

**APPROVED**

**January 17, 2024**



Dave Kelm  
General Counsel

Item #F-1  
January 17, 2024

**FISCAL YEAR 2024 NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIPS**

**Submitted for:** Information.

**Summary:** This informational item will update the Board on the first round of fellows selected for the Fiscal Year 2024 Nurse Educator Fellowship Program.

**Action Requested:** None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**FISCAL YEAR 2024 NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIPS  
ROUND ONE AWARDS**

The Nurse Educator Fellowship program is designed to retain well-qualified nursing faculty at public and private institutions of higher education in Illinois that award degrees leading to initial licensure as a Registered Nurse. Demand for professionals in healthcare settings, and specifically nurses with advanced degrees and credentials, means that colleges and universities face stiff competition in retaining Nursing faculty in the current labor market. This is especially true considering the impact of the pandemic on the profession and the demographics of the profession related to age and retirements.

The Nurse Educator Fellowship addresses the faculty-retention challenge and advances Equity Strategy 3 of *A Thriving Illinois*, to increase and retain a diverse faculty and staff of color as well as support the learning and success of underserved student populations in higher education. As part of the process of reviewing applications for the fellowship, consideration was given for the proportion of nursing students who are African American, Latinx, low-income, first-generation, from rural communities, working adults, or students with disabilities and the institution's success in reducing equity gaps in nursing student enrollment and graduation. The program also supports the Growth goal to align the state's higher education programs with employer needs and the needs of individuals to advance their professional skills. Nurse educators current in their profession are crucial for maintaining higher education programs that prepare future nurses for a wide range of healthcare settings in the state.

Fellows are selected through a competitive process based upon review of nomination materials and a personal statement. Applicants must describe how they will use fellowships funds to support their own professional learning, scholarship, or other endeavors as nurse educators to improve the preparation of future nurses. Fellows conclude the program with a presentation and discussion with the Advisory Board members of the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center. A final report is also due that describes their fellowship experience. The IBHE incorporates equity in the application process by providing additional consideration to applicants teaching in institutions that enroll higher percentages of students who have been traditionally underserved, as well as advancing equity in their programs through a variety of student support initiatives.

For Fiscal Year 2024, we will conduct two rounds of accepting and reviewing applications for the Nurse Educator Fellowships to allow greater access to this opportunity for professional development and retention. For this first round launched in early fall 2023, 54 fellowships were awarded across 31 nursing schools in the state. A second round of applications for 26 additional Fellowships has been launched this month with strategic marketing to broaden the awareness of this special opportunity for Nurse educators.

At the June 14, 2023, 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;*
- 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.*

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

#### **Fiscal Year 2024 Nurse Educator Fellows – Round One**

<b>Fellow First Name</b>	<b>Fellow Last Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Carolyn	Mistal	Ambria College of Nursing
Susan	Cimino	Ambria College of Nursing
Thomas	Kunstbeck	Aurora University
Joan	Batres	Chamberlain University
Michelle	Sadko	Chamberlain University
Lisette	Mondragon	Chamberlain University
Colleen	Milburn	College of Lake County
Ravinal	Roque	College of Lake County
Jonathan	Uebelhor	Dominican University
Lindsay	Roberts	Eastern Illinois University
Nicole	Zeller	Eastern Illinois University
Lisa	Hodson	Elgin Community College
Jennifer	Caringella	Elmhurst University
Jessica	Lamberson	Elmhurst University
Sara	Hollenstain	Heartland Community College
Crystal	Reynolds	Heartland Community College
Kelly	Rosecrans	Illinois State University
Cherrill	Stockmann	Illinois State University
Katy	Knolhof	Kaskaskia College
Jennifer	Bosworth	Lewis University
Cynthia	Hinojosa	Lewis University
Jeanine	Haberman	Lewis University
Joi	Kazenski	Lincoln Land Community College
Casey	Hoenes	Lincoln Land Community College
Eric	Zack	Loyola University
Tracey	Hosack-Bartnick	Loyola University

Fellow First Name	Fellow Last Name	Institution
Demetris	Hogan	Loyola University
Ines	Guillen	Malcolm X College
Dawn	Wilson	Malcolm X College
Theresa	Schwindenhammer	Methodist College
Taylor	Rogy	Methodist College
Audra	Trump	Millikin University
Angela	Lafrenz	Millikin University
Kelly	Slade	Millikin University
Julianne	Herrmann	Morton College
Kristina	King	North Park University
Anitha	Saravanan	Northern Illinois University
Alyse	Flury	Northern Illinois University
Melinda	Finch	Oak Point University
Karen	Black-Vetter	Rockford University
Caryn	Ruzic	Rockford University
Tristan	Banks	Rush University College of Nursing
Bettianne	Casper	Saint John's College of Nursing
Cheryl	Pope	Saint John's College of Nursing
Courtenay	Vihtelic	Saint Xavier University
Erica	Blumenstock	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Debra	Penrod	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Amy	Reed	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Misty	Dickey	Southwestern Illinois College
Tina	Decker	Trinity Christian College
Pamela	Smith	University of Illinois Chicago
Dawn	Sarginson	University of Illinois Chicago
Amy	Johnson	University of Illinois Chicago
Ashley	Frederick	Western Illinois University