

**APPROVED  
FEBRUARY 6, 2018**

Item #II-3  
February 6, 2018

**NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM  
ADDITIONAL FISCAL YEAR 2018 AWARD**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item presents a recommendation for an additional Expansion Grant award under the Nursing School Grant Program administered by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. On December 12, 2017, the Board approved six grant awards totaling \$274,578 for two Expansion Grants and four Improvement Grants in fiscal year 2018. Subsequently, another application was located, reviewed, and deemed in merit of funding. The application was timely submitted but was overlooked during the initial review process.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve a Fiscal Year 2018 award of \$99,322 for an additional Expansion Grant under the Nursing School Grant Program.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM  
ADDITIONAL FISCAL YEAR 2018 AWARD**

This item presents a recommendation for an additional Expansion Grant award under the Nursing School Grant Program administered by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). On December 12, 2017, the Board approved six nursing school grant awards totaling \$274,578 for two Expansion Grants and four Improvement Grants. In addition, the Board authorized the Executive Director to adjust the award amounts in the event that grantees can use additional funds for their approved projects since the full amount of the appropriation was not utilized. Plans were made to increase the award amounts for several grantees but the plans were put on hold when information was received about an application for an Expansion Grant that was submitted prior to the deadline but was not included in the review process. The application was reviewed and found to have merit. Thus, funds that were to be used for increasing the other grantee award amounts must be used to help fund the additional project.

No additional applications for Nursing School Grants were submitted to IBHE for consideration.

**Expansion Grant**

Illinois State University, Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) (\$99,322). The public university will use the grant funds to expand their Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (ABSN). The four-semester, fifteen-month program utilizes the same curriculum as the traditional BSN program and is designed for students who have completed a non-nursing bachelor's degree.

This project proposes to increase the number of ABSN students by (1) implementing a Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) in partnership with a local medical center; and (2) initiating a simulation intensive program that will provide 25 percent of a student's clinical experience through simulation. These two programs will allow MCN to admit another 16 students into the ABSN program, resulting in 32 students admitted annually.

Schools of nursing participating with an employer and utilizing the concept of a DEU has been utilized in other states. These programs are mutually beneficial to the students who gain valuable experience with a dedicated preceptor, the school of nursing which maintains a clinical site, and the employer who invests in a potential pipeline for new employees. Advocate BroMenn Medical Center has agreed to collaborate with MCN on a DEU program for the Medical Surgical unit.

Grant funds will be used for a part-time simulation lab coordinator, faculty release time for a part-time project manager, training for preceptors and faculty, a DEU consultant, travel within Illinois, commodities, printing, external evaluator, and program audit.

**Recommendation**

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves a Fiscal Year 2018 award of \$99,322 for an additional Expansion Grant project under the Nursing School Grants Program as detailed in this item. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to prorate the award if the amount of funds appropriated or made available is reduced.*