**Illinois State**

**University**

Board of

**Trustees**

**Report No. 2017.01/4000.01**

**Grant and Contract Activity Report**

***Introduction***

External funding through grants and contracts plays a major role in the advancement of faculty scholarly activities, student experiential learning, and University outreach. Such activities directly support two of the core values highlighted in *Educating Illinois 2013-2018*: the pursuit of learning and scholarship, and civic engagement. Furthermore, the research, creative activities, and educational outreach made possible by such external support are an integral part of all four goals of *Educating Illinois*. External funding is therefore critical to fulfilling the University’s mission.

***Executive Summary***

External support for sponsored projects at Illinois State University totaled $16.6 million in FY16, a decrease of 11% from FY15. This decrease occurred despite a 13% increase in the number of awards. The number of proposals submitted (315) and the total funding amount requested ($59.1 million) in FY16 increased substantially compared to FY15 (273 and $42.3 million, respectively), but because of the delay between proposal submission and grant award this increased activity will not be evident until FY17.

The Colleges receiving the most external funding in FY16 were the College of Education ($7.8 million), the College of Arts and Sciences ($4.9 million), and the College of Applied Science and Technology ($2.2 million).

Additionally, in FY16:

* Submissions included 206 different principal investigators (PIs) from Illinois State University, and funded projects involved 126 different PIs from the campus.
* Indirect funds totaling $1.1 million were awarded through University grants and contracts. Indirect funds provide additional services in support of research, scholarship, and creative expression, plus they support initiatives designed to increase extramural funding.
* Three agencies provided more than half of the total funding: the Illinois State Board of Education ($3.9 million), the U.S. Department of Education ($2.4 million), and the National Science Foundation ($2.2 million).
* The three academic units receiving the highest amount of external funding in FY16 were the Department of Educational Administration and Foundations ($2.7 million), the Department of Special Education ($2.4 million), and the School of Biological Sciences ($1.5 million).

# *Data Summary*

The following table details sponsored project funding for FY16 and FY15. The numbers of awards/submissions are included in parenthesis.

**FY16** **FY15**

Total Awards $16,608,496 (215) $18,726,511 (190)

Federal Awards $7,406,546 (36) $9,484,373 (33)

Federal Flow-Through $4,615,789 (35) $5,553,973 (42)

State Awards $1,341,920 (4) $1,518,038 (21)

Other $3,244,241 (140) $2,170,127 (94)

Submissions $59,153,174 (315) $42,485,523 (273)

Total Indirect Funds Awarded $1,147,419 $1,456,914

***Current Initiatives***

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies continues to provide resources and administrative support to faculty and staff involved in research and other grant-supported activities. Each of these initiatives is aligned with the Strategic Plan for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression.

1. ***New Faculty Startup Support.*** The Office of Research and Graduate Studies is now providing start-up funding for faculty newly appointed to a tenure-track position at Illinois State University. The purpose of this program is to strengthen the University’s support for faculty research, scholarship, and creative endeavors by providing additional resources for new faculty to advance their scholarly work. The first few years in a faculty member’s position are critical for establishing a scholarly agenda that engages students and advances the University’s public service mission. Such support promises to build stronger researchers that will, in turn, result in additional grant submissions, increased external funding, and enhanced opportunities for student engagement. In FY16, $82,000 in funding was provided to support the scholarship efforts of 36 new faculty members.
2. ***Grant Workshop Series.*** A new Grant Workshop Series is being offered to faculty who wish to write proposals for external funding. The workshop addresses two fundamental difficulties facing faculty in their efforts to establish an externally funded research program: a lack of experience in writing competitive grant proposals and a lack of knowledge of the regulations and institutional procedures that govern grant awards. This workshop incorporates experienced grant writers as instructors.
3. ***Creation of a Research Center, Phase II.***In November 2016, Research and Sponsored Programs moved into the newly-reconfigured Suite A of the Uptown Crossing. In this second phase in the creation of the University Center for Research, Research and Sponsored Programs will begin to offer enhanced support to faculty and staff submitting and administering grants. The goal of this process is to reduce the administrative burden on the principal investigators so that they can devote more time to meeting project objectives and seeking additional funding.

***Additional Ongoing Activities***:

* ***Travel Award Program.*** Funds are provided to support faculty travel to meet with agency program officers, to collect preliminary data, or to meet with collaborators at other institutions. A required outcome of this travel is the submission of a grant proposal to an external agency. Travel is arranged and coordinated by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.
* ***Faculty Publication/Exhibit Support Program.*** The Office of Research and Graduate Studies provides matching funds in support of publication charges, open access fees, and exhibition costs for publications/exhibits resulting from research and creative activities.

***New Initiatives***:

1. ***Partnership for Intellectual Property Development.*** In spring of 2016 Illinois State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign formed a partnership in which UIUC will provide technology transfer services to support efforts to expand the development of new intellectual property at Illinois State. The Office of Technology Management now provides fee-based services to help identify, patent, and license new intellectual property developed on campus. Already several researchers have submitted technologies for evaluation, but additional efforts to expand faculty participation are planned for FY17.
2. ***Research Professional Development Opportunities.*** The Office of Research and Graduate Studies is in the initial phases of expanding training and professional development opportunities for faculty and graduate students. New workshops, tutorials, and training sessions are being developed to assist researchers in several areas, including grant proposal development, grant award administration, human subjects research, and intellectual property development. The goal of this effort is to provide additional support to researchers so that they are better able to navigate the policies, procedures, and regulations related to research and scholarly activities.