposal is based on general revenue funds of \$38.6 billion, which assumes the continuance of the current income tax structure, scheduled to expire on January 1, 2015.

Higher Education Budget Highlights: The Governor's recommended budget for higher education operations and grants provides \$2.0 billion in general funds, a \$52.7 million, or 2.7 percent, increase from fiscal year 2014 levels. With the exception of additional funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP), the Governor's fiscal year 2015 budget most closely reflects Step 1 of the IBHE fiscal year 2015, budget recommendations that fund higher education at the current fiscal year 2014 level.

The State budget proposal provides tax relief for homeowners and working families through a \$500 yearly property tax refund and doubling of the Earned Income Tax Credit. The Governor's budget recommendation also focuses on providing stable, predictable state finances; avoiding extreme cuts to education and critical services; continuing to pay down the backlog of unpaid bills; and continuing efficiencies and fiscal disciplines. The budget maintains level funding for state and local governments, while providing more funding for Illinois' schools, early childhood education, and student financial aid. Over the long term, the Governor is proposing continued spending restraint by imposing general revenue funding (GRF) spending caps and creating an enhanced "rainy day" fund to prepare for unanticipated economic events.

The Governor's [5-year blueprint](#) for Illinois is based on the following objectives:

- Increased investment in education;
- Increased employment;
- Tax relief for homeowners and working families;
- Continue Medicaid transformation;
- Continue rebalancing to community-based care;
- Eliminate bill backlog to less than 30 day payment cycle; and
- Restrain state spending and ensure stable, predictable state finances.

In keeping with statutory requirements that require the Governor to present a budget based on current revenues, the budget proposal also presents a ["Not Recommended" fiscal year 2015 budget](#). This budget assumes the temporary income tax is allowed to expire as scheduled on January 1, 2015, and the individual income tax rate declines from 5.0 percent to 3.75 percent, while the corporate income tax rate declines from 7.0 percent to 5.25 percent. Under this scenario, the decline in state spending would result in drastic spending cuts to government programs and services, including a \$247.9 million, or 12.5 percent, cut to higher education.

UPCOMING

APRIL

- 1** [IBHE Board Meeting](#),
College of Lake County,
Grayslake
- 2** [Student Advocacy Day](#),
Illinois Community College
Board-SAC, State Capitol
Complex, Springfield
- 2 & 3** [House Approps-Higher Ed
Committee](#), Room 114,
Capitol, Springfield
- 3** [Senate Appropriations II
Committee](#), Room 212,
Capitol, Springfield

FY2015 General Funds for Higher Education:

- Public Universities are level with the FY 14 appropriation of \$1.23 billion. By campus, the proposed funding levels for public universities are based on the reallocation of \$6.16 million distributed according to the performance funding formula adopted by the Board of Higher Education.
- Community College grants and initiatives are cut \$4.1 million, or 1.4 percent, including reductions of \$3.5 million to the Alternative Schools Network and an elimination of Veterans' Grants Reimbursements of \$750,000. Performance funding is included at \$360,000, and an additional \$500,000 is provided for implementation of the Illinois Longitudinal Database System (ILDS).
- ISAC: Funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) increases to \$423.2 million. This represents an increase of \$50.0 million, or 13.4 percent, over the fiscal year 2014 level. The Governor's budget includes new appropriations of \$3.0 million for agency administration, \$2.3 million for outreach and training activities, and \$1.0 million for College Illinois! marketing.
- IBHE Grants: The recommended budget keeps IBHE grants and initiatives flat at FY14 levels.
- The Illinois Math & Science Academy, the University Center of Lake County, Adult Education and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education all remain flat at the fiscal year 2014 appropriation level.
- The Illinois Board of Higher Education office budget includes an additional \$22,800, of which \$20,000 is allocated towards the increase in dues to the Midwest Higher Education Compact.
- The State Universities Civil Service System increases \$87,700, or 7.3 percent, over the fiscal year 2014 level.

For fiscal year 2015, the Governor proposes fully funding the required contribution of \$1.5 billion to the State Universities Retirement System, an increase of \$34.5 million, or 2.3 percent, over fiscal year 2014. When funding for pensions is included, proposed general funding for higher education totals \$3.6 billion, an increase of \$87.2 million, or 2.5 percent.

FY2015 Capital: The Governor's FY 2015 capital budget plan pledges continued support for the \$31 billion *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital program that was approved by the General Assembly in 2009. This program is well underway, and since FY 2010, the State has released funding for critical infrastructure projects that improve schools, repair roadways and bridges, and renovate and construct state facilities. The Governor's FY 2015 budget proposal supports over \$474.0 million in continuing re-appropriations for *Illinois Jobs Now!* higher education projects that have not been released, or that have only received partial funding. These projects include renovation and construction projects and deferred maintenance at public universities and community colleges. The Governor's FY 2015 capital budget plan does not propose any new funding for higher education capital projects.

