**IEA Higher Education Council Report (2/15/2013)**

**Contingent Faculty and the Affordable Care Act:** A provision of the Affordable Care Act, ACA, requires that in January 2014, all businesses with 50 or more employees must offer health care options to those working 30 or more hours per week or pay fines of up to $3,000 per employee. Ahead of this deadline, some colleges and universities are preemptively cutting back contingent faculty teaching loads (see, <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/11/30/youngstown-state-limits-adjunct-hours>). To justify these actions administrators point to potential increases in institutional heath care cost given shrinking budgets. What is needed, others cite, is clarification on translating credit hours and course loads to hours worked. Until the Treasury Department rules with regard to the law and in particular, to the treatment of contingent faculty, college administrators may be moving too quickly. NEA is working with the Treasury Department on rule making related to contingent faculty and the ACA. “One of the biggest issues here is that the narrative is that the Affordable Care Act is the problem, but from our standpoint the [act] isn’t the problem,” states ***Adrianna Kezar***, founder of the [Delphi Project](http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/11/12/new-guides-suggest-questions-ask-about-adjuncts), which works with faculty and administrator groups to find ways to improve the conditions under which non-tenure-track faculty members work.– but rather institutions finding ways to deny deserving employees potential benefits. “This is just another example of bad employer behavior.” IEA Region 67 is hosting a session to learn more about the ACA and to strategize about making it work for contingent faculty – as opposed to accepting reduced workloads – by developing strong contract language.

# Moody's: 2013 outlook for entire US Higher Education sector changed to negative: . Much has been made of the actual and potential downgrades to Illinois’ credit rating, well; Moody's Investors Service in its annual industry outlook downgraded the outlook for the *entire* US Higher Ed sector to negative from stable. Reasons cited for the downgrade include continued price sensitivity, i.e. tuition sensitivity, resulting from depressed family incomes and net worth, stagnating non-tuition revenues, i.e. state appropriations, endowments, and federal grants, and the rising burden of student loans and defaults leaving many people to question the value of a college degree. See; <http://www.moodys.com/research/Moodys-2013-outlook-for-entire-US-Higher-Education-sector-changed--PR_263866>

### Exiting Illinois’ Higher Education: US data indicates that the net outflow of Illinois freshmen to out of state colleges exceeds the inflow of non-Illinois freshmen by 13,000 students. Thirty thousand Illinois freshmen, 25% of the Illinois freshmen class, left the state to attend out of state colleges. This is a 17% increase over the last decade.

### Illinois freshmen enrolled in out-of-state schools Out-of-state freshmen enrolled in Illinois' schools

### http://graphics.chicagotribune.com/enrollment/students-coming.pnghttp://graphics.chicagotribune.com/enrollment/students-leaving.pngCircle area is equal to the number of freshmen

**NEA Higher Education Conference:** The NEA Higher Education Conference will be held March 22-24 in Portland, Oregon. This year’s theme is ***“Faculty, Students, and the Common Good.”*** This year’s conference is designed to provide participants an opportunity to engage in organizing training, professional development workshops, and skill sessions in the areas of higher ed policy issues, funding, negotiations, building stronger locals, organizing with social media, building internal and external relationships, engaging members and more. The IEA will have a delegation of staff and members attending the conference.