

**APPROVED**

**JUNE 29, 2022**

Item #F-1  
June 29, 2022

## **FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item requests approval to grant the Executive Director the authority to enter into Fiscal Year 2023 agreements and take necessary steps to implement the budget.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the following Fiscal Year 2023 grants and programs:

- Addressing Homelessness at Institutions of Higher Education
- Establishing the Behavioral Health Education Workforce Center
- Supporting the Illinois Early Childhood Workforce to Attain Degrees: Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity
- Illinois Tutoring Initiative
- Grow Your Own Teacher Program Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative
- Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative
- Common Application University Allocations, Analysis, and Administration
- Creating Pathways and Access for Student Success (CPASS)
- Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Program
- University Center of Lake County
- MyCredits Transfer
- Quad Cities Graduate Studies Center
- Illinois Math and Science Academy STEM Fusion
- Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant
- Nurse Educator Fellowship Program
- Nursing School Grant Program



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION AND GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

**Summary**

IBHE received Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations to support grants and programs aligned with *A Thriving Illinois*. This item request approval to develop and enter into the appropriate agreements to implement the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, including all appropriated grants and programs. These include:

- Addressing Homelessness at Institutions of Higher Education
- Establishing the Behavioral Health Education Workforce Center
- Supporting the Illinois Early Childhood Workforce to Attain Degrees: Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity
- Illinois Tutoring Initiative
- Grow Your Own Teacher Program Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative
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- Nursing School Grant Program

The pages that follow describe each program and how it is aligned to and supports the goals and strategies of *A Thriving Illinois*.

**Recommendation**

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to implement the fiscal year 2023 budget as specified in this Board item.*

*The Board additionally authorizes the Executive Director to:*

1. *Enter into intergovernmental and grant agreements necessary to facilitate implementation of the fiscal year 2023 budget;*

2. *Continue and amend fiscal year 2022 intergovernmental agreements, as necessary, to execute the fiscal year 2023 budget;*
3. *Award the fiscal year 2023 grants as outlined in this Board item; and*
4. *Issue requests for proposals and enter into agreements stemming from those proposals as outlined in this Board item.*

## **ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2023 ALLOCATION**

The Illinois higher education strategic plan – “A Thriving Illinois” – outlines strategies to close equity gaps, build a stronger financial future, and increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth. The strategic plan recognizes that to close equity gaps we must support students’ learning renewal and recovery from the pandemic, including ensuring students’ basic needs are met. Housing is one of the most basic needs, and this program will support the implementation of this strategy.

On July 9, 2021, the Higher Education Housing and Opportunities Act (110 ILCS 131 /) was signed into law. As a result of the new law, beginning August 1, 2022, all institutions of higher education (IHEs) are required to appoint a homelessness liaison, to give students experiencing homelessness priority in applying for on-campus housing, to make housing available to these students during breaks (where available), and to track and report data on students experiencing homelessness to IBHE. Additionally, on September 3, 2021, Governor Pritzker signed Executive Order 2021-21 to Fight Homelessness in Illinois which established the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness.

As a result of the work of this Task Force, IBHE received \$2 million from the Illinois Department of Human Services to aid the agency and the IHEs in implementing the law and addressing homelessness. To access the funds, IBHE will enter into an agreement with the Illinois Department of Human Services. The funds will be used to hire a dedicated IBHE staff member to implement the tasks required of IBHE and to create a pilot competitive grant program through which funds will be awarded to public and private universities for the purpose of addressing the underlying causes of homelessness and carrying out their responsibilities under the Act.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION WORKFORCE CENTER FISCAL YEAR 2023 ALLOCATION

According to some estimates, Illinois has only 13.8 behavioral health care professionals for every 10,000 residents which translates to over 4.8 million Illinois residents living in a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area. In 2018, Illinois House Resolution 711 declared Illinois is suffering from a Behavioral Healthcare Workforce Emergency; subsequently, Public Acts 100-0727 and 101-0202 were passed establishing the Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center Task Force. The findings of this task force were issued in a December 2019 report with recommendations to establish a workforce center to coordinate cross-sector strategies “to improve access to a qualified, diverse workforce providing evidence-based behavioral health prevention, treatment, and recovery services.” The behavioral health care workforce shortage was compounded during the COVID-19 emergency by adding pressure to safety net services for some of the most vulnerable. The Community Mental Health System and State-Operated Psychiatric Hospitals struggle to recruit and retain staff, jeopardizing services for Illinoisans with additional impacts in terms of increased hospital stays and overuse of the legal system.

