**Illinois State**

**University**

Board of

**Trustees**

**Report No. 2016.02/4000.01**

**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.

Sources of external funding include federal agencies, state agencies, and private funding sources. Funds are awarded both through competitive and non-competitive processes. It is worthwhile to note that federal initiatives, eliminated by Congress in 2011, are no longer available to support campus projects.

***Executive Summary***

As shown in the Data Summary table, external support for sponsored projects at Illinois State University totaled $18.7 million in FY2015, a decrease of 4% from FY2014. The Illinois budget impasse has resulted in a reduction in both the number and in the amount of State awards. However, federal flow-through funding (dollars from federal awards that the State is required to spend) increased substantially in FY2015.

The colleges receiving the most external funding in FY2015 were the College of Education ($8.8 million) and the College of Arts & Sciences ($6.4 million). The three academic units receiving the highest amount of external funding in FY2015 were the Department of Educational Administration and Foundations ($2.2 million), the Special Education Department ($2.1 million), and the Department of Economics ($1.7 million).

Additionally, in FY2015:

* Submissions included 203 different principal investigators (PIs) from Illinois State University, and funded projects involved 104 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 U.S. Department of Education ($5.3 million), the Illinois State Board of Education ($2.4 million), and the National Science Foundation ($1.9 million).

# *Data Summary*

The following table details sponsored project funding for FY2015 and FY2014. The numbers of awards/submissions are included in parenthesis.

**FY2015** **FY2014**

Total Awards $18,726,511 (190) $19,531,545 (253)

Federal Awards $9,484,373 (33) $10,127,254 (40)

Federal Flow-Through $5,553,973 (42) $4,005,893 (42)

State Awards $1,518,038 (21) $2,319,885 (34)

Other $2,170,127 (94) $3,078,513 (137)

Submissions $42,485,523 (273)\* $56,056,482 (315)

Total Indirect Funds Awarded $1,191,735 $1,354,672

\*Starting with FY2015 pre-proposals and letters of intent were no longer included in submissions. Had

they been included the FY2015 entry would have been $45,652,337 (293).

***Current Initiatives***

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies will continue several programs that are designed to improve the success rate of proposal submissions, and to encourage higher levels of submission. Each of these initiatives is aligned with the Strategic Plan for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression.

1. ***Cross-Disciplinary Grant Development Program.*** The Cross-Disciplinary Grant Development Program supports the formation of research collaborations that cross disciplinary boundaries. Many of the higher-level problems confronting society can only be solved through the collective contribution of scholars from very different disciplines. Typically, one of the difficulties of cross-disciplinary initiatives is the lack of opportunities for scholars from different fields to collaborate and pursue ideas that might otherwise be constrained by disciplinary silos. This program helps remedy such deficiencies by providing funding to create cross-disciplinary collaborations that will result in the development of highly-competitive grant proposals for submission to external funding agencies.

***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 Research and Sponsored Programs and Federal Government Relations.
* ***Faculty Publication/Exhibit Support Program.*** The Office or 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.
* ***Pre-award Budgeting in Research and Sponsored Programs.*** In order to provide improved customer service and to ensure that proposed budgets are in line with program outcomes, the Grant Specialists in the office of Research and Sponsored Programs are now developing budgets in cooperation with the principal investigators. The Grant Specialists work extensively with the investigators during the proposal submission, and incorporating the budget as a fundamental component in the planning of a project will increase investigators’ chances of receiving funding. This activity resulted from the Research Infrastructure Review by the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) that was completed in 2012.
* ***Intellectual Property and Export Control Policies and Procedures Review.*** The Intellectual Property/Export Control (IPEC) Officer assisted with the revision of the Intellectual Property Policy (currently under consideration by the Academic Senate) and is currently developing procedures to assist the Intellectual Property Committee in assessing technologies developed at the University. Furthermore, the IPEC Officer has begun implementing procedures related to the Export Control Policy that was previously approved by the Academic Senate.

***New Initiatives***:

1. ***New Faculty Startup Support.*** The Office of Research and Graduate Studies is now providing start-up funding for faculty in their first or second year of employment. 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.
2. ***Electronic Research Protocol Submission and Review.*** The Office of Research Ethics and Compliance (REC) is currently implementing IRBNet, an electronic system for the electronic submission, review, administration, and archiving of research protocols. In the 2015-16 academic year, the Institutional Review Board (IRB), the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) will begin reviewing research protocols that are submitted and routed electronically. The use of IRBNet will introduce efficiencies in protocol handling that should greatly reduce the time required to obtain approvals, thus resulting in an increase in research productivity.
3. ***Grant Workshop Series.*** A new Grant Workshop Series is being offered to faculty who wish write proposals for external funding. The two workshops are designed to a) develop highly competitive external grant proposals, and b) to assist faculty with administering the grants after securing funding. The workshops will address 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. The Pre-Award Grant Workshop remedies the first difficulty by providing faculty with the knowledge necessary to write successful grant proposals. This workshop will incorporate experienced grant writers as instructors. The Post-Award Grant Workshop remedies the second difficulty by providing faculty who have been awarded a grant with the knowledge necessary to administer the grant effectively.
4. ***Creation of a Research Center, Phase II.***In the second phase in the creation of the University Center for Research, Research and Sponsored Programs and Research Ethics and Compliance will be co-located in Suite A of Uptown Crossing. The goal is to create a central location for research-related administrative and training activities.