Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week, we sent an update through the assessment listserv that provided information on a variety of topics related to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment, including finalized unit testing times and the procedures for determination of school and district readiness for online assessment, which can be found here.

The unit testing times (previously called test sessions) for the PARCC spring 2015 assessments can be found here. The spring 2015 unit test times have been adjusted based on the fact that most students took less time than anticipated during the field tests. The revised times were established so that students would have sufficient time to complete the assessments while minimizing the amount of time spent on testing overall.

Even though we are not a quarter of the way through 2015, we are already beginning to develop the Illinois State Board of Education’s budget request for fiscal year 2016. At our Board meeting on Oct. 15 in Champaign, we will host the first in a series of hearings in which you will have an opportunity to provide your input into the budget-making process.

The Board will vote on its FY 2016 budget recommendation at its January meeting and will forward the recommendation to the Governor and General Assembly for their consideration as they develop the final state budget. Part of the larger state budget process is the state’s Budgeting for Results (BFR) initiative, which evaluates how well programs are achieving their goals, and using that information to inform future budget decisions. If you want to learn more about BFR and provide input into this process, the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget will be hosting a hearing at 5 p.m. on Oct. 6 at Roberto Clemente Community Academy in Chicago. More information is available at www2.illinois.gov/gov/budget/Pages/BFR-testimony.aspx.

Three Illinois students have been named Illinois State Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the College Board. Two of the students are currently in high school and one is a 2014 graduate. They earned the prestigious honor for completing up to 20 college-level AP courses and scoring above average on those exams.
The state’s honorees are:

- **Anand D. Abraham**, a senior at Neuqua Valley High School in Indian Prairie School District 204
- **Bryce Z. Cai**, a junior at Barrington High School in Barrington Community Unit School District 220
- **Vivian Wan**, a 2014 graduate at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Adlai Stevenson High School District 125


Have a great week!

Chris

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**Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines**

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency’s official website at [http://www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

- **Illinois Veterans & Community Classroom Day** – Oct. 2 ([http://ilvets.ltc.k12.il.us/ilvets/](http://ilvets.ltc.k12.il.us/ilvets/))
- **Deadline for nominations for the Thomas Lay Burroughs Award** – Oct. 3 ([www.isbe.net/board/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf))
- **ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day** – Oct. 13
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Part 26 (Endorsements in Early Childhood Education and in Elementary Education) and Part 375 (Student Records)** – Public comment period ends Oct. 20
- **Nomination deadline for U.S. Presidential Scholar Program** – Oct. 31 ([www.ed.gov/psp](http://www.ed.gov/psp))
- **FY 2015 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms** – Must be submitted to ISBE no later than Oct. 31 ([http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm))
- **ISBE offices closed for Election Day** – Nov. 4
- **Eighth annual Conference on Best Practices in Nonpublic Special Education Programs** – Nov. 6-7 ([http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/np_handouts/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/np_handouts/default.htm))
- **ISBE offices closed for Veterans Day** – Nov. 11
- **Deadline to complete the 2014-15 Unfilled Positions Survey in IWAS** – Nov. 13
• Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools) – Public comment period ends Nov. 17
• ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving – Nov. 27-28
• FY15 NCLB Monitoring Instrument – Nov. 30
• FY15 NCLB Title I Comparability Analysis – Nov. 30
• Deadline to enter the 2015 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest – Dec. 2 (www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm)
• Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE 50-37) – To be filed with ISBE by Dec. 15 (http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/asp.htm)
• ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day – Dec. 25
• Deadline to submit written opt-out petition to regional superintendent of schools for Summer Food Service Program mandate (Public Act 096-0734) – Jan. 15
• Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in spring 2015 – Friday, Jan. 16, 2015 (See http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)
• Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) testing window – March 23-May 1
• 2015 Illinois Arts Education Week – March 16-22

### Funding and Disbursement

**Preliminary FY 2015 Mandated Categorical Prorations Available**

The first quarter mandated categorical program payments for fiscal year 2015 were processed to the Office of the Comptroller on Sept. 24. Claims for special education personnel, private facility, transportation and regular/vocational transportation will be opened to local education agencies (LEAs) for correction in October.

