Board of Trustees

Research and Innovation,
Legal and Legislative Affairs
Committee

August 20, 2020
This Committee meeting is being conducted through video conferencing communications and is being conducted pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7 (Suspending OMA requirements of in person attendance by members of a public body).

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum and Appropriate Notification of Public Meeting
3. Meeting Agenda Approval.................................................................................. Action........... i
4. Review and Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2020 ............................................. Action........... 1
5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
6. Public Comment*
7. University Reports
   a. State Relations Update.................................................................................... Information........... 4
   b. Federal Relations Report................................................................................. Information........... 7
   c. Sponsored Programs Administration Report ................................................. Information........... 11
   d. Innovation Impact Report and Plans............................................................... Information........... 42
8. Other Matters
9. Next Meeting Date
10. Adjournment

*Individuals wishing to make an appearance before the Board should consult the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University, Article II, Section 4 – Appearances before the Board. Appearance request forms can be completed online in advance of the meeting. For more information contact Crystal Doyle, ccoppel@niu.edu, Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Altgeld Hall 300, DeKalb, IL 60115, 815-753-1273.

Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in the NIU Board of Trustees meetings should contact Crystal Doyle, ccoppel@niu.edu or (815) 753-1273, as soon as possible.
CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 12:53 p.m. by Committee Chair John Butler. The Committee meeting was conducted through video conferencing communications and was conducted pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7 (Suspending OMA requirements of in person attendance by members of a public body). Recording Secretary Jessica Cima conducted a roll call of the Trustees. Members present were Trustee Montel Gayles, Trustee Veronica Herrero, Trustee Madalynn Mershon, Trustee Eric Wasowicz, Board Chair Dennis Barsema, Committee Chair John Butler, and Committee Vice Chair Rita Athas. Trustee Bob Pritchard joined the meeting at 1:09 p.m. Also present were President Lisa Freeman, Committee Liaison and Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey, General Counsel Bryan Perry, and Board Liaison Matt Streb.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel, Bryan Perry, indicated the appropriate notification of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Mr. Perry also advised that a quorum was present.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Trustee Montel Gayles, seconded by Trustee Rita Athas, all were in favor. None were opposed. The agenda was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting was made by Trustee Eric Wasowicz; seconded by Trustee Veronica Herrero. All were in favor. None were opposed. The minutes were approved.

CHAIR’S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Butler welcomed the members of the University Advisory Committee representing the Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee and requested comments. No members of the University Advisory Committee offered comments. Trustee Butler discussed the ways in which NIU has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and noted that many NIU faculty members continue to participate in research projects in response to COVID-19.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Perry confirmed that there were no timely requests for public comment.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Chair Butler asked Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Dr. Jerry Blazey to provide an update from the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships.

Vice President Blazey reported that the Division has been responding to the shifting compliance and regulatory environments induced by the pandemic. He noted that there has been increased research activities in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Blazey reported that NIU faculty are
engaged in research projects ranging from predictive modeling to the effects of the pandemic on nonprofits. Dr. Blazey also reported that the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships has developed and rolled out a plan to reopen scholarly facilities and spaces on campus, with the goal of having spaces up and running by June 1.

**Agenda Item 7.a. - State Legislative Report**

Jenna Mitchel reported that neither the state house nor senate have held session since early March due to the pandemic. However, it recently announced that both chambers will be in session May 20-22 to consider new and pending legislation. She noted that working groups are meeting to determine the state’s FY21 budget. Ms. Mitchell reported that the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) released a revised revenue outlook for the state based on the preliminary impacts from COVID-19. The GOMB’s revised outlook for FY20 is $2.7 billion below estimated revenues and the revised outlook for FY21 is $4.6 billion below the base revenue estimates that were used to craft the Governor’s recommended FY21 budget. Ms. Mitchell noted that given the COVID-19 circumstances, NIU has appropriately adapted its Spring 2020 legislative agenda to only include time-sensitive items such as outstanding FY20 payments to NIU, an FY20 supplement budget fix for the AIM HIGH program, and stable funding for FY21.

**Agenda Item 7.b. – Federal Legislative Report**

Dr. Anna Quider reported that the White House has granted federal research agencies the flexibility to adjust their policies for federal awards in response to the pandemic, and many have adopted temporary changes that affect federally funded programs at NIU. Additionally, she said that several agencies, including the National Science Foundation, have released calls for research proposals related to COVID-19 and NIU has been actively pursuing these opportunities.

