

APPROVED
April 7, 2015

Item #V-13
April 7, 2015

**ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2015 GRANT ALLOCATION**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item presents a recommendation for 58 colleges and universities to receive grant awards under the Illinois Cooperative Work Study program administered by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

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 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.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approves the Fiscal Year 2015 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 2015 GRANT ALLOCATION**

This item presents recommendations for the fiscal year 2015 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.

Review Process for Applications

A cooperative work study application was released on October 6, 2014 with a due date of November 28, 2014. The 58 college work study proposals recommended in this item were selected from a pool of 61 applicants requesting a total of approximately \$2.5 million in funding. The appropriation of funds for this program is \$1,114,500 which is less than one-half of the total amount requested in Fiscal Year 2015.

Each proposal was reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the following criteria as presented in the Fiscal Year 2015 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, kindergarten through twelfth grade (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. Grantees are required to meet several accountability requirements, which 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.

Table 1 presents a summary of estimated students served, requested amounts, and recommended award amounts by institution. The fiscal year 2015 recommendation is 58 grants totaling \$1,114,500 to assist an estimated 1,292 Illinois resident undergraduate students. Three prior recipients, Blackburn College, City Colleges of Chicago Malcolm X College, and Rock Valley College, are not recommended for funding this year since the colleges did not meet review criteria standards. Three new applicants this year, Augustana College, North Park University, and Parkland College, met the review criteria and are recommended for funding. The projects recommended for funding will support a projected 1,292 students at 638 businesses and not-for-profit organizations. The accompanying project synopses provide an overview of the project activities planned for each of the fiscal year 2015 ICWS recommended projects.

The ICWS program continues to demonstrate good results. The evaluation reports continue to show that the majority of the students who were seeking employment in Illinois were hired for permanent employment in Illinois within two years of their participation in the program (65.7 percent of students from the 2012-13 and 2011-12 academic years). Two years provides a sufficient window of time for students to graduate from the academic program before seeking permanent employment.

Recommendations

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves Fiscal Year 2015 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					
Fiscal Year 2015 Recommended Allocation					
			FY2014	FY2015	FY2015
		Students	Award	Request	Award
Item #	Institution	Served	Amount	Amount	Amount
1	Augustana College	42	\$ 35,532	\$ 46,000	\$ 37,674
2	Aurora University	12	0	50,000	10,764
3	Bradley University	49	46,501	50,000	46,354
4	CCC - Harold Washington College	15	11,850	26,080	11,455
5	Chicago State University	11	8,690	50,000	8,517
6	College of Dupage	26	22,958	50,000	23,322
7	College of Lake County	25	19,750	50,000	21,175
8	Concordia University	38	30,020	50,000	29,786
9	Danville Area Community College	10	8,460	12,000	8,970
10	DeVry University-Illinois	25	19,750	50,000	19,425
11	Dominican University	48	45,552	50,000	45,408
12	Eastern Illinois University	36	34,164	50,000	32,292
13	East-West University	34	26,860	49,674	26,598
14	Elgin Community College	9	7,150	50,000	6,923
15	Elmhurst College	38	33,554	50,000	35,948
16	Governors State University	32	28,256	50,000	30,272
17	Greenville College	27	23,841	49,940	22,869
18	Heartland Community College	9	7,900	13,870	8,073
19	Illinois College	27	21,830	21,830	21,830
20	Illinois Eastern - Lincoln Trail	15	12,690	50,000	13,455
21	Illinois State University	35	33,215	50,000	33,110
22	Illinois Wesleyan University	30	28,470	44,000	28,380
23	John A. Logan College	21	16,445	38,500	17,787
24	John Wood Community College	30	26,322	38,844	26,910
25	Joliet Junior College	15	14,235	35,378	12,969
26	Kaskaskia College	10	8,830	21,480	9,460
27	Lake Land College	26	22,958	22,115	22,115
28	Lewis & Clark Community College	21	19,929	15,260	19,866
29	Lewis University	12	9,480	24,675	10,164
30	Lincoln Land Community College	24	18,960	15,000	15,000
31	MacMurray College	10	7,865	17,550	7,870
32	McHenry County College	15	11,850	9,870	9,870
33	Methodist College	20	16,920	50,000	18,420
34	Millikin University	15	12,690	25,000	13,455
35	North Central College	19	18,031	31,000	16,093
36	North Park University	10	0	24,100	8,470
37	Northeastern Illinois University	30	28,470	50,000	19,348
38	Northern Illinois University	44	38,852	50,000	39,468

Illinois Board of Higher Education
Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program
Fiscal Year 2015 Recommended Allocation

			FY2014	FY2015	FY2015
		Students	Award	Request	Award
Item #	Institution	Served	Amount	Amount	Amount
39	Oakton Community College	35	\$ 29,610	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,207
40	Parkland College	12	0	43,000	10,164
41	Quincy University	31	29,419	38,000	29,326
42	Rend Lake College	26	21,996	50,000	22,022
43	Richland Community College	20	18,980	25,000	18,920
44	Rockford University	12	9,480	15,456	10,164
45	Roosevelt University	23	19,458	42,000	19,481
46	Shawnee Community College	19	18,031	47,924	17,043
47	South Suburban	6	4,740	36,600	4,682
48	Southern Illinois University Carbondale	15	11,850	50,000	11,455
49	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	20	17,660	50,000	18,920
50	Southwestern Illinois College	16	15,184	22,640	14,352
51	St. Xavier University	13	10,010	38,250	9,861
52	Trinity Christian College	16	12,640	40,380	13,552
53	Triton College	23	20,309	48,600	20,631
54	U of I at Chicago	11	9,306	50,000	9,317
55	U of I at Springfield	25	22,075	48,250	23,650
56	U of I at Urbana/Champaign	25	23,725	40,000	22,425
57	University of St. Francis	12	0	49,800	10,164
58	Waubensee Community College	17	13,585	17,372	13,299
	TOTALS:	<u>1,292</u>	<u>\$1,114,500</u>	<u>\$2,235,438</u>	<u>\$1,114,500</u>
Institution did not submit an application in FY2014					

FY2015 ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY SYNOPSES

Institution: Augustana College

Project Title: Emerging Professionals Internship Program

Project Director: Mrs. Karen M. Petersen, Director
Director, Employer Relations and Internships
CORE: Career Development
Augustana College
639 38th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 794-7456
karenpetersen@augustana.edu

Recommended Amount: \$37,674

Project Synopsis: Augustana continues its commitment to the Emerging Professionals grant program (the Program), with an expanded reach to both companies and interns as part of the Augustana 2020 Strategic Plan initiative. Augustana 2020 is student-centered, with a cornerstone of the plan Enhanced Preparation of all graduates. The Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program is directly aligned with two of the three strategic directions of the college, to develop new relationships and resources so all students will have the knowledge, confidence and specific tools to pursue their vocational calling by connecting their education to their post-graduate goals and to increase access to college by improving affordability and enhancing value. Our assessment has shown that the Program continues to meet the goals of IBHE and Augustana and has been successful in retaining well educated young professionals in Illinois after graduation.