After all LEA corrections are processed, final proration and remaining quarterly payments will be calculated in December.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 15 Preliminary Proration</th>
<th>FY 14 Final Proration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sp Ed Private Facility</td>
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<td>Regular Orphanage</td>
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</table>

**Federal Interest Income Reminder**

The Code of Federal Regulations (Title 34-Education, Part 80 Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, Subpart C-Post Award Requirements, Section 80.21 Payment) requires grantees and subgrantees to promptly, but at least quarterly, remit interest earned on advances to the appropriate federal agency. The grantee or subgrantee may keep actual interest amounts up to $100 per year gained on federal deposits per bank account, if applicable, for administrative purposes. Grant recipients have discretion to set up account(s) that are non-interest bearing to avoid returning interest.

To ensure compliance with federal administrative requirements, local education agency fiscal officials should develop internal controls and a sound methodology to calculate and return, at least quarterly, interest earned in excess of $100 on federal program funds. Interest calculation methodologies must be based on actual, not estimated, interest earnings on federal funds. Further details as to how federal interest should be calculated and remitted can be found on pages 10-12 of the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Requirements and Procedures, which is available online at www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbk.pdf.
Interest should be returned using the following guidelines:

- Checks for interest earned should be made payable to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).
- Checks should not include the return of unexpended disbursements from ISBE. Even though unexpended disbursements and interest payments are made payable to ISBE, separate checks should be issued for both.
- Checks should be accompanied by a statement identifying the program and the program year from which the interest was earned.

All checks must be mailed to: Illinois State Board of Education, Funding and Disbursements Services Division (E-320), 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001.

**New Electronic Grants Management System Dashboard Now Available**

Please be advised of the new electronic Grants Management System (eGMS) Dashboard now available in IWAS.

Located under the grants category in IWAS, this new real-time, view-only system reflects the current grant status and funding information, as well as previous fiscal year history for all state and federal grants in eGMS. A short overview of the system and features is available at [www.isbe.net/egms/eGMS-dashboard-overview.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/egms/eGMS-dashboard-overview.pdf).

For assistance with navigation as well as an understanding of the data elements reflected, Quick Help instructions are available by choosing “Click for Instructions” in the right corner of the system.

Please note that disbursement and expenditure report information is not in the dashboard system at this time but is still accessible in the Financial Reimbursement Information System (FRIS) at [http://webprod1.isbe.net/FRISInquiry/](http://webprod1.isbe.net/FRISInquiry/).

If you have questions regarding this new system, please contact the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

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**Federal and State Monitoring**

**NCLB Monitoring Instrument and NCLB Title I Comparability**

The fiscal year 2015 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Monitoring Instrument is now available for completion and submission in the IWAS system. The due date is Sunday, Nov. 30.

All districts receiving NCLB funding are required to submit the document every year. As before, the previous year’s information will be imported to the document, and the district should ensure its accuracy before submitting. Each “Comment/Proof Indicator” will need to have a comment that identifies the documents that support your answers or clarifies your “yes,” “no” or “N/A” response. You will not be able to submit the form without providing an answer in each box. There are additional validation and status questions that will require your attention. The form has changed in conjunction with the NCLB waiver approval concerning Supplemental Educational Services (SES)/Choice and other NCLB components that were previously required.

There is a sample list of proof indicators on the Federal and State Monitoring website at [http://www.isbe.net/ea/pdf/proof-indicators.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/ea/pdf/proof-indicators.pdf). We have also added two new training presentations that were used at the recent Title I Directors’ Conference addressing “How to prepare for an audit/monitoring visit” and “Updates on the changes to the Super Circular,” as well as “Time and Effort” documentation requirements.

The Title I Comparability analysis is now available for completion and submission in the IWAS system. There are new adjustments to how districts complete their analysis this year.

