

APPROVED
AUGUST 11, 2015

Item #VII-16
August 11, 2015

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

GENERAL GRANTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2016

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval to release the General Grants in Fiscal Year 2016 after the funds have been appropriated to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) for distribution. Last year, funds were appropriated for seven projects and most of the funds passed through the IBHE as General Grants. It is anticipated that the same will occur in the current fiscal year but the award amounts are unknown. Waiting to seek approval after the Fiscal Year 2016 budget is finalized will unnecessarily delay the release of funds for these programs.

The seven programs that received General Grants last fiscal year are shown below in alphabetical order:

- 22nd Century Professionals of Illinois (formerly Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program (CAHMCP));
- Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS);
- Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA), Fusion: Igniting Teaching and Learning;
- MyCredits Transfer Project (Transferology);
- Quad-Cities Graduate Center;
- University Center of Lake County; and
- Washington Center Internship

Recipients of these funds are required to provide a budget, an annual audit report, a project evaluation, and a completed statement of certification specifying their compliance with terms and conditions of any General Grant agreement.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education authorize the Executive Director to distribute General Grant awards made to any of the seven grantees listed above pursuant to any Public Acts for the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

GENERAL GRANTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2016

This item requests approval to release the General Grants in Fiscal Year 2016 after the funds have been appropriated to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) for distribution. Last year, funds were appropriated for seven projects and most of the funds passed through the IBHE as General Grants. It is anticipated that the same will occur in the current fiscal year but the award amounts are unknown. Waiting to seek approval after the Fiscal Year 2016 budget is finalized will unnecessarily delay the release of funds for these programs.

Recipients of these funds are required to provide a budget, an annual audit report, a project evaluation, and a completed statement of certification specifying their compliance with terms and conditions of any General Grant agreement. The seven programs that received General Grants last fiscal year are shown below with a description of the project and the amount of the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation reduced by PA 099-0001 in March 2015.

Project/Institution

22nd Century Professionals of Illinois

(Formerly Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program (CAHMCP))

Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation: \$1,433,600

In redefining the commitment to career development, the now 22nd Century Professionals of Illinois is the embodiment and progressive evolution of the CAHMCP component programs that have served Illinois students, from seventh grade through their post-baccalaureate studies, in their quests to achieve excellence in higher educational pursuits. Since 1979 the Chicago Health and Medical Careers Program nomenclature has implied or strongly suggested that the program services and support are limited to the health and medical professions, particularly at the Preceptorship, Graduate/Professional Test Prep, and Post-Baccalaureate Program levels. The 22nd Century Professionals of Illinois program clearly reflects that the programs are designed to enhance individual skills and academic progress and provide unrestricted support for all students pursuing degrees beyond the secondary level.

CAHMCP will remain in its entirety as a dedicated 22nd Century module for those seeking health and/or medical professional degrees in tandem with comparable subsets that concentrate on law, business and technology, arts and humanities, engineering industrial science, etc. The fundamental pipeline structure remains intact although several component programs are being re-designed and developed to more efficiently incorporate non-medical professional career choices.

Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS)

Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation: \$424,200

The P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act requires the creation of a system and the improvement of data collection of Illinois students. In this phase of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS), IBHE will continue to work with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission

(ISAC) to build, warehouse and monitor the IBHE ILDS Database. Data collection from the four-year public institutions will continue. The database will be designed to produce auto-generated reports and business analytical tools for institutions of higher education.

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA)

IMSA Fusion: Igniting Teaching and Learning

Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation: \$106,600

IMSA Fusion is an after-school enrichment program for Illinois students in late elementary (grades 4-5) and middle school (grades 6-7-8) that are talented, interested and motivated in mathematics and science, with a special focus on students historically underrepresented and under-served in mathematics and science. Fusion also serves as a professional development program for participating Illinois teachers.

IMSA Fusion has four major goals:

- to maintain or increase students' interest, involvement and literacy in science and mathematics;
- to enhance the knowledge and skills of middle school science and mathematics teachers;
- to stimulate excellence in middle schools' science and mathematics programs; and
- to increase access to programming for students who are historically underrepresented in mathematics and science for all areas of the state.

