

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

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

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

ISAC  
Chair Kym M. Hubbard  
Executive Director Eric Zamikow

**January 9, 2015**

**[America's College Promise](#)**

This year, President Obama is laying out some of his [State of the Union message and policies](#) ahead of his address to Congress on January 20, and it started with a visit this afternoon to Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tennessee, to propose more ways to help young Americans go to college and get ahead. Specifically, the proposal is making two years of community college free for responsible students (see [blog post](#) and [video](#)). Federal funds would cover three-quarters of the average cost of community college; participating states would be expected to contribute the remaining funds. If all 50 states choose to implement the proposal, it could save a full-time student on average \$3,800 in tuition per year and benefit roughly nine million students each year.

**ICCB executive director applauds the President's proposal**

At a media availability in Springfield, after the President's announcement today, Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), gave her support to America's College Promise, noting that it recognizes "the important role that community colleges play in our state's higher education system, and in economic development and workforce education for the residents of Illinois"

"Illinois has been moving in this direction in several of our community college districts," Anderson reported. "Some community college districts, including Chicago, have or will implement "Promise" programs, designed to cover the tuition costs for eligible students in their districts."

Emphasizing Illinois' commitment not only to college access but also successful completion of postsecondary education, Anderson acknowledged that the success of a statewide "Promise" program will rely on a strong system of support services and a significant investment in state funds. "An important intent of the President's program is to reach out to those students who have not been involved in postsecondary education," Anderson said. "I would love to see a program like this in Illinois, if it means more Illinois residents are in postsecondary programs, addresses affordability, reduces student debt and increases college completions."

**[General Accountability Office issues report on "State Funding Trends and Policies on Affordability"](#)**

**Students' tuition now pays more than state governments at public colleges**

**What GAO found:** From fiscal years 2003 through 2012, state funding for all public colleges decreased, while tuition rose. Specifically, state funding decreased by 12 percent overall while median tuition rose 55 percent across all

<b>UPCOMING</b>	
<b>JANUARY</b>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Inauguration of Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, Springfield</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Inauguration of the 99<sup>th</sup> Illinois General Assembly, Springfield</b>
<b>16-17</b>	<b><u><a href="#">ICCB Student Advisory Committee</a></u> meeting, Hilton Hotel, Springfield</b>
<b>23</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Illinois Community College Board</a></u> meeting, Crisp Community College Center, Springfield</b>
<b>27</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Illinois Student Assistance Commission</a></u> meeting, Bilandic Building, Chicago</b>
<b>29-30</b>	<b>Illinois Community College Presidents Council meeting, Heartland Community College, Normal</b>
<b>30-31</b>	<b><u><a href="#">IBHE-Student Advisory Committee</a></u>, ISU, Normal</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b><u><a href="#">IBHE Board Meeting</a></u>, NEIU, Chicago</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>State of the State message, Springfield</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Governor's Budget Address, Springfield</b>

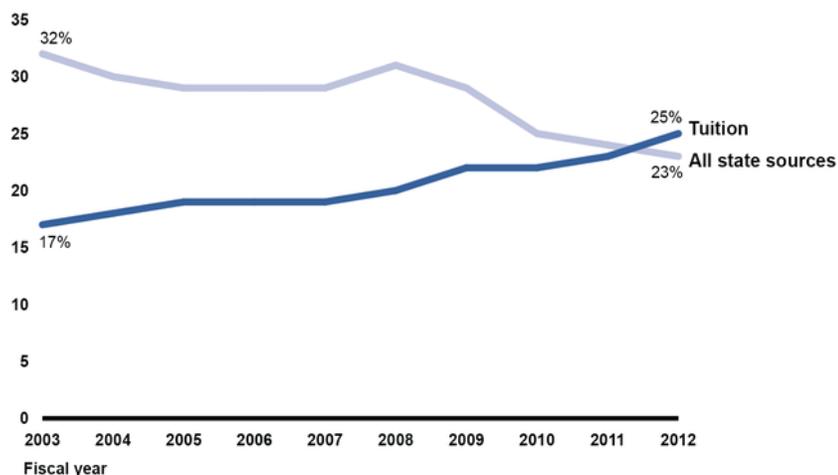
public colleges. The decline in state

funding for public colleges may have been due in part to the impact of the recent recession on state budgets. Colleges began receiving less of their total funding from states and increasingly relied on tuition revenue during this period. Tuition revenue for public colleges increased from 17 percent to 25 percent, surpassing state funding by fiscal year 2012, as shown below. Correspondingly, average net tuition, which is the estimated tuition after grant aid is deducted, also increased by 19 percent during this period. These increases have contributed to the decline in college affordability as students and their families are bearing the cost of college as a larger portion of their total family budgets.