For those that were not able to attend the Title I Director’s Conference in Springfield, we have posted the training video on our website that explains the changes in the FY 2015 Comparability application and how to submit the form. The video is approximately 33 minutes in length. However, you may fast-forward to the portions that are of most concern to you and repeat them as many times as you like.
Districts that are “exempt” will continue to select the “Exempt” radio button and then “Submit.” Their submittal requirements will have been met when the superintendent submits it.

An updated “Comparability User’s Guide” for FY 2015 is located on the menu bar of the comparability application and on our Federal and State Monitoring website.

All districts receiving Title I funds must complete the document. Failure to comply will result in frozen program funds and a recovery of expenditures of Title I funds in buildings where they are determined to be non-comparable.

If you have questions concerning the Title I Comparability or the Monitoring Instrument, contact Paul Williams, Federal and State Monitoring, at (217) 782-7970 or pwilliam@isbe.net.

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**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

**Summer Breakfast and/or Lunch Program Mandate for Summer School Programs**

Public Act 096-0734 (amends Public Act 095-0155) amends Section 20 of the Childhood Hunger Relief Act (105 ILCS 126/20). This amendment requires a school district to implement a summer breakfast and/or lunch program for the duration of the summer school program in all schools where 50 percent or more of the student population is eligible for free or reduced-price meals AND that have a summer school program. This amendment applies to all schools that meet the above criteria, including those schools not currently participating in any federal child nutrition program.

The legislation, along with question and answers, is posted at [www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm) under “Regulations and Policies.” It is also posted on ISBE’s National School Lunch Program webpage at [www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/national_school_lunch.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/national_school_lunch.htm) under “Public Act 096-0734 –Summer Food Service Program.”

Staff from the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division is available at (800) 545-7892 or (217) 782-2491 for technical assistance with reimbursement or program operations.

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**Data Analysis and Accountability**

**2014-15 Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report in IWAS**

The Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report for the 2014-15 school year will be available in IWAS from Oct. 1 through Nov. 15.

Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than Nov. 15. (Effective Jan. 26, 2012, the nonpublic school registration renewal deadline in state rules, i.e., 23 Illinois Administrative Code 425.20, was changed from Dec. 31 to Nov. 15.)

Nonpublic school registration is voluntary and annual. Nonpublic schools that have registered with ISBE at least once in the past must submit their data online via IWAS. All eligible schools should receive IWAS inbox messages regarding the Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report. Please check your IWAS inbox for reminders and updates.

Nonpublic schools that have never registered with ISBE must submit their data using the paper form 87-01 that is available at [www.isbe.net/research/htmls/np_entity.htm](http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/np_entity.htm).

Public district administrators should communicate with nonpublic school administrators within their district boundaries and encourage them to submit registration, enrollment and staff data. A portion of the public district funding allocation calculated for the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) uses nonpublic enrollment data that are reported voluntarily by nonprofit elementary and secondary schools.

Nonpublic schools seeking recognition must submit their Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report before they can apply for recognition. Refer to the following link for more information: [www.isbe.net/career/html/np_recognition.htm](http://www.isbe.net/career/html/np_recognition.htm).

For questions related to the registration, contact ISBE’s Data Analysis and Accountability Division at (217) 782-3950.

For technical assistance, contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.
**Thomas Lay Burroughs Award**

**Nominations Sought for Award Honoring Outstanding School Board President**

ISBE invites you to nominate your local board president for the Thomas Lay Burroughs Award for the State’s Outstanding School Board President.

This award was created in 1991 in memory of the late ISBE chairman and is presented each November at the Illinois Association of School Boards/ Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois Association of School Business Officials conference in Chicago. This year, the conference will be held Nov. 21-23.

Nominations should be submitted as indicated below by close of business on Friday, Oct. 3. You may e-mail your nomination to Katherine Galloway at kgallowa@isbe.net.

Please indicate “Burroughs Nomination” in the subject line of the email. If you have any questions, call Katherine Galloway at (217) 557-6626. For nomination information and format, please go to www.isbe.net/board/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf.

