

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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March 20, 2015

General Assembly moves to end of month deadline for Committee action on bills; continues budget discussions

The Illinois Senate and House spent this week conducting committee hearings leading up to the March 27 deadline for bills to be voted out of committee. Measures of interest to higher education that were acted upon include:

The House Higher Ed Committee unanimously agreed to send [House Bill 3692](#) to the House floor for consideration. Sponsored by Rep. Katherine Cloonen (D-79), the measure ensures that beginning with the 2015 -2016 academic year, a student veteran using benefits under the federal All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program is also deemed eligible for in-state or in-district tuition rates at public universities and community colleges. Once enacted, the bill will ensure that veterans will be eligible for all Federal benefits that could total as much as \$30 million, as specified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Section 702 compliance. The bill is supported by state agencies, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, IBHE, ICCB, and ISAC.

[House Bill 3528](#), sponsored by Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez (D-24), amends the public universities' statutes to allow them authority to allow students who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States to be eligible to apply and receive consideration for programs such as, "scholarships, grants, awards, stipends, room and board, tuition waivers, or other financial or in-kind assistance." The bill finds this to be within the meaning of subsection (d) of Section 1621 of Title 8 of the U.S. Code. Approved by the Higher Ed Committee on March 18, the bill now moves to the House floor.

[House Bill 3428](#), sponsored by Rep. Carol Sente (D-59), requires community colleges and public universities to give credit to students who have received a score of 3 or higher on College Board Advanced Placement tests, was discussed by the House Elementary and Secondary Ed Committee and passed out of committee. Before further action is taken, Rep. Linda Chapa La Via (D-83), encouraged further discussion with higher education institutions.

Appropriations Committees for higher education continued hearings to discuss the 2016 Budget. This week Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University and the University of Illinois came to Springfield to describe the negative impact of the proposal in the Governor's budget to reduce general funds by 31.5%. IBHE's executive director, James Applegate [testified](#) before the House Higher Ed Committee, presenting the Board's recommendations to maintain flat funding for community colleges and universities, and increase MAP funding by \$50 million, to serve at least 15,000-20,000 more low income students.

UPCOMING

MARCH

- 24 [Senate Higher Education Committee](#), 212 Capitol
- 25 [House Higher Education Committee](#), C-1 Stratton Bldg, Springfield
- 26 [House Higher Ed Appropriations Committee](#), Room 114, Capitol
- [Senate Appropriations II](#), Room 212, Capitol
- 27 [IBHE-SAC Textbook Affordability Discussion](#), Illini Union, Urbana
- 27-28 [IBHE-SAC meeting](#), UIUC, Urbana

APRIL

- 1 [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#) meeting, Michael A. Bilandic Building, Chicago
- 7 [IBHE Board meeting](#), Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield

Students to conduct textbook affordability discussion

The Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee is extending an invitation to student leaders, college officials and faculty, college bookstores and textbook publishers to discuss ways students can become better informed on textbook availability, and affordable access to textbooks. The discussion is scheduled for March 27, beginning at 2:00 pm - 3:30 p.m. in Room 210 at the Illini Union, 1401 West Green Street, Urbana. A telephone conference line will be available also. RSVP [here](#).

**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.



Faculty Summer Institute

May 27-29, 2015

iHotel and Conference Center, Champaign, IL

Registration is now open... REGISTER NOW!

The Faculty Summer Institute (FSI) is a three-day conference that brings faculty members and instructional technology professionals together each May at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Attendees come from across Illinois and as far away as Canada. The conference features [keynote presentations](#), networking, and hands-on training on the use of modern communication and information technologies in higher education. This year's theme is **Engage**. See this link for the schedule and registration details: <http://www.conferences.illinois.edu/facultysummerinstitute/>.

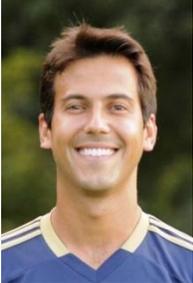
Please consider sharing the opportunity with your colleagues using a PDF flyer:

<http://www.conferences.illinois.edu/facultysummerinstitute/docs/FSI2015promoflyer.pdf>

People in the News

Loyola University Chicago has announced that [Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.](#) will step down from his position as President and CEO of the University on June 30. After 14 years of leadership, Father Garanzini will assume the role of Chancellor of the University. "It's been a wonderful 14 years, and I am grateful for this opportunity to have served as President of Loyola University Chicago," said Father Garanzini. "It's really been a privilege and a great honor." **John Pelissero, Ph.D.**, the University's Provost and Chief Academic Officer, has been appointed Interim President by the Board of Trustees, effective July 1. A member of Loyola's political science faculty for 30 years, Dr. Pelissero joined University administration in 2003 when he served as Associate Provost for Curriculum Development until 2005. From 2005–10, he held the position of Vice Provost until his election as Provost and Chief Academic Officer in 2010.

Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored



Principia College: Gustavo Leonardo Batista is from Belo Horizonte, Brazil, double majoring in Political Science and Philosophy, and has a minor in Business Administration.



