

**FISCAL YEAR 2021 NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIPS**

**Submitted for:** Information.

**Summary:** This informational item will update the Board on the fellows selected for the Fiscal Year 2021 Nurse Educator Fellowship Program.

**Action Requested:** None.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**FISCAL YEAR 2021 NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIPS**

This program helps nursing programs retain faculty members which helps to address the on-going need for registered professional nurses in the workforce. Nursing schools in Illinois are struggling to retain their highly qualified educators due to the high number of faculty nearing retirement age and salary enticements offered by hospitals, clinics, and research facilities. In April 2019, the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center conducted a survey of prior fellows and reported that 96 percent are currently employed in nursing education. In addition, 84 percent are employed by the Illinois school that nominated the faculty member for the fellowship. This program is effective in retaining nurse educators.

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. Institutions provide the salary supplement of \$10,000 to the fellow through their payroll system.

At the June 9, 2020 Board meeting, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) authorized the Executive Director to:

- 1) *Notify eligible institutions when a state appropriation has been made and nomination materials for the Fiscal Year 2021 Nurse Educator Fellowship program are available.*
- 2) *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);*
- 3) *Distribute awards to nursing schools on behalf of fellows; and*
- 4) *Provide the Board with the list of nurse educators selected for funding and their nominating institutions at the December Board meeting.*

IBHE received 36 nominations from 24 Illinois schools of nursing, almost double the number of fellowships that could be funded. Funding for this program was placed on set aside in 2020 due to agency budget concerns. Applicants were notified of the delay. In February 2021, the funds were released from set aside and the applicants notified of a modified period for the program. Nominations were reviewed in consultation with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center. Sixteen nominees were selected for fellowship awards.

In 2021, the fellows will be recognized by the advisory board for the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center and will have an opportunity to share their work and professional development activities. Fellows may be asked to consult with the Illinois Board of Higher Education

and the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center regarding statewide nursing issues. Each fellow will be responsible for preparing a final report that describes their fellowship experience.

Listed below are the names of the fellows along with the nominating institutions.

**Fiscal Year 2021 Nurse Educator Fellows**

<u>Fellows</u> (in alphabetical order)	<u>Nominating Institutions</u>
Alisha Betka, DNP, MSN/Ed, RN, CHSE	University of Illinois Chicago
Tamara Boll, MSN, MBA, RN-BC	Trinity Christian College
Sheri Compton-McBride, DNP, RN	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Jorgia B. Connor, PhD, RN	Loyola University of Chicago
Therese Gallagher, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNL	Rush University
Angela Gilbreth, MSN, RN, CLS	Southwestern Illinois College
Teresa Gulley, MSN, RNC-OB	Millikin University
Monica E. Hall, PhD, RN	Illinois Wesleyan University
Sara McPherson, PhD, RN, CNE	University of Illinois Chicago, Springfield
Salimah Muhammad, DNP, MSN/Ed, RN	Chamberlain University-Chicago
Lynnann B Murphy, MN, RN	University of Saint Francis
Kara Richardson, MSN/Ed, RN	Heartland Community College
Cristan Sabio, PhD, MSN, RN	Northern Illinois University
Michele Shropshire, PhD, RN	Illinois State University
Lindsay A. White, MSN, RN, CNE, SANE	Western Illinois University
Cynthia D. Young, MSN, RN	Morton College