**Rules and Waivers**

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

A set of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE is available for public comment. The proposal has been posted on the agency’s website at www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

**Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools):** Places in rules the requirement for nonpublic schools to submit proof of non-profit status when registering with the State Board; clarifies that only nonpublic schools supported wholly or in part by public funds shall be required to have students recite the Pledge of Allegiance; amends requirements for school employees to show freedom from tuberculosis to conform to changes in the rules for tuberculosis control (Illinois Department of Public Health); and in response to P.A. 98-663, effective June 23, 2014, adds the requirement for recognized nonpublic schools to hold an annual meeting for review of their emergency and crisis response plans, to conform the rules to changes in the School Safety Drill Act [105 ILCS 128].

Public comment period ends Nov. 17, 2014.

**Special Education Services**

**ISELA Sponsoring Fall Conferences**

The Illinois Special Education Leadership Academy (ISELA) is sponsoring fall drive-around conferences presented by Dr. George M. Batsche titled “Implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) within a Multi-tiered System of Supports: An Integrated Approach to Teaching and Learning.”

For more information and/or to register for a conference, please go to www.bhased.org.

Once at the site, click on “SELA 2014-15 Events & Registration,” choose the event and location from the calendar of events, complete the online registration form and pay by credit card online.

**Illinois Veterans & Community Classroom Project**

**Proclamation to Honor Illinois Veterans & Community Classroom Project**

On Oct. 2, Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs Director Rodrigo Garcia will present a proclamation to the Illinois Veterans & Community Classroom (IVCC) Project from Gov. Pat Quinn and Secretary of State Jesse White.

The proclamation will honor the veterans, students and teachers who have participated in the IVCC Project and declare Oct. 2, 2014, as Illinois Veterans & Community Classroom day in the state.

The hour-long event will start 11 a.m. near the World War II, Korean and Vietnam War Memorials on the west side of Oak Ridge Cemetery, 1441 Monument, in Springfield.

More information about the IVCC project is available at http://ilvets.ltc.k12.il.us/ilvets/.
Illinois Task Force on Civic Education

Public Hearings Scheduled to Discuss Civic Education Task Force Report

The Illinois Task Force on Civic Education invites the public to participate in a series of public hearings to discuss its recent report to the governor and General Assembly. A copy of the report is available at www.isbe.net/reports/il-civic-ed-task-force2014.pdf.

ISBE established the task force to analyze the current state of civic education, examine civic education laws outside of Illinois and make recommendations to the General Assembly, pursuant to Public Act 098-0790. (www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=098-0790&GA=98)

Public hearings are scheduled for the following dates:

- **Oct. 13**, 4 to 6 p.m., University of Illinois at Chicago - Student Center East, Room Illinois B (Directions and parking information available at: www.uic.edu/depts/meetings(directions.shtml)
- **Oct. 15**, 4 to 6 p.m., Willowbrook High School in Villa Park
- **Oct. 21**, 4 to 6 p.m., Lanphier High School in Springfield
- **Nov. 6**, 4 to 6 p.m., Carbondale Community High School

Those who are unable to attend a hearing may submit comments via email at CETFR@isbe.net. Please include your first and last name and city as well as your title and affiliation. Comments will be published and will be received via email until Nov. 7. Please provide concise comments.

PARCC

Standards and Assessment Readiness Document Available for School Leaders

The Illinois Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Educator Leader Cadre has developed a one-page standards and assessment readiness document for school leaders.

The document highlights key considerations for each of the following areas: standards and curriculum, instruction, balanced assessment, communication and technology. A variety of resources are included to support each of the guiding questions, with links to essential materials.

The document is designed for school leaders as they initiate and continue discussion regarding standards and assessment. It is strongly recommended that school leaders use this document as a key resource in their leadership work.

Professional Development

Alignment Workshop Scheduled

Space is still available for the upcoming alignment workshop, “Detecting Evidence in Quality Lessons/Units: 4 Dimensions of Alignment in a ONE-Page Tool,” being held across the state in October.

