

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

IBHE
Chair Lindsay Anderson
Executive Director Dr. James L. Applegate

ICCB
Chairman Alexi Giannoulas
Executive Director Karen Hunter Anderson, Ph.D.

ISAC
Chair Kym M. Hubbard
Executive Director Eric Zamikow

May 9, 2014

State Higher Ed Agency Leaders support Illinois Learning Standards and PARCC assessments for K-12 students

At the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee on May 7, Dr. James Applegate, IBHE Executive Director, joined with Illinois Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Chris Koch, to support the establishment of Illinois Learning Standards, in light of the development of the Common Core Standards, and the planned utilization of PARCC--Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers--assessments in Illinois K-12 public schools. Referring to [a joint statement](#) signed by him, Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, ICCB Executive Director, and Eric Zamikow, ISAC Executive Director, Applegate described the concerns about high remediation rates for entering students at Illinois colleges and universities. In response, the state learning standards have been developed collaboratively by Illinois K-12 educators and higher education faculty, including English/literacy and mathematics content experts, to strengthen alignment between k-12 preparation and college readiness expectations. Among the benefits of using this aligned assessment system, the three higher education leaders cited:

- Better and earlier information about the preparation of incoming college students;
- Improved partnerships between higher education and K-12 institutions;
- Reduced remediation rates;
- Increased degree attainment rates and reduced college costs by shortening the time to degree; and
- Improved productivity for state spending on student financial aid and institutional support to students.

In June, [PARCC 301 clinics](#) are being offered at four sites across the State, providing professional development sessions specifically designed for members of 2- and 4-year public and private campus PARCC teams to build institutional awareness of, and preparedness for, the forthcoming PARCC assessment. Campus team members will be expected to undertake campus transitional activities and prepare for the various opportunities PARCC data will provide as institutions prepare to admit students at Illinois' campuses starting in 2016, who will arrive with performance-based, new Illinois Learning Standards-aligned assessment results. This is another joint effort of Illinois' higher education agencies and the Illinois State Board of Education.

SURS Board approves emergency administrative rule

The State Universities Retirement System (SURS) press office has announced that on May 8, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees approved an Emergency Administrative Rule using June 30, 2014, as the deemed retirement date for calculating the Minimum Money Purchase Annuity (MMPA), a provision contained in PA 98-599, the pension reform law passed in 2013. The notice further states that members who have received retirement benefit estimates in the last four months should have received an estimate for a June 2014 date. These June estimates will provide a very close, if not exact, estimate of their MMPA amount. Members may also go to the SURS Member [Website](#) and use the Interim Benefit Calculator to estimate their benefit using the 2014 date. It should be noted that vacation earnings and unpaid sick leave are ineligible for use in the MMPA calculation.

UPCOMING

MAY

13 [Senate Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 400, Capitol

[House Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 118, Capitol

14 [Appropriations-- House Higher Ed Committee](#), Room 114, Capitol

[#REACH HIGHER](#) and other completion efforts from the White House

As part of her effort to help attain the “North Star” goal of having the world’s highest proportion of college graduates by 2020, First Lady Michelle Obama joined San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro for the city’s College Signing Day. There, at the culmination of the [Destination College Week celebration](#), she revealed a name for her college access initiative: [Reach Higher](#). Also, as a show of support for Reach Higher, Obama urged individuals across the country to wear college gear to inspire students to consider applying to college.

Also in San Antonio, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics announced the release of a new [financial aid guide](#) to help support Hispanic students in their efforts to enroll and afford college.

A new feature on [StudentAid.gov](#) allows recipients to directly access their federal student aid history. This [enhancement](#) is the second step of a multi-phase project to develop a single point of entry for students accessing federal student aid information, applying for federal aid, repaying student loans, and navigating the college decision-making process. The web site, including this new feature, is completely accessible on tablets and smartphones.

[Governor Quinn announces \\$25 million in grants to enhance security at schools, college campuses](#)

Governor Pat Quinn has announced grant awards totaling \$25 million to enhance security at public elementary and secondary school districts, [community colleges and state universities](#) in Illinois. The grants will support 1,312 projects, including reinforced doors, shatter-resistant glass, physical locks, and other security measures that will enhance safety for students, staff, and visitors.



[PARCC 301: Assessment Clinic for Higher Education](#)

Target Audience: Members of 2- and 4-year public and private campus PARCC teams

- PARCC 301, Sect. A: June 6, 2014, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn
- PARCC 301, Sect. B: June 23, 2104, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills
- PARCC 301, Sect. C: June 25, 2014, Rend Lake College, Ina
- PARCC 301, Sect. D: June 26, 2014, Heartland Community College, Normal

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Registration is limited to six (6) team members per institution. Suggested participants include the Director of Assessment, individuals (likely faculty leaders) representing math and English, and team members holding decision-making authority in Academic Affairs, advising, and admissions.