The Illinois Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center (Center) is a joint initiative of the Department of Human Services and the Illinois Board of Higher Education. As established in the Healthcare and Human Services Reform Act of Illinois (Public Act 102-0004), the Center is designed to address the workforce shortage in the behavioral health system of care. Using a hub and spoke consortium model comprised of academic institutions that serve rural, as well as small and large urban areas of the state, the Center will increase access to effective services through coordinated and innovative initiatives to recruit, educate, and retain professionals in behavioral health.

The primary goals of the statewide Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center are to strengthen the behavioral healthcare system in Illinois through initiatives targeting the following:

- On an on-going basis, collect data on behavioral health workforce needs.
- Identify and make recommendations to address structural and policy barriers that inhibit behavioral health care recruitment, training, and retention in Illinois.
- Increase the number and diversity of behavioral health workers, including individuals with lived expertise, social workers, counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and other mental health professionals providing high-quality behavioral health services across the state.
- Increase the capacity of primary care physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, and nurses to meet behavioral health and substance use needs in primary health care settings.

These purposes are congruent with the goals and strategies of the higher education strategic plan, “A Thriving Illinois.” These include:

- Growth Strategy 3 – Align the state’s economic development and higher education strategies, ensuring both address historic inequities
- Growth Strategy 6 – Expand higher education models of teaching and learning that provide opportunity for students to succeed in the work of the future
- Equity Strategy 4 – Attract working adults through outreach and supports specifically for them.

The Center will be structured as a multisite model. Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU SOM) will serve as the administering hub. SIU SOM is tasked with a convening and coordinating role for workforce research and planning, including monitoring progress toward Center goals. The University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) will serve as the secondary hub with delineated

duties. Additional institutions of higher education, including public and independent universities and community colleges in ten regions will be invited to participate as a consortium of partners. SIU SOM, UIC, and all consortium members will deliver programs and related services to increase the behavioral health care workforce and its capacity to provide high-quality behavioral health services across the state.

The Center will also coordinate with key State agencies involved in behavioral health, workforce development, and higher education to leverage resources from health care, workforce, and economic development programs in Illinois government.

The Behavioral Health Education Workforce Center is funded with an initial investment of up to \$10 million through the Illinois Department of Human Services. These funds are included in the Illinois Board of Higher Education FY 23 appropriation.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY:  
SUPPORTING THE ILLINOIS EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE TO ATTAIN DEGREES  
FISCAL YEAR 2023 ALLOCATION**

The educator shortage affects all educational sectors including early childhood. There are nearly 28,000 current members of the early childhood workforce. Of these, approximately 8,000 have an Associate degree and need to upskill to a Bachelor's degree. An additional estimated 20,000 currently have less than Associate degree, who would upskill to additional credentials or an Associate degree. Barriers exist for candidates and educators at multiple points in the pipeline including initial recruitment; access to, retention in and completion of preparation programs; and persistence and advancement in the profession. These obstacles disproportionately affect diverse candidates and low-income and rural areas, leading to inequities that ultimately impact students in the same groups and geographic regions.

As part of its strategic planning process and as outlined in Public Act 101-0654, the Illinois Board of Higher Education led a working group of higher education professionals and other stakeholders in a process to review the barriers to higher education and career advancement experienced by the early childhood workforce and develop systems to increase their attainment of postsecondary education and credentials. "*A Thriving Illinois*" specifically calls for the creation of a higher education consortium and related strategies to meet these needs:

- Growth Strategy 5 – Establish a consortium of community colleges and universities to better serve the incumbent early childhood workforce.
- Growth Strategy 6 – Expand higher education models of teaching and learning that provide opportunity for students to succeed in the work of the future.
- Growth Strategy 7 – Enhance access to educator preparation programs.
- Equity Strategy 4 – Attract working adults through outreach and supports specifically for them.

The consortium and specific pathway supports such as seamless transfer of the Associate of Applied Science degree and recognition of prior learning through the Child Associate Development credential are codified as the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Act (110 ILCS 28/).

