

APPROVED
AUGUST 10, 2021

Item #C-14
August 10, 2021

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE QUAD CITIES

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item will present a recommendation to grant the Executive Director the authority to undertake an assessment of public higher education in the Quad Cities utilizing the \$500,000 appropriated for this purpose by the General Assembly, utilizing outside, contractual resources, resources internal to the Board of Higher Education, or some mix of the two, as appropriate.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education grants the Executive Director the authority to utilize the \$500,000 appropriation to undertake an assessment of public higher education in the Quad Cities through the use of contractual assistance and resources internal to IBHE as appropriate.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE QUAD CITIES

In the Fiscal Year 2022 budget IBHE received an appropriation of \$500,000 for purposes of an assessment of the Quad Cities higher education needs. There currently are two public resources available in the area: the Quad Cities Graduate Center and the Quad Cities campus of Western Illinois University.

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 program offerings for students. The Grad Center works with 5 member institutions to offer graduate programs with certificate, masters, doctorate, and non-credit options to students.

The Graduate Center first received funding from IBHE through the Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA). It currently has a state appropriation of \$73,800.

The Quad Cities campus of Western Illinois University had a Fall 2020 enrollment of 1,089 students, of which 88 percent were transfers. The campus offers 47-degree programs: bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and certificates. This includes four degrees that are exclusive to the campus:

- Counseling (Clinical Mental Health, School Counseling)
- Engineering
- Environmental Science: Large River Ecosystems (PhD)
- Museum Studies

In addition to the funds provided through WIU for operations of the campus, the state has appropriated the following in capital funding:

- \$5,600,000 – Construction at the Riverfront Campus (Originally from Illinois JobsNow! included in Rebuild Illinois package)
- \$3,315,000 – Renovation and construction of the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus (Originally from Illinois JobsNow! included in Rebuild Illinois package)
- \$30,000,000 – Costs associated with Phase III of the Western Illinois University – Quad Cities Campus Project (Initially included in FY 21 budget bill)

The \$500,000 passed by the General Assembly will allow IBHE to assess the current and future needs for higher education in the Quad Cities.

Recommendation

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants the Executive Director the authority to undertake an assessment of public higher education in the Quad Cities, utilizing the \$500,000 appropriated for this purpose, through either internal or external resources as she deems most appropriate.