Dr. Quider reported that Congress and the White House have worked together on four pandemic response bills. Two of those bills include provisions that affect NIU. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed into law on March 18 and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (or CARES) Act, signed into law on March 27. Dr. Quider reported that NIU is engaging our congressional delegation on the impact of the pandemic to our campus. In addition to legislation related to the pandemic, the Department of Education released the final revised Title IX regulations addressing campus sexual misconduct. Dr. Quider noted that Dr. Blazey led a group of senior research officers from nine Midwestern research universities in submitting comments to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy regarding open access publishing of scientific journal articles. Lastly, Dr. Quider reported that the Supreme Court is expected to soon rule on the lawfulness of the DACA.

**Agenda Item 7.c. – Sponsored Programs Administration (written Report)**

The committee reviewed the sponsored program administration quarterly written report submitted by Assistant Vice President Dara Little.

**OTHER MATTERS**

Chair Butler asked the Committee members if there were other matters to come before the committee. The committee confirmed that there were no other matters to be discussed.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chair Butler noted that the next meeting will be held on August 20, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Montel Gayles motioned to adjourn; Board Chair Barsema seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Cima/Karen Campbell
Recording Secretary

_In compliance with Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq, a verbatim record of all Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees meetings is maintained by the Board Recording Secretary and is available for review upon request. The minutes contained herein represent a true and accurate summary of the Board proceedings._
STATE RELATIONS UPDATE

2020 Legislative Session Overview

This past spring session, due to COVID-19, the General Assembly met for a total of four days at the end of May 2020 to address time sensitive items that required action by the close of the fiscal year.

Public Act 101-0637 (HB 264) was signed into law by Governor Pritzker on June 10, 2020 and contains the State’s FY21 budget as well as supplemental budget adjustments for FY20. Key highlights of P.A. 101-0637 include the following:

- $87.8 million General Funds appropriated to NIU for FY21 operations, which is level compared to FY20 state appropriations.
  - The FY21 budget does include new provisions that may allow for executive alteration at some point during the fiscal year, which leaves uncertainty in state funding levels despite the budget’s enactment.
- $451.3 million General Funds for Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants, which is level compared to FY20 state appropriations and does not include the Governor’s recommended annual increase of $50 million for the program.
- $35 million for year 3 of the AIM HIGH Program, which is level to FY20.
- The Act also includes the FY20 cohort restriction fix for the AIM HIGH Program appropriation, allowing all universities the flexibility to use the $35 million appropriated for distribution during year 2, or AY2020-2021, on any existing or future cohort(s).

Public Act 101-0643 (SB 1569), known as the Education COVID Omnibus bill, was signed into law by Governor Pritzker on June 18, 2020. The Higher Education portion of P.A. 101-0643 made changes to the Illinois Articulation Initiative, AIM HIGH, and the Emergency Completion and Student Support Services Grants.

The following provides a highlight of changes made to each program:

- **Illinois Articulation Initiative**: Requires public universities and community colleges to accept grades of Pass, Satisfactory, or Credit for general education transfer and prerequisite requirements.
  - This provision only applies to courses taken in the Spring 2020 semester, but would protect student transfer of those courses indefinitely. The changes would not impact a college or university’s decision with respect to how the course is applied to major course requirements.
- **AIM HIGH**: Allows a student to continue to receive the grant all four years of college if they initially qualified under the household income guidelines.
- **Emergency Completion and Student Support Services Grants**: Subject to appropriation, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) shall award emergency completion grants and competitive grants for public university student support services. This is essentially a statutory change to reflect the budget bill initiative NIU and its sister institutions pursued in collaboration with the Partnership for College Completion and other stakeholders prior to COVID-19.
State Funding and Capital Project Update

As of July 29, NIU received its last outstanding payment from the State for FY20 totaling approximately $6.7 million General Funds. At the time of this report, no payments for FY21, the current fiscal year, have been received.