Augustana 2020 created a new Career Development initiative, the capacity of the office has been expanded from four to 13. We have built much more capacity into career development by adding leadership, alumni representation, event planning, an entrepreneurship center, vocational and volunteer specialists, and campus employment and internship coordination. With the additional resources, we have expanded our outreach, marketing, and follow-up to new business and community partnerships and strengthened our current partnerships. These partnerships include both large and small employers in private, public, and non-profit organizations, resulting in Illinois job and graduate school opportunities for Augustana graduates. For 2015-16, we have increased the number of partner companies 35 percent (from 17 to 23) and will multiply the number of participating students. These partnerships will create Illinois based job opportunities for both grant recipients and other Augustana students.

Augustana will use the grant as matching funds or hourly increase in about 60 percent of the partner companies that host interns and as hourly pay for about 40 percent of the organizations who do not have the funding to match. In both cases, it allows the intern to build professional skills, give back to the community, and connect to their field of study while reducing reliance on student loans. We also added a student para-professional (as part of institutional contribution) in Quality Assurance to oversee the student payroll, intern hours, and quarterly reports.

Institution: Aurora University – New in Fiscal Year 2015

Project Title: Illinois Career Connections

Project Director: Ms. Tory Nair
Director of Career Services, Career Services
Aurora University
347 South Gladstone Avenue
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 844-5403
tnair@aurora.edu

Recommended Amount: \$10,764

Project Synopsis: Aurora University (AU) will launch its Career Connections program with the goal to connect students with paid internships that are academically relevant and will lead students into permanent employment and careers in Illinois. Career Connections will provide new internship opportunities by strengthening established relationships and building new ones for students in a wide array of majors, particularly high-demand fields.

AU ignites this program with over 40 partners, comprised of corporations, nonprofits, national laboratories, a park district, government entities, and public and private schools; who support the first-of-its-kind STEM Partnership School. In addition to these partners, Career Services works with over 150 businesses and organizations in a variety of ways from Career Fairs to Internship placements.

In just two weeks of the initial request, ten businesses and organizations provided 45 semesters of paid internships, while many other businesses and organizations are interested and processing their requests for future internships. Matching funds (50/50 for profit, 60/40 nonprofit) will be maximized for Career Connections to support student wages giving interns the opportunity to earn over \$100,000 in wages to offset the costs of college and be less dependent on student loans.

Many of our students are first generation college students with little foreknowledge of the opportunities their future degree affords. More than 97 percent qualify for financial aid but students work in jobs unrelated to their major and at minimum wage to help afford tuition and other college-related expenses. Drawing students into the Career Connections by providing paid internships at a minimum of \$10 per hour will allow students to reduce their school loans and be better prepared for postgraduate job opportunities.

AU understands that vocation extends beyond the concepts of work or career and into the realm of meaning and purpose. We challenge our students to “Discover what matters. Build your life around it.” A Vocation Working Group, representing various campus constituencies, has been established to strengthen vocational conversations with students to participate in high-impact opportunities, such as internships.

Anticipated academic benefits resulting from these work experiences are many. Students will be able to apply theoretical classroom concepts to real-world and employment situations. Students will strengthen their problem-solving skills, their oral and written communications skills, their ability to transfer acquired skill sets, their cooperation and collaboration in a professional work environment, as well as other skills gained from their major and employability.

Institution: Bradley University

Project Title: Fiscal Year 2015 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program Grant

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

Recommended Amount: \$46,354

Project Synopsis: The proposed Bradley University (Bradley or the University) Fiscal Year 2015 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program will provide new and expanded Cooperative (Co-op) 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 2015 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. 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's *Public Agenda*.

Bradley's Cooperative Work Study Program will support the University's efforts to build strong relationships with business, industry, 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: City Collegest of Chicago – Harold Washington College

Project Title: HWC COOP Internship Program

Project Director: Mr. Kevin Smith, Associate Dean
Associate Dean, College to Careers
Dean of Instruction
City Colleges of Chicago – Harold Washington College
30 East Lake Street
Chicago, IL 60601-2495
(312) 553-5926
ksmith230@ccc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$11,455

Project Synopsis: Harold Washington College (HWC) is requesting funding to continue its 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 in 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: 2015 Cooperative Work Study Program – Chicago State University

Project Director: Dr. Renee D Mitchell, Associate Vice President
Human Resources, Career Development Center
Chicago State University
9501 South King Drive, SUB 230
Chicago, IL 60628
(773) 995-2040
rmitch26@csu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$8,517

Project Synopsis: As part of the overall Career Development strategy, the Chicago State University (the University) Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program will focus on four 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; (3) assisting students in bridging the gap from a learning environment to the competitive workforce by incorporating business specific training; and (4) developing a strong partnership between the University and Illinois employers.

Through a competency based development program and strong business partnership, the University and Illinois employers will identify core knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for the student to successfully transition into a productive employee. Through combined efforts from the student, the perspective employer, the faculty, and the University career development center, additional training and intellectual guidance will be provided to ensure the overall success of the student/employee and the program.

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 populations. The program will help students meet their financial obligations, thereby increasing the retention rate at the university and increasing the likelihood of graduation. With the support of the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program students will effectively transition into the Illinois employment market in the fields of education, health, science, math, and business.

