**IEA Higher Education Council Report (9/14/2012)**

**NLRB: Columbia College Chicago Violated Labor Law:** The National Labor Relations Board has found that Columbia College Chicago violated federal laws by refusing to bargain with the part-time faculty union at the college and hand over information requested by them. In a [ruling](http://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/files/Administrative%20Law%20Judge%20Decision.pdf) Tuesday, ***Robert Ringler***, an administrative law judge, ordered the college to bargain in good faith with the union and to provide back pay to part-time faculty members in the department of humanities, history & social sciences affected by a 2010 decision to reschedule classes. The Part-Time Faculty Association at the college, also known as [P-fac](http://pfac.org/), is affiliated with the National Education Association. ***Diana Vallera***, P-fac’s president, called the decision a victory for part-time faculty members. “In this case, Judge Ringler has ruled that Columbia College not only mistreated its faculty but also violated federal labor law,” she said. (July 19, 2012: Inside Higher Ed.)

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| **Illinois Higher Education Gets Cut:** On May 31st, the last day of the Spring 2012 legislative session, the General Assembly approved an FY2013 spending plan that incorporates performance funding into the higher education budget. Senate Bill 2443 provides $1.2 billion to public universities, which is a cut of $79 million (-6.08%) from FY2012. Of this total, $6.15 million was reallocated to universities based on performance using the IBHE performance funding allocation model. The FY2013 budget includes $287.4 million for community colleges, a cut of $20.7 million (-6.74%). An amount of $360,000 is dedicated to performance funding. The Monetary Award Program (MAP) received a cut of $15.4 million (-3.98%) from FY2012, for a total of $371.3 million. The Senate also passed SB 2365, providing supplemental funding for early childhood and K-12 funding, as well as returning MAP funding to its FY 2012 level. This bill arrived in the House, but no action was taken prior to adjournment. **Another Report Card:** In the ongoing push for more accountability and transparency in higher education, researchers released a new “report card” that shows which states lead and trail on a variety of postsecondary measures. The report, [*“Leaders & Laggards: A State-by-State Report Card on Postsecondary Education”*](http://icw.uschamber.com/reportcard/)***(see:*** <http://icw.uschamber.com/reportcard/>) was produced by the Institute for a Competitive Workforce, or ICW, a nonprofit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that focuses on education and workforce issues. The report is meant to illuminate how effectively states are spending public money on higher education, and what exactly taxpayers and employers are getting in return. Illinois’s report card is attached to this report.**US Treasury Report Makes Economic Case for Higher Education:** A new analysis released by the U.S. Treasury Department, produced in tandem with the Education Department, calls higher education “an important driver of economic mobility” that is vital to economic growth and competitiveness. Key findings: * There is substantial evidence that education raises earnings. The median weekly earnings for a full-time, full-year bachelor’s degree holder in 2011 was 64 percent higher than those for a high school graduate ($1,053 compared to $638).
* The earnings differential grew steadily through the 1980s and 1990s. Recent evidence suggests that today’s earnings gap is the highest it has been since 1915, the earliest year for which there are estimates of the college wage gap.
* Higher education is important for intergenerational mobility. Without a degree, children born to parents in the bottom income quintile have a 45 percent chance of remaining there as adults. With a degree, they have less than a 20 percent chance of staying in the bottom quintile of the income distribution. (see: <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Documents/The%20Economics%20of%20Higher%20Education_REPORT%20CLEAN.pdf>

 **“*We can't allow higher education to be a luxury in this country. It's an economic imperative that every family in America has to be able to afford.”* - President Barack Obama, February 27, 2012** |

source: <http://icw.uschamber.com/reportcard/>