

APPROVED
February 4, 2014

Item #IV-15
February 4, 2014

**ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2014 GRANT ALLOCATION**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: The Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) Program provides grants to public and nonpublic colleges and universities to support education-related work experiences that benefit students academically and financially. Colleges and universities, in cooperation with public and not-for-profit agencies and private companies, provide paid work experiences to Illinois college and university students. The ICWS program supports Goal 2 of the *Public Agenda* by allowing students to reduce their reliance on student loans while providing a link between academic programs and employment. The ICWS program supports Goal 3 of the *Public Agenda* by prioritizing work study opportunities for students seeking degrees in high-demand fields. Finally, the ICWS program supports Goal 4 of the *Public Agenda* by increasing the pool of funds for job training, which can result in businesses expansions in Illinois and full-time employment for students after graduation.

This item recommends that the Board award grants totaling \$1,114,500 to 57 projects at colleges and universities. Five new institutions are being funded in FY2014. Since FY2009, the ICWS program has been cut by 46 percent. In FY2014, only 51 percent or \$1.1 million of the \$2.2 million requested funds can be awarded, thus reducing the number of internships that can be offered to students at Illinois colleges and universities.

The 57 projects recommended in this item will support academically related work experiences for a projected 1,187 students at 665 businesses and not-for-profit organizations. Participating employers provide a matching fund commitment that serves to extend the base funding support provided by the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program.

The ICWS program continues to demonstrate good results. According to interim evaluation reports for the 2011-2012 school year, **70 percent** of the students participating in the work study program who were seeking permanent employment in Illinois were hired for permanent employment.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approves Fiscal year 2014 awards totaling \$1,114,500 for Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grants as detailed in Table 1 of this item.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2014 GRANT ALLOCATION**

Background

This item presents recommendations for the fiscal year 2014 allocation of \$1,114,500 in grants for the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program (ICWS). The ICWS Act authorizes the Illinois Board of Higher Education to award grants to public and nonpublic institutions of higher education to support cooperative work study programs. The ICWS program provides opportunities for students to apply the theory learned during their educational preparation to the world of work. Institutions seek internships that will assist the students financially, provide relevant clinical work experiences in occupations related to their field of academic study, and lead to future employment. Institutions arrange internships and provide Work Study funds to employers who in turn pay the salaries of the interns. Most employers contribute up to 50 percent of an intern's salary.

The ICWS program supports the *Public Agenda* goals:

Goal 2 by allowing students to reduce their reliance on student loans while providing a link between academic programs and employment;

Goal 3 by prioritizing work study opportunities for students seeking degrees in high-demand fields; and

Goal 4 by increasing the pool of funds for job training, which can result in businesses expansions in Illinois and full-time employment for students after graduation.

Program Objectives

- Expand opportunities for students to pursue internships, clinical placement, cooperative programs with business and industry, and other work opportunities linked to a student's academic program;
- Strengthen cooperation between higher education, business, industry, and government;
- Encourage social and community service;
- Maximize the use of matching contributions from business and industry and governmental and social agencies;
- Create new opportunities for public/private partnerships;
- Integrate other components of student financial aid to reduce reliance on student loans; and
- Encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.

Institutional and External Support

The ICWS proposals target internship opportunities based on local community needs and labor market demands. Institutions provide strong support services to the student interns and dedicated institutional supervision of the interns. Institutions also have developed comprehensive program evaluation strategies to measure program impact. In doing so, all institutions provide an in-kind institutional match to administer the ICWS program on their campuses.

Employers that participate in the program express extreme pleasure in the quality of the interns who are placed in their businesses. Employers are pleased to employ properly trained, well-educated interns at a reduced cost of normal wages. Most participating employers have agreed to provide up to 50 percent of the wage that is ultimately paid to the students. According to interim evaluation reports for the 2011-2012 school year, **70 percent** of the students participating in the work study program who were seeking permanent employment in Illinois were hired for permanent employment.

Review Criteria

The 57 college work study proposals recommended in this item were selected from a pool of 58 applicants requesting \$2.2 million in funding. Shimer College is the only institution not funded; their application only included two students. The recommended projects will support a projected 1,187 students at 665 businesses and not-for-profit organizations. Each proposal was reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the following criteria as presented in the fiscal year 2014 application:

Workforce and Economic Development - How well does the proposal provide clear evidence of addressing issues relative to workforce and economic development, i.e., strengthening cooperation among higher education institutions, K-12 education, business, industry, and government; creating opportunities for public/private partnerships; and encouraging students to seek permanent employment in Illinois?

Leveraging Resources - How well does the proposal provide clear evidence of integrating other resources, i.e., integrating other components of financial aid to reduce reliance on student loans; maximizing the use of matching contributions from business, industry, and government; and showing alignment between the Cooperative Work Study Program and other campus work study programs?

Enhances Academic, Employment, and Community Relationships - How well does the proposal enhance academic, employment, and community relationships, i.e., expanding student internships linked to a student's academic field; and encouraging social and community service?

Program Articulation - How well does the proposal articulate the administrative requirements for the program, i.e., the student selection process; the relationship between students, faculty, and employers; and clearly define responsibilities for student supervision and evaluation?

Evaluation Process - How well does the proposal describe the evaluation and assessment measures used to assess the effectiveness of the activities in relation to the goals and objectives, i.e., providing clearly stated performance measures; clearly stating tracking information for follow up of students; and providing an interim evaluation for previously funded projects?

Budget - How well does the budget support the proposed project objectives, i.e., the budget is cost effective and consistent with the scope of the proposed objectives; and the budget reflects maximized use of matching contributions?

In addition to the review criteria listed in the Request for Proposal, the projected number of students served was a factor in the recommended allocation of grants.

Accountability

The ICWS grantees are required to meet several accountability requirements. These requirements include: (1) a performance evaluation; (2) employer commitments; (3) a project budget; and (4) an annual audit. These measures serve to demonstrate program accountability and compliance with ICWS guidelines.

Impact of Budget Cuts

Since FY2009, the ICWS program has been cut by 46 percent. In FY2014, only 51 percent or \$1.1 million of the \$2.2 million requested funds can be awarded, thus reducing the number of internships that can be offered to students at Illinois colleges and universities.

Recommendations

Attached are the fiscal year 2014 recommendations for 57 grants totaling \$1,114,500 that will assist an estimated 1,187 Illinois resident undergraduate students. Table 1 presents a summary of estimated students served, requested amounts, and recommended award amounts by institution. The accompanying project synopses provide an overview of the project activities planned for each of the fiscal year 2014 ICWS recommended projects.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves Fiscal year 2014 awards totaling \$1,114,500 for Illinois Cooperative Work Study grants as detailed in Table 1. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to withhold payment or adjust a grant allocation, if necessary, to conform to existing statute, rule, or available funding or to assure compliance with any previous grant agreements.

Table 1

Illinois Board of Higher Education					
Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program					
FY2014 Recommended Allocation					
			FY2013	FY2014	FY2014
		Students	Award	Request	Award
Item #	Institution	Served	Amount	Amount	Amount
1	Augustana College	42	\$ 36,463	\$ 50,000	\$ 35,532
2	Benedictine University ¹	8	0	14,800	7,592
3	Blackburn College	10	7,748	13,300	7,150
4	Bradley University	49	46,242	50,000	46,501
5	CCC - Harold Washington College	15	11,822	48,600	11,850
6	Chicago State University	11	9,523	50,000	8,690
7	College of Dupage	26	21,601	50,000	22,958
8	College of Lake County	25	20,770	50,000	19,750
9	Concordia University	38	32,166	50,000	30,020
10	Danville Area Community College	10	9,335	13,000	8,460
11	DeVry University-Illinois	25	21,244	50,000	19,750
12	Dominican University	48	44,808	50,000	45,552
13	Eastern Illinois University	36	42,008	50,000	34,164
14	East-West University	34	28,042	49,384	26,860
15	Elgin Community College	10	7,101	50,000	7,150
16	Elmhurst College	38	33,858	50,000	33,554
17	Governors State University	32	28,649	50,000	28,256
18	Greenville College	27	26,545	50,000	23,841
19	Heartland Community College	10	8,308	12,200	7,900
20	Illinois College	27	21,830	21,830	21,830
21	Illinois Eastern - Lincoln Trail	15	12,673	50,000	12,690
22	Illinois State University	35	42,008	49,999	33,215
23	Illinois Wesleyan University	30	30,005	44,000	28,470
24	John A. Logan College	23	16,803	38,500	16,445
25	John Wood Community College	30	24,924	45,916	26,322
26	Joliet Junior College	15	13,800	38,208	14,235
27	Kaskaskia College	10	8,682	27,915	8,830
28	Lake Land College	26	25,572	38,400	22,958
29	Lewis & Clark Community College	21	19,604	22,000	19,929
30	Lewis University	12	9,970	20,075	9,480
31	Lexington College	18	13,604	49,590	12,870
32	Lincoln Land Community College	24	20,836	21,000	18,960
33	MacMurray College	11	8,102	10,500	7,865
34	McHenry County College	15	13,946	16,500	11,850
35	Methodist College ¹	20	0	50,000	16,920
36	Millikin University	15	12,890	50,000	12,690
37	North Central College	19	18,803	31,000	18,031
38	Northeastern Illinois University	30	28,005	50,000	28,470

Table 1 (continued)

Illinois Board of Higher Education					
Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program					
FY2014 Recommended Allocation					
			FY2013	FY2014	FY2014
		Students	Award	Request	Award
Item #	Institution	Served	Amount	Amount	Amount
39	Northern Illinois University	44	\$ 39,067	\$ 50,000	\$ 38,852
40	Oakton Community College	35	30,385	50,000	29,610
41	Quincy University	31	33,173	38,000	29,419
42	Rend Lake College	26	21,601	50,000	21,996
43	Richland Community College	20	18,670	25,000	18,980
44	Rockford University ¹	12	0	20,456	9,480
45	Roosevelt University	23	21,704	20,000	19,458
46	Shawnee Community College	19	18,237	47,424	18,031
47	South Suburban College of Cook County	6	4,649	50,000	4,740
48	Southern Illinois University Carbondale	15	12,622	50,000	11,850
49	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville ¹	20	0	50,000	17,660
50	Southwestern Illinois College	16	14,936	21,190	15,184
51	St. Xavier University	14	10,202	38,250	10,010
52	Trinity Christian College	16	13,172	35,977	12,640
53	Triton College	23	20,240	36,600	20,309
54	U of I at Chicago	11	11,139	22,000	9,306
55	U of I at Springfield ¹	25	0	45,750	22,075
56	U of I at Urbana/Champaign	25	24,838	50,000	23,725
57	Waubensee Community College	19	14,003	16,800	13,585
	TOTALS:	<u>1,290</u>	<u>\$1,086,924</u>	<u>\$2,194,164</u>	<u>\$1,114,500</u>
Institution did not submit an application in FY2013 ¹					

FY2014 ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY SYNOPSES

Institution: Augustana College

Project Title: Augustana College Emerging Professionals Internship Program

Project Director: Ms. Johnna Adam
Director, Internships & Careers Office
Augustana College
639 38th Street, Sorenson Hall
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 794-7338
JohnnaAdam@augustana.edu

Recommended Amount: \$35,532

Project Synopsis: This year marks the eighth anniversary of Augustana College's Emerging Professionals program. As aligned with the Illinois Board of Higher Education's *Public Agenda* goals 2, 3 and 4, the primary goals of our program are to: (1) assist Illinois permanent resident students in acquiring paid internship experiences that are academically relevant to their major field of study; (2) reduce intern reliance on financial assistance; (3) inspire interns to participate in social and community service; and (4) educate students on employment opportunities in Illinois and encourage them to seek permanent employment in Illinois upon graduation.

Emerging Professionals interns take on projects at each site, doing research, completing projects, and using concepts from their academic discipline to solve problems that the organizations need to address. Interns are advised by an Augustana supervisor from the Internships & Careers Office as well as by a member of faculty. Interns are required to complete reflective assignments, in which they discuss the value of the internship work from the perspective of their personal growth and the benefits to their site and our community. At the end of the grant period, interns are surveyed regarding professional and personal development during their internship program as well as their likelihood of seeking permanent employment in Illinois following graduation. In addition, our First Destination Survey completed at and shortly after graduation, helps us to track the first professional destinations of our Emerging Professionals interns.