Institution: College of DuPage

Project Title: Fiscal Year 2015 College of DuPage ICWS

Project Director: Ms. Sara Kirby
Assistant Manager, Career Services
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Boulevard
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 942-2657
steward@cod.edu

Recommended Amount: \$23,322

Project Synopsis: The College of DuPage (COD) proposes the creation of cooperative work-study positions for a minimum of 30 students in the fields of information technology, hospitality, and tourism. Eight established DuPage County employer-partners have committed to hire, supervise, and evaluate COD students. 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: (a) an estimated 30 students will complete cooperative work-study experiences; (b) an estimated eight employer-partners in three fields will create paid internships for COD students; (c) community service opportunities will be available as a part of the experience; (d) 100 percent of participating employer-partners will contribute 50 percent of the intern's hourly wages; (e) at least 50 percent of the employer-partners will hire staff they would not normally be able to hire because of this program; (f) 100 percent of participating interns will receive information about alternative financial aid options; and (g) 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 M. Johnson Jones
Executive Director, Career and Placement Services
College of Lake County
19351 West Washington Street
Grayslake, IL 60030
(847) 543-2404
nsmith@clcillinois.edu

Recommended Amount: \$21,175

Project Synopsis: The goals and specific objectives of the College of Lake County's proposed Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program, which are consistent with section 1015.40 of the program guidelines, are to serve 33 students by performing the following:

- Expand opportunities for students to pursue internships, cooperative programs with local businesses, employers, and organizations linked to students' academic programs;
- Strengthen cooperation and promote partnerships among the college, local businesses, employers, organizations, and government;
- Maximize the use of contributions from employers and agencies participating in the program to support student wages;
- Integrate other components of student financial aid to reduce reliance on student loans;
- Support work experiences for students in academic programs such as computer science, education, engineering, health, and business and marketing;
- Encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois;
- Provide 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 Chicago

Project Title: Enhancing Relationships for Workplace Development through Work Study

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

Recommended Amount: \$29,786

Project Synopsis: Concordia University Chicago is seeking to partially fund internship and job skills development for as many as 82-85 students. The majority of our student participation comes from the School of Education as well as College of Health Sciences and Business. This focus reflects our desire to address labor shortages and improving opportunities in these areas. Our primary focus is on Early Childhood and Primary School levels. We also are interested in addressing an internal and external need for greater opportunities in Health Care and Business (primarily Non Profit Sector). The Concordia program seeks to promote and encourage Illinois residents to develop an active learning strategy in their given industry. The program also has enabled students to pursue opportunities in private industries, government, and non profit agencies, leading to the ultimate goal of full time employment.

The improved and expanded experiences provided has allowed our students to become better prepared to compete for full time positions. The existence of the Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) grant allows institutions with limited resources such as Concordia to serve the students of Illinois better and provide as many varied learning experiences and professional networking opportunities as possible. The generous support of the State of Illinois allows the faculty and staff here at Concordia to better educate and prepare students throughout their career search process. We have begun to establish a full service program dedicated to helping students in their quest for meaningful employment.

The Grant offers assistance for students representing fields of study with the greatest possibility for meaningful employment, combining shortages with future growth possibilities. We will not focus limited State funding on areas with limited job growth. As a result of feedback received from employers, faculty and staff have responded by improving the curriculum and by reflecting the importance of experiential learning in accord with the desired outcomes and objectives of our industry partners. Overall, the ICWS Program has provided the energy to create programs of study and service systems dedicated to better serve our students. 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 with practical workplace experience. They are now better prepared to enter and succeed in the Illinois workforce.

Institution: Danville Area Community College

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

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

Recommended Amount: \$8,970

Project Synopsis: Economic development in Vermilion County continues to attract new businesses to the area. Employers are increasing their current workforce. In an effort to address the local workforce needs, Danville Area Community College's Scholars Hands-On Approach Relevant to Employment (SHARE) project will partner with local businesses to provide hands-on training for students. Through SHARE project funding, students who are Illinois residents with an interest in hands-on learning and a desire to work in the community will have the opportunity to gain valuable work experience at a local business. Fiscal Year 2015 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; (3) increase student awareness of local employment opportunities thus encouraging students to seek jobs within the State while making them 'labor-ready'; and (4) increase students' overall earning potential while decreasing student loan dependency. To participate in the program, students are referred by Faculty/Staff and Employers. Students are placed with businesses 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. The SHARE program funding helps provide the vital link between businesses in Vermilion County and Danville Area Community College students.

Institution: DeVry University Illinois

Project Title: Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. LaShanda Hayes
Career Advisor
DeVry University Illinois
3300 North Campbell Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615
(773) 697-2072
lhayes@devry.edu

Recommended Amount: \$19,425

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 University 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 University commitment to matching students 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 Student Central 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 Spring Terms). Quality, education-related work experience correlates with increased post-graduate employment opportunities and enriched hands-on learning. DeVry University Faculty and Career Services will continue to partner to find quality education-related work experiences for student interested in the Illinois Works Study Cooperative Grant Program.

Institution: Dominican University

Project Title: The CareerNet Project

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

Recommended Amount: \$45,408

Project Synopsis: This year marks the twenty-first 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 ten 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: Fiscal Year 2015 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Robin Terwilliger
Grant Manager and Office Administrator, Career Services
Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Avenue
1301 Human Services
Charleston, IL 61920
(217) 581-2412
rdterwilliger@eiu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$32,292

Project Synopsis: Through the use of the Illinois Cooperative Work Study (CWS) 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: V.O.I.C.E.

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

Recommended Amount: \$26,598

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, kindergarten through twelfth grade (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 53 students who will have the opportunity for professional work experience through ICWS funds in the Fiscal Year 2015 grant period.

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: Elgin Community College Career Connect

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

Recommended Amount: \$6,923

Project Synopsis: Over the past year, Elgin Community College (ECC) has built a centralized internship program. The program works in conjunction with existing programmatic internships and federal work study experiences to expand experiential learning to programs of study connected with local employer areas of need. Without Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program (ICWSP) funding in previous years, ECC would not have been able to make as great of a commitment to this centralized internship program.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2015 ICWSP will allow ECC to increase opportunities this year for up to 20 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. All students using program funds will be given alternative financial aid information through ECC's financial aid department in order to maximize available funds.

Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program funds are essential for ECC's diverse population of students, many who must work in order to pay for school, to gain experience in their field of study. It has allowed ECC to bring on three new employers this year, including one government agency and one who previously did not pay interns at all. Although not planned, all students who benefitted from funds in the last funding cycle were men of color, a group that is underrepresented in higher education.

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. At least 50 percent of the employers using the funding will hire staff they would not otherwise be able to hire due to the ICWSP. All employers commit to hire, supervise, and evaluate ECC students based upon an individually created learning objective(s) based upon student and employer need. At least 75 percent of the intern's work duties will be in industries showing stable or long-term growth in Illinois and where local employers are in desperate need of qualified, educated employees.

Career Connect will continue to be administered and evaluated out of the Career Development Services office with support from the Financial Aid office, faculty, and administration. The internship coordinator will facilitate employer outreach, faculty interaction, and assessment of student learning outcomes as well as tracking relevant data including employer intern and ECC program evaluations, student self-reflection evaluations, and learning objective assessment meeting as evidence of goal completion.