This workshop will introduce teachers to a one-page tool, Educators Evaluating Quality Instructional Products (EQuIP) Rubric that helps identify all of the necessary criteria of quality lessons/units. Teachers will learn about resources that specifically address the four dimensions: alignment to the depth of the standards, key shifts, instructional supports and assessment.

Registration is available online at www.isbe.net/common_core/pdf/alignment-wksp-2014.pdf.

Those Who Excel

Those Who Excel Sold Out

ISBE’s annual Those Who Excel banquet on Oct. 25 at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center is at maximum capacity.

No additional tickets are available. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.

Thank you for your participation and support.

Illinois Arts Education Week

Entries Sought From High School Students for Annual Poster Contest

High school students are encouraged to enter the 2015 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest.
Gov. Pat Quinn traditionally designates the third week of March as Illinois Arts Education Week. In cooperation with the Illinois Art Education Association (IAEA) and ISBE, the 2015 Arts Education Week is scheduled for March 16-22.

The contest reinforces the importance of the arts in the growth and development of all students. This year’s theme is “Art is Timeless!” The contest winner’s artwork will be featured on a poster that is sent to all public and private schools in Illinois.

Entries must be postmarked no later than Dec. 2.

The contest focuses on different grade levels (K-8 and 9-12) in alternating years. The 2015 contest is open to all public, nonpublic and home-schooled high school students.

For more information and contest criteria, visit www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm.

School Health Issues

Heartsaver Automated External Defibrillator Fund Grant Available

The General Assembly has appropriated $100,000 for the Heartsaver Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Fund Grant for fiscal year 2015.

The program provides matching funds to schools and other public agencies to pay for AEDs. The application is available on the Department of Public Health’s Electronic Grant Administration and Management System (EGrAMS) at www.idphgrants.com.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have the funds to pay 50 percent of the cost of the AED, as determined by the state master contract or the department. The Heartsaver AED Fund Grant award for FY 2015 is $466 or for 50 percent of the purchased AED price if less than $931.48.

The deadline to apply is Oct. 31. Grants will be limited to one unit per recipient and will be awarded in the order received until grant money is exhausted.

All AEDs purchased between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, will qualify for the grant.

For more information, email DPH.GrantReview@illinois.gov or contact Paula Atteberry at paula.atteberry@illinois.gov or (217) 785-2083.

Illinois Emergency Management Agency

Schools Encouraged to Participate in Annual Earthquake Awareness Drill

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is encouraging all Illinoisans, including elementary and secondary schools, to participate in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut on Oct. 16 at 10:16 a.m. The goal of this “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill is to draw attention to the earthquake hazard that exists in Illinois, across the country and around the world.

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is held on the third Thursday of October each year as part of a large-scale ShakeOut event involving millions of participants from more than 40 states and territories and several other countries. More than 20.6 million people to date have registered worldwide. Nearly 300,000 of those registrants are Illinoisans.

Some of the worst earthquakes in the United States occurred during the winter of 1811-12 when earthquakes shook the Mississippi River Valley along the New Madrid Seismic Zone. The series of at least three magnitude 7 or greater earthquakes changed the landscape of the Central United States. If earthquakes of similar magnitude happened today, their effects could have catastrophic impacts on national transportation, communication, utility and financial systems.

To be counted as a participant, schools must register through their district office or individually on the official ShakeOut website at www.shakeout.org/centralus/.

If a school cannot participate on Oct. 16, another day may be selected to conduct a “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill. If another day is selected, the school should still register on the ShakeOut website. Once registered, the school or the district office will receive ShakeOut news and other information about earthquakes and preparedness, depending upon who completed the registration.
The ShakeOut website is also packed with free earthquake information and resources available for download. Additional earthquake preparedness and mitigation information is available at www.ready.illinois.gov and www.cusec.org.

For questions, contact Kate Mackz at IEMA at (217) 785-9925 or kate.mackz@illinois.gov.

**School Safety**

**Railroad Urges Schools & Photographers to Avoid Train Tracks for Student Pictures**

As fall weather arrives, Union Pacific Railroad urges professional photographers and school district leaders to refrain from taking photographs of sports teams, high school seniors and other students on or near train tracks or trestles.