The Emerging Professionals Internship Program has allowed Augustana to establish new business and community partnerships and has strengthened existing relationships with both large and small employers in public, private and non-profit organizations. These relationships have resulted in creating Illinois based job opportunities not only for the participating interns but for other Augustana students as well.

Again this year, the requested funding will be used as matching funds to support student wages giving Emerging Professionals interns the opportunity to earn over \$100,000 in wages to offset the costs of college and be less dependent on student loans for up to 50 academically relevant internship experiences at our 16 employer partner sites. Additionally, student interns can earn up to nine academic credit hours by successfully completing an internship in their major of study.

Institution: Benedictine University

Project Title: Saint Benedict Internships for Social Service

Project Director: Mr. Adonis Fuller
Career Development Coordinator
Benedictine University
1500 N. 5th Street
Springfield, IL 62702
(217) 525-1420, ext. 3212
afuller@ben.edu

Recommended Amount: \$7,592

Project Synopsis: Benedictine University at Springfield works with its students to ensure they have a strategy in place to succeed academically. The Office of Career Development along with the University's Office of Cooperative Education is collaborating to integrate a strategy that will assist our students in a direct and intentional manner in achieving readiness for employability. A very important part of that readiness is service in the community which is one of the universities hallmarks, and an area of need that needs to be met.

The requested grant funds would allow approximately 16 students to have an opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for living and working in community, one of the University's values. We have confirmed the participation of eight agencies that are eager to work with our students and have agreed to provide a matching contribution to support our efforts. Approximately 2,560 hours of service to our community in the form of internships will be served through partnerships with these local organizations that are in need of assistance.

The program will supplement the college's current experiential learning opportunities, which continue to offer experiences for approximately 160 students and continues to grow. We hope each student will give thought to considering social service as an option when entering the workplace upon graduation. The University will provide evaluation and record of placements to ensure that goals and objectives are being accomplished.

- Create internship opportunities in the area of social service for our students;
- Enhance and strengthen relationships between local employers and the university;
- Increase networking opportunities for students to encourage seeking employment in Illinois;
- Partner with employers through matching efforts to support student wages and help reduce reliance on student loans; and
- Increase student consideration of entering the field of social service and continuing to serve upon graduation.

Institution: Blackburn College

Project Title: Blackburn College Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Mr. Robert Michael Weis
Associate Dean of Work
Blackburn College
700 College Avenue
Carlinville, IL 62626
(217) 854-3231, ext. 4291
robert.weis@blackburn.edu

Recommended Amount: \$7,150

Project Synopsis: The primary goals of the Blackburn College Cooperative Work Study Program are to enhance and expand the college's student-managed work program to include: (1) opportunities for students to gain practical, "hands-on" work experience in off-campus jobs related to areas of academic study and/or possible career interest; (2) increased opportunities for students to earn additional income toward meeting educational expenses, and therefore less reliance on loans; (3) additional opportunities for educational partnerships between the college and area business, education, government, and community service employers; and (4) provide an educational opportunity between the work experience and courses students are taking part in for the semester.

Institution: Bradley University

Project Title: Fiscal Year 2014 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program Grant

Project Director: Ms. Dawn M. Koeltzow
Director, Springer Center for Excellence in Internships
Bradley University
1501 West Bradley Avenue
Peoria, IL 61625
(309) 677-2510
dkoeltzow@bradley.edu

Recommended Amount: \$46,501

Project Synopsis: The proposed Bradley University Fiscal Year 2014 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program will provide new and expanded Cooperative Education/Internship opportunities for students in the areas of Education, Engineering, Mathematics, Communications, Physical Sciences, Business, Management, Marketing, Nursing, Health, and Computer Information. It is projected that the 2014 Work Study Program will support a total of 53 Co-op/Internship placements for Bradley University students. These outstanding opportunities – with Illinois employers – will benefit students academically, professionally, and financially.

Participating students will complement their academic programs by gaining invaluable, career-related work experience, establish networking contacts, and become more familiar with full-time career options in Illinois. Bradley’s post-destination Graduate Report will track the success of graduates accepting employment in Illinois. Bradley students will have opportunities to earn \$97,000 in wages, enabling them to offset the cost of college expenses and to be less dependent on loans. Program outcomes will successfully support Goal 2, Goal 3, and Goal 4 of the Illinois Board of Higher Education *Public Agenda*.

Bradley’s Cooperative Work Study Program will support the University’s efforts to build strong relationships with business, industry, government, and community service agencies. The project will establish new relationships with Co-op/Intern employers, expand and strengthen existing relationships, and continue relationships established with previous years’ grant funds. Twenty-six Illinois employers have submitted letters of intent indicating their interest in offering career-related opportunities to students in various academic programs. The proposed budget will maximize the use of matching contributions from these employers. Work experiences will be reviewed by faculty/career advisors to ensure that placements are linked to students’ academic progress.

Institution: CCC - Harold Washington College

Project Title: HWC COOP Internship Program

Project Director: Ms. Kim Bowens
Project Director, Career Planning
CCC-Harold Washington College
30 East Lake Street
Chicago, IL 60601-2495
(312) 553-5666
kbowens3@ccc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$11,850

Project Synopsis: Harold Washington College is requesting funding to continue the Fiscal Year 2014 HWC COOP Internship Program. The program will benefit students academically and financially by participating in a work based learning opportunity. This internship is designed to help students remain focused on their studies and gain valuable work experience in an environment that fosters a learning community. The benefits of the paid internship encourage students to stay on their academic track, rely less on student loans and ultimately remain employed in the State of Illinois. Students who participate in the HWC COOP Internship Program are on target to complete an Associate in Applied Science Degree in one of the following areas of study: Business, Accounting, Professional Services, Entrepreneurship, Digital Multi-Media, Computer Information Technology, Management, Marketing, Child Development, Elementary Education, Bilingual Teacher Aide, Pre-School Education or School Age Child Care, and/or basic or advanced certificate. Students who are completing their practicum work will gain hands-on work experience while also receiving academic credit.

The HWC COOP Internship program strengthens the partnership with business and industry. Harold Washington College can expand internship opportunities with new companies both in the public and private sector. Participating companies will receive a 50 percent salary match up to 20 hours a week per student. The partnership helps to transition students from postsecondary education to viable jobs after graduation from community college.

Institution: Chicago State University

Project Title: Chicago State University FY2014 ICWS Program

Project Director: Mrs. Renee D. Mitchell
Director, Human Resources & University Career Development
Chicago State University
9501 South King Drive, SUB 230
Chicago, IL 60628
(773) 995-2327
rmitch26@csu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$8,690

Project Synopsis: As part of the overall Student Career Development strategy, the Chicago State University Illinois Cooperative Program will focus on three goals: (1) integrating experiential field training with academic studies; (2) supporting the growth of economic development by providing a pipeline of highly qualified and skilled employees into the Illinois workforce; and (3) strengthening the partnership between Chicago State University and Illinois employers that will generate permanent job opportunities and continued professional growth.

Through our competency based development program and strong business partnership, the University and Illinois employers identify core knowledge, skills and abilities needed for the student to successfully transition into the workforce. Through combined efforts from the student, the employer, the faculty and the University career development center, additional training and intellectual guidance is offered to ensure the overall student/employee success.

The funds received through the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program will enable Chicago State University to maximize its resources by providing additional employment opportunities to our diverse population. The program will help students meet their financial obligations, thereby increasing the retention rate at the university, increasing the likelihood of graduation, and solidify permanent Illinois employment for our students. With the support of the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program students will gain the necessary confidence and experience to effectively “make their individual marks” into the Illinois employment market in the fields of education, health, science, math, and business.

Institution: College of DuPage

Project Title: COD Illinois Cooperative Work Study Project

Project Director: Mrs. Sara Kirby
Assistant Manager, Career Services
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Boulevard
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-6599
(630) 942-3021
kirbys371@cod.edu

Recommended Amount: \$22,958

Project Synopsis: College of DuPage (COD), proposes the creation of cooperative work-study positions for a minimum of 33 students in the fields of information technology, environmental science, horticulture, culinary and manufacturing. Nine established DuPage County employer-partners have committed to hire, supervise, and evaluate COD students, and the internships will provide opportunities for students to apply the concepts and skills learned in the classroom setting, as well as to strengthen partnerships between COD and area businesses, provide community service opportunities, and encourage students to seek employment in Illinois.

The following objectives will be achieved: (1) an estimated 33 students will complete cooperative work-study experiences; (2) an estimated nine employer-partners in five fields will create paid internships for COD students; (3) community service opportunities will be available as a part of the experience; (4) 100 percent of participating employer-partners will contribute 50 percent of the intern's hourly wages; (5) at least 50 percent of the employer-partners will hire staff they would not normally be able to hire because of this program; (6) 100 percent of participating interns will receive information about alternative financial aid options; and (7) at least 75 percent of internship duties will be pre-professional in positions with businesses or industries that project long-term job growth in the greater Chicago area, leading to possible permanent employment in Illinois.

Evaluation will be both formative and summative, and data will be collected in an ongoing fashion as project activities are implemented. The number of students and employers, wage information, matching wage commitments, permanent Illinois hires, and feedback from employers, students, and faculty advisors will be captured in the internship program database. All employer and student records are archived upon completion of the internship.

Institution: College of Lake County

Project Title: College of Lake County Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Sylvia Johnson Jones
Executive Director, Career & Placement Services
College of Lake County
19351 West Washington Street
Grayslake, IL 60030-1198
(847) 543-2404
nsmith@clcillinois.edu

Recommended Amount: \$19,750

Project Synopsis: The College of Lake County's proposed Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program, consistent with section 1015.40 of the program guidelines, will serve an increased number of students, 32 by:

- Expanding opportunities for students to pursue internships, cooperative programs with local businesses, employers and organizations linked to students' academic programs;
- Strengthening cooperation and promoting partnerships among the college, local businesses, employers, organizations, and government;
- Maximizing the use of contributions from employers and agencies participating in the program, to support student wages;
- Integrating other components of student financial aid to reduce reliance on student loans;
- Supporting work experiences for students in academic programs such as computer science, education, mathematics, health, and business;
- Encouraging students to seek permanent employment in Illinois; and
- Providing students with relevant work experience for current and future jobs.

The College of Lake County assures that neither its current cooperative education program nor the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program, which would enhance the college's program, serve any sectarian purpose. Furthermore, the college assures that no partisan political activity would be associated with the program, that it will comply with applicable state and federal laws, and that it would supplement, but not supplant, the college's existing cooperative education program.

Institution: Concordia University

Project Title: Enhancing Relationships for Workplace Development through Work Study

Project Director: Mr. Gerald P. Pinotti
Director, Career Services
Concordia University
7400 Augusta Street
River Forest, IL 60305-1499
(708) 209-3032
jerry.pinotti@cuchicago.edu

Recommended Amount: \$30,020

Project Synopsis: Concordia University Chicago is seeking to partially fund internship opportunities for as many as 75 students. Student participation comes mostly from the School of Education as well as College of Health Science and School of Business, reflecting labor shortages and strong career outlook possibilities in these areas. The primary focus is on Early Childhood and Primary School levels. We are addressing a need for Health Care and Exercise Science majors as well as those in Business Management (particularly nonprofit). The Concordia University Chicago program seeks to promote and encourage Illinois residents to develop an active learning strategy in their chosen industry. The program also has enabled students to pursue opportunities with private industries, government, and nonprofit agencies, with the ultimate goal of securing full and meaningful employment.

This practical experience supports our ultimate goal of full employment. Taking part in this grant allows institutions with limited resources such as Concordia to serve students more fully, which is very difficult for smaller private institutions. We are able to provide students with unlimited access to a wide variety of learning experiences and professional networking opportunities. This access is due largely to the Work Study Grant and would not really happen without it. The generous support of the State allows faculty and staff at Concordia to better educate and prepare students throughout their career search process. We have begun to establish a full service program dedicated to assisting students in their quest for meaningful employment.

