

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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Executive Director Karen Hunter Anderson, Ph.D.

ISAC  
Chair Kym M. Hubbard  
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October 24, 2014

**[U.S. Education Department announces final rule to strengthen Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program](#)**

The Department of Education announced publication of a [final rule](#) to strengthen the Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program on October 22, helping more students and families pay for college, and ensuring they have the tools and resources to make informed decisions about financing their educational pursuits. The new regulations will both expand student access to postsecondary education and safeguard taxpayer dollars by reflecting economic and programmatic changes that have occurred since the program was established more than 20 years ago.

**[COLLEGE TOWN SUMMIT: Registration now open](#)**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual College Town Summit on college-age alcohol use is planned for November 18, 2014, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. All college town stakeholders – including state/local elected officials, school administrators, prevention professionals, hospitality industry employees, and law enforcement personnel – are invited to attend.

The agenda will feature a discussion on potential laws, ordinances, and school policies addressing college-age alcohol use in the below four topic areas:

- Social hosting
- Alcohol poisoning immunity
- Licensing of liquor servers, underage servers
- Party buses

**[Click here to register for the 6th Annual College Town Summit!](#)**

Please call 312-814-4802 for more information. Lunch will be provided for FREE to all attendees. The Summit is being held at the Artisans Building on State Fairgrounds, 800 E. Sangamon Ave. (Gate 11 entrance at 8th St.), in Springfield.

**Illinois Community College Board hosts 2014 National Conference – “Elevating College Transition”**

[The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships](#) (NACEP) will hold its 2014 National Conference October 26, through October 28, in downtown Chicago. Concurrent enrollment, also known as dual credit, provides over 80,000 Illinois students that are college-ready with early college opportunities each year. “The *Elevating College Transition* conference presents opportunities for high school and college faculty and administrators, policymakers, and researchers to gather information on building and sustaining successful programs that allow academically prepared high school students to simultaneously earn credits that count toward a high school diploma and a college degree. Dual credit is a proven strategy for fostering high school to college transitions,” said ICCB executive director Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson. “These programs are opening doors for students who might not otherwise attend college.”

**UPCOMING**

**NOVEMBER**

14 **[ISAC meeting](#)**, Roosevelt University, Chicago

19-21 **Veto Session**

21 **[IBHE- FAC meeting](#)**, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines

**[ICCB meeting](#)**, Crisp Community College Center, Springfield

21-22 **[IBHE-SAC meeting](#)**, Argosy University Chicago

**DECEMBER**

2 **[IBHE Board meeting](#)**, University of Illinois at Springfield

### You Are Here: The 2nd Annual NIU Open Access Symposium



To celebrate International Open Access Week, the University Libraries presented "[You Are Here: NIU's 2nd annual Open Access Symposium](#)" during the week of October 20-24, 2014. [Lectures, panel discussions and other events](#) highlighted the current status of open access publishing at Northern Illinois University and elsewhere and examines where open access publishing may be headed in the future.

### [Urban school leadership program gets federal grant](#)

A doctoral program that trains educators to transform failing urban schools has received nearly \$2 million in continued funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The Urban Education Leadership Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago places its graduates as Chicago Public Schools principals. It also places coaches in each school to guide the principals through their first three years of school leadership. The new grant is the program's third federal grant in three years. It will fund "systematic improvement of our principal pipeline," said Steve Tozer, founding coordinator of the program.

### [Mine dust control research hits marketplace](#)

A new technology for controlling dust in underground mining operations, developed by researchers at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, has made its way into the marketplace. The university recently awarded a sole source licensing agreement to Minerals Development Technologies Inc., a local startup company owned by several SIU employees. The company will pay the university a royalty based on each dust control system it sells to mining companies anywhere in the United States. The technology, which utilizes strategically placed, custom-engineered water spray nozzle arrays to knock and pull coal dust out of the air, received a patent early this year, said Yoginder "Paul" Chugh, professor of mining and mineral resources engineering, and lead researcher on the technology.

### [CSU Professors land Defense Intelligence Agency grant](#)

Three Chicago State University (CSU) professors have been awarded a \$1.9 million grant by the Defense Intelligence Agency to fund a cyber security education and research project. The proposal by professors, John Agada, Moussa Ayyash and Gebeyehu Mulugeta, is a 5 year-long grant that will be used to set up an Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence (IC-CAE) at CSU. The IC-CAE objectives are to prepare intelligence and cyber security analysts for service in the public, civic and private sectors, conduct policy-oriented national security research, and deliver education outreach services to the general public. Anticipated outcomes include faculty development and expanded curricula offerings in national security studies, increased numbers of minority staff in the Intelligence Community, and enhanced security culture in the Chicago-area general public.

## News from Higher Education

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### [Annual growth conference focuses on future jobs](#) (Morris Daily Herald)

Grundy County's manufacturing, agriculture, logistics and health care industries are projected to expand in coming years, remaining the prominent areas of employment for local workers.

### [ICC tuition focused on by network](#) (Pekin Daily Times)

The Pathways to Prosperity Network seeks to ensure youth complete high school and obtain a postsecondary education with value in the labor market.

### [UI Labs names its first board of directors](#) (Chicago Tribune)

UI Labs announced its first board of directors, naming a group of nine very established leaders from big industry and academia. UI Labs is a joint public-private program that will link government, industry and academia to support research and development initiatives.

### [It's All About the ROI](#): Blog of Jim Applegate, IBHE Executive Director

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