

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

March 13, 2015

**Appropriations Committees begin hearings on FY 2016 higher ed budget**

This week public universities presidents from Eastern Illinois University, Northeastern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University came before the House and Senate appropriations committees to describe how the Governor's proposed 31.5% reduction in general funds for the universities will *impede access* to college for more Illinoisans, *make college less affordable* for students and their families, and *widen college success and completion gaps* for low income and underrepresented students. The universities detailed the cuts in faculty and staff positions and student support programs and services that would be required, while trying to keep tuition rate increases low. The Committees are scheduled to meet in March and April to hear from all public universities, state agencies, IBHE, ICCB, and ISAC, as well as from various groups supportive of higher education grants and programs. IBHE is scheduled to testify before the [House Higher Ed Appropriations Committee](#) on March 19, and [Senate Appropriations II Committee](#) on March 26.

**Senate Higher Ed Committee approves study of prior learning assessment for active military and student veterans**

On March 10, the Senate Higher Ed Committee unanimously agreed to send [Senate Bill 1457](#) to the Senate floor for consideration. Sponsored by Sen. Pamela Althoff (R-32), the measure establishes the Military Prior Learning Assessment Task Force within the Board of Higher Education to study and make recommendations on how to best effectuate the recognition of military learning for academic credit, industry-recognized credentials, and college degrees through the use of the Prior Learning Assessment. IBHE supports the legislation, along with other state agencies the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, ICCB, and ISAC.

**[A Student Aid Bill of Rights: Taking action to ensure strong consumer protections for student loan borrowers](#)**



and regulatory changes. In addition, the Administration is releasing [state by state data](#) that shows the outstanding federal student loan balance.

UPCOMING	
<b>MARCH</b>	
17	<a href="#">Senate Higher Education Committee</a> , 212 Capitol
18	<a href="#">House Higher Education Committee</a> , C-1 Stratton Bldg, Springfield
19	<a href="#">House Higher Ed Appropriations Committee</a> , Room 114, Capitol
	<a href="#">Senate Appropriations II</a> , Room 212, Capitol
20	<a href="#">ICCB meeting</a> , William Rainey Harper College, Palatine
	<a href="#">IBHE-FAC meeting</a> , Eureka College, Eureka
27	<a href="#">IBHE-SAC Textbook Affordability Discussion</a> , Illini Union, Urbana
27-28	<a href="#">IBHE-SAC meeting</a> , UIUC, Urbana

President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum on March 10, directing the Department of Education and other federal agencies to work across the federal government to do more to help borrowers afford their monthly loan payments including: (1) a state-of-the-art complaint system to ensure quality service and accountability for the Department of Education, its contractors, and colleges, (2) a series of steps to help students responsibly repay their loans including help setting affordable monthly payments, and (3) new steps to analyze student debt trends and recommend legislative

**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. Email the form to: [isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov](mailto:isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov).

**People in the News**

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Governor Bruce Rauner has selected [Lazaro Lopez](#) to become the next chairman of the Illinois Community College Board. Lopez is a well-respected leader in the education field and was named Illinois Principal of the Year in 2013. Lopez is currently the Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning of Township High School District 214 in Arlington Heights. Prior to his work at the district level, Lopez was the principal of Wheeling High School. Lopez is an army veteran. He earned his associate's degree from the College of DuPage and a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University. He holds a master's degree from Roosevelt University and a doctorate in education from Aurora University.

The Oakton Community College Board of Trustees has selected [Dr. Joianne Smith](#), currently the Vice-President of Student Affairs at Oakton Community College, as Oakton's next President. Smith succeeds current Oakton President Dr. Margaret Lee who retires in June 2015, after 20 years leading the college. Smith will be the fourth president since Oakton was established in 1970. The Oakton Board is expected to take formal action to name Smith as the new president at the March 17 meeting.



[Janet Krejci](#) has been named Illinois State University's vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, "Dr. Krejci has shown great passion and vision for Illinois State. Her experience reaches into all levels of higher education, and she has shown distinction at every step," said ISU President Larry Dietz. "We look forward to her leadership helping to guide our commitment to excellence in teaching and scholarship at ISU." Since July 2014, Krejci served as the interim vice president for Academic Affairs and provost at Illinois State, after Sheri Noren Everts accepted a position as chancellor of Appalachian State University. Krejci also served as the dean of Illinois State's Mennonite College of Nursing from 2009 to 2014.

