

**NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2007 AWARD ALLOCATION**

Submitted for: Action

Summary: On July 11, 2006, Governor Rod Blagojevich signed Public Act 94-1020 into law establishing several new nursing initiatives to recruit, train, and retain nurses in Illinois. This Act included two new nursing grant programs to be administered by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The purpose of the Nurse Educator Fellowship Program is to support the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty at eligible institutions of higher learning that award degrees in nursing. Awards will be used to supplement the salaries of the nursing faculty selected for the Fellowship.

This item presents recommendations to award \$10,000 Fellowships to 15 outstanding nursing faculty selected via a competitive nomination process. The statute and administrative rules authorize the Board to make awards to the institutions on behalf of nursing faculty that have been selected to receive awards during Fiscal Year 2007.

Action Requested: That the Board approve the allocation of \$150,000 to eligible institutions on behalf of the 15 nursing faculty recommended for Nurse Educator Fellowship Program awards in Fiscal Year 2007.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Application/Nomination Process

On September 22, 2006, the Board issued application/nomination materials for the Fiscal Year 2007 Nurse Educator Fellowship Program. Institutions of higher learning with nursing programs approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and accredited by either the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) are eligible to participate in this Program. Chief Nursing Administrators (e.g., Deans, Department Chairs) at eligible institutions were invited to nominate up to three high-quality nursing faculty for a Fellowship under this Program. Completed application/nomination materials signed by the Chief Nursing Administrator and President/CEO were due to the Board no later than November 6, 2006.

Fellowship Eligibility and Responsibilities

To qualify for a Fellowship, nursing faculty must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Illinois resident;
- Master's degree in nursing;
- Employed by the nominating institution in a teaching position preparing registered nurses for at least 12 months; and
- Made a significant contribution to the nursing program.

Fellows will be responsible for participating in statewide nursing advocacy initiatives to help address the nursing shortage in Illinois, including possible consultation with the Board and the newly established Illinois Center for Nursing. Fellowship funds may be used for expenses related to these responsibilities and other professional development expenses. In addition, each Fellow will be responsible to prepare a final report describing their Fellowship experience and final use of funds.

Fellowship Selection Process

The Board received 46 nominations from 24 public and independent colleges and universities. The materials were reviewed by Board staff and an out-of-state nursing expert. This independent evaluator has over 20 years of nursing faculty and administrative experience. Applications were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Personal statement;
- Major accomplishments, such as research, program improvements, and other contributions to the nursing program; and
- Proposed use of Fellowship funds.

The results of the Fellowship selection process were not available at the time of the Board mailing. Appendix 1, which provides a list of recommended Fellowship recipients for Fiscal Year 2007, will be presented to the Board at its meeting on December 5, 2006.

Recommendation

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the allocation of \$150,000 to eligible institutions on behalf of the 15 Fellows recommended for Nurse Educator Fellowship Program awards in Fiscal Year 2007 (see Appendix 1).