The Illinois Board of Higher Education is working with the Illinois Community College Board, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, and Illinois Department of Human Services to make higher education more accessible and affordable for members of the incumbent early childhood care and education workforce. State agencies and public and independent institutions of higher education are collaborating to scale credential and degree completion through the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) to make coursework available when and where students need it coupled with program delivery and student support services specifically targeted to meet the needs of working adults. Related efforts include creating seamless pathways for students across institutions through the consortium structure. This effort is supported by one-time federal resources through the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to provide financial supports to students and institutions. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2022 and continuing through Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024, the IDHS will allocate an estimated \$39.6 million to the IBHE. The Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity initiative will be supported in Fiscal Year 2023 with an estimated \$20 million through the IDHS. These funds are included in the Illinois Board of Higher Education appropriation.

## **ILLINOIS TUTORING INITIATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT ALLOCATION**

The Illinois Tutoring Initiative is one of four statewide strategies for educational recovery from COVID-19 contained in the [P-20 Council's Learning Renewal Resource Guide](#) which highlights studies that document the effectiveness of high-impact tutoring as a strategy for promoting learning recovery. It is also embedded in "A Thriving Illinois" under Equity Strategy 1 – Support the ongoing learning renewal of students and systematic implementation of evidence-informed student support practices.

The Illinois Tutoring Initiative involves collaborative partnerships between public universities, community colleges, and school districts of need in six regions across the state to provide high-impact tutoring to elementary and middle school students. Some tutoring may also be provided in other areas of need such as high school STEM subjects. Teacher education candidates, higher education students, and other community partners will be recruited, trained, and supported to provide tutoring in dosages of three hours per week to individual students and small groups of no more than three students. Tutoring will be provided in a combination of face-to-face and online formats.

The Illinois State Board of Education has budgeted \$25 million over the course of two years to support the Illinois Tutoring Initiative with an estimated \$16 million allocated for Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023 to implement the higher education delivery model. Remaining funds from Fiscal Year 2022 may be allocated to Fiscal Year 2023 implementation efforts. These funds are included in the IBHE appropriation. The IBHE has identified Illinois State University as the coordinating partner to develop and manage tutor recruitment and training tools, create an online platform for tutor matching, develop supporting resources for school district involvement, collect and analyze evidence of program impact, and coordinate with a combination of at least five other public universities and community colleges to provide high-impact tutoring.

The IBHE has entered into intergovernmental agreements with Governors State University, Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, the Southern Illinois University System (including Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville), and the Illinois Community College Board. The Illinois Community College Board has agreements with two participating community colleges – Illinois Central College and Southeastern Illinois College. Additionally, the IBHE will issue a request for proposals to conduct an independent evaluation in Fiscal Year 2023. Reports on the Illinois Tutoring Initiative and related outcomes will be provided to the Board throughout the course of the project.



**GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM  
HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED MALE INITIATIVE  
FISCAL YEAR 2023 FEDERAL GRANT**

The Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative (GYO) is designed to recruit and prepare parent and community leaders and para-educators statewide to become effective teachers 1) in hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students, and 2) in hard-to-staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students. A study by the Center for America Progress found that “students of color are more likely to progress academically when taught by teachers of color who share similar cultural experiences while serving as role model.” The program is operated through Grow Your Own-Illinois. They operate programs in the Chicago area and several in other parts of the state and during Fiscal Year 2023 they also contracted with Southern Illinois University and Eastern Illinois University to reach those rural service areas.

The Fiscal Year 2023 IBHE budget included a \$1,033,700 appropriation to fund a new Grow Your Own-Illinois Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative.

The funding comes from the State Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency Fund (CURE). These funds originate from Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

The Disadvantaged Male Initiative focuses on helping recruit, mentor and retain males of color through college to become teachers. As noted previously, there is a shortage of teachers of color, relative to the proportion of students of color in elementary and secondary education. The proportion of males of color is particularly low.

**GROW YOUR OWN (GYO) TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE  
FISCAL YEAR 2023 STATE GRANT**

The intent of the GYO initiative is to create a statewide pipeline of teachers who are likely to become effective teachers 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 is to increase the diversity of teachers, including diversity based on race and ethnicity. The initiative will 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.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2020 the administration and oversight of the program was transferred to GYO Illinois, a not-for-profit organization. GYO Illinois is responsible for all grant operational activity and expenditures along with the grant application and management process. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) maintains responsibility for grant oversight and for contracting for an independent evaluation. IBHE will hold back five percent or approximately \$123,000 for the evaluation and Grant Accountability and Transparency Act related expenses. The remaining \$2,343,300 will fund grant activities.