Institution: Elmhurst College

Project Title: JOBPATH

Project Director: Ms. Holly L. Coffin
Assistant Director, Internships, Center for Professional Excellence
Elmhurst College
190 Prospect Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 617-6457
hollyc@elmhurst.edu

Recommended Amount: \$35,948

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 23 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: Fiscal Year 2015 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant

Project Director: Mrs. Cynthia Lynn Staples
Recruitment Coordinator, Office of Career Services
Governors State University
1 University Parkway
University Park, IL 60466
(708) 235-7355
cstaples@govst.edu

Recommended Amount: \$30,272

Project Synopsis: Governors State University (GSU or the University) 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 2015 Illinois College Work Study Program are to:

- 1) Provide 25 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: Fiscal Year 2015 Greenville College IBHE Proposal

Project Director: Mr. Patrick M. Miller
Associate Dean for Career & Calling
Greenville College
315 East College Avenue
Greenville, IL 62246
(618) 664-6655
patrick.miller@greenville.edu

Recommended Amount: \$22,869

Project Synopsis: Greenville College (the College) is requesting funding for 16 students to complete 166 credit hours at 16 Illinois non-profit sites. The College will seek to place students from a variety of programs through the program including five from the social work program, three from the math department, three from the sciences, two from the school of business and three from the digital media program. In support of the program the College is providing a tuition discount of \$150 per credit hour for each credit students earn through this program. This is a discount of 22 percent during the fall or spring semester and a 45 percent discount off of the summer rate. Most students participate in this program during the summer term. Students participating in this program will complete 6,640 hours of service in their internships at non-profit and government agencies across the state.

Institution: Heartland Community College

Project Title: Heartland Community College Internship Program

Project Director: Mrs. Sara Baker
Coordinator of Career Services
Heartland Community College
1500 West Raab Road
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 268-8034
sara.baker@heartland.edu

Recommended Amount: \$8,073

Project Synopsis: The fundamental goal of the Heartland Community College (HCC) Internship Program is to partner with area employers to provide students with meaningful work-based learning experiences that relate 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 2015 Grant Period, the HCC Internship Program proposes to partner with six internship sponsors to provide 12 internships to eligible students. To be eligible, students must meet prerequisites in at least one of the following nine academic areas: Business; Communications; Criminal Justice; Health; Humanities and Fine Arts; Digital Media; Science/Math; Social and 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: Mrs. Susie Drake
Director of Career Services
Illinois College
1101 West College Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650
(217) 245-3041
sdrake@mail.ic.edu

Recommended Amount: \$21,830

Project Synopsis: Illinois College (IC) is a four-year, private institution committed to the highest standards of scholarship and integrity in the liberal arts. Twenty-five students will be awarded paid internships (clinical placements and cooperative work study positions) sponsored by nine employers in business, 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 as well as institutional cash and in-kind support provided by the College.

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 – Lincoln Trail

Project Title: Telecommunications Cooperative Work Study Internship Program

Project Director: Mr. Chris Teague
Lead Instructor, Telecommunications
Illinois Eastern – Lincoln Trail
11220 State Highway 1
Robinson, IL 62454
(618) 544-8252, ext. 1926
teaguec@iecc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$13,455

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 Telecommunications Cooperative Work Study Internship Program which has provided support to Telecommunication 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 11 summers and, to date, we have received 10 letters of intent from cooperating employers who are interested in participating during Fiscal Year 2015 and who are committed to this very worthwhile program next summer.

The IECC plans to continue to develop and improve the Telecommunication Cooperative Work Study Internship Program by expanding the summer work program to all eligible Telecommunication students and to continue providing a work/school cooperative on-the-job-training experience as well as encouraging students to seek permanent employment in Illinois. The Telecommunication Cooperative Work Study Internship Program allows students to gain valuable work experience and employment training in Telecommunication Technology. The program benefits students academically and financially by enhancing their educational background, aiding their transition to full-time employment in Illinois, reducing their 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 Telecommunication Technology.

Institution: Illinois State University

Project Title: ICWSP Grant – Fiscal Year 2015

Project Director: Mrs Pamela Jean Cooper
Associate Director for Professional Practice and Employer Relations
Illinois State University Career Center
Campus Box 3040
Normal, IL 61790
(309) 438-3245
pjcoope@ilstu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$33,110

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 apply what they learn in their academic programs in a real world professional setting. 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 (Goal 3: “Foster an engaged community and enhance the University’s outreach and partnerships both internally and externally.” Strategy 3.B: “Increase the number of opportunities for students to work in the field, including internships, professional development, on-the-job training, and student projects that meet community needs.”)

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. 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 academic departments; 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 goal that links the students, Educating Illinois, the Illinois *Public Agenda* and the IBHE Cooperative Work Study Program. While this project will benefit Illinois businesses, the principal clientele to be served are Illinois State University students.

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
P.O. Box 2900, Holmes 200
Bloomington, IL 61702
(309) 556-3902
sschrock@iwu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$28,380

Project Synopsis: Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) requests funding from the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program (ICWS) to help 45-50 students take advantage of the learning opportunities offered by internships at various government and social service agencies, nonprofit organizations, and businesses. 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 doubled from 243 in Fiscal Year 2006 to 481 in Fiscal Year 2013. 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. 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 is needed.

Institution: John A. Logan College

Project Title: Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant 2015

Project Director: Ms Lisa A. Hudgens
Director of Career Services, Student Services
John A. Logan College
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, IL 62918
(618) 985-2828, ext. 8379
lisahudgens@jalc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$17,787

Project Synopsis: The John A. Logan College Fiscal Year 2015 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 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: Fiscal Year 2015 IL Cooperative Work Study Program at JWCC

Project Director: Ms. Catherine Codd-Bower
Career Services/Perkins Coordinator
John Wood Community College
1301 South 48th Street, Paul Heath Center-D132
Quincy, IL 62305
(217) 641-4957
ccoddbower@jwcc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$26,910

Project Synopsis: The goal of the John Wood Community College – Illinois Higher Education Cooperative Work Study Grant program is to provide a workforce education link between classroom studies and actual on-the-job work experience 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 and early childhood education. Through our newly designed Career Services department new internship opportunities are being 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, Campus Center A1175
Joliet, IL 60431
(815) 280-2476
blarkin@jjc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$12,969

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 the 2015 fiscal year, JJC would like to target students for internships in the fields of Agriculture, Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD), Education, Engineering, Horticulture, Web Design, and Welding. Grant funds will provide opportunities for 15 students to learn practical employment skills directly related to their academic major while earning a competitive wage.