While the State’s FY21 budget did include re-appropriations of all capital projects, many remain in a holding pattern due to COVID-19, particularly due to the pandemic’s impact on state revenues that were expected and are necessary to pay for the projects. The following provides an update by individual project:

- **$77 million Health Informatics Building**: The $7.7 million released for planning and design has been authorized for use but not yet received. The project has been put on hold due to pandemic-related revenue delays. The remaining 90 percent of funds for the project has not yet been authorized for release. This is not cause for concern as this typically takes place after completion of the planning and design phase.

- **$53 million for Deferred Maintenance**: The lump sum has been re-appropriated in FY21; however, it has not yet been authorized for release. Prior to COVID-19 there was uncertainty surrounding the timeline of when this funding might be made available for use and the pandemic only adds to existing uncertainty.

- **$15 million for the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability (NICCS)**: Similar to the status of funding for the Health IT building, funding for NICCS has been authorized and released but not yet received. NIU has continued its internal planning process to define the project and prepare for receipt of funds.

**COVID-19: State Regulations, Associated Impact(s) and Special Funding Opportunities**

On July 23, the IBHE released its COVID-19 guidance for safely launching AY2020-2021. At the time of this report, the initial guidance had already been updated on June 28 to reflect changing dynamics and/or address additional points of direction.

The IBHE’s guidance was constructed in collaboration with the Fall Opening Committee and its associated working groups. Committee and working group members were selected/convened by the IBHE and included presidents, faculty, staff, and public health experts from some of Illinois’ public and private institutions. President Lisa Freeman was asked to serve on the committee, making NIU one of the four public universities to have direct representation.

The necessary implementation of CDC and IDPH safety practices is the leading factor in terms of added costs to the University. Not only are there associated costs with physical spacing and social distancing efforts, increased cleaning, disinfecting and hand sanitizing stations, and the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE), there are also related technology costs associated. As NIU moves to implement physical spacing and a hybrid online/in-person course structure, there is a new emergence of certain technology needs. For example, this includes broadband refreshes to increase streaming efficiencies, procurement of zoom lines, investment in software and hardware as we become less reliant on shared computer labs, etc.

**Limited Liability Protections**

At the time of this written report, institutions of higher education have not yet received limited liability protections being sought at the state and federal level, respectively. At the state level, NIU and its sister institutions are working in collaboration with private institutions to be in a position to request the Governor’s consideration of making an executive order granting limited liability protections for higher education institutions that follow state and federal health and safety standards. There is precedence in this request, as the Governor has previously extended a similar executive order providing such protections to Illinois healthcare and hospitals.
The need for action at the state level is currently dependent on federal action, or a lack thereof, as limited liability for higher education institution will potentially be included in Congress’ latest COVID-19 response legislation.

Currently in Illinois, there is a $2 million cap on damages and no cap on contract claims. Without special, limited liability protections in place going into the fall semester, the potential financial impact to NIU or any other university is unpredictable but likely significant/debilitating.

The Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund

Under the Federal CARES Act passed in March 2020, Illinois received a $108 million lump sum for flexible financial assistance to elementary, secondary and higher education institutions to help address challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Pritzker allocated $48.3 million, or approximately 45% of this lump sum to institutions of higher education.

To date, NIU has been allocated $2.9 million GEER funds, second to only University of Illinois at Chicago in terms of allocation amount. NIU is in the process of determining how its GEER funds will be utilized. The IBHE guidance suggests expenditure on services to enroll and retain students of color, first-generation, and high-need students that might not otherwise enroll or return as a result of the pandemic. Guidance specifically notes using funds to address any digital equity gaps.

For general background, the $48.3 million GEER Funds for higher education were allocated as follows:

- $27 million for Public Universities
- $18 million for Community Colleges
- $250K for the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA)
- $25K for the University Center of Lake County
- $3 million for Targeted Initiatives set-aside

The $3 million for targeted initiatives provides an opportunity for public and non-profit 4-year institutions to receive additional funding to support programs targeting enrollment and retention of underrepresented, first-generation and high-need students. The funds will be awarded through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process administered by IBHE. NIU is in the process of developing its RFP submission.

Looking Ahead to Fall 2020

The Illinois General Assembly’s fall veto session is currently scheduled for November 17-19 and December 1-3. This is subject to change due to the uncertainties of COVID-19.