Finally, the Grant offers assistance to students representing fields of study with the greatest possibility for meaningful employment, combining current shortages with future growth projections. We are not going to allocate limited State funds on majors in fields with limited job growth possibilities, focusing on fields with clear positive growth. As a result of the feedback faculty and staff have responded by improving the curriculum and by reflecting the importance of experiential learning and in accord with the desired outcomes and objective of our industry partners. Overall, the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program has been the energy to create programs and systems tailored to serve our students better. We are now better equipped to proactively address employment related issues in the context of student development. Participation in this program has improved our students ability to integrate classroom knowledge and practical workplace experience. They are now better prepared to enter and succeed in the Illinois workforce.

Institution: Danville Area Community College

Project Title: DACC SHARE Project: Scholars Hands-on Approach Relevant to Employment

Project Director: Ms. Carla M. Boyd
Director, Career Services
Danville Area Community College
2000 East Main Street
Danville, IL 61832-5199
(217) 443-8593
cboyd@dacc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$8,460

Project Synopsis: The economy in Vermilion County, Illinois continues to rebound with signs of economic growth through area employers increasing their current workforce, while others are opening their doors. In an effort to address the local workforce needs, Danville Area Community College and local businesses will partner together to provide hands-on training for students. With the help of the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program, students who reside in Illinois, have an interest in hands-on learning, financial need, and a desire to work in the surrounding community have the opportunity to gain valuable work experience at a local business. Fiscal Year 2014 project goals include: (1) expand internship opportunities for students by creating, promoting, and strengthening partnerships between higher education, business, industry, and governmental agencies; (2) enhance student academic performance and retention by matching students with employment opportunities in their chosen career; and (3) increase student awareness of local employment opportunities thus encouraging students to seek jobs within the State while making them ‘labor-ready.’

To participate in the program, students are referred by Faculty/Staff, Employers, and Career Services. Students are selected for a position based on their program of study. Employers interview students prior to enrollment in SHARE. Once placed, students begin to correlate the educational theory with practice in a work environment. With the self-confidence and valuable skills gained from the work experience, classroom instruction becomes more meaningful and grades improve which in turn increase the likelihood of degree/certificate completion. Once again, the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program helps to provide that vital link between businesses in Vermilion County and Danville Area Community College students.

Institution: DeVry University - Illinois

Project Title: DeVry Illinois ICWS Program Application

Project Director: Ms. Jennifer Pavlus
Program Director, Career Services
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3300 North Campbell, Room 124
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(773) 697-2070
jpavlus@devry.edu

Recommended Amount: \$19,750

Project Synopsis: DeVry University's Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program will use grant funds to enhance and build new relationships with Illinois employers to create quality, education-related work experiences for DeVry students, and to provide a monetary stipend to eligible students to reduce their reliance on student loans and financial aid. The program aligns with DeVry's commitment to matching quality student talent with quality employers, and partnering with local business, industry and government to build a pipeline of qualified workforce talent in high demand industry areas.

The program will target 25 students over the course of the grant period, including those seeking Associate and Bachelor degrees in all programs offered by the Chicago, Tinley Park, and Addison metro regions. Undergraduate participants must be residents of Illinois, financial aid eligible, maintain a 2.5 GPA or above, and have completed credit hours in their major course of study. Undergraduate students attending the Chicago, Addison and Tinley Park Metro campuses are eligible to apply. The program is administered by the Career Services Project Director and Financial Services team based at the Chicago main campus.

The goal of this year's program is to increase the number of students served by the program and to leverage existing academic and career services initiatives to connect undergraduate students with quality internship and cooperative work experiences. The program will provide a stipend for 100-hour (minimum) internships and cooperative work experiences earned over the course of each semester (Summer, Fall, and Winter Terms). Quality, education-related work experience correlates with increased post-graduate employment opportunities and enriched hands-on learning. DeVry's faculty and Career Services department continue to partner to find these quality education-related work experiences and prepare students for them.

Institution: Dominican University

Project Title: Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Sherri Wick
Assistant Director, Career Development
Dominican University
7900 West Division Street
River Forest, IL 60305-1066
(708) 524-6567
swick@dom.edu

Recommended Amount: \$45,552

Project Synopsis: This year marks the 20th anniversary of Dominican University's highly successful CAREERNET internship program. The main goals of this program are to assist students in acquiring paid internship experiences that are academically relevant to their major field of study, reduce reliance on financial assistance, encourage civic engagement and community based learning, and to encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois upon graduation.

The CAREERNET program has allowed us to establish new business and community partnerships and has continued to strengthen existing relationships with both large and small employers in both public and non-profit organizations. This year, the requested funding will be used once again as matching funds to support student wages for 54 academically relevant internship experiences, as well as provide one-time stipends to 10 students who complete unpaid internships. Junior and senior level students are able to earn up to eight academic credit hours by successfully completing an internship in their major field of study.

Upon completion, students will have a better understanding of their skills and abilities, as well as a clearer goal of potential careers and practical experience outside of the traditional classroom. This program includes a thorough evaluation component with the students' performance closely monitored by their faculty internship advisor, their employment supervisor, and career advisors.

Institution: Eastern Illinois University

Project Title: Eastern Illinois University Proposal

Project Director: Ms. Robin Terwilliger
Grant Manager & Office Administrator for Career Services
Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920
(217) 581-2412
rdterwilliger@eiu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$34,164

Project Synopsis: Through the use of the Illinois Cooperative Work Study program instituted by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Eastern Illinois University will be able to enhance the work readiness skills and employability of its Illinois residency students. This grant offered to students is designed to partially offset the wages paid to the student by an Illinois employer. Furthermore, Eastern Illinois University will enhance the business climate within the State of Illinois by providing well trained graduates with successful work experience at Illinois work sites. A strong and talented workforce is essential to keeping Illinois employers on the cutting edge of their respective industries as well as to provide a more economically viable solution to contributing organizations within our Illinois communities.

Representing a variety of industries throughout the State of Illinois, employers will provide a minimum of 50 percent of total student salaries with the CWS program providing a maximum of 50 percent of total student salaries. Work performed by the students will enhance their professional development by building relevant skills and exposing them to a variety of employment environments and networking opportunities with industry professionals. Students will benefit from this experience by acquiring important technical and general work skills as well as reducing their reliance on loans to finance their education.

A final benefit of the CWS program is the opportunity for students to make better informed decisions about elective courses that relate to the skills needed in the work world. Work-study students receive a new perspective on their potential career paths and make good choices about which courses will provide the most benefit for preparation into their chosen profession.

Institution: East-West University

Project Title: East-West University Work Study Program

Project Director: Mr. Joel Daniel Inwood
Administrative Assistant, Development & University Relations
East-West University
816 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 939-0111, ext. 1820
joel@eastwest.edu

Recommended Amount: \$26,860

Project Synopsis: East-West University, a predominately minority-serving private higher education institution located in Chicago's South Loop, seeks to partner with local governmental, not-for-profit agencies, and other Chicago employers to provide the Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) Program to its currently enrolled Illinois resident college students. The program is critical to workforce and economic development, including strengthening cooperation between higher education institutions, K-12 education, business, industry, and government and creating new opportunities for public/private partnerships. Graduates will be encouraged to seek permanent employment in Illinois through the University's proposed Project V.O.I.C.E. (Vocational Opportunities in Community Employment). This year's proposed Project V.O.I.C.E. will engage 15 local businesses, community organizations, and cultural institutions with 52 students who will have the opportunity for professional work experience through ICWS funds.

East-West University will partner with employers in Chicagoland to provide students with valuable industry experience while attending college. Goals of the program include:

- Increased opportunities for full-time employment in Illinois;
- Increased student awareness of job skills needed to compete in today's global, competitive workplace;
- Increased workplace preparation skills, leading to a greater opportunity for full-time employment upon graduation;
- Improved university-community relationships;
- Increased involvement and service to the community for current college students; and
- Exposure of disadvantaged and first generation college students to the professional world of work.

Institution: Elgin Community College

Project Title: CareerConnect

Project Director: Ms. Kathy Meisinger
Internship Coordinator, Career Development Services
Elgin Community College
1700 Spartan Drive
Elgin, IL 60123-7193
(847) 214-7894
kmeisinger@elgin.edu

Recommended Amount: \$7,150

Project Synopsis: Elgin Community College has made a renewed commitment to student success and experiential education in the form of a dedicated internship coordinator. The proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program will allow ECC to increase opportunities this year for up to twenty students to reduce their financial burden and reliance on loans while gaining meaningful work related experience, strengthening skills learned in the classroom, building their professional network, and increasing their professional employability skills in order to remain gainfully employed in Illinois upon graduation.

Through matching funds, Illinois employers are supported in their mentoring of students which, in turn, leads to a stronger business climate for employer retention in the state. In addition to the 10 committed employers in this application, we anticipate additional funds received will allow us to focus on strengthening employer connections in computer, engineering, business management, and manufacturing technologies fields where local employers are in desperate need of qualified, educated employees.

The program will continue to be administered and evaluated out of the Career Development Services office. The internship coordinator will facilitate employer outreach, faculty interaction, and assessment of student learning outcomes as well as tracking relevant data as evidence of goal completion.

Institution: Elmhurst College

Project Title: JOBPATH

Project Director: Ms. Holly L. Coffin
Internship Coordinator
Elmhurst College
190 Prospect Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126-3296
(630) 617-6457
hollyc@elmhurst.edu

Recommended Amount: \$33,554

Project Synopsis: The Elmhurst College JOBPATH program seeks to provide purposeful job internships for 39 students in Illinois companies and organizations. These internships would provide meaningful learning opportunities in the private and public/government sectors, in minority owned businesses, and in businesses within the science, mathematics and education fields. Student interns complete pre-, mid-, and post-internship assessment tools, and employers complete formal evaluations, to ensure the best possible chance for full-time employment upon completion of the internship.

Paid internships in the private sector would have a 50/50 salary match with the employer, and students procuring internships in the non-profit sector would have a 60/40 salary match. Students participating in unpaid internships would receive a stipend based on the number of hours worked or a travel expense reimbursement. There is a stated intent to hire the student full-time if the opportunity exists and the intern has been performing at a satisfactory level. Students benefit from the program both academically and financially. They are given the opportunity to earn money, therefore decreasing the need for student loans, while enhancing their career development, earning credit hours, and exploring a potential career field.

The JOBPATH program at Elmhurst College has been successfully placing students into professional positions in Illinois businesses for the last 22 years. The program provides necessary practical experiences for aspiring professionals while offering Illinois organizations the opportunity to hire young professionals who are well prepared for entry into the workforce.

Institution: Governors State University

Project Title: Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant

Project Director: Mrs. Cynthia Lynn Staples
Recruitment Coordinator, Office of Career Services
Governors State University
1 University Parkway, Room A1120
University Park, IL 60484
(708) 235-7355
cstaples@govst.edu

Recommended Amount: \$28,256

Project Synopsis: Governors State University (GSU) student participation and involvement in the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program (ICWSP) will greatly increase student knowledge and understanding of the realities of their academic major field in terms of job expectations and performance. Based on the success of our student participation in the previous Illinois College Work Study Programs, the University asks to continue its involvement to offer co-curricular practical experiences and increase the number of participants and employers in this program. The planned relationship between students, faculty, and employers will strengthen Governors State University's mission to enhance the educational, cultural, social, and economic development of the region through partnerships with government, business, education, civic, and other organizations.

The goals of GSU's 2014 Illinois College Work Study Program are to: (1) provide 30 GSU students an extended, organized learning experience by integrating traditional classroom study with practical, professional, and paid work experiences in the following areas of concentration: accounting, computer science, education, marketing, health sciences, and public relations/media; (2) facilitate a learning experience directly related to the students' academic curriculum/discipline by assisting them in job placement at a company or organization where they will gain work experience within their profession and have the opportunity to develop professional work habits, work ethics, skills, and professional attitude and dress. The integration of academic requirements and work experience will help students to develop an awareness of job tasks and duties associated with their academic major; (3) develop partnerships with companies to promote community service and instill in students a sense of community. Paid internships will reduce reliance on financial aid/loans and encourage students to work in areas related to their academic majors; and (4) incorporate current job trends reflective of the work environment through internship opportunities, cooperative programs, and/or clinical placements within public/private industry and government.

