

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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February 20, 2015

Governor Rauner presented his fiscal year 2016, [operating](#) and [capital](#) proposal at a speech to the Illinois General Assembly on February 18. The Governor's proposal is based on general revenue funds of \$31.5 billion.

Designated a "Turnaround Budget" that lives within the means of the State, the proposed budget emphasizes four primary areas the Governor plans to focus on in order to get the State's economy back on track.

- Improved public safety
- Providing care for our most vulnerable
- Boosting funding for education
- Restructuring core costs of state government

The Governor indicated the urgency in addressing the \$1.6 billion deficit remaining in fiscal year 2015, inferring that mismanagement by state agencies over prior years has caused an inability to support essential services such as the Child Care Assistance Programs, court reporters, and state prison employees.

FY2016 General Funds for Higher Education:

The Governor's recommended budget for higher education operations and grants provides \$1.59 billion in general revenue funds, a \$398.9 million (or a 20.0 percent reduction) from fiscal year 2015 levels. When funding for pensions is included, proposed general funding for higher education totals \$2.7 billion, a decrease of \$761 million (or a 21.7 percent reduction) from fiscal year 2015 levels.

- Public universities are cut \$387.3 million in general funds, which amounts to 31.5 percent across each university.
- Community colleges receive a total general funds appropriation of \$294.4 million in FY16. An increase of \$5.8 million for Base Operating and Equalization Grants is off-set by a decrease in funding for the Alternate Schools Network, Designated Grants, and Veterans Grants. ICCB's performance funding allocation remains at the FY15 level of \$360,000. ICCB office operations are reduced by \$60,000, and ILDS is reduced by \$53,800 for a total general funds reduction of \$114,400 in FY16.
- ISAC: Funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) is held flat at \$373.3 million. The proposed budget keeps most other scholarships and programs at fiscal year 2015 levels, with the exception of the Illinois Scholars program (which is eliminated), the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program (which is reduced by 50 percent), and the Veterans' Home Nurse Loan Repayment program (which is reduced by \$5,000, or 16.7 percent). The Governor's Budget eliminates \$1.0 million for outreach and training activities and does not provide funding for agency administration.
- IBHE Grants: Funding for the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI), Washington Center Internship Program, Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program (C.A.H.M.C.P.), Nurse Educator Fellowships, Competitive Nursing School Grants, Grow Your Own (GYO), IMSA Fusion, and Quad Cities Graduate Study Center are all eliminated in fiscal year 2016. Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) and the Cooperative Work Study Grants are all funding at fiscal year 2015 levels, while University Center of Lake

UPCOMING

FEBRUARY *Financial Aid Awareness Month*

[Senate Higher Education Committee](#), 212 Capitol

[House Higher Education Committee](#), C-1 Stratton Bldg, Springfield

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

County (UCLC) was reduced by \$135,000 (or 11.3 percent).

- The Illinois Board of Higher Education office budget receives a lump sum appropriation of \$2.9 million in FY16. This amount includes a \$20,000 increase towards the increase in dues to the Midwest Higher Education Compact. In addition, MyCreditsTransfer (formally u.Select) is transferred into the IBHE operations budget from the grants budget at \$208,400.
- The Illinois Math & Science Academy funding decreases \$1.5 million, or 7.9 percent, from the fiscal year 2015 level.
- The State Universities Civil Service System decreases \$56,000, or 4.7 percent, from the fiscal year 2015 level.

For fiscal year 2016, the Governor proposes \$1.2 billion to the State Universities Retirement System (SURS), a decrease of \$396.5 million, or 25.6 percent, from fiscal year 2015. SURS has certified a FY16 amount of \$1.6 billion. The Governor's recommended amount is contingent upon his pension reform proposals succeeding.

FY2016 Capital: The Governor's FY 2016 capital budget plan pledges continued support for the \$31 billion *Illinois Jobs Now!* Capital program that was approved by the General Assembly in 2009. This program is well underway, and since FY2010, the state has released funding for critical infrastructure projects that improve schools, repair roadways, and bridges, and renovate and construct state facilities. The Governor's FY 2016 capital budget plan does not propose any new funding for higher education capital projects.

--Budget analysis provided by IBHE Fiscal Affairs



2015 College Changes Everything Conference Session Proposal Form

The 2015 College Changes Everything conference will be held **July 16, 2015** at the Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois.

Deadline – Completed interest session proposal forms need to be submitted to the Conference Planning Committee by **March 25, 2015**, by emailing the form to: isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov.

Questions about the conference or session should be sent to: isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Lake Forest College: Akua Gyedua Agyei is from Wenchi, Guam, majoring in Finance and French.



Loyola University Chicago: David Slater Lewis is from Hoffman Estates, majoring in Political Science and International Studies.



Monmouth College: Stephanie Lankford is from Effingham, majoring in Chemistry and Biochemistry.

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. Photographs by Studio 131, courtesy of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

News from Higher Education

[Georgia leads college consolidation movement](#) (University Business Magazine)

The University System of Georgia has worked to combine several more of its higher education institutions this year in what is likely the Nation's most aggressive and high-profile campus consolidation program.

[Finding the right formula](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Performance-based funding in higher education is spreading, with 35 states either developing or using formulas that link support for public colleges to student completion rates, degree production numbers or other metrics.

[Op-ed: College's priceless value](#) (The New York Times)

What's the most transformative educational experience you've had?

[Regional public colleges — the 'middle children' of higher ed — struggle to survive](#) (The Washington Post)

The image of American higher education is largely shaped by popular culture through the handful of colleges that appear in the movies, in the news, or in nationally televised football games on Saturdays in the fall.

[Commentary: Scott Walker's risky university experiment](#) (Chicago Tribune)

It's hard to believe that Gov. Scott Walker's proposal to cut \$300 million from the University of Wisconsin's budget over the next two years would allow the school to maintain its quality. Walker, a Republican, would prohibit the university from raising tuition during that period but instead give university officials more flexibility in managing contracting and construction projects.

The Friday Memo will return on Friday, March 6, 2015

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