

Applegate's Update

It was on this date 14 years ago that the world seemed to change. Few could have predicted all the ramifications of those terrorist attacks in every aspect of society that continue through and beyond today. Most of us can remember where we were staring at those horrible visions on the screen, fearful for those involved and wondering what it all meant for the future.

As students settle in to the hard work of classes this fall, they and those of us supporting their aspirations for the future should have learned at least this lesson: we must provide an education that prepares our citizens for accelerating change and uncertainty. That means, in a very real way, that a quality college education is more important than ever before.

We all know college is not just about a job. It is about learning what it takes to be an informed citizen, able to critically assess issues and cut through all the illogic, demagoguery, and hatefulness that pollutes so much of today's public discourse. It is about being able to find a path to civic engagement that improves lives and fosters fairness. However, it is also about learning the intellectual, social, and practical knowledge that will launch graduates into a successful career involving multiple types of jobs, every more rapid change, an increasingly diverse set of colleagues, and requiring creative solutions to increasingly complex problems. This is as true for an engineering graduate as for a graduate in medieval studies. I invite you to read David Brooks' recent column in the New York Times, "[The New Romantics in the Computer Age](#)," as an antidote to any simplistic idea about the changing college to career connection. Relational jobs are expanding while transactional jobs, increasingly doable with technology, are contracting. Empathy is an ever more important job skill. Creativity is in great demand.

This all makes defining the best pathway from college to career more complicated. But students, with strong advising help, must actively identify the learning pathways that lead to their passions and an economically secure life: pathways that eliminate excess credits and costs and provide the learning necessary to a career in a rapidly changing workplace no matter what their major or specialization. Students, faculty, advisors, and college leaders, more than ever before, need to work together to blow up the false dichotomies between "liberal arts and career education," "general education and major programs," or "basic and applied knowledge." The road to education hell is paved with those false dichotomies. Students' and college educators' challenges are to find those pathways to learning that paves the way to career success in an economy where the only constant is change while stirring the soul to a lifetime commitment to the common good. As idealistic as it sounds, to commit to anything less is to threaten our future and the future of our students. So whether you are a beginning first year student, a senior worrying about next year, an adult returning to complete that degree, a faculty or advisor supporting students, a college administrator, or a legislator or government leader addressing higher education funding and policy issues, please do not settle for less.

Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students

IBHE's Diversity and Outreach staff is collaborating with the Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP), the Illinois Vet Center's Mobile Unit (IVC), and the IBHE Disabilities Advisory Committee to support **outreach services to Illinois students with disabilities**.

The IVC is visiting college campuses conducting outreach support to veteran students and IATP is providing support in this effort. Scheduled events to date include:

Sept. 22	Spoon River College Canton and Macomb campuses
Sept. 24	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Sept. 25	Eastern Illinois University
Sept. 29-30	Parkland College

Increasing Affordability

More graduates of Quincy's high schools may go to college tuition free, if they choose to learn skills through a career or technical program that is in high-demand by area employers. "[The Quincy Promise](#)," a privately funded educational grant program for graduates of Quincy's high schools, is being supported by several private companies based in Quincy that have donated funds for a four-year pilot program to encourage current seniors and future graduates of Quincy's secondary schools to pursue specific career and technical programs at John Wood Community College Applications for the program open September 15 and all required materials must be completed by February 1, 2016, to be considered for The Quincy Promise funding. More information, an application and a list of programs is available from [The Quincy Promise](#).

Increasing Adult Degree Completion

IBHE and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) are working with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's [Office of Community College Research and Leadership \(OCCRL\)](#) on a project funded by an anonymous donor to explore the ways Illinois might **systematically move adults from "some college, no degree" to citizens with earned college credentials**. In order to best complete the project, **Finish Up Illinois**, we need good information about what institutions of higher education are currently doing in a few related areas. [OCCRL has developed a very short survey](#). All Illinois colleges and universities are requested to complete the survey.

