

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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May 16, 2014

House passes fiscal year 2015 budget bills

Speaker Madigan holds the bills for possible amendments

On May 15, the Illinois House of Representatives spent several hours debating and passing budget bills for state programs for fiscal year 2015, including appropriations bills for public universities, community colleges, and higher education agencies, ISAC, ICCB, SUCSS, and IBHE-- **House Bills 6023- 6035**.

Universities and most higher education grants and programs are held at fiscal year 2014 levels. Changes from FY 14 include:

- \$51.55 million in additional funds for the Monetary Award Program (MAP),
- The Illinois Math and Science Academy is cut by \$1.8 million (-10%),
- ICCB receives a \$500,000 request for Illinois Longitudinal Data System efforts, and \$650,000 additional funds are added for the re-enrollment program,
- Veterans Grant reimbursements for select community colleges are increased by \$465,500,
- \$70,000 is included for Southern Illinois University at Carbondale's student newspaper, *The Daily Egyptian*, and
- ISAC receives an additional \$2.3 million for outreach and training activities, and \$2.4 million for operational expenses.

The budget bills approved are largely based on Governor Pat Quinn's recommended budget proposal, which estimates available revenue based upon an extension of the current income tax rates. Action by the House on making the current income tax rates permanent has not yet occurred. Later, after action on all budget bills had been finished, House Speaker Michael Madigan filed a motion that will effectively prevent the budget bills from automatically going to the Senate, which gives the House the opportunity to further amend the bills.

The House and Senate return to Springfield on Monday, for the final two weeks of Spring Session, to complete budget action, and enactment of substantive bills prior to scheduled adjournment on May 31. See status of bills of interest to higher education [here](#).

News from SURS

[Judge halts implementation of PA 98-599](#)

Circuit Court Judge John Belz has granted a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction stopping implementation of PA 98-599, the pension reform law passed on Dec. 5, 2013.

UPCOMING

MAY

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

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

On May 14, the judge ruled on a lawsuit filed by several groups representing state workers and retirees, requesting that PA 98-599 be halted until Illinois courts can decide its constitutionality.

In accordance with the order, SURS will continue administering contributions and benefits as the law existed prior to amendment by P.A. 98-599, until otherwise ordered by the court.

[Order Granting Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction](#)



[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, 2014, 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.

[U.S. Department of Education announces \\$75 million First in the World competition](#)

To spur innovation in higher education aimed at helping more students access and complete a college degree or credential, the U.S. Department of Education announced today the availability of \$75 million in the First in the World (FITW) program. Click [here](#) for the Federal Register notice. The grants will fund the development and testing of innovative approaches and strategies at colleges and universities that improve college attainment and make higher education more affordable for students and families.



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](#)

[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.



Marisol Rivera is a Ph.D student at Loyola University Chicago's History program. With a minor concentration in Latin America and a major concentration in U.S. History, Rivera is interested in researching Latino political organizations in Chicago. She received her MA from Roosevelt University in World and U.S. History, and she understands the importance of examining history with a broad lens, that encompasses overlooked groups and their importance in understanding the world we live in today. Working at City Colleges of Chicago gave her the opportunity to fall in love with teaching in a diverse setting, but also made her aware of the challenges facing many of her students. It is her goal to ensure underrepresented groups are given more agency in academia through

her future contribution to scholarship and to show students that no matter their background, they are capable of reaching whatever goal they dream. She is currently in the process of writing her dissertation, "Latinos in the Chicago Political Realm from the 1960s to the 1980s."

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Trinity International University: Rebekah E. Held is from Hartford, Wisconsin, majoring in Biblical Studies.



University of Illinois at Chicago: Fransely Robles is from Chicago, majoring in Psychology, Gender and Women Studies, and a minor in Religious Studies.



University of Illinois at Springfield: Joshua Eastby is from Edwardsville, majoring in Political Science, and minors in Economics and Criminal Justice.



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Amanda M. Rowland is from Burr Ridge, majoring in Special 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.

Oakton students aiming for the Moon at NASA Competition



Oakton Community College students are aiming for the moon while keeping their feet on the ground. The College is one of just 39 participants – and the only community college in the contiguous United States – to take part in NASA’s Fifth Annual NASA Robotic Mining Competition, scheduled May 19 - 23, at Florida’s John F. Kennedy Space Center. The contest requires undergraduate and graduate students from colleges and universities to design and build a remote controlled robot capable of collecting and depositing a minimum of 10 kilograms of simulated lunar dirt within

15 minutes from a distance of 60 meters. Members of Oakton’s team heading to the Sunshine State include **Rafael Cordean** of Lincolnwood; **Azher Ghandi** of Skokie; **Karolina Klimont** of Des Plaines; **Mahavish Mahmood** of Norridge; **Inamullah Sharif** of Skokie; **Hsiang-Yi Tseng** of Northfield; **Nagasuryarama Vegesna** of Niles; **Uriel Alvarez** of Glenview; and **Anthony Terry** of Buffalo Grove. Team “Oaktobot” comprises students enrolled in an engineering independent study course taught by Angelo Gero, an electronics and computer technology lecturer at the College, who serves as the group’s advisor.

News from Higher Education

[Pingree Grove immigrant learns to excel at ECC](#) (Daily Herald)

Alejandro Molina Hoyos' goal in life is to promote education and give others a chance to have the positive experiences he's had so far.

[Students paying bigger share of public college costs](#) (Stateline.org)

Once public university tuition goes up, it rarely, if ever, goes down.

[Advocates for a tougher 'gainful employment' rule step into the fray](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Student groups, veterans' organizations, and others who want the federal government to put more teeth into its newest proposed “gainful employment” regulation are launching a visible lobbying and public-relations effort over the measure.

[Student loan debt gets local attention](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin renewed his call for legislation to ease college students' loan-debt burdens.

Sustaining open access (Inside Higher Ed)

A recently proposed model on open-access publishing has drawn praise for rethinking the roles institutions, libraries, and professional organizations play in promoting scholarly communication, but can its collaborative structure be sustained?

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