

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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June 6, 2014

[IDOT releases Human Capital Strategic Plan, Aims to build 21st Century transportation workforce](#)

Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider called together a roundtable discussion on June 4, to begin a dialogue about the current and future workforce needs for the Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL) sector in Illinois. Representatives from industry (railroads, logistics, trucking and freight) were present along with higher education representatives from IBHE, ICCB, and the Illinois Pathways Initiative. As a result of this discussion, a working group is being developed to find ways to identify and address TDL workforce and educational gaps, and to encourage collaboration across sectors to address the needs of this vital sector of the Illinois economy.

“Transportation drives economic development. As the country’s freight hub, we are in an enviable position in Illinois to take advantage of the opportunities to compete in today’s global economy,” Secretary Schneider said. “Both the public and private sectors are in agreement that we need to be doing everything we can to meet the workforce demands of our constantly changing industry. This [Human Capital Strategic Plan](#) will serve to build a common foundation on which we can work together to transform transportation for tomorrow.”

Jobs in the transportation sector are projected to grow 23 percent by 2040, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. But almost two out of three industry CEOs in surveys indicated they are worried they won’t have the workers they need to meet those goals due to retirements and a shortage of training opportunities. The Human Capital Strategic Plan aims to address the “skills gap” by establishing a framework for IDOT and its industry partners to identify workforce trends, maximize existing resources, and develop solutions to attract new and diverse staff. Each year, more than 700 million tons of freight moves in and out of Illinois across multiple modes of transportation.

[Senator Durbin discusses visits to Illinois State University and University of Illinois to meet with students struggling with debt](#)

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) spoke on the Senate Floor on June 3, to discuss America’s exploding student loan debt crisis and efforts that are underway to help ease this burden for working families and students. He has joined with Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Al Franken (D-MN), and Jack Reed (D-RI) to introduce a bill based on the *Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act*. That bill would allow those with outstanding student loan debt to refinance at the lower interest rates offered to new borrowers this past academic year. During his speech, Durbin mentioned visiting Illinois State University and the University of Illinois to talk with students about their problems paying back large amounts of student loan debt. At University of Illinois he met with Mabinty Tarawallie, who together with her husband owes \$150,000 in student loans. Durbin also mentioned meeting Shiann Poshard, a student at Illinois State University who recently graduated with about \$30,000 in student loan debt. If either of these students were allowed to refinance their loans, it would cut their interest rates in half.

UPCOMING

JUNE

- 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

JULY

- 17 [College Changes Everything Conference](#), Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park



Registration Now Open!

2014 College Changes Everything Conference

Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois

July 17, 2014 • 8 am – 4 pm

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-ccce.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
- 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
- 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.

[Lewis University partners with Moraine Valley Community College for Nursing, Criminal/Social Justice degree programs](#)

Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC) and Lewis University have signed two agreements that will provide opportunities for Moraine Valley students to earn bachelor's degrees in two different programs at Lewis. The two institutions agreed to an enhanced "2+2" nursing program where students may earn an Associate in Applied Science degree at MVCC and a bachelor's degree in Nursing at Lewis. This is the first agreement of its kind for both schools. A second agreement provides a more affordable pathway for students to complete both the Associate and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Criminal/Social Justice. The AA to BA Partnership Program will offer classes at Moraine Valley's Palos Hills campus and the Lewis regional location in nearby Hickory Hills.

[Parkland program aims to help students with GED and more](#)



Photographer: John Dixon/The News-Gazette

Parkland students Christopher Moore, left, and Elmore LeShoure stand in the welding lab at the Parkhill Applied Technology Center, at [Parkland College](#). The two men participated in the Accelerating Opportunity program, which gives extra support for students seeking their GED and allows them to earn college credit at the same time. On June 4, Moore and other students who passed their high school equivalency exams celebrated with a ceremony at Parkland College.

Parkland is one of 18 community colleges around the State offering the program, which enrolls "adult learners" in GED classes and credit-level classes. (Adult learners don't have a high school diploma or GED or are English language learners.) Colleges participating in the program zero in on designated career paths. At Parkland, the focus is in welding; at other schools, the emphasis is on different areas, such as health careers, manufacturing and transportation, distribution, or logistics.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Disunited Front](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Hardly anybody in higher education seems to like the Obama administration's proposed ratings system.

[Stable MAP funding doesn't meet needs](#) (Bloomington Pantagraph)

Area colleges and their students are feeling the crunch without increases in funding for the Illinois Monetary Award Program that provides grants to needy college students.

Business group promises to raise \$30 million for City Colleges mentoring (Crain's Chicago Business)

One Million Degrees, a charity that specializes in working with low-income students, says it will increase fortyfold the number of students it mentors, coaches, and otherwise assists through what can be a challenging process.



Friday Memo Summer Schedule:

-  June 20
-  July 11
-  August 1
-  August 15
-  September 5

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