Institution: Kaskaskia College

Project Title: Kaskaskia College Cooperative Workstudy Partnership 2015-16

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

Recommended Amount: \$9,460

Project Synopsis: Kaskaskia College's Work Study Partnership (CWSP) 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 CWSP 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 training qualified individuals for employment. Five employers have agreed to offer opportunities for as many as ten students in the 2015-16 year.

The principal goal of Kaskaskia College's CWSP Program includes: 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 CWSP, 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 CWSP FY15

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

Recommended Amount: \$22,115

Project Synopsis: Lake Land College's Fiscal Year 2015 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 2015, a participation level of approximately 17 students is anticipated, and financially needy students will fill at least 90 percent of available positions. Targeted programs include Building Construction Technology, Manufacturing, and Education. Lake Land's CWSP is strengthening collaboration between higher education, business, industry and local government. Six employers, including a local school district and manufacturing and construction companies, have committed their participation for 2015. 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 2015, the six participating employers expressed interest in placing a total of at least 17 interns. With a greater number of potential positions available, these 17 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 and Clark Community College

Project Title: Lewis and Clark Community College ICWSP FY2015

Project Director: Mr Terry D. Lane
Associate Director, Career and Veteran Services
Lewis and Clark Community College
5800 Godfrey Road, Baldwin Hall 2418
Godfrey, IL 62035
(618) 468-5500
tdlane@lc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$19,866

Project Synopsis: Lewis and Clark Community College (L&C), with the assistance of the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program, will place approximately 14 students from our career programs into internships or cooperative work study experiences with approximately ten area employers. Career programs may include Nursing, Automotive Technology, Computer Networking/Services, Welding Technology, Paralegal, etc. We plan to engage a wide variety of students and a wide variety of area employers to meet the Goals and Objectives stated in application.

Institution: Lewis University

Project Title: Lewis University Intertrak

Project Director: Ms. Christine Breier
Associate Director, Career Services
Lewis University
One University Parkway
Romeoville, IL 60446-2200
(815) 836-5675
breierch@lewisu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$10,164

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, Lewis University (the University) serves approximately 6,500 students. Eighty-five percent of the total undergraduate student population at the University receives some form of financial aid. In addition, a significant number of the University students are first generation college students, and approximately 32 percent of the 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 three months at their internship assignment. During the previous year, the average amount earned per hour was \$12 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. The 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: Lincoln Land Community College

Project Title: Lincoln Land Community College Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Mary Beth Ray, Director
Advising, Counseling and Career Development Services,
Student Services
Lincoln Land Community College
5250 Shepherd Road, P.O. Box 19256
Springfield, IL 62794-9256
(217) 786-2472
marybeth.ray@llcc.edu

Recommended Amount: 15,000

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 Cooperative Work Program

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

Recommended Amount: \$7,870

Project Synopsis: The primary goal of the MacMurray College Cooperative Work Study Program is to provide meaningful, paid internship experiences for Illinois resident students in their areas of concentration. MacMurray has participated in the program since 1998, providing paid internships to students and benefiting area businesses. The grant objectives are listed below.

The program will enhance partnerships between higher education and businesses, and encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois. MacMurray College will:

- Expand opportunities for students to pursue hands-on, real work experience with paid, practical internships directly related to their future professions and career goals;
- Strengthen cooperation between MacMurray and local employers to produce a skilled employee pool with training that may lead to permanent position offers;
- Boost community and social service by placing student interns in area non-profits such as after-school programs and hospitals;
- Assist students financially, reducing reliance on student loans through marketing efforts that emphasize student interns with financial need; and
- Encourage students to seek permanent employment in the State of Illinois.

The College is currently working to increase internship and career experiences locally for our students. Funding from this program will assist MacMurray in its current efforts to expand these opportunities both for students and businesses. Throughout the year, plans are to continue identification of additional opportunities we can include in future grant proposals. The interest to participate in this project from several local employers is encouraging, as will be detailed within the grant proposal.

Institution: McHenry County College

Project Title: Working for the Future

Project Director: Mr. Mark J. Dougher
Director of Resource Development
McHenry County College
8900 U.S. Highway 14
Crystal Lake, IL 60012
(815) 479-7515
mdougher@mchenry.edu

Recommended Amount: \$9,870

Project Synopsis: McHenry County College (MCC) requests funding from the Illinois Board of Education under the Cooperative Work Study Program grant in support of MCC's Working for the Future Program. The proposed program will: (1) establish and nurture public/private partnerships with local businesses and industries that encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois; and (2) increase academic experience for students while providing financial benefits and reducing reliance on student loans.

Academic Departments within MCC's Division of Education, Career and Technical Education plan to place at least seven students with McHenry County businesses or industries. Work Study sites will be developed focusing on industry needs, programmatic relationships, and student areas of study. Placements will last at least one semester with students working an average of 240 hours and earning an average of \$10 per hour. Each student completing the Cooperative Work Study program is able to receive three college credit hours.

Faculty members from MCC's Division of Education, Career, and Technical Education will offer paid internships to interested and eligible students to help offset the cost of tuition and avoid student loans. 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, on written evaluation and consultations with the cooperating employer. MCC's Coordinator of Career Services will follow up with businesses to evaluate the success of the placement.

Institution: Methodist College

Project Title: Methodist College Internship Work Study Program

Project Director: Dr. Staci P Wolfe
Assessment and Accreditation Specialist, Research
Methodist College
415 St. Mark Court
Peoria, IL 61603
(309) 672-5531
swolfe@methodistcol.edu

Recommended Amount: \$18,420

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: Continue a work-study program that provides students the opportunity to experience specialized nursing and provide care to the local community;
- Objective 2: Strengthen the relationship between Methodist College of UnityPoint Health and UnityPoint Health-Methodist/Proctor in providing educational opportunities for senior student prior to entering the workforce;
- Objective 3: Continue to work on establishing a positive student-hospital (Unity-Point Health-Methodist/Proctor) relationships that encourage employment of the student; and
- Objective 4: Provide students with financial support in their educational endeavor to become specialized nurses.

Institution: Millikin University

Project Title: Millikin University Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

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

Recommended Amount: \$13,455

Project Synopsis: In Fiscal Year 2015, Millikin’s Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) Program will continue into its twelfth 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 Tabor School of Business and Career Center will not only create and maintain partnerships with community employment sites, but also will 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 Higher Education for these efforts. Funding will provide support for 15-20 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, and Theatre 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.