## **COMMON APPLICATION: UNIVERSITY ALLOCATIONS, ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

The Illinois higher education strategic plan – “A Thriving Illinois” – outlines strategies to close equity gaps, build a stronger financial future, and increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth. To retain students and smooth their transition from high school to college, all Illinois public universities began using the Common Application (Common App) as the portal for admissions applications in Academic Year 2021-22. The Common App is a national portal that allows students to submit information one time and apply to multiple institutions of higher education with that one submission. Almost 1,000 colleges are Common App members.

As of fall 2021, Illinois was the second state in the nation to have all its public universities become members of the Common App. High school seniors in Illinois and nationally can submit information to the Common App and apply to any or all Illinois public universities, allowing prospective students to apply to as many state universities as they wish with a single application.

There are costs for universities associated with implementation and utilization of the Common App system. In addition, to maximize the benefits to the State, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) will collect and analyze data on admission patterns and student outcomes. To defray the costs of implementing the use of the Common App across all universities and to collect and analyze the data, IBHE received an appropriation for \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2023. This funding will be provided to public universities for costs of Common App membership and utilization, and to IBHE for costs of data collection and analysis and program management.

## **CREATING PATHWAYS AND ACCESS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (CPASS) FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

The CPASS program provides intervention strategies to enhance academic and counseling supports to underrepresented students seeking to become professionals in medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary science, optometry, pharmacy, podiatry, and public health. CPASS operates within the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago.

The program provides 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.

1. Enhanced capacity for recruitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and to increase underrepresented student participation in STEM programs throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.
2. Address, develop, and support comprehensive assessment of objectives, program partners, and service populations that will lead to the development of program initiatives that broaden the effectiveness and ability to reach a more expanded population in the Chicago metropolitan area and the State of Illinois.

IBHE received a Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation of \$1,433,600 to support this program.

## DIVERSIFYING HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY IN ILLINOIS PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT ALLOCATION

The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Program (DFI) provides financial awards to eligible underrepresented students pursuing graduate and professional degrees at Illinois public and private institutions of higher education. As a condition of the award, recipients agree to accept a teaching or staff position in an Illinois higher education institution or governing board, or an education-related position in a state agency, equal to the number of years the student was a participant in the program. This makes DFI an important program in supporting *A Thriving Illinois'* strategy to increase and retain faculty, staff, and administrators of color. The DFI Act authorized the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to appoint a DFI member board to establish policies and procedures to administer the program. The IBHE provides the DFI program leadership and administrative program support.

The application process for Fiscal Year 2023 was opened to students in December 2021. There were a total of approximately 130 application requests for this year. On April 1, 2022, the DFI Board approved recommendations for Fiscal Year 2023 funding of approximately \$1.981 million for the DFI fellowship awards. The DFI Board recommends funding for 115 DFI fellows. The distribution of fellowships awarded is for 68 continuing students at \$17,000 and 47 new students at \$16,500. Table 1 lists the distribution of students and the participating institutions.

IBHE received an appropriation of \$1,981,500 in Fiscal Year 2023, an increase of \$525,000.

TABLE 1  
Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Act  
Distribution of Fiscal Year 2023 Awards Pending Fellow Acceptance

<u>Institution</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Renewal</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Master's</u>	<u>Doctoral</u>
Adler University	1	4	5	1	4
DePaul University	0	4	4	1	3
EIU	1	0	1	1	0
GSU	2	3	5	1	4
ISU	3	5	8	3	5
Lewis University	1	0	1	1	0
Loyola University	1	2	3	0	3
National Louis University	1	4	5	0	5
NEIU	2	2	4	4	0
NIU	3	2	5	0	5
Northwestern University	0	1	1	1	0
Roosevelt University	6	2	8	7	1
SIUE	1	1	2	1	1
SIUC	2	5	7	1	6
University of Chicago	1	2	3	0	3
UIS	1	0	1	1	0
UIC	11	23	34	3	31
UIUC	10	8	18	4	14
<b>Totals</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>85</b>

## UNIVERSITY CENTER OF LAKE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT

Established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) in 1998 and operating as a 501c(3), the University Center of Lake County (Center) provides access to individuals in the Lake County region to complete bachelor's and graduate degrees, as well as advanced professional development programs. 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. The creation of the University Center was a strategic decision made by the IBHE after much research. In early studies and through more than 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 in a cost-effective way. Many state and foreign representatives have visited to learn more about this successful national model.

