

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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**[Final rules published to protect students from poor-performing career college programs](#)**

To protect students at career colleges from becoming burdened by student loan debt they cannot repay, today the U.S. Department of Education is announcing regulations to ensure that these institutions improve their outcomes for students—or risk losing access to federal student aid. Under the final regulations, a program would be considered to lead to gainful employment if the estimated annual loan payment of a typical graduate does not exceed 20 percent of his or her discretionary income or 8 percent of his or her total earnings. Programs that exceed these levels would be at risk of losing their ability to participate in taxpayer-funded federal student aid programs. The regulations go into effect on July 1, 2015.

Based on available data, the Department estimates that about 1,400 programs serving 840,000 students—of whom 99 percent are at for-profit institutions—would not pass the accountability standards. All programs will have the opportunity to make immediate changes that could help them avoid sanctions, but if these programs do not improve, they will ultimately become ineligible for federal student aid—which often makes up nearly 90 percent of the revenue at for-profit institutions.

The rule also provides useful information for all students and consumers by requiring institutions to provide important information about their programs, like what their former students are earning, their success at graduating, and the amount of debt they accumulated.

For a copy of the final regulations, go to the Department's website:  
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2012/gainfulemployment.html>.  
Additional information about the final gainful employment regulations is available [here](#).

**[Call for Proposals - 2015 Early Childhood Educator Preparation Program Innovation Grant](#)**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois Community College Board, Illinois State Board of Education, and the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, in conjunction with the Illinois Early Learning Council's subcommittee on Higher Education Learning and Professional Development, are collaborating to offer the **2015 Early Childhood Educator Preparation Program Innovation Grant**. Through this 2015 grant, institutions of higher education have an opportunity to apply for up to \$50,000 in grant funds to support program innovation and partnerships for early childhood educator preparation. The eligible applicants are consortia of two- and four-year institutions of higher education. The four-year institution must be the fiscal agent and must be accredited with a currently approved early childhood educator preparation program. Please read the [informational memo](#), [FAQ document](#), and [application form](#) for complete details. **Applications are due to IBHE by December 18, 2014**.

**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

## Dual credit programs focus of national conference hosted by ICCB

The Illinois Community College Board hosted the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships' (NACEP) annual conference in Chicago October 26-28. NACEP works to ensure that college courses offered by high school teachers are as rigorous as courses offered on the sponsoring college campus, and serves as the sole national accrediting body for dual credit programs. The 800 conference attendees came from 45 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and Japan.

Kent Scheffel, Vice President for Enrollment Services at Lewis and Clark Community College, began serving a two-year term as President of NACEP during the conference. He had previously served a two-year term as President-Elect and was Treasurer for four years. Lewis and Clark was also recognized at the conference and its dual credit program received a seven-year reaccreditation from NACEP.

A day-long pre-conference workshop on state policy was led by Brian Durham, Senior Director for Academic Affairs and CTE at ICCB. He also serves as the NACEP State Policy Leadership Committee Chair. The workshop included state agency and system office personnel from 13 states, including ICCB and IBHE, experts from national educational policy organizations, and high school and college leaders engaged in state policy-making.

## [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, 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 to 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.

## People in the News

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The state's exceptional college students will be honored by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois on November 1 at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield. [The Lincoln Academy's Student Laureate Awards](#) are presented for excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities to seniors from each of the state's four-year, degree-granting colleges and universities, and one student from among the community colleges in Illinois. At the Student Laureate Convocation, each student will receive a Student Laureate Medallion, along with a \$1,000 educational grant and a certificate of achievement. This is the 40th year Lincoln Academy has celebrated students' excellence in Illinois. Student Laureate **Katie Landgrebe** of Northwestern University will speak on behalf of all the Laureates. The invocation will be delivered by **Dr. Robert Gervasi**, President of Quincy University, and the benediction will be delivered by University of Illinois Springfield Chancellor **Dr. Susan Koch**. The Sangamon Woodwind Consort will provide music, and a luncheon at the Illinois Executive Mansion will follow the Student Laureate Convocation. *In the upcoming months, The Friday Memo will feature the Student Laureates in this People in the News section.*

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Institute of Technology unanimously elected [Alan W. Cramb](#) as the ninth president of the university. He will succeed John L. Anderson on August 1, 2015. "As IIT's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, Alan has been instrumental in moving the university to a new level of academic excellence over the past six years," said Bud Wendorf, chairman of the board.

Arabic writer/director and former Syrian Minister of Culture [Dr. Riad Ismat](#) is 2014-2015 scholar-in-residences at North Central College. He will serve as visiting professor of arts and letters, teaching courses in playwriting, acting and directing, besides lecturing on Syria, Arabic literature and drama. Dr. Ismat, a former ambassador and member of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's cabinet, is an artist whose latest English-language works address the violence and human tragedy in Syria.

[James D. Anderson](#), an expert on desegregation and American education history and the Edward William and Jane Marr Gutsgell Professor of Education, and head of the department of education policy, organization and leadership in the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, delivered the 11th annual Brown Lecture in Education Research, on October 23, in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the American Educational Research Association.

## Campus News

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### [Waubonsee, Western Illinois University sign transfer agreement paving pathway to opportunity for broadcasting students](#)

Waubonsee Community College has partnered with Western Illinois University to pave a quality, affordable path for students to a future in broadcasting. On October 24, representatives of Waubonsee and WIU signed an articulation agreement formally creating a program allowing students who begin their college experience at Waubonsee to earn a bachelor's degree in any of three broadcasting majors at WIU in four years.