Cost of the workshop is \$30 per participant; lunch will be provided. [Register Now.](#)

The purpose of the **PARCC 301 Clinic** is to provide professional development specifically designed for members of 2- and 4-year public and private campus PARCC teams to build institutional awareness of, and preparedness for, the forthcoming PARCC assessment. The **PARCC 301 Clinic**, being offered at four sites across the State, will help team members undertake campus transitional activities and prepare for the various opportunities PARCC data will provide as institutions prepare to admit students starting in 2016, who will arrive at campuses with rich performance-based, New Illinois Learning Standards-aligned assessment results. Institutions are asked to **assemble their campus PARCC teams for participation in any one of the following four clinic opportunities** to dig deeper into PARCC and its implications and opportunities for higher education.

It's the "REEL" Illinois!

Illinois Community College Trustees Association's [Reel Illinois YouTube channel](#) is up and running! To view the 17 student film entries in the 'community college' category, use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzLhiYemNk-d0Y8GB0J80dg/feed>.

June 1 is the deadline for video entries in the "small business/community-based organization" category. Want to learn more? Go to [The Reel Illinois](#) website at <http://reelillinois.org>. #ReelIL #icctastudentfilms #ILcommunitycolleges.



ILLINOIS EDUCATION RESEARCH COUNCIL



The Illinois Education Research Council announces the call for proposals for its 12th annual *Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium* October 7 & 8 in Bloomington. The Symposium provides a unique forum for the discussion of educational issues of interest to the Illinois community for education policy makers, researchers, and practitioners from the State and beyond. The [call for proposals](#) closes on **June 20**. Submit a proposal and come be a part of the conversation.

People in the News

The Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees confirmed [Dr. Parviz Ansari](#) as the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs for the Edwardsville campus. "Dr. Anne Perry and the search committee did an excellent job of identifying highly qualified candidates," said SIUE Chancellor Julie Furst-Bowe. "Dr. Ansari brings a wealth of experience in program development, comprehensive strategic planning and health sciences curriculum. We look forward to his contributions as we strategize and implement the next phase toward advancing SIUE." Ansari arrives at SIUE after serving as dean of the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) since 2012, at Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J. He was also the founding dean of Rowan's School of Biomedical Sciences. Rowan is a comprehensive public research institution located in southern N.J. serving more than 14,000 students on three campuses.

The U.S. Senate confirmed President Obama's choice for the Education Department's top official overseeing higher education [Theodore R. Mitchell](#) as under secretary of education. Mitchell, who most recently led a fund focused on K-12 education, assumes the post previously occupied by Martha J. Kanter, who left the department last year to join the faculty of New York University.

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: Christopher J. Branch is from Shiloh, majoring in Electrical Engineering.



University of Chicago: Safiya C. Johnson is from Chicago, majoring in Performing Arts.



Trinity Christian College: Megan L. Anderson is from Elgin, and is double majoring in Church and Ministry Leadership and Theology.

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



Governors State University unveils its new mascot

Governors State University has unveiled the Jaguar mascot, after conducting a search that took several months and included input from faculty, staff, students, and the surrounding community. "The university is growing and having a mascot is an important component to a rich experience for our students," said Courtney Sanders, vice president of enrollment management and marketing. "A mascot is an identifying symbol for a university, an important tool for building a tradition. We are thrilled to start building long-lasting traditions as the GSU Jaguars."

[Hiring outlook brighter for college grads](#) (Stateline.org)

America's jobs machine finally may be churning out jobs for new college grads.

[Map: Where the average student loan burden is largest](#) (The Washington Post)

More than a million Americans this year will graduate with substantial student loan debt, the National Conference of State Legislatures recently reported.

[Survey: Where students attend college matters less than experience there](#) (Education Week)

Despite all the angst among high school students about which college to choose, results from a new Gallup survey suggest that happiness after college graduation is more linked to what students do once on campus than what school they attend.

[Federal Reserve: College education worth \\$830,000 more than high school diploma](#) (Forbes)

The Federal Reserve Board of San Francisco released a report that sought to answer whether or not it is still worth going to college. The report's conclusion is, yes, going to college is still worth it.

Illinois Board of Higher Education
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404
Phone: (217) 782-2551
<http://www.ibhe.org>
FridayMemo@ibhe.org

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