For questions or more information, please contact [Heather N. McCambly](#), Project Coordinator, Pathways to Results, [OCCRL](#), UIUC.

People in the News

The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy announced that [Senior Tavis Reed won the 2015 Gold Medal](#) in the Chemistry/Biochemistry division of the National Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) competition. The IMSA senior advanced to the national competition after being named a local winner of the DuPage County ACT-SO program. Reed, a 17-year-old from Oswego, was guided by IMSA faculty and scientists from Argonne National Laboratory to develop a process for the production of cellulosic ethanol. Reed has a patent pending for his fermentation process.

Nurse Educator Fellows for 2015 were recognized by IBHE and the Advisory Board for the Illinois Center for Nursing on September 9. This distinguished group of 22 Nurse Educator Fellows were nominated by their schools from their nursing faculties, and selected from 49 nominations. The Fellows shared information about their research projects with the group of nursing leaders and were commended for their work and dedication to preparing highly qualified nurses for the Illinois workforce.



L to R: **Natacha Pierre**, DNP, RN, ANP, FNP-BC, UIC; **Carol Kostovich**, PhD, RN, Loyola University Chicago; **Karen Lynn O'Brien**, MS, RN, St. Xavier University; **Jay Stewart**, IDFPR Director of Professional Regulation; **Jennifer Smith**, EdD(c), RN, Harper College; **Lorinda Lindemulder**, MSN, RN, Trinity Christian College; and **Catherine Maney**, MS, RN, Northern Illinois University.



L to R: **Amanda Hopkins**, Ph.D., RN, Illinois Wesleyan University; **O. Ed Reitz**, Ph.D., RN, Illinois State University; **Amy Grugan**, MSN, RN, Bradley University; **Angela J. Calderaro-Bentley**, MS, RN-BC, St. John's College; **Richard Ellis**, MSN, MSHA, RN, Methodist College; and **Kevin Schoeben**, IBHE Deputy Director for Fiscal Affairs.

Unable to attend: **Tamara Bland**, MSN, RN, Resurrection University; **Denise Caldwell**, MSN, RN, Lewis & Clark Community College; **Tisha Goad**, MSN, RN, Lake Land College; **Jennifer L. Grobe**, MSN, CCM, RN, Rockford University; **Anne Hustad**, MSN, RN, Olney Central College - Illinois Eastern Community Colleges; **Pam Laskowski**, MSN, RN, CNE, Millikin University; **Donna Martin**, MSN, RN-BC, CMSRN, CDE, Lewis University; **Tina Parks**, MS, RN, Prairie State College; **Megan Pet**, MSN, MBA, RN, Moraine Valley Community College; and **Monique Reed**, PhD, RN, Rush University.

[The University of Illinois Board](#) approved **Barbara J. Wilson** as interim chancellor of the Urbana-Champaign campus and **Edward J. Feser** as interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost on Sept. 10. Wilson has served as acting chancellor since she was appointed Aug. 12 to succeed Phyllis Wise, who resigned after nearly four years as chancellor and will return to the faculty. Wilson will continue her role as dean of the campus's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and serve during a national search for a permanent chancellor. The university hopes to name a new chancellor during the spring semester and Wilson has said she will not be a candidate. Feser was named last week by Wilson to replace Ilesanmi Adesida, who resigned as provost effective Aug. 31 and returned to the faculty. Feser, who has been dean of Urbana's College of Fine and Applied Arts since 2012, will serve during a national search for a permanent provost, which will begin after a new chancellor is named. national search for a permanent chancellor.

Other News

Illinois colleges and universities are invited provide information on events or updates you'd like the **Illinois Office of Tourism** to consider for media opportunities and promotion on social media channels, send your releases to illinoisnews@fleishman.com and social media campaigns you're launching to illinoissocial@fleishman.com. The Tourism Office can't guarantee that all events submitted will be featured, but they want to know [what's going on in your area and on your campuses that would interest tourists in Illinois](#).

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