

**APPROVED
JUNE 9, 2020**

Item #G-9
June 9, 2020

**GENERAL GRANTS
FISCAL YEAR 2021 AWARDS**

Submitted for: Approval.

Summary: This item requests approval for the Executive Director to award six General Grants, pending further action by the General Assembly and the Governor. Recipients of these grants are required to provide a budget, a project closeout report, and a completed statement of certification specifying their compliance with terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
University Center of Lake County	\$1,055,700
STEM Creating Pathways and Access for Student Success	\$1,433,600
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, IMSA Fusion: Igniting Teaching and Learning	\$95,900
Quad-Cities Graduate Center	\$73,800
MyCreditsTransfer Project	\$183,300
Grow Your Own Illinois	\$2,466,300
Total:	<u>\$5,308,600</u>

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to award six Fiscal Year 2021 General Grants, pending further action by the General Assembly and the Governor.

GENERAL GRANTS FISCAL YEAR 2021 AWARDS

This item details the funding for six General Grants, pending further action by the General Assembly and Governor. A General Grant is an appropriation of funds to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) by the General Assembly for the purpose of making grants to named entities or classes of entities. These appropriations are independent of any existing authorization for IBHE to administer the grants. The Board has written procedures for the administration and allocation of such appropriations, to give notice to potential recipients of these procedures, and to require accountability for the expenditure of these funds.

Recipients of these grants are required to provide a budget, a project closeout report, and a completed statement of certification specifying their compliance with terms and conditions of the grant agreement, pursuant to the Grants Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA).

University Center of Lake County – \$1,055,700

Established by IBHE in 1998, the University Center of Lake County (Center) is a consortium of 20 public and 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. Approximately 1,450 students are enrolled in over 1,300 courses.

The creation of the University 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. Many state and foreign representatives 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.

Creating Pathways and Access for Student Success – Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago – \$1,433,600

The Creating Pathways and Access for Student Success (CPASS) is run within the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago.

CPASS pursues an intervention strategy for the provision of enhanced academic and counseling support to minorities seeking to be professionals in medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary science, optometry, pharmacy, podiatry, and public health. The CPASS provides continual academic reinforcement in mathematics and science; standardized test preparation; focused clinical, research, and public policy internships; and highly individualized career counseling for all program participants at grade levels extending from middle school through the post baccalaureate years.

IMSA Fusion: Igniting Teaching and Learning – Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy – \$95,900

IMSA Fusion is an after-school enrichment program for Illinois students in late elementary (grades four and five) and middle school (grades six through eight) 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 the following goals:

- Empower teachers to advance student interest and learning in STEM by offering professional learning experiences that focus on cutting-edge STEM content; and
- Excite, engage and accelerate students through high quality academic and hands-on STEM enrichment programs.

Quad-Cities Graduate Center – \$73,800

The Quad Cities Graduate Study Center (Grad Center) 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 Grad Center is designed for students whose work and family responsibilities make traditional on-campus study difficult. The Grad Center strives to develop convenient and diverse programs offerings for students.

In Fiscal Year 2019, over 450 students utilized the Center with five institutions offering over 50 degree and certificate programs.

MyCreditsTransfer Project-University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – \$183,300

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

Grow Your Own-Grow Your Own Illinois – \$2,466,300

The Grow Your Own grant initiative shall help to create a statewide pipeline of teachers who are likely to become effective teachers statewide in hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students and hard-to-staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students. Further, the initiative shall increase the diversity of teachers, including diversity based on race and ethnicity. The initiative shall ensure educational rigor by effectively preparing candidates in accredited bachelor's degree programs in teaching, through which graduates shall meet the requirements to secure an Illinois initial teaching license/certificate.

Beginning with Fiscal Year 2020, per Public Act 101-0122, Grow Your Own Illinois (an Illinois Not for Profit Corporation) will be the administrator of the Grow Your Own grant. Grow Your Own Illinois will follow the same statute and rules, 110 ILCS 48 and Title 23 Part 1085, respectively, which IBHE was subject to. Grow Your Own Illinois will be responsible for all grant operational activity and expenditures along with the grant application and management process. IBHE will maintain the responsibility for the contracting of the independent evaluator of the grant funds. IBHE will hold back five percent or approximately \$123,000 for the contracting of the independent evaluator and Grant Accountability and Transparency Act related expenses. The remaining \$2,343,300 will be sent to Grow Your Own Illinois for funding of the grant activities.

Recommendation

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to award the Fiscal Year 2021 General Grants, pending further action by the General Assembly and the Governor.