

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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

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

ISAC  
Chair Kym M. Hubbard  
Executive Director Eric Zamikow

August 15, 2014

[White House event focused on improving college opportunity; Illinois makes a commitment](#)

USDOE Secretary Arne Duncan and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council Cecilia Munoz met on August 12 with community college leaders who have made new commitments to ensure student success. "Our nation's community colleges are the engines of our higher education system," Munoz explained in her [blog post](#). "As the largest part of America's higher education system, these institutions provide the education and training to prepare our 21st century workforce and are an ideal place to raise the knowledge and skills of our workforce -- and to meet the academic needs of a diverse population of learners, from recent high school graduates to adults seeking new skills."

In January, 2014, the White House held a [College Opportunity Summit](#) where the President and First Lady challenged educators to address the barriers to college facing low-income students. One of the areas of focus for the January event was developmental education. This week's follow-up event, which was not open to the press, allowed several of the original participants to provide updates on the pledges they made in January and to make additional pledges on addressing developmental education.

Karen Hunter Anderson, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), attended the event last Tuesday. According to Dr. Anderson, Illinois is ready to make three new commitments to improving college and career readiness:

- 1) Implementation of a Guided Structured Pathway with an Exploratory Pathway option.
- 2) Development of a co-requisite model that fits within the Guided Structured Pathways System.
- 3) Driving remediation and interventions to the high school senior year to make the senior year meaningful.

"The participants were especially interested in the participation of all sectors of education, from K-12 to higher education, in Illinois' reform efforts," said Anderson. She observed that most of the other pledges focused on a campus effort rather than a system approach.

The White House event provided participants an opportunity to examine effective practices in improving developmental math, to learn of current developmental educational reforms, and to review the role of research in strengthening state and campus practices.

UPCOMING

SEPTEMBER

11 -- [Illinois Community College Presidents Council](#),  
Bloomington-Normal  
Marriott Hotel and  
Conference Center

11-12 -- [SURS meeting](#), location  
TBA

12-13 -- [ICCTA Board](#),  
Bloomington-Normal  
Marriott Hotel and  
Conference Center

19 -- [ICCB meeting](#), Kishwaukee  
College, Malta

[ISAC meeting](#), location TBA

[IBHE-Faculty Advisory  
Council](#), ISU Alumni  
Center, Normal

27 -- [Reel Illinois](#) student film  
screening, Chicago

OCTOBER

3-4 -- [IBHE-Student Advisory  
Committee](#), location  
TBA

7 -- [IBHE meeting](#), Loyola  
University, Chicago

22-25 [ICCTA Board meetings](#),  
Hyatt Regency  
Chicago Hotel

## **MAP Advising Working Group's recommendations being implemented to increase college completions**

In May, 2012, the Illinois General Assembly passed a resolution asking the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to convene a task force to look at options for delivering Monetary Award Program (MAP) dollars, in the hopes of improving outcomes for students who receive the awards. One of the conclusions of the [MAP Task Force](#) was that students would benefit from additional advising on academic and financial matters. The [MAP Advising Working Group](#) was formed under [HR 296](#) to gather expertise and set minimum standards for advising. Through a series of four public meetings, the 24 members of the Working Group, which included representatives from all sectors of higher education, holding a number of different campus and institutional roles, ultimately agreed upon two recommendations. The first recommendation establishes targets for MAP-approved schools to increase their completion rates (although it does not prescribe *how* schools should make this improvement), while the second calls for mandatory advising for at-risk and first-year students. Schools will report data to ISAC to track their progress, and ISAC is working to minimize the administrative burden for schools by developing an easy-to-use template, automating processes when possible, and only collecting data elements that schools were already required to report elsewhere. The agency is also working with a committee of financial aid administrators to optimize the process. Agency staff are reviewing MAP administrative rules to determine whether changes will be needed. A [recent e-message to school partners](#) described the Working Group recommendations and informed subscribers that data collection is slated to begin in Spring 2015.

## **[Borrowers encouraged to "do their homework" on student loan repayment](#)**

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has issued an advisory to student loan borrowers to be wary of companies claiming to assist students in consolidating their student loan debt, reducing interest rates, or even claiming to eliminate loans entirely. Companies asking for up-front fees and/or asking students to sign a document allowing the company to act on their behalf may be engaging in scams. Instead of working with an unknown organization, ISAC advises students to contact the lender or servicing agent who holds their loans to address repayment options, stating "Many of the services these companies claim to offer for a fee are available free of charge from the U.S. Department of Education or by contacting your loan servicer directly."

