

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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May 30, 2014

General Assembly is sending a “flat” budget for fiscal year 2015 to Governor
Budget is based upon \$35.4 billion in available revenue, and does not include the extension of the current income tax rate for 2015.

On May 27, the Illinois House approved [HB 6094](#), as amended, on a vote of 66-48-1. The bill provides FY15 appropriations for higher education institutions and agencies at essentially flat levels from FY14. Under HB 6094, the additional \$50 million for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) proposed by the Governor is not included. The public universities receive a cut ranging from -0.21% to -0.27%. Veterans Grants appropriated through ICCB increased by \$537,800 over FY14, providing grant payments for 19 community colleges. The total state funding for higher education programs and institutions is approximately \$1.991 billion for FY15. The Senate passed this bill today, sending it on to the Governor for his review and signature.

See status of bills of interest to higher education in the final hours of final action in the General Assembly [here](#).

[Three Illinois University Presidents address the prevalence of immigrant students in the STEM fields](#)

President John L. Anderson, Ph.D., Illinois Institute of Technology; President Douglas D. Baker, Ph.D., Northern Illinois University; and President Robert A. Easter, Ph.D., University of Illinois authored the May issue of the *ISTC Catalyst* on “Immigration Reform Key to Innovation Economy Growth in Illinois.”

They state, “As university presidents, we are acutely aware of the connection between immigration and innovation in Illinois—and are deeply troubled by the fact that a significant portion of our students are unable to stay in the U.S. after they graduate. Immigrant students in Illinois earning STEM degrees at our universities now represent nearly one out of every four (24%) Illinois graduates in those fields (up from 18% between 2011 and 2012). In addition, in 2012, nearly half (44%) of our Masters and Ph.D. graduates in STEM fields across Illinois – almost 3,000 – were temporary resident immigrants, many of whom were unable to stay in the State to work after they graduated... While we are committed to cultivating a STEM talent pipeline within our borders, we cannot afford to lose the talents of the men and women whom we are educating here and have much to contribute to our universities, businesses, communities, and economy as a whole. This especially includes the DREAMers, some of our most motivated students, who came to the U.S. with their parents as a child.”

See more at:

http://istcoalition.org/catalyst/immigration-reform-illinois-innovation-economy/?utm_source=Mailchimp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Catalyst%20May%202014#sthash.W3iFrvky.dpuf.

UPCOMING

MAY

31 **Adjournment of the General Assembly**
(scheduled)

JUNE

3 **[IBHE Board Meeting](#)**,
Lewis University,
Romeoville

5-7 **[ICCTA Convention and Board of Representative Meeting](#)**, Hilton Hotel,
Springfield

6 **[ICCB Meeting](#)**, Hilton Hotel,
Springfield

6-7 **Community College Student Leadership Institute**, Hilton Hotel,
Springfield

12-13 **[SURS Meeting](#)**, location
TBA

20 **[IBHE Faculty Advisory Council](#)**, NIU, DeKalb

26 **[ISAC Meeting](#)**, Triton
College, Chicago

[Ability to finish college – especially for blacks – affected by family debt, new study suggests](#)

Family debt diminishes students' prospects of graduating from college, and is particularly detrimental to black students' chances of earning degrees, suggests a new study by social work professor Min Zhan and doctoral student Deirdre Lanesskog, both at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Family assets and debt during college enrollment are similar to factors such as academic readiness and parental education in that they are correlated to young adults' chances of graduating and are critical to reducing racial/ethnic disparities in graduation rates, the study indicated. The researchers examined the college graduation statuses of 915 young adults who enrolled in college between 2000 and 2004. The authors explored links between students' graduation rates and families' household assets and debt at two time points: the years that the students enrolled and when they graduated.

[The Condition of Education 2014](#)

This digest, from the USDOE National Center for Educational Statistics, includes 42 indicators related to education in the United States, divided into chapters on population characteristics, participation in education, elementary and secondary education, and postsecondary education. The postsecondary chapter (p. 153) includes indicators on student characteristics; programs and courses; finance and resources; and completions.



[Registration Now Open!](#)

2014 College Changes Everything Conference

Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois

July 17, 2014 - 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The fourth annual statewide *College Changes Everything* Conference will bring together a diverse group of presenters and participants all focused on advancing our collective goal: **increasing the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025**. This one-day conference focuses on effective practices and showcases resources available to help with college access and increasing college completion.

CCE 2014: Harnessing the Power of Collective Impact

Collaboration has always been a key trait as our state works together to reach Goal 2025, as no single organization can accomplish the goal alone. Using the collective impact method, rather an isolated impact approach, stakeholders and communities can work together in a more structured process that leads to common agendas, shared measurements, continuous communication, and mutually reinforcing activities.

Conference Keynote: [Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher](#), Chancellor of the State University of New York, will deliver keynote remarks and share her experiences and work using the collective impact method.

