

**DIVERSIFYING HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY IN ILLINOIS PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2008 GRANT ALLOCATION**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item recommends the allocation of the anticipated fiscal year 2008 appropriation for grants authorized by the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Act. The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Program (DFI) provides financial assistance to minority students pursuing graduate and professional degrees at Illinois public and private institutions. The purpose of the DFI Program is to advance the goal of increasing the number of minority faculty and staff employed at Illinois colleges and universities.

This \$2.8 million allocation will support approximately 161 DFI awards in fiscal year 2008, which includes awards for 116 continuing recipients and 45 new recipients. In the event that DFI Program funding is reduced, the number of awards made to new recipients will be adjusted to meet the level of available funding.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the fiscal year 2008 appropriation for grants authorized by the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Act and recommended by the DFI Program Board.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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On August 4, 2004, Governor Rod Blagojevich signed the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Act into law. The Act creates the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Program (DFI), which combines the Illinois Minority Graduate Incentive Program (IMGIP) and the Illinois Consortium for Educational Opportunity Program (ICEOP) into a single program. The DFI Program provides financial awards to eligible minority students pursuing graduate and professional degrees at Illinois public and private institutions. As a condition of the award, recipients agree to accept a teaching or staff position in an Illinois higher education institution or governing board, or an education-related position in a state agency equal to the number of years that he or she was a participant in the grant program. The DFI authorized the Board of Higher Education to appoint a 21-member board to establish policies and procedures to administer the program. The Board of Higher Education also provides program leadership, administrative support, and has established a annual contract with Southern Illinois University at Carbondale to carry out administrative support for the DFI program.

During the fiscal year 2008 application process, 275 new and renewal fellowship applications were submitted for review. In March 2007, the DFI Program Board met to consider recommendations for competitive fellowship awards. In fiscal year 2008, new DFI recipients, and DFI recipients who entered the program in fiscal year 2007, will receive an annual stipend amount of \$14,000. Continuing recipients initially admitted under the provisions of the former IMGIP/ICEOP programs shall continue to receive annual award amounts ranging from \$12,500 to \$17,500 depending on their original fellowship program. The DFI Program Board will continue to make program enhancements to address various placement issues such as fellowship award amounts, increased support for fellows, program marketing, revised selection criteria, and priority areas for future fellowship awardees.

The fiscal year 2008 appropriation request to the General Assembly includes \$2.8 million for the DFI Program. Based on this funding level, approximately 161 DFI Fellows, 116 continuing awardees, and 45 new awardees have been nominated by the DFI Program Board for DFI grants (see Table 1) at an estimated cost of \$2,161,080. The remaining funds will be reserved for additional fellowship awards, state leadership activities and program administration. In the event that the DFI appropriation funding level is reduced, the number of awards made to new recipients will be adjusted to meet the level of available funding. Table 1 presents the fiscal year 2008 distribution of DFI awards by institution. If fellows who are recommended to receive a fellowship award do not accept the award, the funds will be awarded to other eligible candidates as determined by the DFI Program Board.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the fiscal year 2008 appropriation for DFI institutional grant awards (see Table 1) as specified by the statute and recommended by the DFI Program Board.

TABLE 1
Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Act
Distribution of FY2008 DFI Awards*

INSTITUTION	NEW AWARDS	CONTINUING AWARDS
Adler School of Professional Psychology	-	2
Chicago State University	1	3
DePaul University	2	6
Governors State University	1	-
Illinois Institute of Technology	1	2
Illinois State University	-	1
Loyola University Chicago	2	13
National-Louis University	1	-
Northeastern Illinois University	1	-
Northern Illinois University	2	13
Northwestern University	10	13
Roosevelt University	-	1
Rush University	1	-
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale	2	6
Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville	-	1
University of Chicago	2	9
University of Illinois at Chicago	9	22
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	10	24
Total: # Student Fellows	45	116
Total: \$ Awarded	\$630,000	\$1,531,080

* Distribution of 161 awards is based on a total appropriation of \$2.8 million and is subject to change based on final funding levels, program costs, and/or students' non-acceptance of awards.