

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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

ISAC  
Chair Kym M. Hubbard  
Executive Director Eric Zamikow

December 12, 2014

**Can a Pay it Forward education financing program work in Illinois?**

Read [An Analysis of the Feasibility of an Illinois Pay It Forward Program](#) and see what you think! As directed by the General Assembly, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission undertook the study and filed its report on December 1, 2014. The report includes a survey of state legislative proposals and a description of how "Pay it Forward" (PIF) programs have been implemented in other countries, research from a broad array of resources on the topic, and incorporates publicly solicited comments. The [legislation](#) requiring ISAC to produce the report did not ask for recommendations, and the report does not recommend any particular course of action. It does examine arguments for and against the PIF concept, and it describes a pathway to the establishment of a PIF program if funding can be found. The fully downloadable report and appendices, an executive summary, and a brief set of FAQs are all available on ISAC's [website](#).

**[National Student Clearinghouse reports college enrollment is down](#)**

In fall 2014, overall postsecondary enrollments decreased 1.3 percent from the previous fall. In fall 2014, enrollments decreased among two-year public institutions (-6.0 percent) and four-year for-profit institutions (-0.4 percent). Enrollments increased among four-year public institutions (+2.2 percent) and four-year private non-profit institutions (+1.6 percent). The drop of 1.3 percent is slower than that of last two years, according to the report, but still reflects a loss of almost 265,000 students. Most of the decline is among adult students. Data reported for Illinois shows 688,574 students, a 3.6 percent decrease from fall 2013.

**[ISAC Announces 2015-16 State Scholars](#)**

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission recently announced the names of 18,834 Illinois State Scholars from 671 high schools, who rank in approximately the top ten percent of the state's high school seniors. Congratulatory letters from ISAC have been sent to honorees, and the agency has provided personalized Certificates of Achievement to each high school for distribution, often at school award ceremonies or assemblies. ISAC also publishes a list of [current Illinois State Scholars](#) on its website. While this recognition does not include a monetary prize, Illinois State Scholars are encouraged to cite the honor on applications for college admission and scholarships.

**UPCOMING**

**DECEMBER**

15 [ISAC Commission meeting](#),  
Bilandic Bldg. Chicago

**JANUARY**

12 Inauguration of Illinois  
Governor Bruce  
Rauner, Springfield

14 Inauguration of the 99<sup>th</sup>  
Illinois General  
Assembly, Springfield

16-17 [ICCB Student Advisory  
Committee](#) meeting,  
Hilton Hotel, Springfield

23 [Illinois Community College  
Board](#) meeting, Crisp  
Community College  
Center, Springfield

30-31 [IBHE-Student Advisory  
Committee](#), ISU,  
Normal

**FEBRUARY**

3 [IBHE Board Meeting](#), NEIU,  
Chicago

4 **State of the State message**,  
Springfield

18 **Governor's Budget Address**,  
Springfield

### [Seeking applicants for women's leadership training program NEW Leadership Illinois](#)

Do you know an outstanding Illinois female college student interested in pursuing a career in public service? NEW Leadership Illinois is now accepting applications to the 2015 program. Co-hosted by the Conference of Women Legislators of the Illinois General Assembly, this bi-partisan program strives to educate and empower the next generation of female leaders. [Learn more, and apply, here.](#)

### **College Illinois! enrollment opens with new reduced contract pricing**

The College Illinois! Prepaid Tuition Program has opened its 2014-15 enrollment year with contract pricing reduced up to 29% to help make college more affordable for Illinois families. Tuition benefits can be used at almost any public or private college or university within Illinois or across the country. With tax benefits and flexible payment options, learn now about how to help freeze the cost of college tuition and take advantage of reduced pricing. Visit [www.collegeillinois.org](http://www.collegeillinois.org)

### [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.**

### [Redesigning Math Pathways Institute with Uri Treisman to be held on January 15](#)

On January 15, 2015, at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Student Center, 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. Math faculty from Illinois community colleges and universities are invited. Participants are invited to attend the full day; including the technical assistance opportunities during the optional afternoon session. The Institute will take place at the UIC Student Center East, Cardinal Room at 1200 W. Harrison Street, Chicago. Register [here](#).

### [2015 Illinois Suicide Prevention Conference](#)

**Save the Date** Planning is underway for the 2015 Statewide Suicide Prevention Conference entitled "*Preventing Suicide Among Youth and Young Adults: Everyone has a Role*" on April 30, 2015 in Bloomington.

