

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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April 11, 2014

Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus and the Latino Family Commission holds joint budget hearing on higher education



Dr. James Applegate, executive director, IBHE, addressing Legislative Latino Caucus and Latino Family Commission members at joint hearing.

On April 9, a hearing was conducted by the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, joined by the Illinois Latino Family Commission, where testimony was received about the State's higher education budget and programs serving the Latino community to increase college participation and college completions.

Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), **Dr. James Applegate**, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), accompanied by **Richard Tapia**, IBHE associate director for Diversity and Outreach, **Dr. Elizabeth Ortiz**, Vice President for Diversity and Equity at DePaul University, the President Emeritus of the Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE), and current chair of the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois program board, and **Dr. Jorge Chapa**, Sociology Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, were invited to address the Caucus and Commission members. The discussion focused on the degree attainment goals for Latino students and the student support programs and financial aid, especially the Monetary Award Program (MAP), necessary to increase the numbers of college graduates. There was agreement that stronger partnerships between colleges and universities and the Latino community in encouraging college-going are essential. As the fastest growing population in the State, enrollment and completion of postsecondary education by Latinos will be an important emphasis in order for the State to increase the number of Illinoisans with postsecondary degrees to 60% by 2025.

[Senate Resolution 903 calls for Latino academic study](#)

Adopted by the Senate on April 3, **SR 903**, sponsored by Sen. Iris Martinez (D-20), calls on the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board, assisted by the Illinois Latino Family Commission, to develop a self-study guide for community colleges and public universities to examine Latino student achievement data and current practices supporting Latino college students. The study will lead to the development of plans for increasing postsecondary degree and credential completions by Latino students.

UPCOMING

APRIL

- 12 **[IBHE-Student Advisory Committee Meeting](#)**, DePaul University, Chicago
- 14 **[Senate Appropriations II Committee](#)**, C600 Bilandic Building, Chicago
- 15 **["Combat to College" Veterans Conference](#)**, Illinois State University, Normal
- 22 **[Illinois Student Assistance Commission Meeting](#)**, Thompson Center, Chicago
- 30 **Student Advocacy Day**, Capitol, Springfield

General Assembly passes bills for consideration in the other chamber; budget discussions begin in earnest

The General Assembly will return to Springfield on April 29, ending this week with “[passage of substantive bills](#)” in each chamber that are now sent to be considered in the other chamber moving toward final passage. The appropriations committees continue to receive testimony, including higher education committees, and discussions on the Fiscal Year 2015 budget are underway, with the May 31, adjournment date as the deadline for action.

[New U.S. Departments of Education and Labor College Consortium to expand educational opportunities for registered apprenticeship graduates](#)

The U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, has launched the [Registered Apprenticeship–College Consortium](#), a new effort that will allow graduates of [Registered Apprenticeship programs](#) to turn their years of on-the-job and classroom training into college credits toward an associate or bachelor degree. The national consortium is expected to accomplish several goals, including:

- enable apprentices to earn college credit for their Registered Apprenticeship experience and accelerate attainment of an associate or bachelor degree;
- increase college graduation rates through a new pipeline of degree seekers;
- enhance the competitiveness of businesses by enlarging the pool of highly-trained workers;
- grow the pool of highly-trained workers to enhance the competitiveness of American employers; and
- strengthen relationships among Registered Apprenticeship programs and post-secondary institutions nationwide.

[Equity in Intercollegiate Athletics Report released](#)

Every three years the Illinois Board of Higher Education issues a report on the progress made with gender equity in intercollegiate athletics. The statutorily mandated report was sent to the Governor and the General Assembly on April 9. Among its conclusions were that the use of gender equity tuition waivers has helped Illinois public universities address gender equity by providing opportunities and resources for both male and female students. Comparisons to fiscal year 1995, the year prior to the authorization of gender equity waivers, show progress has been made in both the number of females participating in athletic programs (an increase of 77.8 percent) and the resources dedicated to female athletic programs (an increase of 300.5 percent in expenditures). Reporting on fiscal year 2013, female students comprised 50.3 percent of full-time undergraduate enrollments, while expenditures for female athletic programs represented 35.6 percent of total athletic expenditures, and 45.1 percent of athletic financial aid was awarded to female student athletes.

**COMPLETE
COLLEGE
AMERICA**

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://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/7023863154365899009>



Rock Valley College Board of Trustees has announced the appointment of [Michael Mastroianni](#) as college president. A lifelong Rockford resident and alumnus of Rock Valley College, Mastroianni has a broad background in higher education, including serving most recently as interim president. During his 16 years at RVC, he has led the Management Institute (now known as the Business and Professional Institute), served as Dean of Community Outreach, Associate Vice President of Outreach and Planning, and Vice President of Career and Technical Education and Outreach. He will begin in his official role with the College immediately, with community meetings and a formal installation event to be scheduled.

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Principia College: Haley O. Morton is from Wildwood, Missouri, majoring in History and Political Science.



Quincy University: Samantha A. Nielsen is from Arlington Heights, majoring in Communications and English.



Rockford University: Dunja Cosic is from Rockford, majoring in Biochemistry, with a minor in Art History.

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.

[Illinois higher ed sees slowing grad rates, widening racial gap](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

Now that parents, pundits and politicians track stats on colleges' performance as closely as they do team sports, here is the latest on how Illinois is doing five years into a 10-year project called the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success.

[Dual enrollment offers a bridge to college](#) (National Journal)

Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., made a distressing-but-true statement about high school graduates who enter college unprepared for the coursework—they are destined to fail. "Remediation isn't just hard to do. It's almost a killer," he said at a hearing.

[Sure, college is costly, but grads earn double vs. non-grads](#) (USA TODAY)

The cost of college is getting super expensive, but data show that college grads earn nearly two times more than what high school grads earn.

The Friday Memo will return on April 25.

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