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 Fiscal Year 2015

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

Recommended Amount: \$16,093

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 2011-12 saw a 19 percent increase in internship participation over the previous year. The academic year 2012-13 continued to see an increase of six percent. Since, we have seen a consistent increase of approximately nine percent annually.

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: North Park University – New in Fiscal Year 2015

Project Title: INTER-NETWORK Program

Project Director: Ms. Renee O. Cox
Grant Writer, Development
North Park University
3225 West Foster Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625
(773) 244-5757
rocox@northpark.edu

Recommended Amount: \$8,470

Project Synopsis: Grant funds awarded to North Park University will be used to expand paid internship opportunities for qualifying students through the development and expansion of the INTER-NETWORK Program. The anticipated academic benefits resulting from the work experiences provided include:

- Paid work experiences that relate to educational goals and career preparation for 18-24 students at a minimum of five employer sites;
- An income source that can help pay for various academic and educational expenses;
- One to four hours of academic credit for students enrolled in majors requiring an internship; and
- An increased likelihood of securing employment in Illinois after graduation in a work setting directly relating to their educational, professional, and life goals.

In addition to the expected benefits to students identified above, one of the primary goals of the INTER-NETWORK program is to further relationships between North Park University and local employers, businesses, and resources to create a strong network of organizations leading sustainable employment opportunities for Illinois residents. Matching funds will be leveraged on a 50/50 ratio from the majority of employers, while allowing us to fully cover wages through the grant for up to six students placed in non-profits or service based organizations that provide community focused work experiences but do not have the resources available to meet the matching requirement.

Institution: Northeastern Illinois University

Project Title: Employer and Academic Partnerships Opportunity for Success in Illinois

Project Director: Dr. Elaine Blair
Director, Career Development Center
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 North St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625
(773) 442-4693
e-blair@neiu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$19,348

Project Synopsis: The Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program at Northeastern Illinois University entitled, “Employer and Academic Partnerships Opportunity for Success in Illinois” will develop relationships with public and private sector employers in Illinois to provide quality internships for eligible undergraduate students. Program goals include providing students with out-of-classroom experiences related to their academic studies and exposing students to the benefits of working in Illinois.

Northeastern Illinois University proposes to use grant funds to establish internships for current undergraduate students who meet program eligibility criteria. Proactive outreach efforts in developing employer relationships is a goal of the program, demonstrating how higher education and employers can work together to help bridge the transition from college to the work world. The proposed “Employer and Academic Partnerships Opportunity for Success in Illinois” program will provide an opportunity for students to connect to the community.

The specific academic majors identified by the prospective employers for internship development during Fiscal Year 2015 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. Employer commitments to the program are thirteen with a proposed hiring of 35 student interns from the above mentioned majors.

Institution: Northern Illinois University

Project Title: Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

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

Recommended Amount: \$39,468

Project Synopsis: The Northern Illinois University (NIU) 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 our previous Illinois Cooperative Work Study grant awards. Selected employers will offer career-relevant work experiences for students from the NIU Colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and 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: Fiscal Year 2015 ICWSP Application

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

Recommended Amount: \$25,207

Project Synopsis: Since 2000, Oakton Community College's Internship Program, funded by the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program, has provided 413 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 ten to 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 Fiscal Year 2015, Oakton's Internship Program proposes to place 32 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: Parkland College – New in Fiscal Year 2015

Project Title: Parkland College Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Mr. Joshua Birky
Program Manager, Grants and Contracts
Parkland College
2400 West Bradley Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821
(217) 353-2167
jbirky@parkland.edu

Recommended Amount: \$10,164

Project Synopsis: Parkland College’s program will provide internship opportunities for Parkland students in the Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT) department. The two main goals of this internship program are to improve partnerships with local businesses to provide valuable relationships for Parkland students and to meet the academic, financial, and career needs of Parkland’s student population. The funding will support ten students with at least a B average. Students will work up to 20 hours each week during the summer, fall, and spring semesters (40 total weeks) and will earn an average of \$10 per hour. Many of Parkland’s students rely on financial aid to pay for college, so the funding provided through this program feels a critical need for the community.

Five businesses within Parkland’s district will be participating in the program this year. Each of these companies have agreed to pay 50 percent of the student’s wages and will complete evaluations of the students’ performance. Parkland’s Internship Supervisor will work with the students and employers to coordinate all aspects of the internships and make sure that both parties’ needs and expectations are being met. The Internship Supervisor continuously evaluates the internship program and regularly updates the CSIT department chair on the status of the program.

The CSIT Department has an annual goal that 80 percent of its graduates will find employment in a field that matches their academic area of focus. This program will help the department continue to reach this annual goal. Meeting the academic, career, and financial needs of our student population is a principle part of Parkland’s mission to engage the community in learning and we believe this program is aligned perfectly with this mission.

Institution: Quincy University

Project Title: 2015-16 Quincy University Early Exploratory Program

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

Recommended Amount: \$29,326

Project Synopsis: The Quincy University Early Exploratory Internship program will assist students in refining their career choices resulting in greater dedication in the classroom as a consequence of an improved sense of direction. The program will provide opportunities for students to intern in graphic design, information technology, communication, education, business and pre-professional programs to explore a variety of career fields in area agencies and businesses.

So far, 11 organizations have agreed to provide a 50 percent match for student wages for about 25 interns based on an average rate of \$9 per hour for an average of 10-15 hours per week each semester. The projected number of 35 interns will be placed with a combination of committed business and new opportunities. The Center for Professional Excellence Director in consultation with faculty and an internal Experiential Learning Committee will coordinate the program.

Institution: Rend Lake College

Project Title: Illinois COOP Grant – Fiscal Year 2015

Project Director: Ms. Erin Brynn Morris and
Community & Corporate Education Specialist
Rend Lake College
468 North Ken Gray Parkway
Ina, IL 62846
(618) 437-5321, ext. 1380
morrise@rlc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$22,022

Project Synopsis: Rend Lake College requests funding in 2015 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program grant funds for the purpose of providing cooperative education work experience opportunities for 29 students. Each student's work experience will be directly linked to their individual academic program. Twelve 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 2015 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 the 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 will also lessen the students' need for student loans.

Institution: Richland Community College

Project Title: IL CWS Richland CC

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

Recommended Amount: \$18,920

Project Synopsis: Richland Community College will provide a Cooperative Work Study program for approximately 20 students during the 2015-16 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 Financial Aid Office 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 Work Experience Practicum course 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 Fiscal Year 2015 Grant Proposal

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

Recommended Amount: \$10,164

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 Rockford and in the State of Illinois.