Who Should Attend: The CCE Conference prides itself in bringing together a diverse audience from across the State for a day of dialogue to share information, ideas, and best practices that promote access to postsecondary education, ensure degree or credential attainment, and provide career pathways. Attendees include:

- high school leaders, counselors and case managers
- college and university leaders and administrators
- business leaders
- leaders from state agencies, non-profits, and community organizations focused on educational opportunity and attainment
- elected officials and policymakers interested in higher education

Registration: Registration is free, but space is limited and fills quickly. Register today

(<http://www.collegechangeseverything.org/events/2014-cce.html>) and come ready to spend the day with Illinois colleagues to share and learn from each other as we work together to help the State reach its 60% x 2025 Goal. Please share this email with your colleagues so they can register, too.

Conference Partners:

- Illinois Student Assistance Commission • Office of the Lieutenant Governor • Illinois Board of Higher Education
 - Illinois Community College Board • Illinois State Board of Education • Women Employed • Illinois College Access Network • Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities • Voices for Illinois Children • Advance Illinois
- The College Changes Everything Conference is sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission--



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 **Registration deadline is June 2**
- PARCC 301, Sect. B: June 23, 2104, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills
- PARCC 301, Sect. C: June 25, 2014, **Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Mt. Vernon Location Change**
- PARCC 301, Sect. D: June 26, 2014, Heartland Community College, Normal **Limited seating available**

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.



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.

Campus News

[From community college to Emory Law School: Student succeeds in GSU's Dual Degree Program](#)



The first group of students from Governors State University's (GSU) Dual Degree Program received their diplomas May 17, at the Tinley Park Convention Center. The group was led by student trustee and commencement speaker **Kayla Randolph-Clark**, who received her bachelor's degree in business administration – finance. Ms. Randolph-Clark will attend law school at Emory University in the fall.

In recognition of this first group of Dual Degree Program graduates, Governors State University began a new tradition. At commencement DDP students wore cords intertwining GSU's colors (black and white) with the colors of their community colleges. [See the black and white braided with purple and white for Joliet Junior College cord worn by Kayla.] These cords were presented at a special ceremony on May 8. "The braided cords symbolize the special partnerships between GSU and the 17 community college campuses in the Dual Degree Program," said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. "We are grateful to the Kresge Foundation for

identifying the DDP as a national model. Kayla's success is just one example of what students can achieve when community colleges and universities work together."

Kayla Randolph-Clark said the Dual Degree Program allowed her to take a more focused approach to her studies. "Before I enrolled in the Dual Degree Program, I took one or two classes every now and then. Thanks to the DDP, I have been guided to make education my top priority. After years of trying, I will now be able to say that I am a college graduate."

The Dual Degree Program (DDP) is a unique partnership between Governors State and 11 Chicago-area colleges, which provide full-time students with a pathway to earn high quality, affordable and accessible associate and bachelor's degrees. Students who enroll in the program and complete their associate degree at their respective community colleges take advantage of program benefits such as guaranteed admission to GSU and a chance to compete for a GSU Promise Scholarship which supplements their Pell and/or MAP grant so that the student graduates debt free. Students with a 3.5 GPA or higher may compete for the DDP Honors Scholarship, which covers full tuition and fees.

[Northern Illinois University, Rock Valley College sign innovative reverse transfer agreement](#)



Northern Illinois University (NIU) President Doug Baker and Rock Valley College (RVC) President Mike Mastroianni signed an innovative reverse transfer agreement during a ceremony at the student center at the RVC main campus on May 28. The agreement allows eligible NIU students who transferred from RVC without associate degrees to earn the two-year degree using credit from NIU courses. “Postsecondary education is a powerful force for career advancement, and a skilled workforce helps the region maintain its competitive advantage,” Baker said. “This partnership—like others we have with RVC—positions students for student career success, increasing opportunity by breaking down barriers to provide a seamless process to receive credit for work they’ve completed towards an associate’s degree.”

“The benefits to our students are profound,” Mastroianni added. “This agreement allows Rock Valley College to acknowledge the work our students have done to earn an associate’s degree and it is a vital step in helping us to transform our region by increasing the number of residents who have obtained a post-high school credential. They will have earned a degree which results in higher income potential and more opportunities for their future.”

[News from Higher Education](#)

[The jobless rate for community-college graduates is also low](#) (The New York Times)

The federal government’s main educational-attainment categories are fairly blunt. In particular, the “some college” category includes a wide array of people: Those who have dropped out of college without earning any degree, those who have earned a two-year degree meant to lead directly to a job (such as in nursing) and those who have earned an academic two-year degree that is often a first step toward a bachelor’s degree.

[Should the government grade colleges?](#) (The New York Times)

The Obama administration is considering a rating system for colleges and universities that receive billions a year in federal loans and grants.

[Nowhere to go](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Up to 44 percent of students at for-profit colleges could lose access to federal financial aid under proposed “gainful employment” regulations, according to a new report from the sector’s trade group.

[Students weighing Tennessee Promise of free college](#) (The Tennessean)

Juniors walking out of Tennessee high schools for the summer have a big decision for the fall: Will they take the path to free associate degrees laid out in Tennessee Promise or stick with the plans they already had?

Visit IBHE Executive Director Applegate’s new blog: [Let’s Have an Adult Conversation in Illinois](#).

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