Institution: Greenville College

Project Title: Greenville College Grant Request – IBHE ICWSP

Project Director: Mr. Patrick Monroe Miller
Associate Dean, Career Development & Life Calling Formation
Greenville College
315 East College Avenue
Greenville, IL 62246
(618) 664-6611
patrick.miller@greenville.edu

Recommended Amount: \$23,841

Project Synopsis: Twenty-five Illinois resident students from a variety of majors will be paid \$8.50 an hour to volunteer at Illinois based non-profit organizations. The majority of these students will work 40 hours for each academic credit that they earn, though some majors require up to sixty per credit. Students typically complete a minimum of six credits in their internship experience, though the minimum is two credits and the maximum is 12. Students will receive a \$150 per credit hour discount for all credits completed as part of this program

Institution: Heartland Community College

Project Title: Heartland Community College Internship Program

Project Director: Ms. Sara L. Baker
Coordinator of Career Services
Heartland Community College
1500 West Raab Road
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 268-8035
sara.baker@heartland.edu

Recommended Amount: \$7,900

Project Synopsis: The fundamental goal of the Heartland Community College Internship Program is to partner with area employers to increase local internship opportunities which will provide students with meaningful work-based learning experiences related to their academic area of study and contribute to students' employment readiness after graduation. The program seeks to financially benefit the greatest number of students through ensuring efficient use of grant funds. The Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant will assist the College in meeting its goals and objectives, enhancing relevant learning opportunities for students while strengthening the link between academic programs and employment, developing and maintaining relationships between the College and business, industry and government organizations, encouraging social and community service, creating new opportunities for public/private partnerships, and encouraging students to seek permanent employment in Illinois. The Program will maximize the use of matching contributions from internship sponsors and, when applicable, be integrated with other components of financial aid.

During the 2014 Grant Period, the HCC Internship Program proposes to partner with five internship sponsors to provide nine internships to eligible students. To be eligible, students must meet prerequisites in at least one of the following nine academic fields: Business, Communications, Criminal Justice, Health, Humanities & Fine Arts, Digital Media, Science/Math, Social & Behavioral Sciences, and Technology.

Students who participate in the Internship Program are given an opportunity to integrate classroom and practical learning in an on-the-job setting, and benefit through:

- practical application and development of classroom knowledge/skills through hands-on experience;
- an increased awareness of their skills, knowledge and abilities, in relation to the world of work;
- an increased awareness of additional learning needs, leading to an increase in focus and motivation to achieve;
- an increased development of decision-making, problem solving, and interpersonal skills; and
- a cultivation of independent learning skills.

Institution: Illinois College

Project Title: IC Explorers

Project Director: Ms. Susie K. Drake
Director, Career Services
Illinois College
1101 West College Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650
(217) 245-3041
sdrake@ic.edu

Recommended Amount: \$21,830

Project Synopsis: Illinois College (IC), located in Jacksonville, Illinois, is a four-year, private institution committed to the highest standards of scholarship and integrity in the liberal arts. Illinois College will utilize grant funds for its IC Explorers program. Twenty-five students will be awarded paid internships (clinical placements and cooperative work study positions) sponsored by 10 employers in government, health-related higher education, and the non-profit sector. The IC Explorers internships encourage students to think critically, solve problems through teamwork, conduct independent research, develop an understanding of workplace dynamics, and prepare for fulfilling lives of leadership and service.

The application process for IC Explorers internships is highly competitive because students understand how important the internship can be to their future. The IC Explorers internships are valued by future employers and graduate schools for being academically rigorous and for connecting the interns' education with real-world workplace experience. Internships provide a stipend to reduce students' reliance on student loans, as well as free housing and free tuition credit, with direct supervision by faculty members and Career Services staff. In all, each internship is valued at more than \$6,000. Therefore, the grant will be matched by employer cash contributions (\$29,826) as well as institutional cash and in-kind support provided by the College (\$98,320).

Because interns are effectively being pre-screened for employment, it is anticipated that many will be permanently employed by internship sponsors or will use their internship experiences to secure other employment in Illinois. Although students in every major will be eligible to participate in these internships, the program will be targeted and strongly marketed to attract students in science, engineering, mathematics, and education majors.

Institution: Illinois Eastern Community Colleges – Lincoln Trail College

Project Title: Telecommunications Cooperative Work Study Internship Program

Project Director: Mr. Chris Teague
Lead Instructor, Telcom/Telecommunications Training
Illinois Eastern - Lincoln Trail
233 East Chestnut Street
Olney, IL 62450-5707
(618) 544-8252, ext. 1926
teaguec@iecc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$12,690

Project Synopsis: Since Fiscal Year 2003, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) has been awarded the Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) program grant. This grant has allowed IECC to develop and implement a highly successful Telecom Cooperative Work Study Internship Program which has provided support to Telecom students academically and financially through enhanced partnerships between Illinois business and industry employers and IECC. Over 25 cooperating employers have participated in IECC's Telecom Cooperative Work Study Internship Program over the past ten summers and we have received 20 letters of intent from cooperating employers who are interested in participating during FY14 and who are committed to this very worthwhile program next summer.

IECC plans to continue to develop and improve their Telecom Cooperative Work Study Internship Program which will expand their summer work program to all eligible Telecom students and continue to provide a work/school cooperative on-the-job training experience as well as encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois. The Telecom Cooperative Work Study Internship Program has allowed students to gain valuable work experience and employment training in Telecom Technology. The program has benefited students academically and financially by enhancing their educational background, aiding their transition to full-time employment in Illinois, reducing the students' reliance on student loans, and promoting social and community service. Each of the student's work placements is directly linked to their academic program of an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Telecom Technology

Institution: Illinois State University

Project Title: Illinois State University – ICWS Program – FY2014

Project Director: Mrs Pamela J. Cooper
Assistant Director for Employer Relations
Illinois State University
Campus Box 3040
Normal, IL 61790-3040
(309) 438-3245
pjcoope@ilstu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$33,215

Project Synopsis: The goals of the project are to benefit students academically and financially, reduce reliance on student loans, and enhance public-private sector partnerships. Goals and objectives include placing students with reputable Illinois employers who will provide students with opportunities to put into practice what they are learning in their academic programs and encourage social and community service. Goals also include encouraging students to seek internship opportunities that lead to successful permanent employment in Illinois. The goals and objectives of this project are linked both to the Illinois *Public Agenda*, (“... Use competency-based assessments, professional development, and employers as classroom mentors to improve skill levels and work readiness...”) and Illinois State University’s Educating Illinois document that encourages engagement in outreach and establishing partnerships with business, industry, government and education.

Project Participants: Illinois State University Students

Funding is essential to assist students in realizing academic and career goals. Funding will support enhanced classroom learning by combining academic curricula with internships, clinical placements, and/or service learning work experiences. Funding also will assist in expanding opportunities for students to pursue internships with business and industry, and other career opportunities linked to a student’s academic program including social and community service internship opportunities. Monetary compensation by Illinois employers during the students’ applied career learning experiences will also reduce student dependence on student loans.

Project Participants: Illinois Employers

Additional funding goals include continuing to enhance public-private sector partnerships by engaging Illinois businesses in the program through venues that include participation in career fairs sponsored by the Career Center; and encouraging students to seek permanent employment in Illinois. “...[E]ducating the student inside and outside of the classroom, so that students come to appreciate learning as an active and lifelong process,” is the link between the students, Educating Illinois, the Illinois *Public Agenda*, and the IBHE Cooperative Work Study Program.

Institution: Illinois Wesleyan University

Project Title: Illinois Wesleyan University Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Shireen Schrock
Assistant Director, Grants and Foundation Relations
Illinois Wesleyan University
PO Box 2900, Holmes Hall 200
Bloomington, IL 61702-2900
(309) 556-3902
sschrock@iwu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$28,470

Project Synopsis: Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) requests continued funding from the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program to help 35-40 students take advantage of the learning opportunities offered by internships at various businesses, government and social service agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Not only do students in internships gain valuable training and find an entry into the work force, but work-study internships also help students meet their educational expenses. Additionally, our program sets out to encourage and facilitate the permanent employment of IWU students in Illinois, ultimately keeping many of our bright and well-prepared young adults in our state.

Given the growing cost of higher education and the competitive job market, we have seen more and more of our students gravitate toward internship positions that will both give them work experience they seek and help them pay their educational bills. The demand for internship opportunities by our students and our community partners rises annually. The number of students participating in internships has gone from 243 in Fiscal Year 2006 to 481 in Fiscal Year 2012; a 98 percent increase. The unfortunate offshoot of the financial pressures students face is that positions with social agencies and nonprofit organizations--positions that have as much (if not more) to offer students in the way of practical and professional experience--can too often go unfilled. To address these needs, the IWU ICWS program seeks not only to create more opportunities for students to link their course-work with their internship opportunities, and in so doing to ease the financial burden imposed by tuition and student loans, but also to encourage social and community service on the part of our students, thus making them better citizens by helping to make it financially possible for students to accept internship positions with nonprofit organizations and social service agencies unable to offer competitive wages on their own.

Bridging the community and university is of strategic importance at Illinois Wesleyan University. Over the years our incoming students arrive on campus wanting experience working in the "real world," and more and more of these students are focusing their attention on using their talent and skills to address economic and community building projects. Our goal is to provide opportunities for our students to develop connections with the local community, and our program focuses on such efforts. We believe expanding the "classroom" to include "off-campus learning" is a valuable component of the undergraduate experience. However, our interests are not merely academic, as we have seen the incredible impact our students can make in the community when we combine resources, talent, and time.

Illinois Wesleyan appreciates the opportunity to submit our proposal to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and we are happy to provide any additional information that you may need.

We value our strong connection and partnership with the IBHE, as we share a mutual interest in creating a highly educated and talented workforce that supports the State of Illinois.

Institution: John A. Logan College

Project Title: Fiscal Year 14 Grants Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Lisa A. Hudgens
Director of Career Services
John A. Logan College
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, IL 62918-2500
(618) 985-3741, ext. 8379
heatherevans@jalc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$16,445

Project Synopsis: The John A. Logan College Fiscal Year 2014 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program will use grant funds to encourage new and established employers to provide work experiences for John A. Logan College students. Students will have the opportunity to integrate classroom studies with learning through work experiences in the field related to the students' career goals. Twenty-one southern Illinois employers will submit letters of intent to provide Education/Internship opportunities for students who are Illinois residents.

The goals of the project are to enable approximately 30 students to pursue career-related work experience, create new opportunities and strengthen existing relationships between John A. Logan College and participating organizations. It is further hoped that the grant will encourage social and community service opportunities, reduce reliance on financial assistance, and encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois upon graduation.

These supervised work experiences will include both an appropriate learning environment and a productive work experience that enhances what is offered in the regular classroom. Students will gain knowledge and skills through practical, on-site work experiences that is directly linked to their academic background. Students will earn income, which will assist in reducing reliance upon state funded student loans and other financial aid programs. Grant funds also will pay for an external audit. The program is available to John A. Logan College students that have completed 12 semester hours, have a 2.0 GPA, are enrolled in a program related to the work experience and are recommended by a faculty member. Participation is open to all Illinois businesses, corporations, and governmental agencies.

Statistics indicate that John A. Logan College students are routinely hired as full-time or part-time employees following their work-study experience while others secure employment through networking contacts. This program includes a strong evaluation component with the students' performances closely monitored by their employment supervisor and the Project Director.