Rockford University: Allison Jackson is from Roscoe, majoring in Nursing and has a minor in Human Development.



Roosevelt University: Kara Emery is from Spring Bay, majoring in Psychology, and has a minor in Hispanic Studies.



Saint Xavier University: Brooke McInerney is from Dwight, double majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders, as well as Psychology/Clinical Counseling.

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.

[GSU named as the nation's Most Innovative Small University](#)



GSU President Elaine Maimon (center) holds the Ace Award bestowed to Governors State University. Also pictured are (from left): Kevin Reilly, presidential advisor for leadership, ACE; Molly Corbett Broad, president, ACE; Mark Becker, president, Georgia State University; Alexandra Taussig, senior vice president, Tax-Exempt Marketing and Business Strategy, Fidelity Investments.

The American Council on Education has honored Governors State University (GSU) as the most innovative small university in the U.S. by naming it the winner of the prestigious 2015 ACE/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation. The award recognizes the dramatic changes that have transformed GSU through innovation and its sound business plan. The award, with its \$10,000 prize, recognizes institutions that have responded to higher education challenges in innovative and resourceful ways, achieving dramatic changes in a relatively brief period.

While presenting the award, Alexandra Taussig, Senior Vice President of Fidelity Investments, praised the entire team at GSU for its "groundbreaking work" and singled out the "passionate and inspirational" leadership of President Elaine Maimon. Upon accepting the award, President Maimon replied, "On behalf of GSU, I want to thank ACE and Fidelity Investments for shining a spotlight on transformation through creativity, innovation, and a sound business plan. I'm glad that 'investments' is in the name of the award because public universities represent a return on investments. GSU's success is notable in that it occurred in an era of contraction in state funding resulting in a 15 percent cut in appropriations over the past five years. GSU maintained the lowest tuition and fee rate of any Illinois state university, yet was still able to find innovative ways to incorporate a new state-of-the-art four year bachelor's program, the Dual Degree Program, and new on campus housing. Throughout this period of change, GSU was also able to develop new markets, increasing enrollment by 13.2 percent."

The ACE award was given in two categories: one for institutions with student populations less than 5,000 FTE and another for larger institutions. Georgia State University with 32,000 students was chosen as the most innovative large university. Rick Mitchell, executive vice president of Fidelity Investments, which partnered in the award with ACE, said, "Georgia State and Governors State universities have shown exceptional leadership and achievement within the higher education community, and deserve recognition for their efforts to make higher education more accessible to all students."

[City Colleges of Chicago's Kennedy-King College wins national award for rapid improvement in completion](#)

Kennedy-King College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago, has won the first-ever Aspen "Rising Star" award for rapid improvement in completion. Kennedy-King College, a finalist for the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, was selected from more than 1,100 community colleges nationwide for this award. Located in the heart of Chicago's Englewood community, Kennedy-King was recognized by the Aspen Institute for the significant improvements in completion made since the launch of City Colleges' Reinvention initiative, a comprehensive reform effort Chancellor Cheryl Hyman launched to revamp all aspects of City Colleges to ensure students' success. Kennedy-King College will receive \$100,000 in prize funds.

"Our mission is to ensure the success of all of our students and we've seen impressive results through Reinvention," said Chancellor Hyman. "Kennedy-King College's graduation rate has tripled since the launch of Reinvention and more students are achieving their goals, whether that's completing a credential of economic value, pursuing a bachelor's degree or entering the workforce with a family-sustaining wage." "We are proud that our hard work is being recognized by the Aspen Institute," said Arshele Stevens, president of Kennedy-King College. "Similar to City Colleges' Reinvention, this distinction is primarily based on hard data. Our success rates are up thanks to strategic initiatives and dedication and commitment all round."

Aspen Institute named many reasons why Kennedy-King College stands out as the one of the nation's top community college including:

- The college's official federally-recognized graduation rate has more than tripled;
- Total number of degrees and certificates awarded increased by more than 75 percent;
- Remarkable improvement in its transfer rate, rising 38 percent;
- Launch of College to Careers, where college faculty and administrators partnered with leaders in the culinary and hospitality industry to ensure students receive stackable credentials of economic value that are relevant to the marketplace, providing students the opportunity to gain work experience while pursuing an associate degree; and
- Development of clear, structured career pathways through Student GPS, which outlines the student's semester by semester path through the institution while working toward their career and academic goals, combined with an increase in student supports and intensive advising.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Report touts positive impact of community colleges](#) (Southtown Star)

Illinois' 48 community colleges are a financial boon for their regions and the state and provide multiple other benefits as well, according to a recent report by the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University.

[Education Dept. considers creating not 1 but 2 college-ratings systems](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Education Department, under continued fire over its planned college-rating system, is considering creating two systems, an agency official said.

[Illinois' college students complete school at a higher rate than most of the country](#) (The Huffington Post)

Even if Illinois' politicians don't have much they can boast about, Illinois' college students have plenty of reason to be proud about their college completion rates.

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