Today, the Center is a consortium of approximately 12 public and private institutions. As of December 2021, these include: Concordia University, DePaul University, Dominican University, National Louis University, North Park University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Roosevelt University, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, University of Illinois Springfield, and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. A diverse group of 12 employees, all of whom are first-generation college graduates, staff the center. They are led by an executive director appointed by the Center's board in November 2021.

Students apply to and graduate from an individual college or university offering fully-accredited degrees; academic standards and quality are rigorously maintained by the faculty of each college or university. Classes are scheduled in a variety of delivery formats that appeal to adult learners: evenings and weekends, face-to-face, online, blended, and interactive video. More than 130 degrees, certificates, and professional development courses are offered in: Arts, Entertainment and Hospitality; Business and Information Technology; Communication and Humanities; Education and Social Sciences; Legal Studies and Public Safety; Manufacturing, Engineering and Advanced Technologies; Science and Math; Sustainability and Horticulture; Human Services and Social Work; Wellness and Health Sciences.

The University Center of Lake County advances the goals of "A Thriving Illinois." Specifically:

- Equity Strategy 4 – Attract working adults through outreach and supports specifically for them
- Growth Strategy 6 – Expand higher education models of teaching and learning that provide opportunity for students to succeed in the work of the future

During the Fall 2021 semester, the University Center and its institutional partners served 808 students, providing 2,021 registrations in 538 courses. Of these, 52 students graduated in December 2021 (half from undergraduate programs, and the remaining half from graduate programs). The student profile in Fall 2021 is as follows:

- 62 percent white, 23 percent Hispanic/Latinx, ten percent Black non-Hispanic, four percent Asian/Pacific Islander – which aligns with the population of Lake County and the surrounding region.
- 66 percent female, 22 percent male, and 12 percent gender were not provided.
- 54 percent were graduate students, and 46 percent were undergraduate students.

- 71 percent of students were enrolled part-time, and 29 percent of students were enrolled full time.

In addition to providing programs and courses to degree-seeking students, the University Center of Lake County offers a number of community engagement initiatives to support education and health. Specifically, the sixth annual “Familias en Educacion” workshop was held via Zoom platform on Saturday, September 25, 2021. Conducted in English and Spanish, the event targets Latino high school students who could become the first in their families to attend college. Students and parents hear from community leaders, University Center staff, College of Lake County, and Illinois Student Assistance Commission staff about the importance of attending college and how to succeed in college. There were 48 people in attendance, and they learned about financial aid resources, higher education pathways, and strategies for how to be successful in college. Center staff engage in many other forms of student recruitment and outreach efforts, both in person, online, and via social media. The University Center advisor met with approximately 75 students (60 percent interested in undergraduate programs and 40 percent prospective graduate students), tailoring advising meetings to accommodate the schedules, formats, and needs of prospective students.

Additionally, the Center partnered with the Lake County Health Department, Illinois Public Health Association, and the Chicago Workers Collaborative to promote vaccine awareness and provide COVID-19 vaccine clinics. During the vaccine clinics community health workers gave PPE kits to the students and community members in attendance.

In Fiscal Year 2023, IBHE received an appropriation of \$1,055,700 for the University Center of Lake County.

**ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY FUSION PROGRAM  
FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT**

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 four major goals:

1. To maintain or increase students' interest, involvement and literacy in science and mathematics.
2. To enhance the knowledge and skills of middle school science and mathematics teachers.
3. To stimulate excellence in middle schools' science and mathematics programs.
4. To help increase access to programming for students who are historically underrepresented in mathematics and science, and for all areas of the state.

IBHE received a Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation of \$95,900 to support the Fusion Program.



## **MYCREDITSTRANSFER PROJECT AT UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT**

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. IBHE received an appropriation of \$183,300 to support MyCreditsTransfer.

**QUAD-CITIES GRADUATE STUDY CENTER  
FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT**

The Quad-Cities Graduate Study Center (Grad Center) is an academic consortium that was founded 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.

