



To: DFI New Applicants

From: Jerry Blakemore - Chairman DFI Program Board

Re: Update on FY2010 Statewide Budget

Date: July 8, 2009

In May you received an award letter notifying you that you were selected as a Diversifying Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Fellow. As you may know, DFI funding is contingent on “appropriations of funds by the State of Illinois and any mandatory reserves,” and as such allocation of funds is dependant upon state appropriations. While the DFI program remains the top priority for the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and the DFI Program Board, we regret to inform you that as of today, the Legislature has not appropriated funding for DFI.

We continue to be hopeful and will continue to advocate for full funding for the DFI program, but believe that it is in your best interest to know that due to the severity and uncertainty of the State’s fiscal condition, it is highly unlikely that new applicants will be funded for the 2009/2010 academic year. It would be prudent to pursue other possible financial or fellowship opportunities.

We will keep you informed of any new developments as we advocate for you and this very valuable program.

cc: DFI Program Board Members, DFI Institutional Representatives, Judy Erwin, IBHE Executive Director, Rich Jachino, Associate Director, Grant Administration, Richard Tapia, Assistant Director for Diversity and Outreach