Institution: John Wood Community College

Project Title: FY14 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program Grant

Project Director: Ms. Marcia Avise
Administrative Assistant to the Academic Deans
John Wood Community College
1301 South 48th Street
Quincy, IL 62305-8736
(217) 641-4182
mavise@jwcc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$26,322

Project Synopsis: The goal of the John Wood Community College - Illinois Higher Education Cooperative Work Study Grant program is to provide a workforce education in a manner that advances the student's education and provides our community businesses with a stronger, more knowledgeable workforce. Salaries for internships established through the program are partially funded by the grant, helping employers save a bit of money while they train the student. Internships take place in career areas such as culinary arts, agriculture, construction, and early childhood education. New internships are developed as local business need and student's interest dictate.

The program also provides students with financial benefits that are coordinated with other college financial aid opportunities. The program heightens self-esteem of participants because they can take an active role in financing their education by means of utilizing and enhancing skills in their chosen field of study.

Because this workforce education program takes place within the local business community, it strengthens the local economy by assuring businesses can train and retain quality employees to provide a superior product to its customers. Participants in the program are introduced to workforce opportunities within the communities in which they live and businesses are introduced to new employees interested in their business field

Institution: Joliet Junior College

Project Title: Illinois Cooperative Work Study

Project Director: Ms. Bridgett Larkin Beene
Director of Career Services
Joliet Junior College
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938
(815) 280-2476
blarkin@jjc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$14,235

Project Synopsis: Joliet Junior College (JJC), the nation's first public community college, acts as a leader in teaching and learning, strives to prepare its students for success, and provides lifelong learning to the diverse community it serves. Participating in the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program will help JJC to accomplish these goals. With this program, the Career Services Center will place students in internships where they will obtain high-quality work experience in their chosen field of study. This program benefits students, local employers, and the community college. It enables small local businesses with limited operating budgets to employ skilled and educated student interns, which in turn strengthens partnerships between the College and local industry.

Joliet Junior College's main goals for this program include strengthening cooperation between higher education and local businesses, providing student interns with a competitive wage to help with college expenses, encouraging students to find permanent employment with local businesses upon graduation, and providing students with practical work experience directly linked to their field of academic study. This work experience is an essential part of the College's mission and the Illinois Commitment to partner with business and industry to provide a well-educated workforce in Illinois.

For fiscal year 2014, JJC would like to target students for internships in the fields of Agriculture, Business, Computer/Information and Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD), Education, Engineering, Horticulture, Web Design, and Welding. Engineering, Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Welding, Web Design, Business, Computer/Information, and Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD). Grant funds will provide opportunities for 18 students to learn practical employment skills directly related to their academic major while earning a competitive wage.

Institution: Kaskaskia College

Project Title: Kaskaskia College ICWSP

Project Director: Mrs. Wendy Sue Blythe
Career Services Specialist
Kaskaskia College
27210 College Road
Centralia, IL 62801-9285
(618) 545-3073
wblythe@kaskaskia.edu

Recommended Amount: \$8,830

Project Synopsis: Kaskaskia College's Work Study Partnership program provides financial assistance that benefits students academically, reduces their reliance upon loans to fulfill their educational goals, and prepares them to enter or re-enter the labor market upon graduation. Employers are sought that utilize the latest advances in technology in their industry, and who agree to provide progressive learning experiences that enhance the ability of students to obtain employment in Illinois related to their program of study.

The CWS Program allows students to obtain compensated workforce training to fulfill academic and financial obligations, strengthens the alliance between the college and the private sector, and assists district employers in defraying the cost of recruiting the trained qualified individuals for employment. Six employers have agreed to offer opportunities for as many as ten students in the coming year.

The principal goals of Kaskaskia College's CWS Program include: expand opportunities for students to pursue internships, clinical services, and other employment opportunities linked to their academic program; strengthen the College's alliances with businesses, industries, and government entities; improve the affordability of academic programs by offering extensive financial aid including the CWS Program, thus reducing students' reliance on loans; enhance students' abilities to obtain employment related to their program of study; encourage them to seek permanent employment in Illinois by offering workplace training; and encourage them to practice social and community service.

Institution: Lake Land College

Project Title: Lake Land college ICWSP 2014

Project Director: Ms. Tina Moore
Director of Career Services
Lake Land College
5001 Lake Land Boulevard
Mattoon, IL 61938-9366
(217) 234-5346
tmoore@lakeland.cc.il.us

Recommended Amount: \$22,958

Project Synopsis: Lake Land College's Fiscal Year 2014 Cooperative Work Study Program (CWSP) will provide opportunities for pre-baccalaureate and technical program students to pursue paid work experience related to their academic majors. The College's long-term goal is to provide cooperative education employment to all qualified students who desire it. In Fiscal Year 2014, a participation level of approximately 20 students is anticipated, and financially needy students will fill at least 90 percent of available positions. Targeted programs include Civil Engineering Technology, Computer-Aided Design, and Automotive. Lake Land's CWSP is strengthening collaboration between higher education, business, industry and local government. Eight employers, including a local regional planning commission and two county highway departments, have committed their participation for 2014. More importantly, we have built relationships with many private sector employers in our district including employers in building construction, automotive technology, engineering firms, and private business. All employers will pay at least 50 percent of students' wages. Students are required to complete three learning objectives and to research Illinois job opportunities in their career field.

Lake Land understands the CWSP is designed to create new employers/college partnerships and to encourage many existing internship employers to join the CWSP. For Fiscal Year 2014, the eight participating employers expressed interest in placing a total of at least 20 interns. With a greater number of potential positions available, these 20 Fiscal Year 2014 CWSP students should be successful in securing an internship that matches well with their need for applied learning relevant to their program of study.

Institution: Lewis & Clark Community College

Project Title: Lewis & Clark Community College ICWSP

Project Director: Ms. Alice Bunjan
Manager, Career Services
Lewis & Clark Community College
5800 Godfrey Road
2418 Baldwin
Godfrey, IL 62035-2466
(618) 468-6184
abunjan@lc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$19,929

Project Synopsis: Lewis and Clark Community College (LCCC), with the assistance of the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program, will place approximately 20 students from career fields in cooperative/internship/field experiences in order to achieve the following objectives: (1) to strengthen LCCC's career programs through enhanced guided practical experiences in the field; (2) to respond to the workforce needs of the wider community of southwest Illinois through experientially-strengthened career programs in high demand, high-paying fields; and (3) to improve the preparation of its students in career fields through meaningful, guided practical experiences in their fields. Career fields to be included in these placements are nursing, CAD/drafting, Welding Technology, Computer Networking and Information Systems, Paralegal, Office technology, Accounting, Business, Restoration Ecology, and Process Operations/production. Employers included in the partnerships are: Jersey County Supervisor of Assessments; Solutia; Carlinville Area Hospital; Jersey Community Hospital; Cope Plastics; Crown Vision Center; Hepler Broom, LLC; The Perica Law Firm; Pizzo & Associates, LTD.; and Hanley Industries, Incorporated.

Institution: Lewis University

Project Title: Intertrak: Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Kristi Kelly
Director, Career Services
Lewis University
One University Parkway
Romeoville, IL 60446-2298
(815) 836-5332
kellykj@lewisu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$9,480

Project Synopsis: The Lewis University's Illinois Cooperative Work Study program called Intertrak complements the institution's formal internship program. Located in the southwestern suburbs of the Chicago metropolitan region, the University serves approximately 6,500 students. Eighty-five percent of the total undergraduate student population at Lewis University receives some form of financial aid. In addition, a significant number of Lewis University students are first generation college students and approximately 32 percent of Lewis University students are minority students.

Employers view the program positively and participate regularly. Each new fiscal year brings new partnerships with employers. Throughout the history of the program, student interns have worked an average 3 months at their internship assignment. During the previous year, the average amount earned per hour was \$12.00 per hour. This varies slightly from year to year. Students are employed within the areas accounting, finance, environmental science, human resources, marketing, public relations, and sport management.

Students, employers, and University faculty and staff report positive benefits from the program in aligning subject-area coursework with applied work experience. Intertrak: Cooperative Work Study Program provides a valuable resource that enhances success in academic programs, reduces reliance on loans, and strongly encourages students to remain with Illinois-based employers.

Institution: Lexington College

Project Title: Expanded Experiential Learning Internship Program (ELIP)

Project Director: Ms. Maria V. Ticzon
Communications Manager, Career Services
Lexington College
310 South Peoria Street, Suite 512
Chicago, IL 60607-3534
(312) 226-6294, ext. 234
carserv@lexingtoncollege.edu

Recommended Amount: \$12,870

Project Synopsis: Successful since its inception in 1993, Lexington College's Experiential Learning Internship Program (ELIP) has undergone an expansion phase. From serving 25-28 students, the program has grown to incorporate the full number of Illinois residents at the college, providing them with highly relevant work experience closely connected to their rigorous academic curriculum. The program now serves 36 students year-round, assisting Illinois students to reduce their reliance on student loans and to connect them with Illinois businesses, resulting in Lexington's 100 percent employment rate after graduation.

The ELIP has approximately 22 participating Illinois employers in the program and over 90 current placements available to our students. An important component of its success is ELIP's focus on mentoring and coaching; students are heavily evaluated and challenged throughout their internship to connect their classroom learning with their on-the-job experience. Each student has an academic advisor who is available to both the student and to the placement site as a resource for coaching, problem solving, professional networking, and to facilitate supervision and communication. Students receive a grade and academic credit for their internships.

We also have extended ELIP to encompass the Classroom Learning Component (CLC) positions that accompany theory taught in class. Lexington successfully integrates work opportunities with academic classwork. Students see the application of theory in challenging, practical situations, and they have opportunity to round out their resumes with higher level, relevant work experience. These positions are part of their classroom learning; in some cases, they form part of their grade. By incorporating this into ELIP, we benefit Illinois students who take part in this program.

Institution: Lincoln Land Community College

Project Title: Lincoln Land Community College Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Mary Beth Ray
Director/Career Development Services, Student Services
Lincoln Land Community College
5250 Shepherd Road, P.O. Box 19256
Springfield, IL 62794-9256
(217) 786-2210
marybeth.ray@lcc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$18,960

Project Synopsis: Since 1999, the Cooperative Work Study Program (Co-op) at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) has successfully expanded opportunities for students to succeed through the development of individualized contextual learning environments that integrate academic instruction with relevant real-world work experiences. The primary goals of the LLCC Co-op program are to: (1) actively engage students in a manner that increases their academic performance while simultaneously reducing their reliance on student loans; (2) link classroom learning with relevant, paid work experience in the student's field of study; (3) offer opportunities for social and community service; (4) create, support and expand relationships with employers in the LLCC college district; and (5) encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.

Participation in the Co-op program benefits students academically and financially by placing them in relevant paid positions whereby they can apply what they have learned through traditional classroom instruction to actual work related problems and situations. Students receive payment for their hours worked, gain valuable insight into their particular industry, and can earn up to three credits hours per semester. Upon completion of the experience, the employer is reimbursed a portion of the salary paid to the student.

The LLCC Co-op program allows students to infuse a real-world component into their program of study. This type of contextual learning has been demonstrated to assist students in their educational performance. According to the Center for Occupational Research and Design, contextual learning helps students to "discover meaningful relationships between abstract ideas and practical applications in the context of the real world." Applied instruction recognizes that "learning is a complex and multifaceted process that goes far beyond drill-oriented, stimulus-and-response methodologies."

Institution: MacMurray College

Project Title: MacMurray College Work Cooperative Program

Project Director: Ms. Laci Engelbrecht
Director of Financial Aid
MacMurray College
447 East College Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650
(217) 479-7043
laci.engelbrecht@mac.edu

Recommended Amount: \$7,865

Project Synopsis: The project goals and objectives of the MacMurray College Work Cooperative Program are:

1. To provide a hands-on learning experience to students through internships with local businesses and organizations. The work experience will be paid practical experience related to their future profession.
2. To assist students participating with the establishment of a professional network for future employment prospects in Jacksonville and its surrounding area following graduation.
3. To assist participating students with the cost of attendance through means other than student loans, thereby reducing the debt load of the students.
4. To allow potential employers the opportunity to train students as prospective employees.