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan recently filed a [lawsuit](#) against companies alleged to be conducting debt relief scams. The [Student Loan Debt Relief fact sheet](#), created by the Illinois Attorney General's office, encourages borrowers to do their homework if approached by companies offering loan management solutions.

Borrowers are urged to use the [My Federal Student Aid](#) website to retrieve loan information, and to view with caution any service that requires payment of an upfront fee for assistance with student loans. For reporting a fraud or a scam, contact either the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#) or the [Federal Trade Commission](#). And access ISAC's website – [After College, Repaying Your Student Loans](#) – or the [U.S. Department of Education's website](#) to learn more about the available loan repayment options.

## **[Research on impact of college student outmigration on Illinois employment and earnings](#)**

The Illinois Education Research Council (IERC), has just released its latest research report: ***Outmigration and Human Capital: Homeward Bound or Gone for Good?*** (IERC 2014-1). This study examines the impact of college student outmigration on Illinois employment and earnings. The intent is for this study to inform policy to both decrease the outmigration of students and to collect appropriate data to track these students and quantify the impact. The report and research highlights are also available to download from IERC website at <http://www.siu.edu/ierc>.

## **[Illinois students have opportunity for multi-state tuition reciprocity](#)**

The **Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP)** is a tuition reduction program that helps students attend participating out-of-state college and universities. MSEP is a multi-state tuition reciprocity program. Through the MSEP, public institutions agree to charge students no more than 150% of the in-state resident tuition rate for specific programs; private institutions offer a 10% reduction on their tuition rates. All enrollment decisions are made at the discretion of the receiving campus and the campus may exercise its right to limit participation or set specific admission requirements for MSEP. Visit <http://msep.mhec.org> for more information.

**2014  
COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING  
CONFERENCE**

[College Changes Everything conference highlights collaborative efforts to get Illinois students to and through college](#)

On July 17, Illinois education, government and non-profit leaders converged in Tinley Park to address challenges and identify solutions in helping Illinoisans get to college and graduate. The fourth annual College Changes Everything™ Conference drew a capacity crowd of over 500 people for the one-day event. [College Changes Everything™](#) is a college access movement initiated by the [Illinois Student Assistance Commission \(ISAC\)](#), in part to help the state achieve its goal of increasing the proportion of adults in Illinois with high quality postsecondary credentials or degrees to 60% by the year 2025 (Goal 2025).

**Senate Forum on Volunteerism**

*Four generations put their heads together on June 10 to talk about how volunteerism contributes to a stronger Illinois.*

The Senate Forum featured a discussion about service and volunteerism and the great potential for increasing the number of volunteers in Illinois. Co-chairs of Generations Serving Generations (GSG) and for the Senate Forum were John K. Holton, director, Illinois Dept. on Aging and Brandon Bodor, executive director, Serve Illinois Commission. Holton, a Boomer, and Bodor, a Millennial, opened the session with their unique and compelling stories.

The keynoters, State Superintendent Christopher Koch and Illinois Board of Higher Education Executive Director, James Applegate, applauded service as one factor in student success and service learning as a way of extending education outside the classroom. The 66 participants in the Senate Forum identified some of the barriers to service and explored solutions. There was consensus that strengthening the infrastructure of volunteerism will help connect the needs and resources of all generations.

**Upcoming Higher Ed Conferences**



**ILLINOIS EDUCATION  
RESEARCH COUNCIL**

Information (online credit card registration payment and overnight hotel reservations, and symposium information) as well as the registration form for the [2014 Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium](#)

scheduled for October 7-8, 2014, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, are now available. Registration deadline is September 15.

On August 15, The Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) will open registration for the [41<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall 2014 Conference](#) at Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg, IL on November 19 – 21. The Conference includes a wide variety of sessions focusing on Student Success, Operational Excellence, Leadership and Core Values, and Curriculum innovation. Keynote speakers this year include Dr. Gerardo de los Santos, President and CEO for the League for Innovation and Allison Jones, Vice President of Postsecondary Collaboration, PARCC. Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson will provide an Illinois update for community colleges.



**2014 Annual ILSADE  
Conference**

**Friday, October 24th  
@ 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Triton College  
River Grove, IL

[CONFERENCE DETAILS](#)

## People in the News

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[Susan M. Ford](#), interim dean of the Graduate School at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, has assumed the provost's responsibilities. Her appointment as acting provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs was announced by Interim Chancellor Paul D. Sarvela. Ford, a full-time faculty member since 1980, was chair of the Department of Anthropology from 2005 to 2011 and has led the graduate school since November 2012. **James E. Garvey**, interim vice chancellor for research, assumed additional responsibilities for the graduate school due to Ford's new role.

