

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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[Budgeting for college completion](#)

On February 7, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) unanimously adopted a proposed higher education budget for Fiscal Year 2013, that implements a new state law ([Public Act 97-320](#)) requiring performance-based funding for community colleges and public universities. This serves as the first step in the implementation of performance-based funding, focused on the educational attainment goal of the *Illinois Public Agenda* with an emphasis on progress and completion of postsecondary certificates of marketable value and degrees, specifically among minority students and those who are academically or financially at risk.

The budget recommendations follow the “investment level” approach adopted by the Board in FY 2009, and utilized since then, with the intent that the investment steps present the Governor and General Assembly with additional options that can be accommodated at various levels of state funding. In the face of Illinois’ unprecedented fiscal crisis, the Board’s recommended level for Step One provides higher education with the same level of funding received in FY 2012. \$6.5 million (.5 percent) for public universities is reallocated from base funding and distributed based upon the performance funding formula. For community colleges, \$720,000 is reallocated from Base Operating Grants and distributed based upon a performance funding formula unique to the mission of community colleges.

At Step Two, the Board recommends restoration of funding to the FY 2011 level, which amounts to a 1.6 percent increase over FY 2012. The additional \$15 million for universities would be allocated using the performance funding formula. Steps Three and Four provide funding increases based on performance for public universities and community colleges, as well as for deferred maintenance needs. Funding is also recommended for various grant initiatives, the University Center of Lake County, and the Monetary Award Program (MAP) to improve affordability for needy students.



[Governor Quinn launches new education initiative to support economic growth](#)

Governor Pat Quinn and Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon joined business and education leaders on February 9, at an Illinois Pathways conference hosted by State Farm and the Illinois Business Roundtable to launch [the Illinois Pathways Initiative](#). The effort is an innovative public-private partnership between Illinois’ public education institutions and the business community to foster Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning. Funded through the State’s secured Race to the Top funds, Illinois Pathways will help prepare students for college and careers in new and growing fields.

“We have a mission in Illinois to ensure that at least 60 percent of adults have either a college degree or a career certificate by 2025,” Governor Quinn said. “Through this initiative, our state agencies will partner with the education

UPCOMING

February

15 [Senate Appropriations I & II](#), C600 Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle St., Chicago

17 [IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council](#), DePaul University, Chicago

22 Governor’s Budget Address

March

12-13 [ICBHE Conference](#), Statehouse Inn, Springfield

23 [LACHE Conference](#), DePaul University, Chicago

community and our business leaders to better support students and prepare them to graduate and get a good job in the 21st century economy.”

An interagency team, consisting of representatives from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the Illinois Department of Employment Security will set priorities and identify the first public-private STEM Learning Exchanges to launch in the fall of 2012.

[4th Annual Digital Accessibility Expo](#)

Registration is now open for the 4th Annual Digital Accessibility Expo (DAE) on April 20, 2012, 8:45 am - 4:15 pm, at the UIC Forum, Chicago, IL. The DAE is sponsored by the UIC Office of the Chancellor, the UIC Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, the Great Lakes ADA Center, and the Disability Resource Center of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

The Digital Accessibility Expo focuses on improving the access to digital materials both for all people including those with disabilities. Information and instructional materials that are developed with accessibility in mind are universally designed for everyone to access. This year's keynote speaker is T.V. Raman, computer scientist working for Google.

[Illinois residents invited to participate in important broadband survey](#)

Illinois residents have the opportunity to participate in a survey that will help shape the State's future broadband (high-speed Internet) plan that will help create jobs, improve medical care, and enhance educational opportunities. The statewide survey is being conducted by Broadband Illinois, also known as the Partnership for a Connected Illinois (PCI). The survey will reach out to households, businesses, anchor institutions such as colleges and hospitals, and community organizations throughout Illinois. As a result of this outreach, Broadband Illinois will develop broadband plans in the following categories: agriculture, energy & the environment, economic development, education, health care, public safety, and government performance.

The survey will be deployed electronically on **February 15** with assistance from statewide broadband stakeholders. The survey can be accessed on the Broadband Illinois website and is open to the general public. To take the survey, visit www.broadbandillinois.org, click the "Research" tab, and then click the "Broadband Availability Survey" link.

[People in the News.](#)

Governor Pat Quinn named the [members of the Illinois DREAM commission](#) established by the Illinois DREAM Act which creates a privately-funded scholarship program for high school graduates from immigrant families who wish to attend college. The DREAM Fund commission members appointed represent the education, immigrant, and business communities: **Clara Rubinstein** is an attorney and formerly served in the City of Chicago's Office of Corporation Counsel and Department of Planning and Development; **Clare Muñana** is president of Ancora Associates and previously served as vice-president of the Chicago Board of Education; **Moises Zavala** is the director of organizing at United Food and Commercial Workers Local #88; **Nam H. Paik** is a partner at the Baker and McKenzie law firm and is chair of the Chicago-Busan Sister City International Committee; **Rigoberto Padilla-Perez** is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois-Chicago; **Ronald Perlman, Ph.D.** is president of The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning; and **Tanya Cabrera** is the associate director of minority student outreach and diversity initiatives at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The IBHE- Student Advisory Committee (SAC) met on February 4 at Joliet Junior College. **Anthony Cozzi**, from Governors State University, was elected the IBHE- SAC Chair. **Courtney Jennings-Hope**, from Northeastern Illinois University, was elected the IBHE-SAC Secretary. **Ari Shroyer**, from Roosevelt University, was re-elected to the IBHE Student Board Member position he is now holding. **Justin McDermott**, from Harper College, was elected to the IBHE Nontraditional Student Board member position, beginning in August, 2012. That position is currently held by **David**

Anderson, from Chicago State University.

[Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureates honored](#)



Lauren Contorno, *Illinois Wesleyan University*, is a senior from Elburn, Illinois, majoring in Political Science.



Rachel L. Delph, *Judson University*, is a senior from Dunlap, Illinois, majoring in Visual Communications.



Lauren M. Smith, *Knox College*, is a senior from Carthage, Illinois, majoring in Psychology and Social Service.

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.

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Bankruptcy lawyers warn of student-loan 'debt bomb' as client caseloads rise](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

More struggling borrowers are seeking relief from their student loans, according to a survey by the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys.

[Student with learning disability finds her niche in biology](#) (Chicago Tribune)

Most days, from the wee hours of the morning until late into the evening, you can find Lynika Strozier in a molecular genetics and cell biology lab at the University of Chicago, poring over a microscope, conducting experiments with cells. To look at Strozier now, you'd never know what she's been through. She will tell you that although the trial-and-error process is the cornerstone of science, it has also been the story of her life.

[Editorial - Reining in college tuition](#) (The New York Times)

Higher education institutions are predictably cool to President Obama's proposal to shift federal aid away from

colleges that fail to control rising tuition. Even though the details of his plan, which would require Congressional approval, will not be fleshed out until later this month, the idea behind it is sound.

[Opinion - Stay in school, but not too long](#) (The Washington Post)

President Obama's plan to make college more affordable is noble in intent but misses the mark in design. If the president and Congress were to focus on the real culprit of high college costs — poor college completion numbers — they could find rare common ground and make substantial headway on a problem that threatens to sink U.S. economic competitiveness.

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