

**GENERAL GRANTS
FISCAL YEAR 2012 ALLOCATION**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests Board approval to award general grants necessary to implement Board and state education policies.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
University Center of Lake County	\$1,000,000
Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program (CAHMCP)	\$531,000
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, IMSA Fusion: Igniting Teaching and Learning	\$59,000
Quad-Cities Graduate Center	\$65,000
u.select System	\$230,000
Total:	<u>\$1,885,000</u>

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) approve five General Grants for fiscal year 2012 totaling \$1,885,000.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**GENERAL GRANTS
FISCAL YEAR 2012 ALLOCATION**

This item recommends funding for five general grants as appropriated in the FY2012 budget signed by the Governor (P.A. 097-0069). Recipients of these grants are required to provide a budget, an annual audit report, a project evaluation, and a completed statement of certification specifying their compliance with terms and conditions of the grant agreement. As a result of declines in grant funds since fiscal year 2009, these projects have experienced significant reductions to project activities. Unfortunately, the number of students being served by these important projects, many of whom are from underrepresented groups, has been significantly reduced from fiscal year 2009 levels.

<u>Project/Institution</u>	<u>IBHE Recommendation</u>
University Center of Lake County	\$1,000,000

Established by the IBHE in 1998, the University Center of Lake County (Center) is a consortium of nineteen public and private colleges and universities that deliver bachelor completion, master's degrees, and certificate and workforce development programs to an underserved northeast suburban Chicago. 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. Today, nearly two thousand place-bound students are enrolled in over 800 classes and the Center hosts or holds over 1000 educational conferences and meetings serving over 25,000 citizens annually.

The FY2012 appropriation bill reduced the state appropriation for the University Center by \$716,000, a 42% cut. This reduction now leaves funds of \$1 million to provide services and maintain 100,000 square feet of instructional space. The Center works hard to generate over a half million dollars of additional business income largely through continuing education and conference center rental in a very tight and depressed market. It is unrealistic to assume that the Center has sufficient time or resources to ramp up new business to offset the total loss of over \$2 million in state funds revenue since FY2010 or to pass these costs on to participating member institutions without prompting many of them to withdraw from the consortium.

The University Center's Governing Board has constructed financial models which demonstrate that the Center can survive this economic cycle with a state appropriation of \$1.5 million. A reduction to a \$1 million grant appropriation will open the Center to:

- another staffing reduction of 20% in FTEs,
- mothballing the Waukegan campus which serves the largest and most economically challenged urban population of the county,
- eliminating professional Library services for students and faculty,
- eliminating the remaining half-time position in the K-12 teacher training unit,

- and other serious spending reductions for maintenance and technology renewal projects.

The creation of the University Center was an intentional decision made by IBHE after much research. In early studies and through fifteen 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 at the lowest cost. Representatives from over twenty states and two foreign countries have visited to learn more about this successful national model. The Center serves as a real success story for IBHE in that it supports and delivers on all four goals of the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success—increased educational attainment, improved college affordability, attention to workforce needs, and support of economic growth.

Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program

\$531,000

The Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program (CAHMCP) pursues an intervention strategy for the provision of enhanced academic and counseling supports to minorities seeking to be professionals in medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary science, optometry, pharmacy, podiatry, and public health. The CAHMCP provides continual 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.

Since the summer of 2007, CAHMCP has required all participants to obtain health and safety certification through its Good Health Place (GHP) project. The GHP was instituted as a community service initiative to provide Basic Life Support (BLS) certifications to all CAHMCP participants: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillation (AED), Basic First Aid, Bloodborne Pathogens, Childcare and Babysitting Safety (CABS), and Vital Signs Assessment. The GHP has expanded beyond the walls of CAHMCP to include nearly 2,000 Chicago and suburban area citizens who have received one or more BLS certifications, including approximately 200 certifications issued to senior citizens and disabled individuals. The Good Health Place project has given CAHMCP participants an opportunity to deliver meaningful community service to their communities, as well as having access to the more traditional forms of academic support required to prepare them for future entry into the major health professions. The CAHMCP program received \$900,000 from the IBHE in fiscal year 2009 but received only \$531,000 in fiscal year 2010, the same amount available for fiscal year 2012.

IMSA Fusion: Igniting Teaching and Learning

\$59,000

IMSA Fusion is an after-school enrichment program for Illinois students in late elementary (grades 4-5) and middle school (grades 6-7-8) 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:

- to maintain or increase students’ interest, involvement and literacy in science and mathematics;
- to enhance the knowledge and skills of middle school science and mathematics teachers;
- to stimulate excellence in middle schools’ science and mathematics programs; and

- to help increase access to programming for students who are historically underrepresented in mathematics and science, and for all areas of the state.

The IMSA Fusion program received \$100,000 from the IBHE in fiscal year 2009 but received only \$59,000 in fiscal year 2010, the same amount available for fiscal year 2012.

Quad-Cities Graduate Center

\$65,000

The mission of the Quad-Cities Graduate Study Center (GradCenter) is to facilitate and support graduate-level educational opportunities to the Quad Cities area. The GradCenter, a bi-state academic consortium, was created 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. Public Act 097-0069 states the GradCenter grant is authorized by the Higher Education Cooperation Act.

The GradCenter plans to expand the "Listening Post Luncheon" program, in which professionals who work in a targeted field (business, engineering, education, social services, and health care) meet with deans and faculty from GradCenter member institutions who teach in those areas. The GradCenter will host employer on-site information sessions to actively promote the GradCenter to groups of persons interested in graduate education, such as recent baccalaureate graduates, persons anticipating early retirement, and those interested in completing non-credit professional update courses.

u.select system

\$230,000

The u.select system is a web-based, information-access tool that communicates up-to-date information about how coursework from one college or university will apply toward a degree at another college or university. The u.select system allows many student information system functions to be accessed via a web environment, making information typically available only to students enrolled at an institution also available to those interested in attending the institutions, including potential transfer students.

Expansion of the system requires additional licenses for campuses that receive transfer students and/or development of interfaces across student information systems, u.select, and degree audit systems. These efforts will require additional funding at some point in the future in order to increase the participation level of "sending" institutions to "receiving." Though higher implementation is the primary goal, funding limitations in fiscal year 2012 will continue to hinder expansion efforts. In spite of the difficulties brought about through lack of new resources, project staff continue an ambitious plan to seek higher levels of institutional participation and broader implementation in Illinois. The project made good progress over the past year including completion of full implementation at SIU-Edwardsville; collaboration with St. Xavier University to establish its course equivalency guide functions in u.select; upgrading SIU-Carbondale's course equivalency guide function; completion of Request Import implementation with William Rainey Harper College; and obtaining course banks for the first time from Loyola University and Northeastern Illinois University. Perhaps most notable is the increase in u.select users for Illinois, which is up over 60% from the prior grant period.

To a great extent this progress was made possible through partnership with the University of Illinois, Parkland College, and the iTransfer.org project. The University of Illinois paid for all in-state travel, allowing Project staff to continue providing the presentations, training, and institutional meetings that are critical to further implementation and expansion. The University

and Parkland College provided office space and commensurate support and the iTransfer.org staff shared in the cost of printing promotional materials.

TOTAL

\$1,885,000

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the fiscal year 2012 General Grants described above. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to make adjustments to the grant awards in the event that appropriated funds are reduced or unavailable.