Institution: Roosevelt University

Project Title: Roosevelt University 2015 ICWS Proposal

Project Director: Mr. Christopher J Willis
Assistant Director, Employer Relations and Internships
Office of Career Development
Roosevelt University
425 South Wabash, 1M11H
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 341-3674
cwillis@roosevelt.edu

Recommended Amount: \$19,481

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 up to 16 cooperative education and internship students. Students from the five schools, Waalter E. Heller College of Business Administration, College of Education, College of Arts and 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 (both in the public and private sectors).

Institution: Shawnee Community College

Project Title: Cooperative Workstudy

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

Recommended Amount: \$17,043

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:

1. To 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: SSC Employer Sponsored Work Study

Project Director: Mr Jose I. Regalado
Resource Development Liaison, Administration
South Suburban College of Cook County
1580 South State Street
South Holland, IL 60473
(218) 254-2540
Jregalado@ssc.edu

Recommended Amount: \$4,682

Project Synopsis: South Suburban College (SSC) is requesting funds from the Illinois Board of Higher Education to provide Employer Based Internships that will provide SSC students the opportunity to acquire real world experience in workplaces directly related to their courses of study.

The program will subsidize 50 percent of internship wages for up to 16 weeks for ten students. The wages have been set at \$10 per hour for a maximum of 20 hours per week. This schedule is open to modification in order to address the requirements of the worksite and the needs of the students. Internship sites have the final approval of the students to be assigned. Ideally, the work assignments will match the principal product or service of the work site, though assignments to support functions are welcome as well.

An applicant pool will be generated for the project from students that are approaching graduation or the completion of a shorter term certificate. Sponsoring companies will be able to schedule an interview from students in a course of study directly related to the business or from general employment that the company utilizes.

The SSC program will improve the linkage between the college and area employers by including participating companies as stakeholders in the development of training and employment opportunities in the district. Available employment opportunities included engineering and related technical fields, construction trades and management, education and child care, municipal economic development assignments, and law enforcement.

Institution: Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Project Title: SIU Carbondale Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program 2015

Project Director: Ms. Nadine Micheline Wojnarowski
Administrative Aide, School of Architecture
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
875 South Normal Avenue, MC-4337
410 Quigley Hall
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 453-1113
nwojnar@siu.edu

Recommended Amount: \$11,455

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.

Twenty-two employers have submitted letters of interest to participate in the program and project hiring approximately 22 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 to \$20 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
0281 Student Success Center
Campus Box 1620
Edwardsville, IL 62026
(618) 650-3708
sseiber@siue.edu

Recommended Amount: \$18,920

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 for those in majors and career interest areas currently experiencing growth at the institution; (5) reducing student dependence on financial aid and student loans by providing up to 30 paid Co-op or Internship opportunities to SIUE students with a 50/50 salary match by participating employers; and (6) 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 learning outcome information.

Institution: Southwestern Illinois College

Project Title: SWIC 2015-16 IWSG

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

Recommended Amount: \$14,352

Project Synopsis: The 14 internships provided by 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 six program areas, eight 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. Six internships in the private sector with a partial funding match; two Culinary Arts internships will be offered allowing the students to apply classroom theories to actual situations and provide opportunities to gain meaningful work experience; one Network Design and Administration internship working in the telecommunications and computer field will provide students with knowledge and skills required for entry level positions as a network professional; two Paralegal Internship will be offered where the intern will gain valuable experience in the legal field to prepare students for gainful employment in a law firm; and one Web Design and Administration internship will give provide a student with knowledge and skills required for an entry-level position as a web developer and administrator. Eight community service internships will be included in the grant: two Human Services internships will allow the student to gain experience in serving special needs clients; four Office and Administrations and Technology internship will offer the student experience in office skills in a not-for-profit environment; one Paralegal Studies internship will be in a legal services office; and one Web Design and Administration internship will give a range experience in maintaining and developing web sites in order to provide a student with knowledge and skills required for an entry level position as a web developer and administrator.

Institution: St. Xavier University

Project Title: Saint Xavier University ICWS Program

Project Director: Ms. Jodi Martin
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Recommended Amount: \$9,861

Project Synopsis: The primary goal of the Internship 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 96percent 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. Six employers have confirmed participation in the program and three 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
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Student Development Cooper Center
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Recommended Amount: \$13,552

Project Synopsis: Trinity Christian College@Work, the Trinity Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program (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, schools, 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 eight employers to offer 24 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 significant and income-producing jobs that will reduce their reliance on loans as the primary means of financing their undergraduate education. In addition, the relationships developed with the employers may provide networking opportunities for the students that assist them upon program completion to find full-time employment in their chosen fields.

Institution: Triton College

Project Title: Expanding Work Study Experiences – Triton College

Project Director: Mr. R. Richard Williams
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Recommended Amount: \$20,631

Project Synopsis: Triton College’s Fiscal Year 2015 program, “Expanding Work Study Experiences,” proposes to expand its services and initiatives to students and employers while intensifying outreach and communication. The first proposed expansion involves a wide variety of employers from the Triton College District. Triton is developing a new “Employers On Campus” program which brings more employers on campus to talk directly with students. In the last three months alone, more than 50 employers interviewed on campus, resulting in more than 75 hires. As part of this new employer program, we have also introduced the benefits of our cooperative education program, which has interested many area employers. However, some lack the budget to hire students in a work-based learning capacity. Incentives and reimbursements will help, according to many employers.

The second initiative involves a deeper commitment to the community that Triton serves, with a particular emphasis on understanding the needs of community members, students and employers. 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 developing students and future workers to be ready for the job market.

Using internal and external research, Triton College commits to reaching out to industries and employers that offer high-growth occupations, helping students secure strong starts in thriving fields. Triton College staff has identified specific high-growth opportunities, based on key criteria: (a) needs of local of local employers; (b) strong salaries for students; and (c) good fit with the curriculum 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, Logistics; and Information Technology. In addition, “Expanding Work Study Experiences” 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 “Expanding Work Study Experiences 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, called 360 Success, surround and help each student and employer through multiple touch-points – in fact, 360 degrees of support. This overall strategy provides customized, 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
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Recommended Amount: \$9,317

Project Synopsis: The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is a public research university and is the largest Research I institution in the Chicago region. UIC enrolls approximately 16,700 undergraduate students across eight colleges and schools. The three largest colleges and schools in regard to undergraduate enrollment among the eight include: Liberal Arts and Sciences (9,078); Engineering (2,724); and Business (2,329). The university serves a diverse population of students and there is not an ethnic majority on campus. For the 2013-14 academic years, nearly 50 percent (49.6 percent) of students were Pell eligible.