On November 3, Illinois voters will decide whether or not the Illinois constitution shall be amended to allow for a graduated income tax structure. Depending the outcome of the referendum, lawmakers will need to reconvene at some point to address the tax structure and associated rates and/or revisit the FY21 budget as enacted in June 2020 to shore up appropriations with projected revenues.
FEDERAL RELATIONS REPORT

This report covers the period of May through July 2020 and encompasses NIU equities across all three branches of the federal government. A brief review of the Office of Federal Relations activities during the past state fiscal year is also included.

COVID-19 Relief

As of this writing, Congress and the White House are locked in negotiations over the next COVID-19 relief bill. **I will provide a verbal update on the latest legislation and state-of-play.**

The majority party in each Chamber of Congress has introduced legislation for the next round of COVID-19 relief. On May 15, the House passed H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act. On July 27, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell introduced the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools (HEALS) Act. Under the HEROES Act NIU would receive an allocation of $43.1 million and under the HEALS Act NIU would receive an allocation of $34.55 million, as estimated by APLU. The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) has completed a detailed analysis of the higher education-related provisions in the HEROES Act and HEALS Act.

NIU is working in conjunction with our sister institutions across Illinois and the nation and our professional associations to make the case to Congress and the Administration that our students and institutions are in need of additional financial and policy relief from COVID-19 related impacts to operations, education, and research in subsequent legislation. Since May, President Freeman has discussed this issue with Senator Durbin, Senator Duckworth, Representative Kinzinger, Representative Lipinski, and Representative Underwood and she has joined with IL public university presidents in sending two letters to the Illinois congressional delegation. Faculty Senate President Kendall Thu and Student Government Association leaders have also sent letters to the Illinois congressional delegation regarding the impact of the pandemic on their constituents and the need for federally supported relief.

Congressman Lipinski is leading the House in advocating for relief for higher education. In May, he led a 100-signature bipartisan House sign-on letter, which called for $47 billion in pandemic-related relief for higher education institutions.

**Appropriations**

**Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations**

The House has passed ten of twelve FY21 appropriations bills while the Senate has not advanced any appropriations bills yet. The appropriations levels approved by the House are across-the-board year-on-year increases for NIU priorities spanning research, education, and student financial aid. For example, the year-on-year increase for the National Science Foundation is 3.26%, National Endowment for the Humanities is 4.74%, Department of Education Title VI International Education Programs is 5.46%, and the Pell grant maximum award is 2.36% (which brings the maximum Pell award to $6,495). These appropriations levels are a good starting point for negotiations with the Senate and White House. That said, a stopgap continuing resolution (CR) that funds the federal government at least into mid-November 2020 is very likely so FY21 appropriations negotiations are on the back burner for the time being.
The Administration

Immigration is an active area of policymaking for the Administration. NIU is in regular contact with the offices of the Illinois congressional delegation regarding immigration policy and the importance of international students and scholars to our campus and the community.

President Trump issued a proclamation on May 29 that bars entry to the U.S. for Chinese graduate students and visiting researchers who may pose a risk of passing technological knowledge back to the Chinese military because they have ties to certain institutions in China. The proclamation only applies to international graduate students (under F-1 visas) and scholars (under J-1) and the Administration intends for it to affect a small percentage of Chinese visa holders.

On June 22, President Trump issued an executive order to suspend new H-1B, L-1, and other non-immigrant work visas for individuals presently located outside of the U.S. through the end of the year, along with an extension of the freeze on green cards for new immigrants. This order could negatively affect NIU’s hiring of foreign talent and could negatively impact international students seeking post-graduate employment in the U.S. On the plus side, the order does not affect the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, which has been under scrutiny for possible changes by the White House. NIU has about 800 international students in OPT. House Republicans sent a letter to the Administration in support of international students and the OPT program which was co-led by Representative R. Davis and co-signed by Representative Shimkus.

On June 24, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that new international students currently located outside of the U.S. who plan to enroll at a college or university that switched to all-online instruction will be barred from entering the country. This follows the July 14 rescinding of the July 6 directive from ICE which would have required institutions to provide at least part of their instruction in person for international students currently in the U.S. or risk those students being deported. NIU has about 800 international students. Members of Congress responded to the July 6 directive by sending four letters to the Administration in support of international students. In total, letters were co-signed by Senators Duckworth and Durbin and Representatives D. Davis, R. Davis (who led the House Republican letter), Foster, Garcia, Kinzinger, Krishnamoorthi, Lipinski, Quigley, Schakowsky, Schneider, and Underwood.

