

HCAA Legislative Report

September 12, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Linda Kolbusz and Jim Edstrom

- **July 21, 2022:** Hans Andrews and William Marzano wrote an [opinion piece](#) for *Community College Daily* underscoring the value of community colleges in addressing teacher shortages in grades K-12, with particular emphasis upon:
 - Dual credit partnerships with local high schools for training future teachers
 - Partnerships between community colleges and 4-year institutions to provide students with opportunities to earn their teaching certificates
 - Establishing baccalaureate programs at community colleges
 - The importance of developing effective methods of teacher retention.
- **August 9, 2022:** The [Chicago Tribune](#) highlighted the renaming of one of Harper’s art classroom as “The Bernie Bluestein Sculpture Studio.” Mr. Bluestein, a 98-year-old veteran of World War II, has been taking art classes at Harper since 1989 and has become a dynamic member of the Harper College community.
- **August 18, 2022:** Patrick Andriesen from the Illinois Policy Institute listed and debunked [9 myths about mail-in voting in Illinois](#):
 - Criminals will ask for “replacement ballots” or duplicate the ballot and vote multiple times.
 - Criminals can intercept the mail and vote on my ballot.
 - If you mail out ballots, non-citizens and the dead will be able to vote.
 - Voters move around without updating their addresses, leaving ballots for other residents to use.
 - Vote-by-mail ballots are thrown out if they arrive after Election Day.
 - If I leave something blank on my ballot, election authorities won’t count it.
 - Encouraging vote-by-mail is a plot by the political left.
 - Vote-by-mail ballots are only counted if there is a close race.
 - Criminals can illegally divert or tamper with ballots and get away with a slap on the wrist.
- **August 19, 2022:** An article in [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) highlighted the growth of programs featuring “benefits navigators” who assist “students [to] apply for federal, state, and local assistance; connect them with food pantries and other resources; and provide them with emergency aid when times get tough.” [Illinois passed a law in June](#) that “requires each public university and community college in Illinois to designate a benefits navigator to assist students in identifying and applying for benefit programs and campus-wide and community assistance programs.” The law takes effect on January 1, 2023.
- **August 23, 2022:** Dennis G. Hall, former Vice Provost for Research at Vanderbilt University, authored a [guest column](#) in the Nashville *Tennessean* reflecting on his own experience as a graduate of Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville, Illinois. “Community colleges can be accessible, successful launchpads for one’s education and career. They provide what many of us need most, a way to begin.”

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- **August 29, 2022:** [David Baime wrote an article](#) on the effect of President Biden's student loan cancellation plan. "The reduction of monthly repayment to a ceiling of 5% of income," he argued, "is a huge benefit to community college student borrowers. . . . The 10-year limitation on small-balance borrowing is also a boon to community college student borrowers. Under ED's policy, no student borrowing \$12,000 or less will be kept in repayment for longer than 10 years."
- **August 30, 2022:** The Illinois 4th District Appellate Court [affirmed a lower-court decision keeping the "Amendment 1" proposal on the November ballot](#). This proposed constitutional amendment would enshrine the right of "employees to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their choosing to negotiate wages, hours, and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work." The Illinois Education Association commented: "The Worker's Rights Amendment ensures we have a strong voice at work and protects our right to organize and bargain collectively for wages, hours, and working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work,"