"This is a very significant moment for Waubonsee and our broadcasting program," said John Bitterman, Associate Professor of Communications at Waubonsee. Under the "2+2" format of the program, students would follow a set pathway for the first two years of college at Waubonsee to earn an associate degree. Once they have completed that degree, students can transfer to WIU to earn a bachelor's degree in as little as two years in sports broadcasting, broadcasting production, or broadcasting news/performance.

Dr. William "Buzz" Hoon, Chair and Associate Professor at WIU's Department of Broadcasting, said he is pleased at the possibility of drawing more Waubonsee graduates to WIU, noting Waubonsee's program "produces outstanding students."

### [Benedictine University at Springfield announces change in campus strategy](#)

In a decision approved by the Benedictine University Board of Trustees on October 23, the Benedictine University at Springfield branch campus will shift its campus strategy to focus on meeting the needs of the growing segment of adults seeking higher education degrees. Educational programs for the traditional student market, which is defined as students aged 18-22 who typically enter college directly following high school, will end on May 31, 2015.

Springfield branch campus President Michael Bromberg said the decision was in response to market opportunities in the adult education sector, and the financial realities of providing traditional undergraduate education. "There are significant and substantive opportunities to fulfill the educational needs of adult students, who are increasingly seeking progressive ways to address needs that aren't being met by the conventional model of higher education," he said. The market for adult learners continues to grow in Central Illinois and nationally, and is expected to be the largest growth sector of college enrollments during the next 10 years. Concurrently, data shows that the population of traditional college students in the Midwest continues to shrink with declining birth rates. "We must acknowledge the dramatic

changes in higher education, and respond accordingly. As we look ahead, Benedictine University at Springfield can enact a strategic vision demonstrating how the needs of students, employers, and society can be met in, and beyond, the classroom," Bromberg said.

### [LLCC Child Development Center receives prestigious award](#)

Lincoln Land Community College's Child Development Center was recognized with the ExceleRate Illinois Gold Circle of Quality Award at a special event October. 20 celebrating the Center's 20 years of excellence. "I am honored to present this award to the LLCC Child Development Center," said Linda Saterfield, associate director of the Office of Early Childhood at the Department of Human Services. "This achievement recognizes this center as one of the top-rated child care centers in the state and nation. Director Laurie Rhodes has been a partner with us for many years and has contributed to our understanding of the highest standards in quality child care."

ExceleRate Illinois is the state's new quality rating and improvement system for early learning and child development providers. The program helps families make more informed choices about their children's early learning. It establishes standards to help infants, toddlers and preschoolers develop intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. ExceleRate Illinois is administered through Illinois Network Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) under the joint direction of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education.

### [CPS well-represented among UIC honors scholarship winners](#)

Forty graduates from Chicago Public Schools (CPS) are among the 83 recipients of this fall's inaugural Fresh Start scholarships in the University of Illinois at Chicago's Honors College. "These are the strongest students at the university. They stand out as classroom leaders, who seek out intellectual challenges and engagement," says Bette L. Bottoms, dean of the Honors College and professor of psychology. "But their financial needs are great. We are pleased to support their achievements as they enter the UIC Honors College community." The award, which is based on merit and financial need, ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and can be used toward any cost of attendance, such as tuition, housing or books.

In addition to the 40 Fresh Start scholarship awardees, another dozen 2014 CPS graduates accepted the President's Award Program-Honors Scholarship, which is the Honors College's most prestigious award, covering four years of tuition and housing for exemplary incoming first-year students. Additional Honors College freshman scholarships were awarded to three other CPS graduates.

"Closing the achievement gap between students of different races and ethnicities is exceptionally important since our college is one of the most diverse honors colleges in the nation," Bottoms said. The six-year graduation rate for students who entered the Honors College in 2008 is 90 percent for Asian American students, 86 percent for whites, 85 percent for Latinos and 75 percent for African-Americans.

### [News from Higher Education](#)

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#### [Lake Land helps meet workforce needs](#) (Journal Gazette & Times-Courier)

As it expanded its workforce, North American Lighting couldn't find workers with the skills needed to get the job it wanted done. So the company turned to Lake Land College in Mattoon for help in designing a program to train potential workers and have them ready to do the required work, said Jim Jamrozek, North American Lighting human resources manager.

#### [Illinois Student Senate launches 'It's On Us' campaign](#) (The Daily Illini)

In an effort to raise awareness about sexual assault, the Illinois Student Senate recently launched an "It's On Us" campaign to encourage students to sign a pledge to take action against sexual assaults on campus.

**[Waubonsee STEM students tell success stories](#)** (Beacon News)

For Ruben Noceda, 53, of Montgomery, who lost his job in a corporate downsizing last year, the STEM Scholarship Program at Waubonsee Community College offers an opportunity to reboot his career.

**[IWU exceeds \\$125 million fundraising goal](#)** (Bloomington Pantagraph)

Strong leadership, critically important lead gifts and significant support from alumni and friends were credited with enabling Illinois Wesleyan University to exceed its \$125 million fundraising campaign goal by \$16 million.

**[Ohio college uses infomercials to prod students](#)** (The Associated Press)

The Finish In Time, or F.I.T., effort at the University of Akron urges students to take at least 15 credit hours per semester to stay on pace. The emailed videos show co-hosts dancing awkwardly and touting side effects of on-time graduation such as "more cash in your pocket" and "a craving for an extremely large burrito."

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