Following a national search, [Dr. José M. Torres](#) has been selected as the new President of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA). Dr. Torres has served in various leadership roles, such as Superintendent of Schools in Elgin School District U-46, Regional Superintendent/Area Instruction Officer in Chicago Public Schools, and as the only superintendent on the Federal Equity and Excellence Commission of the United States Department of Education. He will join IMSA's staff in September. Dr. Torres will be succeeding Catherine C. Veal, who served as Interim President after Dr. Glenn W. "Max" McGee retired last summer.

Harper College Trustee [William Kelley](#), who has been a trustee at Harper College since 2003, took on the role of president of the Illinois Community Colleges Trustees Association, starting July 1. During his one-year term in this volunteer position, Kelley plans to champion policy initiatives affecting community colleges throughout Illinois.

[Barbara Gellman-Danley](#), former president of University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College, assumed the presidency of the Higher Learning Commission on July 7. She succeeded former Commission president Sylvia Manning, who served from 2008 until her retirement this year.

After 45 years as a professional educator and administrator, [George Mihel](#) will retire as president of Sauk Valley Community College next year. His 10-year run as Sauk's fifth president will end on July 18, 2015.

## Campus News

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### [Secretary of State partners with community colleges on Organ/Tissue Donor Campaign "Be a Hero!"](#)

Community Colleges participated in an inaugural "Be a Hero!" campaign for students and faculty to register as new organ/tissue donors in partnership with the Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White. At an awards ceremony in Springfield, three winning colleges were selected for their campus activities to attract new donors. Each of the colleges selected one student to receive an internship. First Place went to **Elgin Community College** and nursing student, **Candice Hopman**, who received a paid summer internship with Lifesource Blood Center in Rosemont. Second Place went to **Lincoln Land Community College**, and student **Tyler Mathews**, who received a paid summer internship with Springfield's Memorial Medical Center's Transplant Team. Third Place was awarded to **Olney Community College** and nursing student **Ashlee Goss** who interned with Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network in Springfield.

"I was so impressed when I traveled to the many colleges, participated in numerous press conferences, and saw firsthand the creative campaigns designed by students. We commend every school for their efforts," said Secretary White. Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board, encouraged the college campuses to participate, resulting in 43 percent of Illinois's 49 community colleges registering new donors.

### [CSU awarded historic grant with Indian partner university](#)

Chicago State University (CSU) was recently announced as one of eight universities in the nation to be awarded a historic, highly competitive and prestigious Obama-Singh Education Grant, cementing a relationship between CSU and JNTU-Kakinada, CSU's partner school in India, and increasing CSU's global presence. The Obama-Singh grants are designed to fund institutional partnerships between Indian and U.S. institutions of higher education, through faculty exchanges and research and innovation collaboration in the priority areas. The CSU / JNTU grant will go towards an academic program entitled "Promoting University-Industrial Cooperation, Creativity, Diversity and Entrepreneurship in Computer Science."

**Universities aren't graduating enough to keep up with labor market demands** (The Southern Illinoisan)

The SIU Board of Trustees was challenged during its retreat at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center to graduate more students to keep up with a growing need for college-credentialed workers in the state labor market.

**U. of I. evolves as it adjusts to huge increase in international students** (Chicago Tribune)

Linda Foltzler bought the Armory House, a private dorm on the University of Illinois campus, in 1973, the year after she graduated. The students who lived there were predominantly men, and there was quite a bit of partying. Her current challenge is much different. Instead of controlling parties, Foltzler is encouraging her residents — nearly 70 percent of whom come from abroad — to socialize.

**State universities at risk from Illinois budget woes, S&P warns** (Crain's Chicago Business)

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services has warned that Illinois public universities are threatened by the state's pension liabilities and other budget pressures, which could reduce their financial support from the state and ability to borrow.

**Community Colleges work to offer baccalaureate programs** (The Southern Illinoisan)

A failed attempt about eight years ago to allow Illinois community colleges to offer select baccalaureate programs has emerged in new talks among some of the schools' presidents.

Visit IBHE Executive Director Jim Applegate's Blog: [What Will It Take? Priorities for Illinois' Success](#)



**Friday Memo** Summer Schedule:

- ✚ August 29
- ✚ September 5

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