Institution: McHenry County College

Project Title: A Future Workforce

Project Director: Mrs. Caroline P. Sobolak
Resource Development Specialist
McHenry County College
8900 US Highway 14
Crystal Lake, IL 60012-2761
(815) 479-7538
csobolak@mchenry.edu

Recommended Amount: \$11,850

Project Synopsis: Partnerships between the Academic and Career Services, a department within Student Services, and outside businesses continue to build the McHenry County College (MCC) Cooperative Work Study Program. To continue developing our internship program, MCC requests grant funds from Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program to place approximately ten students in internships within the region.

Departments work as a team to coordinate the work-study programs within the institution while expanding and strengthening partnerships with area businesses while placing students in valuable work experiences. Offering a match for student wages helped business stretch finite resources while hiring additional help, making them eager to participate in MCC's paid internship program.

The Education, Career, and Technical Education Departments at MCC plan to place 10 students in local businesses or industries. Faculty members from manufacturing, manufacturing engineering, digital media and computers, and automotive will offer a paid internship to help offset the cost of tuition and avoid student loans. Faculty members will recruit six new business partners willing to reimburse 50 percent of students' wages while retaining excellent partnerships already developed.

Courses are administered cooperatively between the course instructor and work place supervisor. Periodic review sessions will be held to assess students' progress, address problems, and review appropriateness of work involvement. Evaluation of students' progress will be based, in part, between written evaluation and consultations with the cooperating employer. The Coordinator of Career Services will follow-up with businesses to evaluate the success of the placement.

Institution: Methodist College

Project Title: Specialized Student Practicums

Project Director: Dr. Matthew J. Hertzog
Director of Instructional Technology, Academic Affairs
Methodist College
415 St. Mark Court
Peoria, IL 61603-3716
(309) 672-5533
mhertzog@methodistcol.edu

Recommended Amount: \$16,920

Project Synopsis: The primary goal of the cooperative work study program proposal is to provide the undergraduate student experience in specialized areas of nursing care to gain the knowledge and skills that expands their individual strengths and prepares the student for potential employment in a specialty area. To meet this goal, the following program objectives and activities have been developed. The Methodist College Internship Work Study program will:

Objective 1 – Create a work-study program that provides students the opportunity to experience specialized nursing and provide care to the local community.

Activities

1. Establish an advisory committee of Methodist College administration and faculty; UnityPoint Health - Methodist Vice President and Nurse Managers.
 - a. Determine availability of units/dates/times for work-study student experiences. Concentrate on acute care specialty units of Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU), Surgery, Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Behavioral Health, Obstetrics, and Emergency Department (ED).
 - b. Develop a job description with specific sections for each unit.
2. Determine employment, pay, and reimbursement policies and procedures through oversight committee and human resources at both College and Hospital.

Objective 2 – Strengthen the relationship between Methodist College of UnityPoint Health and UnityPoint Health - Methodist in providing educational opportunities for senior students prior to entering the workforce.

Activities

1. Methodist College will screen applicants for selection criteria and present those meeting all criteria to the advisory committee.
2. Preceptors will complete Methodist College Internship Preceptor Training Modules prior to working with a student.

Objective 3 – Establish positive student-hospital (UnityPoint Health - Methodist) relationships that encourage employment of the student post-graduation.

Activities

1. Establish evaluation and feedback loop by preceptor to student and student to preceptor.

2. Establish student/instructor/manager meetings bi-weekly to provide feedback and communication loop.

Objective 4 – Provide students with financial support in their educational endeavor to become specialized nurses

Activities

1. Course will be IDS 399 eligible and thus semester hour tuition is eligible for financial aid .
2. Student will receive a rate of pay of \$12.00/hour for hours worked on the unit.

Objective 5 – Improve retention of Methodist College of UnityPoint graduates at UnityPoint Health-Methodist.

Activities

1. Establish baseline data for percent of Methodist College graduates hired by UnityPoint Health - Methodist for Spring/Fall Graduations 2010-2013.
2. Establish baseline retention rates for new grad hires at UnityPoint Health - Methodist for 90 days, six months, and one year.
3. Develop and implement measurement and analysis of retention rate of new graduates and compare those in the cooperative work study program to those that were not.

Institution: Millikin University

Project Title: Millikin University Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Kimberly A. Mangan
Associate Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations
Millikin University
1184 West Main Street
Decatur, IL 62522
(217) 420-6658
kmangan@millikin.edu

Recommended Amount: \$12,690

Project Synopsis: In Fiscal Year 2014, Millikin's Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) Program will continue into its 11th year as a highly-respected program on campus aimed at serving our local business and community organization partners while utilizing Millikin's greatest asset: its student body! In co-managing the ICWS Program, Millikin's Center for Entrepreneurship and Career Center will not only create and maintain partnerships with community employment sites, but will also advance the university-wide mission of "performance learning" by providing real-world projects and internship opportunities to students ready to take their newly developed skills into the workforce. Performance learning is the university's distinctive approach to higher education that builds the confidence to succeed after graduation. Millikin students learn through real-world projects that reinforce classroom experiences, help develop practical skills and express the university's responsibility to the community. In hopes of expanding Millikin's ICWS Program and the availability of funding for performance learning initiatives, the university respectfully requests funding support from Illinois Board of Education for these efforts. Funding will provide support for 30-40 Millikin student interns from a variety of academic areas partnering with a diverse range of local businesses and non-profit organizations. Millikin's ICWS Program will engage students from the following academic areas: Business/Management/Marketing, Computer/IT, Accounting, Physical Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, Education, Music, Theatre, Nursing, and Health and will promote civic engagement and active participation in the community which assists students in developing the skills needed for a lifetime of democratic citizenship and service to others.

The goals of Millikin's ICWS program include establishing new and maintaining existing student-community-university collaborations while partnering with Macon County-based businesses and non-profits. Additionally, Millikin's ICWS program aligns with Illinois job training, employer, and economic goals, providing student interns with academic benefits, professional-level work experience, and income to help reduce reliance on loans while encouraging post-graduation employment in Illinois. Millikin's ICWS Program also advances broader university, Decatur community, and State of Illinois strategic goals such as: addressing local and state economic development and employment policy issues; leveraging existing resources; and facilitating college-employer-community relationships by providing Millikin interns with an academic experience that goes beyond the classroom.

When partnered with Millikin's federally funded work study program, which currently assists over 500 students employed on campus and at participating organizations each year, Millikin's ICWS Program allows the university the opportunity to collaborate with even more local businesses and non-profit organizations further strengthening Millikin's ties to Decatur and surrounding communities. To participate in the federal program, Millikin must agree to provide a

25 percent match to the federal grant dollars. However, because of the university's strong belief in the various benefits of work study programs, Millikin routinely matches two and three times the amount received from the federal government. For Millikin students, the ICWS Program not only offers an opportunity to achieve educational goals in a real-world setting; it also provides a realistic look at employment opportunities at Illinois-based companies and non-profit agencies. By hiring talented undergraduates as interns, the participating employers are engaging competent professionals-in-training who complete high-level projects and assist the employers in meeting their business goals. Many employers work with the students with an eye towards permanently recruiting them or recommending them to other Illinois-based businesses for employment. Through collaborative programs such as Millikin's ICWS Program, the university will continue to attract and retain Illinois students and alumni.

Institution: North Central College

Project Title: CareerLinc 2014

Project Director: Mr. Jeffrey Denard
Director, Career Development
North Central College
30 North Brainard Street
Naperville, IL 60540-5146
(630) 637-5141
jddenard@noctrl.edu

Recommended Amount: \$18,031

Project Synopsis: One of the paramount objectives at North Central College is to strengthen the curricular and extra-curricular programs that distinguish our model of education and enhance student interaction with faculty and staff and engagement with their learning environment. One of the goals developed to achieve this aims to increase and document student participation in programs fostering active learning, including extended learning opportunities such as internships.

Involvement with the Illinois College Work Study program (ICWS) directly supports this mission. If we, as an institution, strive to enhance this portion of our students' educational experience, then the ICWS is a means to that end. The shared goals to benefit students academically; minimize student financial burdens; enhance community, business, non-profit and government partnerships; expand student opportunities; and retain students within the State of Illinois makes the obtainment of this grant a win-win.

Through this grant the college will be able to increase efforts to develop partnerships with Illinois businesses, government agencies; and not-for-profit organizations. Due, in large part, to participation in the Fiscal Year 2011 ICWS grant program, our internship numbers surged past the 200 mark for the first time. In fact, the academic year 2011-2012 saw a 19 percent increase in internship participation over the previous year. The academic year 2012-2013 continued to see an increase of six percent.

Students will be more likely to be involved in paid, out of class experiences, thereby initiating some of the underlying goals of reducing financial burdens, gaining pre-professional experience; and indirectly increasing the likelihood of remaining within the state. As finances have a direct correlation with a student's desire and ability to participate in internships, this grant increases the probability that a student will get involved with an organization who previously did not offer paid internships, and thus, increase their – and our – connections to the future.

Institution: Northeastern Illinois University

Project Title: Illinois CWSP FY2014

Project Director: Ms. Robin Wagner
Internship Coordinator, Career Development Center
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 North St. Louis Avenue
Building B, Room 119
Chicago, IL 60625-4699
(773) 442-4681
r-wagner@neiu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$28,470

Project Synopsis: Northeastern Illinois University proposes to use grant funds to establish internships for current undergraduate students meeting eligibility criteria.

One of the objectives of the program will be to provide opportunities for qualified resident Illinois students to acquire relevant career related experience prior to graduation with a bachelor's degree. This experience will enhance the employability of the student upon graduation.

Another objective of participating in the program will be to facilitate outreach efforts to medium and small employers by establishing internship ventures and strengthening cooperation with higher education.

The specific academic majors identified by the prospective employers for internship development during Fiscal Year 2014 are: Accounting, Business, Computer Science, Communications, Education, English, Finance, History, Human Resources, Information Science, Journalism, Justice Studies, Liberal Arts, Marketing, Management, Political Science, Psychology, Public Relations, and Social Work.

Specific commitments from 28 employers to hire 61 student interns from the above mentioned majors have been secured. Participating companies will provide 50 percent of the wages paid to students in the form of matching funds. Fourteen of the ten employers (50 percent) who have provided commitments for Fiscal Year 2014 are new to the program. This supports another program objective which is to attract new organizations and agencies to work with the University

Institution: Northern Illinois University

Project Title: Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Cindy Henderson
Executive Director, Career Services
Campus Life Building, 240
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115-2860
(815) 753-4405
chenderson@niu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$38,852

Project Synopsis: The Northern Illinois University Career Services department proposes to partner with a number of large and small employers to provide valuable career-related work experiences. These supervised experiences will offer students professional, hands-on experience applicable to their field of study to compliment what is offered in the formal classroom. Career Services proposes this cooperative experience with nine employers, many of which have participated in previous years when monetary awards were received from the Illinois Cooperative Work Study grants. Selected employers will offer career-relevant work experiences for students from the NIU Colleges of Business, Education, Health & Human Sciences, Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Visual & Performing Arts.

The specific objective is to provide financial assistance to students whose majors traditionally limit them to volunteer internships. In light of the fact that two-thirds of all NIU students rely on some form of financial assistance to attend school, this grant will significantly impact student reliance on financial aid and student loans. To these ends, the goals of the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant are directly compatible with those of the Career Services office. The grant will provide valuable career-related experiences for the students, expand their knowledge in a variety of fields, enhance their future employment opportunities and help to alleviate the increasing cost of pursuing a degree

Institution: Oakton Community College

Project Title: Oakton Community College Internship Program

Project Director: Ms. Shannon McKenzie
Internship Specialist
Oakton Community College
1600 East Golf Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016-1268
847-376-7165
mckenzie@oakton.edu

Recommended Amount: \$29,610

Project Synopsis: Since 2000, Oakton Community College's Internship Program, funded by the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program, has provided 396 Illinois students with paid, practical work experiences designed to augment the conceptual knowledge and job-specific skills students develop in the classroom. Fully aligned with Oakton's institutional goals, the Internship Program places selected students in employer-subsidized positions. Employers agree to pay at least 50 percent of students' wages and typically offer students 12-14 week long internships, working 10-20 hours a week, paying on average \$10 an hour. These internships enable students to reduce their dependence on education loans, increase the depth and practice of their academic knowledge, and improve their employability.

