



To: DFI Renewal Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Blakemore".

From: Jerry Blakemore - Chairman DFI Program Board

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

Re: Update on FY2010 Statewide Budget

Date: July 20, 2009

In May you received an award letter notifying you that your Diversifying Faculty in Illinois (DFI) fellowship was renewed. This award letter stated that funding was contingent on “appropriations of funds by the State of Illinois and any mandatory reserves.”

While the DFI program remains a top priority for the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and the DFI program board, I want to inform you that the budget approved by the General Assembly and Governor reduced the funding for all IBHE grants, including DFI, in the 2010 fiscal year budget which began on July 1, 2009. Unfortunately, as of this date, we are unsure of the exact amount of the reduction.

While *renewing DFI Fellows* will have top priority in IBHE grant funding, I felt it important to alert you that your DFI Fellowship grant may be reduced from the anticipated award amount stated in your May award letter. We will contact you just as soon as we have greater certainty on the specific amount of your award.

I appreciate your patience and understanding and look forward to contacting you in the near future.