

Illinois Higher Ed

The Friday Memo

IBHE

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[CAEL president highlights importance of reaching adult learners](#)

Barely a third of working age adults in Illinois have a college degree, not only a significantly lower proportion than the national average but a potential drag on the state economy as more and more jobs demand increasing levels of educational attainment. Pam Tate, president and CEO of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), told the Illinois Board of Higher Education that the state must increase efforts to reach adult learners to meet the needs of Illinois workers and invigorate the state's economy.

[Report](#) from CAEL and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

[Illinois Profile](#)

Legislature leaves Springfield, but leaves major decisions behind

The General Assembly adjourned its spring session in the wee hours of June 1, but is likely due back in coming weeks to settle on a budget and potential tax increase.

A 50 percent budget passed both chambers but Governor Quinn vowed not to sign it, and leaders met earlier this week to negotiate a fix to the budget mess. Two capital bills – including more than \$1.5 billion for higher education projects – remain in limbo until the general fund budget is settled.

Meanwhile, lawmakers passed several bills that address major goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, including legislation to create a statewide P-20 longitudinal student data system, a new baccalaureate completion grant program (unfunded), a new scholarship program for nurse educators, a dual credit quality act, a resolution to strengthen standards for school leaders, and a joint resolution (yet to pass the Senate) to undertake a study of college affordability and institutional efficiency. A full legislative report is [here](#).

UPCOMING

June

5 ICCB meeting, Chicago

11 *Newly Defined Principal Preparation Program for Illinois* for ROE-5 area, McKendree University

12 IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, UIC

15-16 4th Annual Coalition for High Schools Conference, A Push & Pull Journey, Bloomington

And Friday Memo will be taking it easy. Look for us every other Friday. And enjoy your summer.

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