

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

February 6, 2015

[Governor Rauner presents the State of the State](#)

"From cradle to career, our children's education needs to be our top priority."

On February 4, Governor Rauner came before the members of the 99th General Assembly announcing a new partnership with them for a "new beginning for Illinois." He promised to increase education funding, including K-12 education, as well as investing in technical and vocational training, including funding for community colleges.

As part of his speech, the Governor provided the General Assembly copies of his "Policy Agenda for the Illinois Turnaround" that outlines packages for Economic Growth and Jobs; Taxpayer Empowerment and Government Reform; and Student and Career Success. Of the 11 items for Student and Career Success are:

- "Expand vocational and technical program resources and grow partnerships among employers, high schools, and community colleges."

Also keeping with the cradle-to-career priority, a recommendation is included to:

- "Consolidate and refocus all state boards, agencies, and programs to manage an integrated comprehensive cradle-to-career statewide system of education and vocational training."

The Governor encouraged the General Assembly to consider the whole Policy Agenda as a common goal, so "...we can, together, as partners, get big things done." On February 18, the Governor will come before the General Assembly again, to deliver his budget address for FY 2016.

[Illinois Board of Higher Education approves FY 2016 Budget Recommendations](#)

At its February 3 meeting, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) approved a maintenance budget for the agencies and public institutions of higher education. Essentially, a flat-funded proposal, the exceptions approved by the Board include an additional \$50 million for the Monetary Award Program (MAP), along with \$3 million in additional funds for the administration of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), and \$4 million for ISAC Outreach to make up for loss in federal revenue. IBHE's operating budget includes \$20,000 for increased dues paid to the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) on behalf of all Illinois higher education concerns. The Board also approved a \$1 million request for Higher Education Cooperation Act grants (HECA), which has not been funded since FY 2008.

The Illinois Community College Board's request for approximately \$295 million Base Operating and Equalization grants for community colleges with no increase in overall general revenue funding was approved. The community colleges performance funding measures remain unchanged, and continue to utilize a \$360,000 allocation.

The public universities operating funds recommendation remains at just over \$1.2 billion, with the performance funding allocation for public universities still at 0.5%, with a recommendation that the measures will be maintained for at least three years.

UPCOMING

FEBRUARY *Financial Aid Awareness Month*

9 ICCTA Board of Representatives meetings, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

18 [Governor's Budget Address](#), Springfield

25 [Student Veterans Leadership Day](#), Illinois State Museum

The capital budget recommendations for 31 public university projects, 31 community college projects, and the Illinois Math and Science Academy total approximately \$1.6 billion, including \$350 million for capital renewal funding, and \$48 million for escalation costs and emergencies.

The State Universities Retirement System contribution amount for FY 2016 is \$1.6 billion, an increase of 3.4% from FY2015's certified amount.

This marks the first time since FY 2009, that IBHE is not utilizing a "Step Budget" framework. The Board-approved FY2016 Budget Recommendations will be submitted next to the Governor's Office of Management and Budget for their review and utilization in making final recommendations for Governor Rauner's FY 2016 Budget, scheduled to be announced on February 18.

[FY 2016 Federal Education Budget](#)

On February 2, President Obama submitted his [annual budget request](#) to Congress, including key investments to expand high-quality early learning programs, increase equity and opportunity for all students, support teachers and school leaders, and improve access, affordability, and student outcomes in college. For the Department of Education, the President is requesting \$70.7 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of \$3.6 billion—or 5.4%—over the Fiscal Year 2015 level, and \$145 billion in new mandatory funding (see [fact sheet](#)).

Among the education investments for improving higher education are: The America's College Promise program would provide two years of free community college for students who earn good grades and are on track to graduate through a \$60.3 billion investment in a new federal-state partnership over 10 years, Pell Grants would maintain the purchasing power of this critical need-based postsecondary grant assistance after 2017 through a \$29.7 billion outlay, and the American Technical Training Fund would expand job opportunities through a \$200 million investment in a joint effort with the Department of Labor. \$200 million is included for the First in the World (FITW) Program (a \$140 million increase) to develop, validate, and scale-up effective strategies and practices for improving higher education outcomes.

[Financial Aid Awareness Month events can help students get to college](#)

Illinois Student Assistance Commission promotes free financial aid events and resources

February is Financial Aid Awareness Month, and an important time to remind Illinois families that despite the rising cost of tuition and fees, financial aid can help make college possible, especially for families with the most financial need. The [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#) (ISAC) has announced free workshops throughout the State to help families navigate the financial aid process, including help filling out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA)—the form that determines a student's eligibility for most federal, state, and college financial aid programs.

"For families who think college may be out of reach for them financially, it's important to recognize that Illinois students who filed the FAFSA in 2014 are receiving more than \$1.5 billion in state and federal aid this school year," said Eric Zarnikow, executive director of ISAC. "In addition to helping families understand the types of aid that are available, we want to help students complete the FAFSA as early as possible, especially because demand far exceeds available funds for certain state grants such as the Illinois Monetary Award Program, as well as for some institutional aid."

In addition to workshops offered throughout Financial Aid Awareness Month, students can find more free assistance and locate potential scholarship dollars through the new [ISAC Student Portal](#). The online Portal provides free best-in-class applications and tools to help students find colleges and scholarships, learn about the financial aid process, access a host of career and job resources, and manage their money and student loan debt. In addition, students can keep on top of FAFSA filing deadlines, create customized alerts, and locate financial aid and FAFSA workshops in their area by downloading ISAC's free smartphone app for Android devices, [B4College Alerts](#), available through the [Google Play Store](#). Check out ISAC's website for daily updates on [workshops and events](#), and to get direct assistance from the [ISACorps member](#) in your area. ISAC also offers assistance through the agency's call center, 1-800-899-4722 (ISAC).

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Greenville College: Rachel Allaman is from Oquawka, majoring in Education.



Illinois Wesleyan University: Hannah Eby is from Dubuque, Iowa, majoring in Hispanic Studies and Music.



Judson University: Molly Studer is from Milford, majoring in Visual Communications.



Knox College: Celinda Davis is from Downers Grove, majoring in History and minoring in Social Service and Anthropology/Sociology.

Editor's note:

In the upcoming issues of The Friday Memo, the Illinois Student Laureates from Illinois' colleges and universities will be featured in "People in the News." The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement, campus leadership, and extracurricular activities among Illinois college and university seniors.

Bradley University President [Joanne Glasser](#) has announced her plans to retire from Bradley University on May 31, 2015, and informed Bradley's Board of Trustees of her intention. She has served at Bradley University for the last eight years.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Study: Finishing college a growing divide between rich, poor](#) (ABC News)

There is a growing divide between who earns a bachelor's degree by age 24, with the gap between the Nation's richest and poorest students doubling during the last four decades, according to a report.

[Corinthian sale goes through](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

The student loan guaranty agency finalized its purchase of roughly half of the for-profit Corinthian Colleges chain this week. And the announcement included new, student-centric concessions that earned praise from federal agencies and some consumer groups.

[Illinois community colleges want to offer four-year degrees](#) (The Southern Illinoisan)

Illinois community college presidents are pushing for the ability to grant students four-year degrees.

[Illinois Community College Board looking at split](#) (WUIS.org)

The state requires community college programs and some budgeting matters to get the board's approval.

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

[Sign up](#) to Friday Memo mailing list