## STUDENT VETERANS LEADERSHIP DAY February 25, 2015 – Illinois State Museum



Student Veterans Leadership Day is an event for student veteran leaders attending Illinois' colleges and universities. Workshops will be designed to engage student veterans in four areas of leadership: Legislative, Entrepreneurial, Educational, and Community-Based.



On-line registration will begin in January. For questions, please contact Richard Tapia at [tapia@ibhe.org](mailto:tapia@ibhe.org).



### People in the News



The Black Hawk College Board of Trustees has offered [Dr. Bettie A. Truitt](#) the position of president of Black Hawk College effective Jan. 1, 2015. Dr. Truitt has been serving as interim president since July 1. "In the six months she has filled that role, she has met many unanticipated institutional challenges with efficiency, intelligence and grace," said David Emerick, chair of the Black Hawk College Board of Trustees. "In every way, Dr. Truitt has demonstrated her ability to rise to the challenges of the presidency of Black Hawk College." Dr. Truitt began her career at Black Hawk College in 1989 as a full-time mathematics instructor. From 2007-12, she was dean of instruction and academic support. In 2012, Dr. Truitt became vice president for instruction. In 2013, she added student services to her vice-presidential responsibilities, and in June 2014 she assumed the additional duties of executive vice president.

[Five University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign scholars](#) have received National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships for 2015. UIUC is the only institution to be awarded more than three of the fellowships for the coming year. The grant recipients are [Antoinette Burton](#), a professor of history, Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies, a professor of gender and women's studies and interim head of the department of sociology; [Robert Morrissey](#), a professor of history; [Timothy Pauketat](#), a professor of anthropology and of medieval studies; [François Proulx](#), a professor of French; and [Valeria Sobol](#), a professor of Slavic languages and literatures.

### Campus News

#### [Community Colleges offers new practical nurse certificate for military medical corpsman](#)

Veterans who have completed their medical corpsman training can now receive additional coursework that will prepare them to earn their Licensed Practical Nurse credential. Upon successful completion of the certificate, veterans will be prepared to sit for the NCLEX-PN examination to become an LPN. The new certificate program was developed as part of an initiative involving College of DuPage, Illinois Central College and Joliet Junior College to work on a medic to LPN curriculum. The eight-week, six credit-hour program can be adopted by any community college in Illinois that is approved to offer a practical nurse certificate and where demand is needed. The program will first be offered in 2015 at

[Joliet Junior College](#) during the spring term, March 9 to May 8. [College of DuPage](#) will offer it during the summer term, June 8 to Aug. 2, and [Illinois Central College](#) will follow during fall term, Aug. 17 to Oct. 16.

### **[UIS to launch a free Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\) exploring the Innocence Movement](#)**

The University of Illinois Springfield will launch a new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the Innocence Movement on February 2, 2015. The free online class is open to anyone who wants to participate. Online registration for the class is currently underway. The six-week course will be led by **Gwen Jordan**, J.D, Ph.D., UIS assistant professor of legal studies and staff attorney for the Illinois Innocence Project. The course is designed to introduce and educate interested members of the public about the serious issues of wrongful conviction, the work of the innocence movement, and strategies to prevent wrongful convictions in the future. Those interested in registering for this free online class can do so by visiting <https://uis.coursesites.com/>.

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

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#### **[Here's the new way colleges are predicting student grades](#)** (TIME)

Data algorithms cover millions of grades from thousands of students. The little-known effort is being quietly employed by about 125 schools around the U.S., and often includes combing years of data covering millions of grades earned by thousands of former students.

#### **[Odds nearly double that CPS students get college degrees](#)** (Crain's Chicago Business)

In a sign of real progress at Chicago Public Schools, the odds that ninth-graders will earn a bachelor's degree by the time they hit their mid-20s has almost doubled since 2006. That's the bottom line of a report issued today by the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research that strongly suggests the city finally has begun to do some things right in educating kids. But the study underlines that much still must be accomplished.



**Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!**  
***The Friday Memo will return on January 9, 2015.***

Illinois Board of Higher Education  
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404  
Phone: (217) 782-2551  
<http://www.ibhe.org>  
[FridayMemo@ibhe.org](mailto:FridayMemo@ibhe.org)

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