

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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April 4, 2014

A progress report on *The Illinois Public Agenda* received by the Illinois Board of Higher Education

At the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) meeting on April 1, the Board received a report on the progress over the past five years of the 10-year plan for higher education, [The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success](#). The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), the recognized national leader in assessing higher education data, was commissioned to do the midpoint report. Illinois has made progress in many areas, including increases in educational attainment for adults, but needs to accelerate that progress. In other areas, including college success gaps for underrepresented groups of students and affordability, the trends are falling behind. The full data report is available [here](#).

Here are highlights of some of the findings of the report:

1. Illinois is making strides in increasing the education level of its adult population. The gain in Illinois is greater than that of the Nation as a whole.
2. Relative to leading competitor countries, Illinois is improving at a slower rate. Relative to other states, the most notable gains have been made in young adults acquiring high school credentials. At the postsecondary level, Illinois is losing ground, with the greatest loss being among adults with an associate's degree.
3. At the high school diploma level, Illinois is closing the gap between whites and students of color, but at a rate lower than the U.S.
4. At the postsecondary level the gap continues to widen. Illinois is losing ground.
5. These changes vary significantly from one part of the State to another:
 - At the high school level, gains are being made in the Chicago area and the southern part of the State.
 - At the postsecondary level, gains have been made in Chicago and the east central part of the State.
6. Illinois has improved at every step of the educational pipeline, but remains far behind best performing states at each step.
7. Participation rates for low income students have improved in all states. The gain in Illinois is less than the US average.
8. Enrollments of adults have increased but at rates well below most states and the U.S. average.
9. The Great Recession slowed economic growth in all states. The slowdown in Illinois was similar to the US average.
10. Earnings of college graduates have increased at rates greater than the U.S. average. The exception is the wage rates of associate's degree holders.
11. Funding per FTE (full time enrollment) student for the 2007-12 period increased faster in Illinois than in all other states. However, this increase is largely attributable to funding increases tied to benefit liabilities. Operating support for Illinois higher education has declined.

UPCOMING

APRIL

- 8 [House Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 118, Capitol, Springfield
- 9 & 10 [House Approps-Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 114, Capitol, Springfield
- 10 & 11 [Senate Appropriations II Committee](#), Room 212, Capitol, Springfield
- 12 [IBHE-Student Advisory Committee Meeting](#), DePaul University, Chicago

12. Tax capacity in the State continues to increase relative to the US average, while tax effort is declining.
13. The cost of attendance at college in Illinois relative to family income has escalated more than almost all other states. Cost increases are particularly acute relative to incomes of families in the lowest income quintile. These increases come at a time when state need-based aid relative to Pell funds decreased more in Illinois than in almost all other states.
14. With regard to universities' involvement in economic development, the following points are noted:
 - An increase in numbers of patents far surpasses the U.S. average.
 - But these patents translate into licenses at a rate far below the US average.
 - This at a time when venture capital is much more available than it was five years ago.
 - The State's position in funding for Research & Development is generally holding steady with the exception of a three-point drop in rankings for life sciences, one of the centerpieces of economic development in the State.
15. The State is losing ground in the rankings of the New Economy Index.

Governor Quinn discusses plan to make college more affordable and accessible

On April 3, Governor Pat Quinn visited DePaul University in Chicago, Northern Illinois University (NIU) in DeKalb, and the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), to discuss his plan to double the State's investment in the Monetary Award Program (MAP) over the next five years. In the first year alone, Governor Quinn's plan will provide 21,000 more students with an opportunity to attend college that would not otherwise be available.

"Money shouldn't stand in the way of a deserving student and a college diploma," Governor Quinn said. "This increase in MAP funding will make sure more Illinois students are on their way to earning a degree and joining the 21st century workforce."

Governor Quinn first proposed doubling the State's investment in MAP during his 2014 State of the State address and reiterated this commitment in his annual budget proposal. The State currently allocates \$373 million for MAP grants, which benefit more than 140,000 students across the State. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2015 budget calls for an increase of \$50 million, which will give 21,000 more students access to grant funds. Approximately 58 percent of MAP recipients are considered to have no resources available to pay for college.

