

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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

ISAC  
Chair Kym M. Hubbard  
Executive Director Eric Zamikow

November 14, 2014

[An Illinois community college graduate can expect a total lifetime earnings gain of over \\$570,000](#)

A new study released by the Illinois Community College Board finds that an Illinois community college education increases earnings for workers, even during a recession.

For Illinois community college graduates, the return on investment equates to a total lifetime earnings gain of over \$570,000 and an average annual rate of return of 14.2%. In fact, taking courses at an Illinois community college increases a student's earnings 25.3% over pre-enrollment wages.

"Graduating from an Illinois community college pays off," said Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board. "With a rate of return of over 14%, investing in an Illinois community college education provides a far greater financial return than home ownership or even the stock market."

Illinois community colleges add skills to our workforce and boost business competitiveness. Nearly 9 out of 10 Illinois community college graduates remain in Illinois after completing college and contribute to the State's economy. "The State's investment in community colleges stays right here in Illinois," said ICCB Chairman Alexi Giannoulas. "Illinois community college graduates generate billions of dollars in state and federal tax revenues and provide a skilled workforce for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

The economic impact study was conducted by Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies. The study is unique from many other state and national higher education economic impact analyses because student-level data was matched with employee-level wage data to determine student economic impacts through their employment and earnings gains.

[People in the News](#)

[Sarvela remembered for his love of SIU](#)



The SIU community is mourning the loss of Interim Chancellor Paul Sarvela. Sarvela died unexpectedly November 9, less than a month after being diagnosed with a rare, but treatable form of cancer.

Dr. Sarvela was appointed acting chancellor of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale by SIU President Randy Dunn on July 8, 2014. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Sarvela served as the vice president for academic affairs of Southern Illinois University. Previous leadership positions include serving as dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, chair of the Department of

Health Care Professions, and director of the Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

**UPCOMING**

**NOVEMBER**

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

## Campus News

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### Illinois grants Columbia \$7.2 million

As the gubernatorial race went down to the wire, Gov. Pat Quinn was vocal about his administration's commitment to higher education.

Quinn appeared at Columbia on Oct. 28, to announce that the State government would give the college a \$7.2 million grant to improve curricula and defray developmental costs.

Other Illinois colleges will also receive funds, according to an Oct. 28 press release from the governor's office.

This academic year, DePaul University will be awarded \$11.46 million to construct a new academic building, according to the press release. Other colleges in the South Loop, including Roosevelt and Robert Morris universities, will receive \$2.62 million and \$2.9 million, respectively.

### Benedictine to provide completion program for Springfield branch campus students

Benedictine University is working jointly with the Illinois Board of Higher Education to develop a "completion program" to ensure junior and senior students have the opportunity to earn their bachelor's degree at the Springfield branch campus – the university where they began.

"We promise our current juniors and seniors they will be able to graduate with a Benedictine University degree and will be able to complete their degree in Springfield," said William J. Carroll, Ph.D., president of Benedictine University. "We are currently assessing the academic needs of these students through degree audits so they may graduate by August 2016. If necessary, individual academic plans will be developed for the juniors and seniors by working with faculty and administrators. We shall also retain the necessary faculty and staff to accomplish this."

More details on this plan will be announced as they become available.

In addition, the University is assisting freshmen and sophomores at the Springfield branch campus as they explore opportunities to continue their education elsewhere, understanding that transferring to the main campus in Lisle or the Mesa branch campus may not be a viable option for many.

### Redesigning Math Pathways with Uri Treisman

Complete College America (CCA) is sponsoring a visit by Dr. Uri Treisman, Executive Director of the Charles A. Dana Center. Dr. Treisman will share his expertise on redesigning math pathways and co-requisite remediation. The morning session (10 a.m.-12 p.m.) will feature a presentation from Dr. Treisman followed by a large group Q&A session. The afternoon (1 p.m. – 5 p.m.) will allow specific campuses to plan for implementation with the assistance of Dr. Treisman. Participants are invited to attend the full day; however, faculty should plan to join the morning session and consider the afternoon session optional.

**When:** January 15, 2015

**Where:** University of Illinois Chicago - Student Center East, Cardinal Room, 1200 W Harrison St, Chicago

## News from Higher Education

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### [College prices continue to creep up](#) (Herald-Whig)

The average sticker price, with room and board included, for undergraduate students attending a four-year college or university in their home state was \$18,943. Out-of-state students at those schools paid, on average, \$32,762. At two-year public schools, in-state students paid an average \$11,052.

### [Should community colleges offer 4-year degrees?](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Set up decades ago to offer two-year associate degrees and feed graduates into regular four-year colleges and universities, some community colleges in other states also are beginning to offer four-year bachelor's degrees. And as two statewide groups study the possibility of doing that in Illinois, Elgin Community College will be represented among both study groups.

### [Universities Opening Centers to Attract Veterans](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

Last semester, Sam Alix made the dean's list for the first time in his college career. The 47-year-old disabled Air Force veteran attributes his success to the Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success at San Jacinto College, where he's pursuing an associate degree in mental health counseling.

### [IVORY TOWER Asks - Is College Worth the Cost?](#) (CNN)

IVORY TOWER, which had its world premiere at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival, and was exhibited in theaters throughout the Country, will make its global television premiere on CNN/U.S. on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Eastern.

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