

FY2011 NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item presents a recommendation for 18 faculty members at 18 different institutions to receive the Nurse Educator Fellowship Awards for Fiscal Year 2011. These individuals meet the qualifications set forth in the Nurse Educator Fellowship Act and have been selected from a group of 32 nominees. Awards will be used to supplement the salaries of these nursing faculty members.

This grant program is tied to Goal 3 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy. Nursing continues to be a high-demand field that requires the retention of well-qualified faculty to train nursing students. The demand for this occupation also has increased the frequency of outside offers for nurse educators to leave teaching and go into clinical practice. This fellowship helps institutions recognize their well-qualified nurse educators and counter those outside job offers so that Illinois can continue to address the high demand for well-trained nurses.

After surveying the nurse educators who have received fellowships in the past four years, the Illinois Center for Nursing reported that 97 percent (or 61 out of 63) continue to be actively involved in nursing education in Illinois as an educator or, in a few cases, as an educator/administrator. The survey results indicate that this five-year-old program is meeting its intended purpose, i.e., to help ensure the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty at Illinois institutions of higher education.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approves the allocation of \$180,000 to 18 eligible institutions on behalf of the 18 individuals who are recommended to receive \$10,000 Nurse Educator Fellowship Awards in Fiscal Year 2011.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

FY2011 NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

The 2011 awards will mark the fifth year of the Illinois Nurse Educator Fellowship program. During the past four years the Illinois Board of Higher Education has awarded 63 fellowships. The Fellows were nominated by 28 institutions of higher education, including eight community colleges, four public universities, and 16 private institutions of higher education.

Prior Fellows

In October 2010 the Illinois Center for Nursing surveyed the 63 nurse educators who have previously received a Nurse Educator Fellowship. The objective of the survey was to help determine if the program has helped to retain well-qualified nursing faculty at Illinois institutions of higher education. All fellows were located and surveyed about their current job and location. The results of the survey were extremely positive. Ninety-seven percent of the Fellows (or 61 of 63) are employed in Illinois as a nurse educator or as an educator/administrator. The majority of these fellows (87.3 percent or 55 of the 61) are still employed by the nominating institution. The prior year awards, annual state funding, and survey results are shown in the following chart:

Nurse Educator Fellowship Program Statistics

| | Number of Fellowships Awarded | Annual State Funding | October 2010 Survey Results | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | Number of Fellows Employed in Illinois as Nurse Educator or Educator/Administrator | Employed in Illinois as Nurse Educator or Educator/Administrator (61 total) | |
| | | | | Number of Fellows Employed in Nominating Institution | Number of Fellows Not Employed in Nominating Institution |
| 2007 | 15 | \$ 150,000 | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| 2008 | 15 | 150,000 | 15 | 14 | 1 |
| 2009 | 15 | 150,000 | 14 | 11 | 3 |
| 2010 | 18 | 180,000 | 18 | 17 | 1 |
| Totals | 63 | \$ 630,000 | 61 of 63 (or 96.8%)* | 55 of 61 (or 87.3%) | 6 |

* Only two of the 63 Fellows are not currently involved in training nursing students in Illinois. One is a post-doctoral fellow at the Indiana University Training in Behavioral Nursing in coordination with the National Institute of Nursing Research in Indianapolis. The second suffered a medical catastrophe and is currently unable to teach.

These statistics indicate that the state investment of \$630,000 over the past four years has helped Illinois institutions of higher education retain well-qualified nurse educators. This fellowship program has provided financial assistance to help institutions recognize and counter the outside job offers so that Illinois can continue to train nurses and address the high demand for registered nurses in the workforce.

Eligible Institutions

Participation in this program is open to Illinois institutions of higher learning with a nursing program approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC).

Fellowship Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to receive an award, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- nominated by the chief nursing administrator in an eligible institution;
- made significant contributions to the nursing program;
- Illinois resident and a minimum of a master's degree 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 nurses for a minimum of 12 months; and
- not received an award in the past four years (FY2007, FY2008, FY2009, and FY2010).

Fellowship Awards

Thirty-two eligible applications were received for the Fiscal Year 2011 awards. The applications were reviewed and evaluated by an external independent nursing expert and subsequently reviewed by the IBHE staff to ensure compliance with the rules. In Fiscal Year 2011, the \$180,000 allocation for the Fellowship program will support 18 awards. Fellowship funds are salary supplements that, at the discretion of the Fellow, also may be used for expenses related to professional development and continuing education. Awards will be made to the participating higher education institution on behalf of the fellow selected for receiving the award.

Duties and Responsibilities

The fellows selected to participate in the Fiscal Year 2011 Nurse Educator Fellowship Program will be responsible to participate in statewide nursing advocacy to help address the nursing shortage in Illinois. Fellows also may be required to consult with the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Center for Nursing regarding statewide nursing issues. Each fellow will be responsible to prepare a final report that describes their fellowship experience.

Recommendation

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

That the Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the allocation of \$180,000 to 18 eligible institutions on behalf of the 18 individuals recommended to receive \$10,000 Nurse Educator Fellowship awards for Fiscal Year 2011 (see Appendix 1).

APPENDIX 1
FY2011 Nurse Educator Fellowship Recommendations

(in alphabetical order)

| <u>Recipient</u> | <u>Institution</u> |
|--|--|
| Karen Baber, MS, RN Chair, Department of Nursing | Black Hawk College |
| Debra J. Jenkins, MSN, RN Instructor | Millikin University |
| Donna Jewell, PhD, RN Assistant Professor | Southern Illinois University Edwardsville |
| Mary Teresa (Terry) Johnson, DNP, RN Associate Professor | Elmhurst College |
| Patty Kershaw, DNP(c), RN Assistant Professor | Olivet Nazarene University |
| Teresa Kisch, MSN, RN Assistant Professor | Aurora University |
| Dawn Kuerschner, PhD(c), APN-BC, RNC, CNE Associate Professor | Oakton Community College |
| Patricia Pence, PhD, RN Instructor | Illinois Valley Community College |
| Ann Popkess, PhD, RN Assistant Professor | Southern Illinois University Edwardsville |
| Jeanette Rossetti, EdD, RN Associate Professor | Northern Illinois University |
| Tanisha Rufus, MSN, RN * Instructor | CCC - Richard J. Daley College |
| Tonya Rutherford-Hemming, MSN, RN * Assistant Professor | Loyola University of Chicago |
| Monica Ryan, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC Associate Professor | St. Xavier University |
| Carrol A. M. Smith, PhD, RN Assistant Professor | U of I at Chicago |
| Susan L. Swanlund, PhD, RN Assistant Professor | Illinois Wesleyan University |
| Denise Wilson, PhD, APN, CNP Associate Professor | Illinois State University |
| Tracy Wollin, MSN, RN Instructor | Lakeview College of Nursing |
| Polly Zimmermann, MSN, MBA, RN, CEN Associate Professor | CCC - Harry S Truman College |

* Doctoral student

Each recipient will receive a \$10,000 award for a total of \$180,000.

