

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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March 6, 2015

Illinois legislators introduce over 6000 bills

At least 400 bills impact higher education, community colleges, and public universities

The Illinois General Assembly Spring 2015 session is underway. With the February 20 deadline passed for submitting substantive bills in the House of Representatives and Senate, during the month of March state legislators are focused on Committee hearings to consider legislative proposals, including appropriations committee hearings on the Governor's recommendations for the FY 2016 budget. Substantive bills are to be reported out of committees and to the House and Senate floors for consideration by March 27. The number of bills that will actually reach the House or Senate floor for action will be much less; perhaps 50 or fewer in higher education's purview.

Federal focus on higher education

The U.S. Department of Education announced it will [wind down contracts](#) with five private collection agencies that were providing inaccurate information to borrowers. The agency also announced it will provide enhanced *Fair Debt Collection Practices Act* and *Unfair, Deceptive, or Abusive Acts or Practices* monitoring and guidance for all private collection agencies under federal contract, to ensure that companies are consistently providing borrowers with accurate information regarding their loans.

USDOE has published [public feedback](#) regarding the [college ratings system framework](#), and is seeking input from stakeholders on the 2015 [First In the World](#) grants and Online Skills Academy ([blog post](#)).

**2015
COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING
CONFERENCE**

**CCE 2015: The Impact and Influence
of Volunteers**

The 2015 College Changes Everything conference will be held **July 16**, at the Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois. This is a reminder that the deadline for session proposal forms is **March 25**. Please consider sharing your expertise and experience with your colleagues.

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

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

UPCOMING

MARCH

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

Deadline for [Reel Illinois](#) "50 Voices of Community Colleges" entries

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

- 12** [House Higher Ed Appropriations Committee](#), Room 114, Capitol

[Senate Appropriations II](#), Room 212, Capitol

- 13** [Illinois Council of Community College Presidents](#), Marriott Hotel, Naperville

- 13-14** [ICCTA Board of Representatives](#), Marriott Hotel, Naperville

[Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Committee](#), Marriott Hotel, Naperville

- 20** [ICCB meeting](#), William Rainey Harper College, Palatine

Help freeze the cost of college tuition with a College Illinois!® 529 prepaid tuition plan

With less than two months left in the enrollment period, now is the time to take advantage of lower pricing on all College Illinois!® prepaid tuition contracts. A College Illinois! Prepaid tuition plan can help make college more affordable by providing an option to help freeze the cost of college by prepaying for future tuition at today's contract price. Administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the program offers great tax benefits and flexible payment options. And all College Illinois! Funds are held in a Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund that, by law, cannot be used for anything other than paying tuition benefits on behalf of contract holders and for running the program. With plans starting as low as \$21 month, there's a College Illinois! Plan to meet almost every budget. To find out more and enroll in the program, visit www.collegeillinois.org.

Second Meeting for the Illinois Community College Diversity Consortium.

Do you formally/informally support underrepresented students?

Do you serve as a compliance officer?

Are you the go-to-person for student veterans?

Do you work with your college's office for disability services?

The ICCDC is a consortium that aims to lend support and guidance to community college personnel who participate in and lead diversity efforts at their college. Together with diversity professionals from various divisions (Student Services, Disability Services, Veteran Services, Faculty, Human Resources, and other key personnel), you can take part in designing the consortium to be a statewide collaborative effort for achieving inclusive excellence throughout the Illinois Community College System.

The meeting will be held on **April 30**, at **Lincoln Land Community College** in Springfield. Contact **Keith Barnes** at keith.barnes@kishwaukeecollege.edu to receive detailed information + updates.

Register Here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2015-illinois-community-college-diversity-consortium-meeting-tickets-15473764446>.

People in the News

[David M. Glassman](#) has been named the 12th president of Eastern Illinois University. Glassman, 61, was introduced to the EIU community March 2, following an official vote by the University's Board of Trustees. He currently serves as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Bradley University. Board Chairman Kristopher Goetz credited Glassman's energy and enthusiasm, in part, for the Board's decision. "They were certainly important factors," he said. "But we also believe that Dr. Glassman has a clear vision for the future of Eastern, as well as a strong understanding and appreciation of our strategic plan." "I'm thrilled to have been chosen and am honored and thankful for the confidence shown in me by Eastern's Board of Trustees," Glassman said. "I look forward to beginning my work on campus." That beginning will take place on June 1.



Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Illinois State University: Jennifer Jaroch is from Elk Grove Village, majoring in Math Education.



McKendree University: Lindsay Hansard is from Belleville, majoring in English and Philosophy.



Lewis University: Lindsay Morgan is from Alberville, Minnesota, majoring in Social Work.



MacMurray College: Clayton Whitlock is from Springfield, majoring in Business Administration and Sport Management.

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

PARCC test also a teaching tool (The Southern Illinoisan)

Viewpoint of ISBE Superintendent Chris Koch and IBHE Executive Director James Applegate. The majority of Illinois schools soon will begin administering a new test to third- through eighth-graders and some high school students.

States are slashing college budgets and raising tuition (Bloomberg Business)

In 48 U.S. states, government spending on each college student is still below where it was before the recession that ended almost six years ago. Now, at least seven governors propose cutting deeper.

Western Illinois University to eliminate 24 programs (Chicago Sun-Times)

The provost at Western Illinois University has presented a plan that would eliminate 24 university programs and review 17 others. Provost Ken Hawkinson said that the belt-tightening is needed due to challenging financial times.

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