

APPROVED
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Item #H-3
September 10, 2019

**NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2020 AWARDS**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval for the Interim Executive Director to determine the 19 nurse educators to receive fellowship awards under the Nurse Educator Fellowship Program. The goal of this program is to keep well-qualified faculty in Illinois nursing schools that prepare students to become registered nurses.

This grant program is tied to Goal 3 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy. Nursing has been a long-term high-demand field that requires the retention of well-qualified faculty to train additional nursing students. This fellowship helps institutions recognize their well-qualified nurse educators so that Illinois can continue to address the long-term demand for well-trained nurses.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education authorizes the Interim Executive Director to allocate fellowship awards of \$10,000 to eligible institutions on behalf of the 19 individuals selected to receive Nurse Educator Fellowships.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2020 AWARDS**

Participation in this program is open to Illinois institutions of higher learning with a pre-licensure nursing program approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

To be eligible to receive a fellowship award, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Nominated by the chief nursing administrator in an eligible institution;
- Made significant contributions to the nursing program;
- Illinois resident and a minimum of a master's degree in nursing;
- Employed in a full-time nursing faculty position at an eligible institution;
- Employed by the nominating institution in a teaching position preparing registered nurses for a minimum of 12 months; and
- Did not receive a fellowship award in the past five years.

Fellowship funds are salary supplements that, at the discretion of the Fellow, may be used for expenses related to professional development and continuing education. Awards are made to the participating higher education institution on behalf of the fellow selected to receive the award.

The Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation for the program is \$197,400 and will provide 19 fellowships of \$10,000 each. The fellowship amount is set by rule. Fellows will have an opportunity to participate in statewide nursing advocacy and will prepare a final report to describe their fellowship experience.

Recommendation

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Interim Executive Director to allocate the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation of \$190,000 to eligible institutions on behalf of the 19 individuals selected to receive \$10,000 Nurse Educator Fellowship awards as specified by statute and administrative rule. The Board authorizes the Interim Executive Director to:

- 1) *Determine eligibility of nursing schools and nominees; evaluate, score, and rank nominees; and select nominees for funding, pursuant to statute (110 ILCS 205/9.32) and the rules implementing the statute (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1105);*
- 2) *Distribute awards to nursing schools on behalf of fellows; and*
- 3) *Provide the Board with the list of nurse educators selected for funding and the nominating institutions at the next Board meeting.*