--Budget analysis provided by IBHE Fiscal Affairs

IEMA announces grants for urban area security

The Urban Security Grant initiative, administered by the Illinois Office of Emergency Management (IEMA), provides grants up to \$75,000 for physical security enhancements and target hardening activities (including cyber security) to nonprofit organizations {501 (c) (3)} with a location in Cook County. The foundations of colleges and universities in Cook County are eligible recipients. The following website provides application guidelines and materials

https://www.state.il.us/iema/ittf/grants/Urban_Security_Grant.asp.

“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

People in the News



The Board of Trustees of Illinois State University has appointed [Larry Dietz](#), vice president for Student Affairs, as the University's 19th president, effective March 22. Dietz replaces Timothy Flanagan, who resigned after serving seven months as Illinois State's 18th president. "I want to thank Chairman Michael McCuskey and each of the board members for their vote of confidence in me," Dietz said. "I also want to thank my vice president colleagues, deans, faculty members, staff—particularly those in the Division of Student Affairs—and our students for teaching, supporting and encouraging me since I came to Illinois State. I will continue to rely on my colleagues in this new role to do the work outlined in Educating Illinois, our strategic plan."



Eastern Illinois University President [Bill Perry](#) has announced that he will complete his service as president in 2015, consistent with the ending date of his contract. Perry said that he made his decision at this time in order for the university to have ample time to search for the next president of EIU. Perry noted in his email to the campus that in his remaining tenure he will continue to work with the campus to "forge opportunities and meet our challenges, always with an eye to providing the very best higher education experience for our students." Perry began serving as EIU president in 2007, moving to Eastern from Texas A&M University. EIU Board Chairman Joe Dively said that the board will reluctantly accept Perry's decision. "We do appreciate the notice Dr. Perry has given," he said, "so that we have the time to find the right individual as EIU's 11th president."

Four members, [Jocelyn Smith Carter](#), [Jane A. Hays](#), [Christine M. Wiseman](#), and [Santos Rivera](#) were confirmed by the Illinois Senate on March 20, to serve on the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the State's coordinating agency that oversees colleges and universities and higher education programs and activities.

Governor Pat Quinn has appointed [Peter Newell](#) to the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) Board of Trustees. Newell is a vice president at the venture capital firm Sandbox Industries in Chicago, where he is part of the founding team of its new practice, Sandbox Innovation Partners, which helps corporations innovate by connecting them with emerging technology companies from around the world. Previously, Newell served as chief of staff to the campaign manager on President Barack Obama's reelection team, and as Director of the White House Travel Office. He also served as Director of Policy and Planning, for then Lt. Governor Pat Quinn. He is a former AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer and a graduate of Boston College. Newell will serve out a vacant, six-year term that expires on June 29, 2015. The Illinois Senate must confirm his appointment.

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Concordia University Chicago: David J. Moldenhauer is from Walled Lake, Michigan, majoring in Secondary Education.



Knox College: Carolyn Stephen is from St. Louis, Missouri, majoring in Environmental Studies.



North Park University: An Tran is from Hanoi, Vietnam, majoring in Music.

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.

Governor Pat Quinn has announced that Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) Director [Erica Borggren](#) has been named a *Woman Veteran Champion of Change* by the White House. Director Borggren's recognition was for her leadership at IDVA in creating the Illinois Joining Forces public-private network to assist Illinois service members, veterans, and their families.

[Peter B. Littlewood](#), a University of Chicago physics professor, has been named director of the Argonne National Laboratory. He also has been associate laboratory director for physical sciences and engineering at the U.S. Department of Energy research facility.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Student debt and federal loan policy take center stage at Senate hearing](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Policy makers and higher education officials used a Senate hearing to discuss growing student loan debt, making the federal student loan programs easier for borrowers to navigate, and increasing college access for lower income students.

[Northwestern ruling could 'rattle the universe of universities'](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Northwestern University football players on scholarship are employees of the school and, therefore, entitled to hold an election to decide whether to unionize, an official of the National Labor Relations Board ruled on March 26.

[Fight on state authorization](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The Education Department's first draft of new regulations for online programs operating across state lines is concerning some state regulators, who say the proposal is going to impose substantial burdens on their offices.

[Study: Recent veterans are succeeding in college](#) (USA TODAY)

Just over half of veterans who sought a higher education from 2002 through 2013, under the GI Bill, completed schooling ranging from vocational training to post-graduate, according to an unprecedented review of nearly 800,000 college records.



Message From Illinois Office of Tourism...for Campus events

We'd love to hear about what you have going on! If you have info, events or updates you'd like the Illinois Office of Tourism to consider for media opportunities and on social media channels, send your releases to illinoisnews@fleishman.com and social media campaigns you're launching to illinoissocial@fleishman.com. We can't guarantee that all events submitted will be featured, but we always love hearing about what's going on your campus, so keep sending your information!

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