In FY14, Oakton's Internship Program proposes to place 35 students into paid internships. In addition, Oakton will recruit at least 15 new employers into the program and work with 30 existing partner companies, with emphasis on the accounting, web and graphic design, marketing, engineering, information technology, and manufacturing. Oakton will create new opportunities for collaboration among students, employers, the Internship Specialist and others at Oakton. Finally, Oakton will encourage all interns to seek permanent employment in Illinois. In meeting these objectives, Oakton's Internship Program will continue to address the seven Cooperative Work Study Program objectives established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and further the Board's goals to "help business and industry sustain strong economic growth" and ensure that "no citizen will be denied an opportunity for a college education because of financial need." Oakton appreciates the Board's continued support of this unique and beneficial program

Institution: Quincy University

Project Title: Early Exploratory Internship Program

Project Director: Ms. Kristen D. Liesen
Coordinator of Career Services
Quincy University
1800 College Avenue
Quincy, IL 62301-2699
(217) 228-5432, ext. 3355
Liesekr@quincy.edu

Recommended Amount: \$29,419

Project Synopsis: The Quincy University proposal will provide opportunities for students as interns in business, graphic design, information technology, communication technology, marketing and pre-professional programs to explore careers in a variety of fields in area agencies and businesses.

Fourteen organizations have agreed to provide a 50 percent match for student wages for 30 interns based on an average rate of \$9.00 per hour for an average of ten hours per week each semester. Some interns will be involved in entrepreneurship in business and technology.

An intern advisor and experiential learning committee will coordinate the program. Fields included are: broadcast and print communication, education, sports management, computer science and technology, business (marketing, finance, accounting), government service, health science, graphic design, and entrepreneurship.

Institution: Rend Lake College

Project Title: Illinois COOP Grant-FY14

Project Director: Ms. Paula L. Myers
Employment Specialist, Community and Corporate Education
Rend Lake College
468 North Ken Gray Parkway
Ina, IL 62846-9740
(618) 437-5321, ext. 1380
myers@rlc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$21,996

Project Synopsis: Rend Lake College requests continued funding in 2014 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program grant funds for the purpose of providing cooperative education work experience opportunities for 26 students. Each student's work experience will be directly linked to their individual academic program. Nine employers have committed to participate in the project by providing academically relevant work experience for the student and by providing matching funds to pay the students.

There are several major programs for which the demand is sufficiently high that no financial assistance is needed in placing students with employers. Fiscal Year 2014 ICWS grant funds will be used primarily to place education majors. Education majors have difficulty being placed in a paid work experience due to the budget constraints affecting area public schools and are typically limited to simple observation or volunteer experience in a classroom.

This project will continue a unique application of Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program funds by placing the majority of students into paid employment in the schools. The students may instruct, tutor, monitor, mentor, and provide extra-curricular activities for public school students. All activities are conducted under the supervision of a certified teacher. In addition, students majoring in IT Systems may be placed in area schools or other businesses to gain experience in building and maintaining computer operating systems.

Given the opportunity to apply skills acquired in the classroom in a real world setting, the students participating in this project will receive many academic benefits that will contribute substantially to their employment prospects after graduation from college. The earnings they will receive while participating in the project also will lessen the students' need for student loans.

Institution: Richland Community College

Project Title: Richland Community College Cooperative Work Study Grant

Project Director: Ms. Marci Rockey
Director of Student Engagement
Richland Community College
One College Park
Decatur, IL 62521-8513
(217) 875-7211, ext. 305
mdiggs@richland.edu

Recommended Amount: \$18,980

Project Synopsis: Richland Community College will provide a Cooperative Work Study program for approximately 20 students during the 2014-2015 grant year. The work study placements will occur in, but are not limited to, the fields of Office Technology, Welding, Machine Operating, Industrial Painting, Administrative Assistant, Business, Accounting, Information Technology, and Engineering Technology.

The Cooperative Work Study program will be coordinated through Career Services. The Director of Student Engagement will work with the Coordinator of Student Employment and faculty in related programs to identify eligible students. The Director will manage all of the employer agreements, employer reimbursements and reporting requirements for the grant program. Richland Community College faculty will supervise and grade the students enrolled in the intern/practicum courses in their discipline as well as work with employers to ensure learning objectives are met. In this way, the faculty, Director and local employers maintain a collaborative partnership and encourage students to obtain employment in their field of study and stay employed in the State of Illinois.

Institution: Rockford University

Project Title: Rockford University FY2014 ICWS Grant Proposal

Project Director: Mr. Maurice Anthony West, II
Director of Career Services
Rockford University
5050 E. State Street
Rockford, IL 61108-2393
(815) 226-4022
mwest@rockford.edu

Recommended Amount: \$9,480

Project Synopsis: The goal of the Cooperative Work Study Program at Rockford University is to provide academically relevant, paid work experiences to Illinois resident Rockford University students. Qualifying students will be placed in paid internship positions related to their chosen field of study that will aid in reducing their reliance on student loans. The program has proven results in encouraging social and community service, strengthening the tie between internships and academic interest. Students will be placed in social service agencies, local educational settings and in businesses within the Rockford region. These placements will enhance public-private sector partnerships and forge relationships that will encourage students to consider permanent employment in the State of Illinois.

Institution: Roosevelt University

Project Title: Roosevelt University 2014 ICWS Proposal

Project Director: Mr. Christopher J. Willis
Assistant Director, Employer Relations & Internships
Office of Career Development
Roosevelt University
425 South Wabash Avenue, Room 324
Chicago, IL 60605-1315
(312) 341-3674
cwillis@roosevelt.edu

Recommended Amount: \$19,458

Project Synopsis: Roosevelt University, a private, urban, non-sectarian institution of higher learning is requesting Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) program grant funds to assist in the placement of 12 cooperative education and internship students. Students from the five colleges – Walter E. Heller College of Business Administration, College of Education, College of Arts & Sciences, Chicago College of Performing Arts, and Evelyn T. Stone College of Professional Studies – will be encouraged to gain work-related experiences in their fields of study. This field-related training will assist students in making the connection between the theories that are being introduced in the classroom with real work experiences. The experiences students will gain give them an advantage in the competitive labor market.

Grant funds will assist in the partnerships between the public and private sectors as well as encourage social and community service. The wages earned by students will assist in funding their education and completing their degrees. Successful new professionals, living and working in Illinois, will encourage economic growth within the state in both private and public sectors.

Institution: Shawnee Community College

Project Title: Cooperative Work study Grant

Project Director: Mrs. Leslie A. Cornelious-Weldon
Career Services Coordinator
Shawnee Community College
8364 Shawnee College Road
Ullin, IL 62992-9725
(618) 634-3337
lesliec@shawneecc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$18,031

Project Synopsis: The Career Services Department at Shawnee Community College (SCC) has created and maintained a partnership with nine rural K-12 school districts, with 18 instructional sites and nine area employers to continue a Cooperative Work Study project to serve 19 college students who are considering careers in education, social service, technology and other labor shortage occupations in Illinois. The Cooperative Work Study experiences will be closely linked to the students' academic fields and will offer a progressive sequence of experiences that will afford them opportunities to explore chosen occupations and consider committing to them. All participants will attend an Orientation to Cooperative Education workshop and complete a background check. Education majors will be encouraged to enroll in an Introduction to Education class (EDU 110) and Introduction to Educational Technology (EDU 119). Education majors will be employed as Teacher Assistants in area schools under the close tutelage of exemplary teachers. Other Cooperative Education students will be provided guidance and mentoring from the business owners or other experienced professional. The project goals are to: (1) increase the number of dedicated K-12 teachers in the State of Illinois; (2) reduce student reliance on student loan programs; (3) continue to expand the existing Cooperative Work Study program to include social services, technology and other labor shortage occupations; and (4) strengthen relationships between SCC, area schools, and employers.

Institution: South Suburban College of Cook County

Project Title: Enriching the Learning Experience Through Internship Opportunities

Project Director: Dr. Lynette D. Stokes-Wilson
Vice President Academic Services
South Suburban College of Cook County
15800 South State Street
South Holland, IL 60473-1262
(708) 596-2000, ext. 5716
lwilson@ssc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$4,740

Project Synopsis: South Suburban College is a public two-year college serving the South Suburbs of Chicago IL. Founded in 1927 as Thornton Junior College, in 1988 the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to change the name of the institution to South Suburban College. The mission of the college is to serve our students and the community through life-long learning. The college is committed to providing high quality academic programs that lead to degree and certificate completion.

The goal of the Enriching the Learning Experience through Paid Internship project further reinforces the mission of the College. Specially, the goal of the internship opportunities is to create an environment whereby students reinforce their theoretical learning experience in the educational realm through work-based learning approaches which will help in future employability. The internship assignments will include meaningful and challenging work linked to the objectives of the respective academic program. Assignments of the interns will be structured similarly to those of a new employee or any of the partners identified in this grant application. We anticipate that offering paid internship opportunities will strengthen cooperation between South Suburban College, business, technology, child care, non-profit, health care and government agencies.

The academic programs that have been selected for this project are Child Development, Criminal Justice, Political Science, Management Information Systems (MIS), and Community Health Worker. The project narrative of the grant provides a comprehensive description of the goals, objectives, and the activities proposed to achieve the objectives of the project.

Institution: Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Project Title: SIU Carbondale Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program 2014

Project Director: Mr. Wayne Glass
Director, Office of Sponsored Projects Administration
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
900 South Normal Avenue, Mail Code 4702
Woody Hall, Room C-206
Carbondale, IL 62901-4302
(618) 453-4540
ospa@siu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$11,850

Project Synopsis: Participation in the program will allow Southern Illinois University to enhance and expand current work study/internship opportunities for Illinois undergraduate students to gain work-based, academically-structured experiences while networking with professionals in their field of study. The experiential learning will contribute toward the retention and graduation of participating students by confirming career goals, enhancing work skills, and providing real world experience.

The internship positions will be designed and mutually agreed upon by students, faculty, and employer representatives and will relate to students' academic fields of study. This will allow students to reinforce the knowledge gained in the classroom and incorporate emerging trends within the industry to better prepare them for employment in Illinois after graduation. It also will provide students with an opportunity to reduce their reliance on student loans by increasing their earnings while gaining related work experience.

Both employers and students will evaluate the program. Student performance will be evaluated by employer site supervisors and also by faculty members if the student is receiving college credit.

Sixteen employers have submitted letters of interest to participate in the program and project hiring approximately 15 students from the School of Architecture at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. It is anticipated that next year participation's from Fashion Design and Merchandizing and Interior design will double that number.

Students participating in the program will earn between \$9.00 to \$20.00 per hour and work an average of 20 hours per week during Fall and/or Spring Semester (16 weeks each semester) and 40 hours per week during Summer Semester (12-14 weeks).

Institution: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Project Title: SIUE Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Susan Seibert
Director, Career Development Center
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Campus Box 1620
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1620
(618) 650-3714
sseiber@siu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$17,660

Project Synopsis: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) provides students with a high quality, affordable education that prepares them for successful careers and lives of purpose. Built on the foundation of a broad-based liberal education, and enhanced by hands-on research and real-world experiences, the academic preparation SIUE students receive equips them to thrive in the global marketplace and make our communities better places to live. The SIUE campus is home to a diverse student body of nearly 14,000. More than 12,000 students come to SIUE from within the State of Illinois and it is our goal that they will seek full-time employment in the state upon graduation. Funds received through the IBHE Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program grant will help that goal become a reality.

The primary program goals are to expand existing Co-op and Internship opportunities and strengthen partnerships with Illinois employers. These goals will be met by (1) engaging new employers in our program; (2) encouraging employers to hire students in majors other than those they have previously recruited; (3) making Illinois employers “first choice” employers for Illinois students; (4) developing Co-op and Internship experiences for under-recruited majors and those in social or community service related fields; (5) reducing student dependence on financial aid and student loans by providing 30 paid Co-op or Internship opportunities to SIUE students with a 50/50 salary match by participating employers; (6) targeting summer major-related work experiences for students between the sophomore/junior and junior/senior years; and (7) increasing awareness throughout the campus community of major-related work opportunities and their enhancements to academic programs.