Recently, a Nebraska high school volleyball team tried to have its team photo taken on nearby railroad tracks. The double track main line the players chose for their photograph sees more than 50 trains a day. As they began to get in position for their photograph on the railroad tracks, a railroad employee saw them and contacted the train dispatcher in time to avoid disaster. The crew of an approaching train applied the emergency brakes to avoid hitting the students and there were no injuries.

In 2012, a teacher who taught art and photography was struck and killed by a train while taking photos on the tracks. In response to tragic and preventable incidents like this, Union Pacific is working with Professional Photographers of America on rail safety education outreach to the professional photography community.

Last year, more than 900 people were injured or killed while trespassing on railroad property in the United States, according to Federal Railroad Administration statistics.

The UP CARES (Union Pacific Crossing Accident Reduction Education and Safety) public safety initiative brings together communities in a collaborative and caring effort to promote railroad grade crossing and pedestrian safety. The initiative promotes pedestrian and driver safety through a variety of outreach channels, including grade crossing education and enforcement and related “positive enforcement” initiatives that reward drivers who observe safe practices at grade crossings.

For more information, please contact Kevin Dawson, manager public safety, at kldawson@up.com.

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**In Brief**

**Professional Development**

- The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago’s 25th Annual Conference for Teachers in Civics, Law and Government will be held Oct. 31 at Hamburger University in Oak Brook. Dr. Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the UC Irvine School of Law, is the keynote speaker. Register at www.crfc.org/2014Conf. The foundation is also still accepting nominations for the 2014 Law-Related Education Teacher of the Year, who will be announced at the conference. To nominate a teacher, visit http://www.crfc.org/professional-development/teacher-year-awards.

- Registration for Wired Wednesdays, a collaborative professional learning opportunity from the Illinois Reading Council and the Wisconsin Reading Association, is now open. The webinars will focus on the Common Core State Standards in speaking and listening. Registration information is available at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

- The Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) state convention will be held Nov. 20-21 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. All health and physical education teachers, as well as others interested in promoting physical development and health, can register by clicking here.

- The 2014 annual conference of the Illinois Association of School Nurses (IASN) will be held on Oct. 24-25 in Rockford. The conference is open to registered nurses with an Illinois Professional Educator’s License in school nursing as well as registered nurses working in schools and communities. The brochure is available for download at www.iasn.org.

**Educator Opportunities**

- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Education and the Illinois
Conservation Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program are offering a Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program. Teachers and youth group leaders may receive up to $1,000 for natural resources projects. For more information and to access the application form, go to http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm. The application deadline is Nov. 30.

- IDNR is offering a “virtual” trip for late-elementary school teachers, students and their parents. Wild Illinois History helps students in grades 3-5 focus on early French exploration, along with river and settlement geography. Teachers also get access to lesson plans, activities, photos, posters and correlations to the Illinois Learning Standards. Try it out at www.wildillinois.org/. For more information, contact Bob Bluett, IDNR wildlife diversity coordinator, at (217) 782-7580 or bob.bluett@illinois.gov.

- IDNR has added two new ENTICE workshops dedicated to prekindergarten through third-grade educators. The workshops will take place in Moline and Champaign and discuss how children’s nonfiction science resources can help teach about fish and wildlife while supporting the Common Core Standards. More details and registration information are available at https://www.enticeworkshops.com/.

**Student Opportunities**

- Applications for the 20th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for middle school and high school youth volunteers are available online at http://spirit.prudential.com. The application deadline is Nov. 4. Paper application forms are available by calling (877) 525-8491. The awards are sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

**District Opportunities**

- The National Center for Urban School Transformation is seeking eligible elementary, middle, high and alternative schools for its 2015 National Excellence in Urban Education Award program. The criteria and award application are available at www ncust.org. The application deadline is Nov. 14.

**Employment Opportunities**

- An External Vacancy List for ISBE is available at http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm.