

**ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES**

**Report No. 2019.02/4000.01**  
**Grant and Contract Activity Report**

***Introduction***

External sources of funding make substantial contributions to the advancement of faculty scholarly activities, student experiential learning, and University outreach. The work made possible by such funding supports the core values of Illinois State University, most directly the values of Learning and Scholarship, Civic Engagement, and Collaboration. Furthermore, the research, creative activities, and educational outreach made possible by such external support are integral parts of the University's Strategic Directions, Objectives, and Actions outlined in *Educate. Connect. Elevate.*

***Summary***

External support for sponsored projects at Illinois State University totaled \$24.2 million in FY18, an increase of 26% from FY17 and an increase of 46% from FY16. The number of proposals submitted in FY18 (257) decreased slightly from FY17 (265), and the total funding requested in FY18 (\$44.0 million) decreased substantially from FY17 (\$68.1 million).

The Colleges receiving the most external funding in FY18 were the College of Education (\$13.2 million), the College of Arts and Sciences (\$4.9 million), and Mennonite College of Nursing (\$2.7 million).

Additionally, in FY18:

- Submissions included 217 different principal investigators (PIs) from Illinois State University, and newly-funded projects involved 133 different PIs from the campus.
- A total of \$1.7 million in indirect costs were recovered through University grants and contracts. These funds provide additional services in support of research, scholarship, and creative activities, plus they support initiatives designed to increase extramural funding.
- Three agencies provided over half of the total funding: the U.S. Department of Education (\$6.3 million), the Illinois State Board of Education (\$5.7 million), and the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (\$2.6 million).
- The three academic units receiving the highest amount of external funding in FY18 were the Department of Educational Administration and Foundations (\$8.2 million), the Department of Special Education (\$2.7 million), and the Mennonite College of Nursing (\$2.7 million).

### **Data Summary**

The following table details sponsored project funding for FY18 and FY17. The numbers of awards/submissions for each item are included in parentheses.

	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY17</b>
Total Awards	\$24,237,476 (209)	\$19,122,932 (209)
Federal Awards	12,915,365 (35)	10,919,946 (50)
Federal Flow-Through	5,784,719 (36)	2,853,749 (26)
State Awards	2,374,834 (26)	2,037,849 (15)
Other	3,162,558 (112)	3,311,388 (118)
Submissions	\$44,021,366 (257)	\$68,102,548 (265)
Total Indirect Costs Recovered	\$1,745,355	\$1,547,173

### **Current Initiatives**

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies strives to provide resources and administrative support for 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.

- i. Enhanced Administrative Support for Research.* Since March of 2017, Research and Sponsored Programs (RSP) has partnered with the Comptroller's Office to reduce the administrative burden on faculty seeking external funding. In FY18, similar efforts were undertaken in Research Ethics and Compliance (REC), the office that oversees the regulatory aspects of conducting research with human subjects. Improved software systems for submitting and modifying research protocols and revised internal processes for reviewing the protocols were implemented, with the goal of reducing both administrative burden and the time it takes for protocols to be approved.
- ii. Creation of the Office of Student Research and Innovation.* The engagement of students in undergraduate research is known to increase student retention, engagement, and depth of learning. The Office of Student Research (OSRI), to be launched in summer/fall of 2019, will organize and coordinate efforts aimed at promoting, supporting, and publicizing the research and other innovative efforts of students on campus. The Office will provide research support for both undergraduate and graduate student researchers, develop programming for student professional development, and promote and organize student innovation opportunities. The Office will also promote research opportunities to prospective students, as opportunities to engage with faculty on in-depth research projects are particularly attractive to high-achieving students.
- iii. Increased University Research Grant Support.* The Office of Research and Graduate Studies is increasing its commitments to funding research that will lead to new external grant applications. Beginning with the current University Research Grant review cycle, new funds will be earmarked for work that will strengthen the competitiveness of grant applications submitted to external agencies. This initiative should lead to an improved funding rate, resulting in additional support for faculty, student, and staff research efforts.

### **Additional Ongoing Activities:**

- *Partnership for Intellectual Property Development.* In 2016, Illinois State University formed a partnership with the University of Illinois to develop technology transfer activities at ISU. The Office of Technology Management (OTM) in Urbana-Champaign provides fee-based services to help identify, patent, and license intellectual property developed at ISU. During FY18, faculty filed six invention disclosures, three of which were submitted to OTM for evaluation.
- *New Faculty Startup Support.* The Office of Research and Graduate Studies provided start-up funding for faculty newly appointed to a tenure-track position in FY18. The purpose of this program is to strengthen the University's support for faculty research, scholarship, and creative

activities 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. In FY18, approximately \$140,000 in funding was awarded to support the scholarship efforts of 40 new faculty members.

- ***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 and Book Subvention Program.*** The Office of Research and Graduate Studies provides matching funds in support of publication charges, open access fees, exhibition costs, and book subvention costs for publications/exhibits and books resulting from faculty research and creative activities.