

Applegate's Update

A Matter of Life and Death

As the budget impasse continues (unbelievably) into spring 2016 with higher education still left completely without state funds, we are facing the collapse of college opportunity in Illinois. Chicago State University has publically indicated it will have no cash reserves or ability to make payroll, making it nearly impossible to serve its largely minority and low income students after March 1. University presidents have recently made clear in a [joint letter](#) to state leadership that "in the next few months, a number of public universities and community colleges across the state will no longer be financially viable. Funds that have allowed them to keep afloat through this the 7th month of FY2016 will soon be completely exhausted. When colleges and universities reach this point of no return - when bills cannot be paid and payroll cannot be met - they will close." Early indicators of fall 2016 enrollments are showing a negative effect on student interest in Illinois institutions. Many private colleges are at risk due largely to the lack of funding for the state's need-based financial aid program (MAP). In short Chicago State University is simply the canary in the coal mine.

The urgency of this situation is further aggravated by the knowledge that even after a budget is passed it will likely be months before any 2016 funds are available given the backlog of unpaid bills (known widely as the "cash flow" problem). In short, we are at the point of making life and death decisions for many of Illinois' colleges. At this point no one should doubt this or claim any lack of awareness of the situation.

But for those having trouble generating concern for institutional deaths, we can put the potential impact of the current situation in more personal terms. For the low income students being lost to our colleges and for the many others giving up or being shut out of college opportunity, recent reports make clear this is a very personal life and death crises for them. On January 17, the *New York Times* published [a massive study](#) of 60 million death certificates from 1990 to 2014 following up on Nobel Prize winning research by economists examining mortality rates in the United States. The focus was on staggering increases in mortality rates for whites of all ages largely due to drugs and suicides. Noting that while the death rate rose over the last five years for every age group, the *Times'* analysis showed that the death rate "rose faster by any measure for the less educated, by 23 percent for those without a high school education, compared to four percent for those with a college degree or more."

While there is no doubt there are multiple contributors to this startling and horrible demographic trend, many point to the role of poverty and the stresses it brings-- poverty resulting in significant part from a lack of the education required to hold decent jobs. Eileen Crimmins, a professor at the University of Southern California poignantly argues, "It's not medical care, it's life. There are people whose lives are so hard they break."

The focus of these studies is on white mortality rates. Hispanics and African Americans are not experiencing the same increases. However, the rise in white mortality highlights a once yawning gap with, for example, for African Americans whose rate remains higher though now less so. Hence, we must continue to focus on the implications of a

lack of college opportunity for these groups. The soon to be released 2016 IBHE report on college opportunity for underrepresented groups will show a large and disturbing drop in African American and Hispanic college enrollment across our two- and four-year public system. Each of these students, lost to college, faces a life also besieged by the stresses of poverty.

Two-thirds of all new and replacement jobs in Illinois will require a college credential. Nationally all of the millions of newly created high and middle wage jobs since the recovery from the 2008 recession have gone to college graduates (high paying jobs, \$53,000 in salary or above almost exclusively to those with a BA or higher). A recent Hechinger Institute [report](#) shows an increasing national rich-poor divide in college opportunity.

Put all of this together and the conclusion seems obvious: the current budget impasse, as it contributes to undercutting college opportunity, especially for the less advantaged, is not only a life and death issue for colleges but also literally has life and death implications for thousands of Illinoisans. Let us all hope for a resolution before the damage cannot be undone.

60 x 2025

The **Illinois Board of Higher Education** (IBHE) hosted the **Higher Education Commission on the Future of the Workforce** inaugural meeting January 12, in Springfield.

The Commission was created under the auspices of [House Joint Resolution 52](#), passed by the General Assembly in the spring 2015. The Commission features broad-based expertise in business, economic development, and higher education in order to review efforts for improved alignment of postsecondary educational programming with regional workforce needs.

The Commission is chaired by **James Applegate**, IBHE executive director and includes:

- **Douglas Baker**, President, Northern Illinois University
- **Representative Kelly Burke**, 36th State District of the Illinois House
- **Senator Jacqueline Collins**, 16th State District of the Illinois Senate
- **John Comerford**, President, Blackburn College
- **Edgar Curtis**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Memorial Health System
- **Bridget Gainer**, Vice President of Global Affairs, Aon
- **Representative Norine Hammond**, 94th State District of the Illinois House
- **Alice Marie Jacobs**, President, Danville Area Community College
- **Jason Keller**, Economic Development Director, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
- **Senator Karen McConaughay**, 33rd State District of the Illinois Senate
- **John Rico**, CEO, Rico Enterprises, Inc.

"I am pleased that these Illinois higher education and business leaders have agreed to serve on this important commission," **Lindsay Anderson**, IBHE Chair said. "I'm confident that they will provide us with their best counsel to identify a plan of action so that Illinois' employers have access to the best educated and trained workforce Illinois' higher education institutions can provide."

A [Workforce Commission](#) website has been created to share commission announcements and related information with the public. The Commission will meet again February 9 at the IBHE office in Springfield.