The Grad Center is comprised of members representing Drake University, St. Ambrose University, University of Iowa, University of Illinois Nursing (Quad Cities), and Western Illinois University.

IBHE received an appropriation of \$73,800 to support the Quad Cities Graduate Study Center.

## **ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY GRANT FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

The Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) Program was established in 1991 to support student cooperative work-study programs. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) oversees the program and distributes grants to public and nonpublic postsecondary institutions of higher learning that:

- Expand opportunities for students to pursue internships, clinical placement, cooperative programs with business and industry, and other work opportunities linked to a student's academic program, with a particular emphasis on students who have historically been underrepresented in higher education;
- Strengthen cooperation between higher education, business, industry, and government;
- Encourage social and community service;
- Promote equitable outcomes for all students;
- Provide a diverse, inclusive environment;
- Maximize the use of matching contributions from business and industry, and governmental and social agencies;
- Create new opportunities for public/private partnerships;
- Integrate other components of student financial aid to reduce reliance on student loans; and
- Encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.

The Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation is \$980,500. Details regarding grant awards will be provided to Board members at the next meeting, once grantees have been finalized.

## **NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

Nurse Educator Fellowship awards are designed to support professional growth of nursing faculty and encourage them to remain in higher education. The Fellowship is a one-year salary supplement of up to \$10,000 that, at the discretion of the Fellow, may be used for expenses related to professional development and continuing education.

Participation in the Nurse Educator Fellowship Program is open to Illinois institutions of higher learning that offer a pre-licensure registered professional nursing program. The academic program must be approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

To be eligible for a fellowship award, an educator must meet the following criteria:

- An Illinois resident;
- Awarded a master's degree or higher 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 professional nurses for a minimum of 12 months;
- Made significant contributions to the nursing program; and
- Did not receive a fellowship award in the past five years.

The chief nursing administrator is responsible for nominating an educator and submitting the nomination packet. Nominations are evaluated based on the strength of the administrator's nomination and the educator's personal statement regarding the proposed use of funds and employment plans. Other factors such as major accomplishments; distribution of fellows by state geography, by program degree level, and by sector of the institution; and tenure status are also considered. IBHE considers institutional equity gaps as part of the selection process. Additional consideration is given to the institution's proportion of nursing students who are African American, Latinx, low-income, first-generation college, from rural communities, working adults, or students with disabilities and the institution's success in reducing any equity gaps in nursing student enrollment and graduation. The staff of the Board of Higher Education and Illinois Nursing Workforce Center collaborate on determining the Fellows.

An appropriation of \$400,000 was included in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, an increase of \$202,600. The names of the fellows and their nominating institutions for Fiscal Year 2023 will be provided to the Board after the proposal process is complete and awards made.

## **NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

This grant program seeks to increase the number of registered professional nurses with high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the Illinois economy. Grants are awarded to Illinois institutions of higher education with existing programs that prepare registered professional nurses at the associate, baccalaureate, and master entry level.

The program is aligned with *A Thriving Illinois'* Growth strategies, including:

- Growth Strategy 3: Align the state's economic development and higher education strategies, ensuring both address historic inequities; and
- Growth Strategy 8: Strengthen the statewide, coordinate transfer system to ensure students have seamless paths.

Nursing schools must first meet the following eligibility criteria before being able to compete for grant awards:

- An associate degree in nursing program must be approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), and have an articulation agreement in place with at least one institution that offers a baccalaureate degree in nursing.
- A baccalaureate degree in nursing program must be approved by IDFPR and be accredited by either the ACEN or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- A baccalaureate degree in nursing completion program for students who are licensed registered nurses must be accredited by the ACEN or the CCNE.
- An entry level master's degree in nursing program is for students who have a baccalaureate in another field. The program must be approved by IDFPR and be accredited by the ACEN or the CCNE.

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Proposals to improve or expand existing nursing programs must use strategies that are supported by current research and best practices, demonstrate an effective use of program resources, and show evidence of support and sustainability. The Board also looks for evidence of proposals that will help to address equity gaps in enrollment, course completion, graduation, or licensure by students who are African American, Latinx, low-income, first-generation college, from rural communities, working adults, or students with disabilities.

The appropriation for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$750,000, an increase of \$376,100 from the current fiscal year.