All three of the Illinois universities Quinn visited have a large number of students who are able to attend college receiving MAP grants. One in three of DePaul's 16,500 undergraduate students, and one in three of NIU's 17,000 undergraduate students, receive MAP grants. Approximately one in five of the UIUC's 32,000 undergraduate students receive a MAP grant.

Illinois Community College students come to Springfield

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) hosted the Community College Student Advocacy Day on April 2. Over 330 students from 27 community colleges represented the system, and were present in the halls of the Statehouse, meeting with state legislators and attending higher education hearings. They lobbied for increased MAP funding for community college students.

On Tuesday evening, April 1, 100 students on the Phi Theta Kappa All-USA Academic Team were recognized by the ICCB, *USA Today*, Phi Theta Kappa, and the American Association of Community Colleges at a banquet and ceremony held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Dr John Avendano, President of Kankakee Community College and PTK Presidential Ambassador, presided over the event. Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, ICCB Executive Director, and Mr. David Elder, PTK Regional Coordinator, assisted with the presentation of medallions to the students. Nine of the All-USA Academic Team received Coca-Cola medallions and scholarships.



15 to Finish: From Idea to Action
Webinar on April 29 at 2:00 PM CDT

Complete College America (CCA) is conducting a webinar featuring higher education leaders from around the Country as they share strategies for implementing "15 to Finish," a campaign designed to increase the number of students taking 15 credits per semester, or 30 credits per year, and improve on-time completion rates. Institutional and state leaders will show you the actions they are taking and highlight the results they've achieved to date. **Southern Illinois University at Carbondale will be presenting their campus's efforts advising students to take full-time course loads.**

Register now!

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7023863154365899009>

**"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

Triton College President [Dr. Patricia Granados](#) recently announced that she will retire from her position at the end of the year, after leading the institution for the past 13 years. "It has been an honor to serve one institution for 30-plus years and a privilege to serve as President for over 13 years," Granados said. "I am most proud of being able to give back to the community where I grew up. I have worked with great people over the course of the years at the college and have met amazing people in the community who have a passion for helping people be successful members of our communities. Education is key, and I am thankful for the many partnerships we established that demonstrate this collaborative effort." Dr. Granados first came to Triton College as an hourly employee in Triton's Adult Basic Education Department and then full-time in 1984, as the Director of Nuevos Horizontes, Triton College's community center in Melrose Park. Dr. Granados holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish translation and business, a master's degree in education, and a doctorate in adult and higher education, all from Northern Illinois University.

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Northeastern Illinois University: Ashor O. Jajou is from Morton Grove, majoring in Social Work.



Northern Illinois University: Sarah L. Stuebing is from DeKalb, majoring in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Spanish.



Olivet Nazarene University: Breanne M. Bambrick is from Washington, majoring in Social Work.

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.

[Restored Alma Mater sculpture to return to UIUC Campus on April 9](#)



The sculpture, unveiled by U. of I. artist Lorado Taft in 1929, was taken away from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) campus on Aug. 7, 2012, and sent to a conservator for restoration following years of water corrosion damage. It will return after having more than 1,000 bolts replaced, its exterior surface laser-cleaned, and its original color restored to a natural bronze finish. The reconstruction project cost about \$360,000 and was paid for with alumni donations.

News from Higher Education

[New federal oversight proposed for for-profit colleges](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Three Congressional lawmakers are pushing for a new federal committee that would coordinate the government's oversight of for-profit colleges.

[R&D expenditures by Illinois universities hold steady](#) (Chicago Tribune)

A state's academic institutions play a critical role in attracting the funds and talent to support research and innovation. This quarterly report examines recent trends in a key indicator — academic R&D expenditures — with a focus on leading Illinois metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs).

[Giving college a welcoming front door](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The sequence of steps that an incoming student must complete in order to enroll in courses at Harper College is known as our "new-student flow."

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