For the past few years, the School of Architecture at UIC has received funding from the Illinois Cooperative Work Study grant. These funds have been directed entirely to students from the School of Architecture. This year, however, the School of Architecture and the Office of Career Services have partnered to create 25 additional internship offerings for students in other academic and interdisciplinary fields of study. The goal of this partnership is to provide a broad range of undergraduate students with quality internship opportunities that enable them to connect what is learned in the classroom to different sectors of for-profit and not-for-profit industries.

School of Architecture

Through the Cooperative Work Study Program at the School of Architecture at UIC, we seek to achieve a number of goals. A primary goal is to provide students with professional work experiences with architectural firms and cultural institutions that will assist them in gaining employment post-graduation. Equally importantly, Cooperative Work Study provides students with experiences that 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. In addition, the program assists our students with the development of their professional skills, including analytical thinking and reasoning and strong interpersonal communication.

Other 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. And because Chicago is one of the world centers for architecture, the experiences gained through the Cooperative Work Study program therefore provide our students with a critical advantage in an extremely competitive employment market.

Office of Career Services

The Office of Career Services has been intentional in dedicating resources to support the UIC Career Services Internship Program. The goals of the program are: (1) to provide undergraduate students quality internship opportunities that enable them to connect what is learned in the classroom to different sectors of for-profit and not-for-profit industries; and (2) enhance their ability to be more competitive in the job market upon graduation.

Employers are increasingly considering internships a prerequisite to obtaining a job offer upon graduation. The 2013-14 Recruiting Trends report prepared by Dr. Philip Gardner of the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University states that 80 percent of employers surveyed plan to offer internship programs for students. According to Dr. Gardner and a recent article from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) entitled “Factors Associated with Job-Search Success” (November 2014), internships are a critical component in obtaining a job early in the job search process. A newly structured internship program will enable Career Services to enhance relationships with students by engaging them in the career planning process earlier in their academic pursuits.

For many UIC students, there are inherent barriers in landing quality internship experiences. Many are first generation college students and have to work to support themselves during their college career. A paid internship opportunity will significantly reduce the financial burden that many students face when seeking internships in their desired fields.

The expanded UIC Career Services Internship Program will continue to reduce reliance on financial aid for students, increase the number of relationships with various companies and organizations that hire and support students in the program particularly in the social and community service sectors, and create greater prospects of permanent employment in Illinois with these employers for students upon graduation.

Institution: University of Illinois Springfield

Project Title: UIS Internship Services ICWS Grant Proposal

Project Director: Ms. Sarah Stover
Assistant Director, Internships and Prior Learning Services
University of Illinois at Springfield
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Recommended Amount: \$23,650

Project Synopsis: The objective of this project is to increase the number of paid internship opportunities available to students completing academic internships through the University of Illinois Springfield Internships and Prior Learning Services. We request matching funds for approximately 52 paid internship opportunities. Students will receive a wage a \$9 per hour for their work. Many students need to work during their college career in order to survive. The days of being a full-time college student with no other outside commitments are becoming a thing of the past. Being able to earn a wage while completing an internship that contributes to their general education requirements will help make students' college costs more manageable. It also will allow students to have more time for their academic studies if they do not have to work an additional job outside of their internship in order to make ends meet.

Students participating in the CWS program will complete their internships through the Internships and Prior Learning Services office, which requires an Internship Course in order for the students to earn credit. Upon successful completion of the Internship Course, students not only have earned credits required for graduation, but they also have obtained valuation experiences that can assist them in locating employment beyond college.

Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Project Title: Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant – UIUC

Project Director: Dr. Gail S. Rooney
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Director, Career Center
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grooney@illinois.edu

Recommended Amount: \$22,425

Project Synopsis: The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) seeks funding to partially support more than 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 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program in Fiscal Year 2015 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 in meeting 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; (3) exposure to career paths within their discipline; and (4) plan to assess student's performance. 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 no more than \$1,500 per student. By employers bearing a larger proportion of student earnings, the impact of this program is enhanced.

Institution: University of St. Francis

Project Title: University of St. Francis – Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

Project Director: Ms. Nancy A. Pohlman
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Joliet, IL 60435
(800) 735-7500
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Recommended Amount: \$10,164

Project Synopsis: The University of St. Francis (USF), located in Joliet, is a Franciscan Catholic liberal arts university with a total enrollment of more than 3,700 students from across the United States and abroad. In serving its mission to prepare “women and men to contribute to the world through service and leadership,” USF emphasizes the Franciscan values of respect, compassion, service and integrity. Its academic programs uniquely combine the Catholic tradition of liberal learning of thought, letters, and art with work study and experiential learning that helps students prepare for careers and life.

Expanding work study opportunities for USF students through the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program (ICWS) will enable USF to achieve four key outcomes:

1. Benefit work study students both academically and financially, by reinforcing the connections between their academic studies and their future career paths, and thereby strengthening the return on investment of both components of their educations;
2. Bolster USF’s efforts to reduce reliance on student loans, a major concern for a student body with virtually all undergraduates receiving financial assistance;
3. Build on USF’s strong relationships with public and private employers, by offering them a broader talent pool of student workers who combine USF’s rigorous academic standards with real world applications, in diverse industries USF students wish to pursue, such as hospitality, customer service, recreation and healthcare; and
4. Encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois after graduation, by connecting them with a broader network of self-selected local employers who seek job candidates with the academic backgrounds and work experiences of USF work study participants.

Institution: Waubonsee Community College

Project Title: Waubonsee Community College IL Cooperative Work-Study Program

Project Director: Mr. Anderson Lee
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Recommended Amount: \$13,299

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

The college's work-based learning program is coordinated by its Career Services Department, and participating in the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program has benefited students, many of whom must work, academically and financially, by bringing them closer to graduation and reducing their reliance on student loans. The Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program also enhances public-private sector partnerships between the college and businesses and industries within its district. Resultant opportunities encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.

The Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program's ongoing support has enabled WCC's internship program to withstand a recession and expanded opportunities for students to earn credit(s) after completing an internship. The number of students registering for an internship each academic year has steadily grown since 2008, and funding in Fiscal Year 2015 will continue to increase funds for job training and the probability of degreed students obtaining full-time employment in high-demand fields.