**Why GAO did this study:** There is widespread concern that the rising costs of higher education are making college unaffordable for many students and their families. Federal and state support is central to promoting college affordability; however, persistent state budget constraints have limited funding for public colleges. GAO was asked to study state policies affecting affordability and identify approaches to encourage states to make college more affordable.

### Public College Revenue from State Sources and Tuition, Fiscal Years 2003 through 2012

Percentage of total revenue



Source: GAO analysis of Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Finance component data. | GAO-15-151

### [Financial aid planning resources available for 2015-16 FAFSA® Cycle](#)

The 2015-16 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) cycle, including FAFSA on the Web<sup>SM</sup>, opened on January 1, 2015.

College-bound students should look at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's (ISAC) [Financial Aid Planning](#) area for information regarding resources that are available to help students complete the financial aid process. Among those resources is the [ISACorps](#), ISAC's talented group of recent college graduates who are trained to serve as near peer mentors to high school students. In addition, several [events](#) – including FAFSA completion workshops – will take place across the State of Illinois from now through March. Families may attend the event that best fits their schedule.

The "B4College Alerts" smartphone app is currently available for Android-powered phones. This ISAC-developed app provides timely and personalized alerts to college-bound students. Two types of alerts are offered: FAFSA Completion and ISACorps Events. Students can learn more about the app, view an informational video, and/or download the app (via either Google Play<sup>TM</sup> or QR code) at the [B4College Alerts](#) page.

## 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.



### People in the News



**Michael Amiridis**, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, has been named the next chancellor at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and will take office March 16, pending appointment by the university Board of Trustees Jan. 15. "His talents quickly moved him up the ladder of leadership after he joined the faculty of the University of South Carolina's flagship Columbia campus in 1994," U of I President Bob Easter said. "He has a proven record of building academic and research excellence and a clear vision of the key role that public universities play in driving progress and economic growth." Amiridis will succeed Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares, who steps down Jan. 15 after leading UIC since 2009. Eric Gislason, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, will be interim chancellor until March 15.



Highland Community College Board of Trustees Chair Douglas Block announced to faculty and staff that Trustees intend to name current Executive Vice President **Tim Hood** as the eighth president of Highland Community College upon the retirement of current President and CEO Dr. Joe M. Kanosky on June 30, 2015. Trustees intend to formalize the appointment during their January 20 regular board meeting. Prior to becoming executive vice president, Hood served as Highland's vice president of academic services since January 2011.

The Triton College Board of Trustees has appointed **Mary-Rita Moore** as the college's Interim President effective January 1, 2015. Moore served as the college's associate vice president for Strategic Planning.

[Linda Toth, Ph.D.](#), associate dean for research and faculty affairs and professor of pharmacology at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, has been appointed the chair of the Group on Research Advancement and Development's (GRAND) Steering Committee. GRAND, a professional group of the Association for American Medical Colleges (AAMC), was formed to provide a national forum to promote, support, develop and conduct biomedical research in medical schools and teaching hospitals.

[Faculty and staff of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy](#) (IMSA) wrote two chapters in *The Handbook of Secondary Gifted Education*, a publication of the National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC). Former Engineering Faculty and current Principal **Branson Lawrence** and Assistant Principal **Diane Hinterlong** co-wrote the chapter "Engineering Education for High-Ability Students," and **Dr. Carl Heine** and **Jim Gerry** penned "Technology Education for High-Ability Students," with Staff Member **Laurie Sutherland** contributing to both.

## Campus News

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### [University Center adds SIUE as a member and programs](#)

The University Center of Lake County has an additional member institution and four new programs, after action taken by the University Center's Governing Board on December 10, 2014. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) joined the consortium which now totals twenty members and offers more than 120 programs leading to bachelor's degrees, graduate degrees, or professional certificates. SIUE has added three programs to the Center's array: a Master of Science in Education in Instructional Technology, a Certificate in Web-Based Learning, and an accelerated RN to BS.

## News from Higher Education

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### [Elusive data on education and workforce](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

After eight years of work and \$640 million in federal spending, state data systems that seek to link education and the workforce remain riddled with holes.

### [Higher education issues: 15 for '15](#) (Forbes)

The arrival of a new year brings with it the opportunity to reflect on that which occurred over the past twelve months and to look ahead at what awaits.

### [The University of China at Illinois](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

It would be hard to find a more iconic American campus than that of the University of Illinois's main campus here.

### [Community college officials will travel to Cuba to study education system](#) (Peoria Journal Star)

Several central Illinois educators soon will be on their way to Cuba to study the long-embargoed nation's higher educational system.

[Loyola starting new school to boost graduation rates for poor students](#) (Crain's Chicago Business)

Loyola University Chicago is mapping out a special two-year college for poor city students, one of the most aggressive local efforts to increase the frustratingly small number who earn a degree rather than drop out.

See Jim Applegate's Blog: IBHE Executive Director's Corner - [The Path to Progress Requires a "Both/And" Strategy](#)

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