The State Universities Retirement System Board of Trustees has selected [W. Bryan Lewis](#) as the new executive director of the \$17.4 billion state pension fund. Lewis' appointment becomes effective April 6, 2015. Lewis is the current Chief Operating Officer for the Investment Management Division of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer. He is responsible for the management, investment and operational strategy, legislative policy, and regulatory compliance of the North Carolina Retirement Systems' defined-benefits plans. He has been with the State Treasurer since 2009. Prior to 2009, Lewis served as Deputy Director - Citi Office of Financial Education, Citigroup Inc. He also held positions with CUNA Mutual Group and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc. Lewis is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in agricultural and resource economics. He obtained his master's degree in business administration, finance – investments from the University of Miami.

[The Governing Board of the University Center of Lake County](#) affirmed new leadership and welcomed new members at its quarterly meeting on March 5. Former State Representative **Kathy Ryg**, who has served on the University Center's Governing Board since 2011, was elected its new Chair. Chair Ryg welcomed several new members to the Board: **Carolina Duque**, Project Manager, Alliance for Human Services; **Ignacio Lopez**, Vice Provost for Academic Programs & Faculty Development, National Louis University; **Tim Perry**, Market President, State Bank of the Lakes; and **Jackie Tompkins**, Controller, Business Development, External Affairs & General Counsel, AbbVie. In addition, **Wesley Lindahl**, Dean and Nils Axelson Professor of Nonprofit Management at North Park University rejoined the Board after an absence of four years. The combined total of new and ongoing Board members is fifteen, split between representatives of the local community and representatives of the member universities.

## *Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored*



**National Louis University: Hortencia Rodriquez** is from Berwyn, majoring in Early Childhood.

**North Central College: Taylor Harrison** is from Morton, majoring in English Studies.



**Northern Illinois University: Tertia Jeppson** is from Peru, majoring in Speech/ Language Pathology/Audiology and Rehabilitation Services.

**Olivet Nazarene University: Jessica Ellison** is from Walton, Indiana, majoring in Corporate Communications.



**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.

## Campus News

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### [NIU, Elgin Community College ink reverse transfer agreement](#)

Northern Illinois University President Doug Baker and Elgin Community College President David Sam signed an innovative reverse transfer agreement on March 10. The agreement allows eligible NIU students who transferred from ECC without associate degrees to earn the two-year degree using credit from NIU courses. "Postsecondary education is a powerful force for career advancement, and a skilled workforce helps the region maintain its competitive advantage," Baker said. "This partnership provides affordable access to high-quality educational opportunities that prepare students for their lives and careers by eliminating barriers and fostering innovative educational paths between levels of higher education."

"I am really excited about the opportunities presented by this reverse transfer agreement with NIU," said Dr. David Sam, president of ECC. "We know an associate degree is a meaningful credential that increases one's employability. If our former students can achieve that while pursuing a bachelor's degree at NIU, it's a win-win for everyone."

### [U. of I., Carle moving forward with the first engineering-based College of Medicine](#)

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees voted unanimously on March 12 to establish the nation's first college of medicine focused, from the beginning, on the intersection of engineering and medicine. This will be the first new college created at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 60 years. The college will be a partnership between the UIUC and Carle Health System that is specifically designed to train a new kind of doctor. This groundbreaking approach will integrate the university's unparalleled assets in engineering, technology and supercomputing with Carle's nationally recognized, comprehensive health care system. Efforts will now focus on recruiting a founding dean, securing financial support from donors and investors, and preparing a submission to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Liaison Committee for Medical Education for accreditation as a new college of medicine.

## News from Higher Education

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### [Illinois bill threatens professors' cherished perk: tuition breaks for their children](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Illinois lawmakers have put a benefit commonly offered to college employees — tuition breaks for their children — on the chopping block at public universities in response to a big expected cut in state spending on higher education.

### [Next phase for Gates' completion agenda](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

After spending roughly half a billion dollars on the college completion agenda during the last seven years, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is ready to be more assertive about what it thinks should happen in four key areas of higher education policy.

### [In Illinois, higher education is suffering](#) (Google News)

For the coming year, Gov. Bruce Rauner has proposed cutting direct appropriations for our public colleges and universities by almost \$400 million, or about 20 percent.

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