MyCreditsTransfer Project (Transferology)

Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation: \$203,700

The MyCreditsTransfer Project is a statewide initiative that makes information available to students via a free web-based tool (Transferology). The MyCreditsTransfer Project seeks to aid all students who intend to transfer credits among Illinois higher education institutions. Students can create personal accounts through which they can track their progress toward specific degrees at institutions where they have not yet matriculated. This puts community college students on similar footing with those students who start at the baccalaureate-granting institutions (i.e., "native students"). For the vast majority of the latter, their institutions allow them to run degree audits, usually done online, to see all degree requirements and evaluate where they stand relative to those requirements. The information made available to transfer students through Transferology helps enable them to make the most of their time and money as they work toward degree completion.

One of the intended outcomes of the MyCreditsTransfer Project is to provide students who are underrepresented in higher education access to information about how they can most efficiently transfer to baccalaureate-granting institutions. With increased implementation at the state's public universities and with improved promotion at the state's community colleges, the goal is to see larger numbers of underrepresented minority students transferring and a greater proportion of those students moving from community colleges to Illinois senior institutions.

In the 2014 academic year, 164,800 unique users accessed the system. This was an increase of 22.5 percent over academic year 2013, giving Illinois the distinction of the most Transferology users in the United States.

In addition to the IBHE grant, MyCreditsTransfer is supported by the University of Illinois, the iTransfer.org project, and the participating institutions.

Quad-Cities Graduate Center

Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation: \$82,000

The Quad Cities Graduate Study Center (GradCenter) is an academic consortium that was founded in 1969 by members of the business, government, and education communities to increase access to high quality graduate-level programming and foster local economic growth.

The GradCenter is affiliated with 10 member institutions that offer a wide range of educational programs. Currently, 110 certificate, masters, doctorate and non-credit course options are available with an enrollment of over 3,200 students.

University Center of Lake County

Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation: \$1,173,000

Established by the IBHE in 1998, the University Center of Lake County (Center) is a consortium of 10 public and 10 private colleges and universities that deliver bachelor completion, master's degrees, and certificate and workforce development programs to an underserved northeast suburban Chicago. Nearly \$25 million in county, state, and federal funds were used to construct and open permanent facilities in Waukegan and Grayslake in 2004 and 2005 respectively. Today, over 1,300 students are enrolled in over 900 classes and the Center hosts or holds over 900 educational conferences and meetings serving over 25,000 citizens annually.

The creation of the Center was an intentional decision made by IBHE after much research. In early studies and through 15 years of experience, the University Center delivery model has shown that it allows the most opportunity and the greatest access to high-quality higher education programs at the lowest cost. Representatives from over 20 states and two foreign countries have visited to learn more about this successful national model. The Center serves as a real success story for IBHE in that it supports and delivers on all four goals of the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success – increased educational attainment, improved college affordability, attention to workforce needs, and support of economic growth.

Washington Center Internship

Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation: \$97,800

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars (TWC) is the largest, independent, nonprofit experiential education organization in the United States and has more than 50,000 alumni. For more than 35 years, The Washington Center has played a crucial role in preparing young people for leadership and promoting civic participation by connecting motivated students with companies, organizations, congressional offices, and federal agencies that exemplify the values of leadership and community service. Through The Washington Center's program, students work as full-time interns, complete an academic course, and participate in a structured set of activities designed to build leadership skills and civic awareness.

The Washington Center's program offers workforce development opportunities for students. Recognizing this, more than 20 states have partnered with TWC since 1995 to provide necessary financial aid for qualified students to enroll. States typically provide \$5,000 to \$7,000 for each student. In Illinois, the \$97,800 Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation was divided into 17 scholarships. In addition, The Washington Center offered a \$1,000 match to each student, giving leverage to the state's money. Students at the state's public colleges and universities were eligible for scholarships.

Nearly all students who participate in The Washington Center's program receive academic credit for their semester or summer term in Washington D.C., thanks to arrangements with more than 500 universities throughout the United States. The Washington Center has successfully established campus "liaisons," faculty and staff members who promote the program on campus and recommend students to apply, at Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, and Southern Illinois University Carbondale. They also have contacts at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Illinois at Springfield that should lead to continuing relationships. The Washington Center will continue to build relationships at these universities and work on others in the coming year.

Recommendation:

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education authorizes the Executive Director to distribute General Grant awards made to any of the seven projects listed above pursuant to any Public Acts for the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.