

Illinois Higher Ed  
*The Friday Memo*

IBHE  
Chair Lindsay Anderson  
Executive Director Dr. James L. Applegate

ICCB  
Acting Chairman Lazaro Lopez  
Executive Director Karen Hunter Anderson, Ph.D.

ISAC  
Chair Kym M. Hubbard  
Executive Director Eric Zamikow

April 10, 2015

**General Assembly Spring session actions**

*funding bills for FY 15 budget gap enacted  
legislation moved from committees to floor consideration*

The “first” session of the 99<sup>th</sup> Illinois General Assembly ended on March 26, with two budget bills passed ([HB 317](#) and [HB 318](#)) to fund the \$1.6 billion gap in the current FY 2015 budget. The solution reached includes essentially an across-the-board reduction of 2.25% in general funds that support state programs, including agencies’ operations and grants. Public universities’ general funds also were reduced 2.25%. Governor Rauner signed into law both bills on March 27.

On April 7, the Illinois Student Commission (ISAC) [announced](#) that the 2.25% cut to the Monetary Award Program (MAP) will have **no** impact on students *already* awarded for the 2014-15 academic year. ISAC’s analysis of MAP claims already received as well as lower-than-projected claims, and implementation of a conservative suspension date resulted in a determination that adjustments to students’ awards will not be necessary. The reduction in MAP funds of roughly \$8.4 million could have allowed approximately 3,000 additional students to receive MAP for a second release, but there will be no additional suspension release for 2014-15.

Committees spent the last week of March session days responding to the House and Senate deadlines to pass substantive bills out of committees. A list summarizing legislative bills affecting higher education issues that are still under consideration can be found [here](#).

The House Higher Educational Appropriations Committee and Senate Appropriations II are continuing hearings to discuss the FY 2016 budget for higher education agencies and public universities. (See **Upcoming** for details.) The General Assembly returns to Springfield on April 14, and will turn its attention on development of the FY 2016 budget, as well as passage of proposed legislation.

UPCOMING

APRIL

- 13 [Senate Appropriations II](#),  
University of Illinois  
Urbana-Champaign
- 15 [House Higher Education  
Committee](#), C-1  
Stratton Bldg,  
Springfield
- 16 [House Higher Ed  
Appropriations  
Committee](#),  
Room 114, Capitol
- 17 [Senate Appropriations II](#),  
SIU Edwardsville
- 22 **IBHE-SAC Lobby Day in  
Springfield**
- 28 **ICCTA Board meeting**,  
Crisp Community College  
Center, Springfield
- 29 **ICCB-Student Advocacy  
Day in Springfield**  
  
**ICCTA Lobby Day in  
Springfield**

**[Attorney General Madigan to U.S. Dept. of Education: cancel loans of Corinthian students](#)**

On April 9, Attorney General Lisa Madigan urged the federal government to immediately relieve the federal debt burden of thousands of students who attended Corinthian Colleges, which operated six Everest College locations in Illinois and was forced to close last year. In [a letter to the U.S. Department of Education](#), Madigan, also joined by the attorneys general of California, Connecticut, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Washington, said the agency has legal authority to discharge the federal loans of students who have been harmed by for-profit schools like Corinthian. “We must protect the victims of the predatory practices of for-profit schools such as Corinthian, which was more concerned with their profits than they were about the quality of education they provided,” Madigan said.

## **Lumina Foundation issues annual update on reaching the national college attainment goal of 60% X 2025**

A new report released April 9 by Lumina Foundation reveals real progress has been made in the national effort to increase postsecondary attainment, but current rates won't be enough to meet America's future economic and workforce demands. The annual report, [A Stronger Nation through Higher Education](#), finds that unless actions are taken now to significantly increase postsecondary attainment, the nation will fall short of workforce needs by the end of this decade.

Data for all states, using the 2013 Census figures, is included in the report. For [Illinois](#), **43 percent of Illinois' 6.9 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree**, an increase from last year's rate of 42.5 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 40 percent.

According to the [Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce](#), 65 percent of U.S. jobs will require some form of postsecondary education by 2020. Yet, according to Lumina's *A Stronger Nation through Higher Education* report, only 40 percent of working-age Americans (ages 25-64) held a two- or four-year college degree in 2013—the most recent year for which data are available. That figure is up from 2012, when the rate was 39.4 percent, and from 2008, when the rate was 37.9 percent, or a total of more than 2.8 million more degrees. These incremental gains aren't nearly enough to reach [Goal 2025](#)—a national effort calling for 60 percent of Americans to have a high-quality postsecondary degree, certificate or other credential by the year 2025.

## **[SURS announces board vacancy](#)**

State Universities Retirement System (SURS) Executive Director W. Bryan Lewis has announced a vacancy on the SURS Board of Trustees. The elected active (contributing) -member seat will be filled by a majority vote of the other five elected trustees on or before June 1, 2015. Those interested in being considered for the open elected seat on the Board should contact Director Lewis at [executive\\_director@surs.org](mailto:executive_director@surs.org) by April 15. Candidates will be required to complete an application form and submit a resume or statement of qualification by May 4.

## **Illinois Community College Diversity Consortium(ICCDC) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

*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, 2015** at ***Lincoln Land Community College*** in Springfield to construct a vision + mission statement, organizational structure, election procedures, etc.

Register Here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2015-illinois-community-college-diversity-consortium-meeting-tickets-15473764446> Registration closes **Monday, April 13, 2015**.

## **[People in the News](#)**

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Roosevelt University's Board of Trustees has named [Ali R. Malekzadeh](#), dean of the College of Business Administration at Kansas State University, as the sixth president of Roosevelt, effective July 1. He will succeed Charles R. Middleton, who is retiring June 30, who has served 13 years as Roosevelt's president. Dr. Malekzadeh, a 59-year-old Iranian-American, has been a business dean at private and public universities for 17 years. In addition to working at Kansas State since 2011, he also was dean of business at Xavier University in Cincinnati and dean of business at St. Cloud State University.

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



**Southern Illinois University Carbondale: David Lynch is from Rockford, majoring in Political Science.**



**Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: Corey Huber is from Edwardsville, majoring in Applied Communication and Philosophy.**



**University of Chicago: Alyssa Bivins is from Chicago, majoring in History and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.**



**Trinity Christian College: David Lucas is from Hobart, Indiana, majoring in Exercise Science.**

***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**

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[A look at the college tuition perks at Starbucks, McDonald's](#) (Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

Starbucks says it will now cover four years of tuition reimbursement for workers to earn an online undergraduate degree from Arizona State University, instead of just two years.

[A plan to privatize public universities in Illinois](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

Advocates for public higher education sometimes describe various state plans as efforts to de facto privatize colleges and universities.

[SIU debate team wins national title, again](#) (The Southern Illinoisan)

SIU's top-ranked debate team capped off a record-breaking year with a national championship win at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence .

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