The program will be managed by the SIUE Career Development Center and will be integrated into existing campus work study programs, incorporating student selection criteria, data collection methods, course registration, assessment, and student outcome information.

Institution: Southwestern Illinois College

Project Title: 2014-2015 IWSG

Project Director: Mr. David Paeth
Director, College Activities and Veterans Services
Southwestern Illinois College
2500 Carlyle Avenue
Belleville, IL 62221-5899
(618) 235-2700, ext. 5324
david.paeth@swic.edu

Recommended Amount: \$15,184

Project Synopsis: The 14 internships provided by the funding from the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program will benefit Southwestern Illinois College students by providing partnership initiatives to a wide range of academic program areas, employers, and agencies including ten program areas, twelve area employers/organizations, and the Southwestern Illinois College Career Center. The project director and program coordinators will oversee the grant.

The 14 internships are credit-bearing internships: nine internships in the private sector with a partial funding match; one Auto Collision and Repair Technology will give the student experience in the auto collision repair industry; two Culinary Arts internships will be offered allowing the students to apply classroom theories to actual situations; one Electronic Technology internship will offer a wide range of work with technology utilizing electronic components; one Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration intern will gain a variety of experience servicing heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment; one Horticulture internship will be in a greenhouse and retail landscaping environment; two internships will be provided in Network Design and Administration working in the telecommunications and computer field; and one Paralegal Internship will be offered where the intern will gain valuable experience in the legal field. Five community service internships will be included in the grant: two internships will be offered in Human Services, these locations will allow the student to gain experience in serving special needs clients; one Web Design and Administration internship will give a range experience in maintaining and developing web sites; one Paralegal Studies internship will be in a legal services office; and one Office and Administrations and Technology internship will offer the student experience in office skills in a not-for-profit environment.

Institution: St. Xavier University

Project Title: Saint Xavier University ICWS Program

Project Director: Ms. Jodi Martin
Assistant Director, Career Services
St. Xavier University
3700 West 103rd Street
Chicago, IL 60655
(773) 298-3133
malloymartin@sxu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$10,010

Project Synopsis: The primary goal of the ICWS Program at Saint Xavier University (SXU) is to assist students with securing meaningful, career-related employment opportunities prior to graduation. In so doing, the program also assists Chicago-area employers by helping them to meet their part-time, professional hiring needs. Many of these are local employers from the Southwest side of the metropolitan area who are in need of qualified, classroom educated employees, but are unable to pay them the market salary rates. The support of the grant funding from the State of Illinois will permit some of these organizations to secure the employees they need while providing at least 25 students with part-time jobs that are directly related to their academic majors and career goals. These internship placements strengthen the cooperation between the University and local employers, create new opportunities for public/private partnerships, and encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.

Almost all of SXU students must work to meet educational expenses. Over 80 percent of them are commuters, and more than 90 percent are eligible to receive financial aid. Approximately 64 percent are first-generation college students and 96 percent are residents of the State of Illinois. They often seek work experiences close to home in order to be able to satisfy obligations outside their academic careers. Local employers are eager for the opportunity to act as mentors to inexperienced professionals and value the chance to evaluate potential full-time employees before extending offers for permanent employment. Many local area social service, educational, and not-for-profit agencies, in particular, would benefit greatly from being able to take advantage of the reimbursement funding from the State of Illinois. It is estimated that nine employers will participate in the Illinois Cooperative Work Study program. Five employers have confirmed participation in the program and 4 additional employers have expressed an interest.

On the strength of their experiences in these positions, many of these students will be encouraged to become full-time employees and continue to work and reside in the State of Illinois. According to the 2012 SXU Graduate Survey, of the respondents employed, 97 percent accepted positions in Illinois.

Institution: Trinity Christian College

Project Title: Trinity Christian College@Work

Project Director: Ms. Virginia K. Carpenter
Dean of Student Engagement and International Services
Trinity Christian College
Student Development Cooper Center
6601 West College Drive
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(708) 239-4703
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Recommended Amount: \$12,640

Project Synopsis: Trinity Christian College@Work: The Trinity ICWS Internship Project provides an avenue to Trinity students and their prospective Illinois employers to enhance economic development in our community and to reduce student reliance on student loans to pay for college. Trinity requests support from the ICWS program to continue strides to advance Trinity's partnerships with local non-profits, government and community organizations, and businesses while also providing students with additional financial, academic, and experiential support. These internships serve Illinois students who may find it difficult to locate valuable placements in their chosen fields because of funding restrictions within the non-profit organizations they could serve and because of limited paid internship opportunities within their majors.

Trinity will collaborate with seven employers to offer 21 placements normally with a 50/50 match. Internships are determined by student and community need in special education, education, community development, social work, environmental management and restoration, marketing, and management. These placements open field experiences to students to explore their chosen professional disciplines. The Trinity Christian College@Work program provides our students with a variety of new income-producing jobs that will reduce their reliance on loans as the primary means of financing their undergraduate education.

Institution: Triton College

Project Title: A New Beginning at Triton College

Project Director: Mr. R. Richard Williams
Director, Career Services
Triton College
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River Grove, IL 60171-1995
(708) 456-0300, ext. 3619
rwillia4@triton.edu

Recommended Amount: \$20,309

Project Synopsis: “A New Beginning...” Triton College’s Cooperative Education Program, reflects significant change as well as advancement during the new year. The first change involves personnel as Triton’s Cooperative Education Coordinator will retire by the end of the 2013, and a search for a replacement will begin soon. The second involves a deeper commitment to the community that Triton serves, with a particular emphasis on employer relations. A recent visit by Higher Learning Commission representatives sparked a discussion of how Triton can do a better job of developing effective relationships with employers – while identifying students and future workers who will be ready for the job market.

Using local data, Triton College will commit to reach out to industries and employers that offer high-growth occupations, helping students secure strong starts in fields that will continue to be active and robust over the next few years, perhaps even decades. Triton College staff has identified specific high-growth opportunities, based on key criteria: (a) intensity of growth; (b) strong salaries for students; and (c) good fit with the curriculum, teaching expertise and overall approach and culture offered at Triton. This approach helps identify high growth, high demand opportunities in robust, local industry sectors, such as Hospitality, Business Services, Engineering, Manufacturing, and Information Technology. Second, “A New Beginning...” will commit to serving even more hometown businesses, listening to their needs and learning about which skills are most important today. By committing to local companies and nearby neighborhood interests, the “New Beginning” program can make a difference in the community, while reaching out, supporting and including organizations that may not have been able to participate in standard cooperative education programs.

Triton’s employer and student involvement strategy – which we have recently named 360 Success – surround and help each student and employer through multiple touchpoints – in fact, 360 degrees of support. This overall strategy provides systemized, individualized, wrap-around (360 degrees) services to all the students and employers participating in the program, identifying ideal “fits” between them, while working hard to provide the highest level of service.

Institution: University of Illinois at Chicago

Project Title: UIC Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Judith K. De Jong
Assistant Professor, School of Architecture
University of Illinois at Chicago
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3100 Architecture and Design Studios
Chicago, IL 60607
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Recommended Amount: \$9,306

Project Synopsis: Through the Cooperative Work Study Program at the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago, we seek to achieve a number of goals. One primary goal is to provide students with professional work experiences that will assist them in gaining employment post-graduation, which we hope to achieve through partnerships with area architectural firms and cultural institutions. We also aim to provide students with experiences that integrate, test, and apply theoretical knowledge learned in the classroom to parallel work situations. Students learn how disciplinary information is further shaped by the conditions of the professional world, thereby enhancing and reinforcing their classroom experiences. We also aim to assist our students with developing their professional skills, including analytical thinking and reasoning, and strong interpersonal communication

The benefits of the UIC Cooperative Work Study Program include: reduced reliance on financial aid for students; closer and stronger relationships with the various companies and organizations that hire and support the students in the program; and greater prospects of permanent employment with these employers for students upon graduation.

Institution: University of Illinois Springfield

Project Title: UIS Applied Study Term Proposal

Project Director: Ms. Sarah Stover
Assistant Director, Applied Study Term Program
& Placement Development
University of Illinois Springfield
One University Plaza, MS BRK 482
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 206-6640
ast@uis.edu

Recommended Amount: \$22,075

Project Synopsis: The objective of this project is to facilitate the matching funds for approximately 52 paid internships. Our proposal is to offer the opportunity for competitive, paid, internships for students participating in the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) Applied Study Term Program for academic credit for a variety of majors in the area of general education. This funding will enable us to increase student, faculty, and employer awareness of the Illinois Cooperative Work Study program; to strengthen cooperation between and maximize potential for obtaining matching funds from higher education, business, industry, and government placements; to create new opportunities for public/private partnerships and expand the variety of internship opportunities directly related to students' academic programs; to increase participation in internships in the non-profit sector; to offer a way to reduce student loan and financial aid dependency; to offer opportunities that will make students more competitive in today's job market; to encourage students to remain employed in Illinois by providing internship opportunities in a variety of Illinois governmental, social service agencies and businesses.

In order to further enhance experiential education opportunities and to meet the needs of students, UIS would like to participate in this beneficial program of paid cooperative education. The students will be receiving \$9/hour for their internship work.

Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Project Title: Illinois Cooperative Work Study - UIUC

Project Director: Ms. Gail Rooney
Director, The Career Center
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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Champaign, IL 61820
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grooney@illinois.edu; jneef@illinois.edu

Recommended Amount: \$23,725

Project Synopsis: The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign seeks funding to partially support 25+ internship opportunities that will allow students to put into practice what has been taught in the classroom; provide a glimpse into the world of work; and offset the increasing costs of higher education. A large proportion of these opportunities are being provided by high-tech firms in east central Illinois that are seeking students majoring in high demand STEM fields, such as engineering, computer science, math, biology, and other life sciences.

Specifically, the goals of the University of Illinois ICWS Program in FY 2014 are: (1) increase the availability of high quality internships, especially in STEM fields; (2) expand and strengthen relationships with employers in the State of Illinois, especially small- to mid-sized organizations in east central Illinois; (3) assist students and families meet the rising cost of higher education; and (4) increase offers of permanent employment in the State of Illinois for new college graduates.

Grant funds will be competitively awarded to employers using the following criteria related to the internship experience: (1) expectations and learning outcomes are clearly defined and linked to students' academic major; (2) contribution to or completion of a meaningful project that allows students to put into practice classroom learning; and (3) exposure to career paths within their discipline. Preference will be given to internships related to STEM. Employers are required to provide at least 60 percent of student earnings while grant funds will support no more than 40 percent of student earnings, up to \$2000 per student. By employers bearing a larger proportion of student earnings and capping grant funding at \$2000 per student, we are able to maximize the impact of this program.

Institution: Waubonsee Community College

Project Title: Waubonsee Community College Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Teri L. Cullen
Career Services Manager
Waubonsee Community College
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Sugar Grove, IL 60554-9454
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tcullen@waubonsee.edu

Recommended Amount: \$13,585

Project Synopsis: Waubonsee Community College's (WCC) experiential learning program's goal is to complement and enhance its students' academic experiences with work experiences directly related to their fields of study. All but one of the college's academic divisions offer advanced and qualified students the opportunity to earn up to six credit hours toward an associate's degree. For each discipline with a for-credit option, there is at least one designated faculty advisor.

The college's internship program is coordinated by the Career Services Center, and participation in the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program helps students, many of whom are career changers and must work, benefit academically and financially, by reducing reliance on student loans. The Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program also helps enhance public-private sector partnerships between the college and businesses and industries within our district. The ensuing opportunities encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.

The Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program's past and present support has enabled WCC's internship program to grow in the midst of a recession and expand opportunities for students to pursue internships. Since first participating in Fiscal Year 2007, the number of students registering for an internship has more than tripled. Continued funding and support in Fiscal Year 2014 will increase funds for job training and the likelihood of students obtaining full-time employment in high-demand fields after graduation