The Military Prior Learning Assessment (MPLA) Task Force will hold its initial meeting on February 3, at the IBHE office. The purpose of the Task Force is to study and make recommendations on how to best effectuate the recognition of military learning for academic credit, industry-recognized credentials, and college degrees. The Commission will be chaired by **Dr. Arthur Sutton**, deputy director of Diversity and Outreach for IBHE, and includes:

- **Senator Pamela J. Althoff**, 32nd District
- **Senator Michael E. Hastings**, 19th District
- **Representative Linda Chapa LaVia**, 83rd District
- **Representative Jeanne M. Ives**, 42nd District
- **Kevin Schott**, Office of the Fire Marshall
- **Walter Pearson**, Loyola University, Chicago
- **Dan Wellman**, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
- **Charlotte Warren**, Lincoln Land Community College
- **Amy Sherman**, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
- **Kim Eck**, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- **Jess Ray**, Illinois State University
- **Ron Williams**, Western Illinois University
- **Jeff Newell**, Illinois Community College Board
- **Cynthia Rathunde**, City Colleges of Chicago
- **Janet Fontenot**, Southwestern Illinois College
- **Daniel Cullen**, Illinois Board of Higher Education
- **Candace Mueller**, Illinois Board of Higher Education
- **Amanda Winters**, Illinois Board of Higher Education

Visit the [Task Force website](#) for the meeting agenda and other resource materials.

Advocacy for Quality Higher Education

The **Illinois Coalition to Invest in Higher Education** hosted a news conference at the Statehouse on Jan. 20, to outline what's at stake in the ongoing funding stalemate and how that is affecting and will affect campuses around the state. The Coalition is a collection of business, labor, and organizations representing public and private colleges and universities coming together to urge immediate action. Illinois universities and colleges have gone without hundreds of millions of dollars in Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants and operational funding since July, and aid has not been included in relief packages approved by legislators and the governor since the summer while they have not reached agreement on a full-year budget.

Coalition members discussed a number of problems facing Illinois campuses from the ongoing lack of funding and uncertainty about when funding will be approved, including:

- Students being unable to graduate or continue classes because their MAP grants that let them afford college are held up;
- Prospective students – in and outside Illinois – choosing out-of-state colleges because of the funding uncertainty here;
- Classes and programs being closed or suspended until funding is restored;
- Employees being laid off ; and
- Cuts creating long-term consequences for campuses – losing students and faculty/ staff talent to other competitors, and projects being delayed that will cost more to complete later.

Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students

Complete College America says in a new report that, nationally, just 22 percent of remedial students complete the associated gateway course within two years. But under the corequisite model, 63 percent of Georgia students finished their introductory course - and did so within a year - and more than three-fifths of students in Indiana, Tennessee and West Virginia did the same in just one semester. The [interactive report](#) also includes a state-by-state database showing outcomes for remedial and corequisite students.

Illinois is participating in Complete College America's **Co-requisite at Scale initiative**. Through this initiative, the **Illinois Board of Higher Education** and **Illinois Community College Board**, along with policymakers and educational leaders from eight public colleges and universities have committed to improving the graduation success rate in the state by effectively designing and implementing co-requisite and pathway remediation models in math and English language arts. Pilot schools include **Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois Chicago, Heartland Community College, Joliet Junior College, Lewis and Clark Community College**, and **William Rainey Harper College**.

The **Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education's** 24th Annual Professional and Student Development Conference will take place on April 29 at Northern Illinois University. The **Call for Proposals deadline is February 19**. Presentations across disciplines addressing programs that are successful in addressing this year's conference theme: **Reshaping Latino Access to Higher Education: Realities, Challenges, and Opportunities**. Together we can exchange ideas on the realities, challenges, and opportunities that will reshape Latino Access to Higher Education in Illinois. For more information on how to submit a proposal, attend the conference, volunteer or become a sponsor, visit www.llache.com

Increasing Affordability

The [Oakton Community College Educational Foundation](#) received a gift of \$100,000 from an anonymous donor to be used to support **Oakton Community College** scholarships and programs that include science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) as well as manufacturing.

Oakton's STEM courses include biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, mathematics, and physics. The college's cutting edge nanotechnology training program includes a 31-credit-hour nanotechnology certificate that incorporates basic science "building blocks," college-level nanotechnology courses, access to internship opportunities and hands-on experience with state-of-the-art lab equipment. Additionally, [STEM research courses](#) allow students to jump into a "real world" research project and present findings at a STEM symposium. Oakton's [manufacturing technology programs](#) provide students and industry with high-quality, comprehensive advanced manufacturing training that creates pathways to employment and strengthens the economy. The annual one-day [Manufacturing Expo](#) – a partnership between Oakton and local businesses and schools – offers local high school students the opportunity to discover the new world of manufacturing by incorporating speakers, workshops and tours of nearby manufacturing facilities.

The cost of college tuition increases every year, leaving many families wondering how they will be able to afford college. The **College Illinois!® 529 Prepaid Tuition Plan** is designed to offer Illinois families an affordable way to pay for college. Click [here](#) to watch an informative video to learn more about College Illinois!®

IBHE Student Art Exhibition

Jenna Clark,
Danville Area Community College



Essence Jackson-Jones,
Chicago State University



Abdurrahman Rufai,
American Islamic College



Student Laureates

In each issue of *The Bulletin*, we will feature students laureates recognized by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Augustana College



Aubrey Waddick
Rock Island, IL

Major: Political Science
Minors: Chinese and French

Aurora University



Sherry Maschmeyer
Aurora, IL

Majors: Business Administration
and Spanish
Minor: International Business

Benedictine University



Dana Cairns
Lombard, IL

Major: Biochemistry/Molecular
Biology
Minors: Mathematics and Spanish

In Case You Missed It

A few articles and updates worth the read:

[Community College Daily](#): How tech is changing teaching, learning, Jan. 20, 2016

[Illinois Education Research Council Inaugural Newsletter](#): InformED, January 2016

[Illinois Liquor Control Commission](#): 7th Annual College Town Summit recap

IBHE

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