On July 28, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a memorandum that enacts significant changes to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, including limiting the period of deferred action to one year; rejecting initial requests for DACA; and rejecting new and pending requests for advanced parole absent exceptional circumstances. NIU estimates that there are a few dozen students who are affected by these changes.

The Courts

In a long-anticipated ruling, on June 18, the Supreme Court voted 5 to 4 to reject the Trump administration’s 2017 attempt to rescind the Obama-era DACA policy. As such, the policy will continue to provide protection for some 650,000 recipients throughout the country.

On June 15, the Supreme Court ruled by a 6 to 3 vote that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects gay and transgender individuals from workplace discrimination. The question for the justices was the meaning of “sex” in Title VII, which bars employment discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, and sex.

Federal Engagement with NIU

Recent and upcoming federal engagements with NIU include:

- **May – July: Congressional Meetings for President Freeman.** During this timeframe, President Freeman met with Senator Durbin, Senator Duckworth, Congressman Kinzinger,
Congressman Lipinski, and Congresswoman Underwood to discuss the University’s pandemic response and the need for federal relief.

- July 21: AVP Quider and OSTP Director Kelvin Droegemeier. AVP Quider moderated a discussion with White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Kelvin Droegemeier on behalf of the APLU Council on Governmental Affairs.
- August 19: VP Blazey and House Science, Space, and Technology Committee staff. VP Blazey will participate in an invitation-only small group meeting of higher education leaders and bipartisan staff of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to discuss the reauthorization of the National Science Foundation. NIU will be the only non-R1 institution at the meeting as the result of years of relationship building with the committee staff.
- August 28: Rep. Sean Casten and NICCS and ISESE. Rep. Sean Casten is scheduled to meet with faculty from the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability (NICCS) and the Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy. He is expected to discuss his service on the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Annual Summary for the Office of Federal Relations

This brief summary covers work conducted by the Northern Illinois University Office of Federal Relations (OFR) from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. During this period, OFR worked in Washington, D.C. and on campus to advance NIU’s federal policy priorities; connect NIU students, faculty, and administrators to policymakers; and raise awareness of NIU’s strengths among federal policymakers and the broader national higher education and science policy community. This summary indicates both when an engagement was completed and when one was planned but cancelled due to the pandemic.

By the Numbers (#happened/#canceled due to the pandemic)

- 3/1 – Congressional receptions/roundtables featuring NIU.
  - NIU faculty received invitations to present from Reps. Foster, Kelly, Kinzinger, and Underwood
  - Canceled: NIU 125th Anniversary Congressional Reception and Poster Session
- 8/2 – Meetings/engagements between federal agencies or national organizations and NIU visitors to Washington, D.C.
  - @Washington, D.C.: Department of Energy, National Science Foundation (x3), U.S. Supreme Court, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, National Institutes of Health
  - Canceled: Department of Education, Department of State
  - @NIU: National Science Foundation
- 2 – Visits to NIU by Members of Congress
  - Reps. Kinzinger and Underwood
- 7/8 – Off-campus meetings between Members of Congress and NIU:
  - Sens. Durbin and Duckworth; Reps. Foster, Kinzinger (x2), Lipinski, Underwood
Cancelled: Senators Durbin and Duckworth; Reps. Bacon, Casten, Kelly, Kinzinger, Krishnamoorthi, and Underwood

- 5/13 – Meetings on Capitol Hill for NIU visitors to Washington, D.C.
  - Cancelled: Seven meetings for five NIU faculty, six meetings for one NIU student
- 120 – Meetings between OFR Director Anna Quider and staff from congressional offices, the Administration, and federal agencies or requests for information from federal staff
  - Cancelled: Many meetings were canceled or postponed in March - May
For FY20, NIU received 325 sponsored awards totaling $44M. A significant driver for this year’s increase is $7.4M in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding that NIU received for reimbursements associated with changes in instruction due to COVID-19. Sponsored Program Administration (SPA) is pleased to report that even without CARES funding, NIU continues to see growth in total sponsored funding (Figure 1) and appreciates the exhaustive efforts of our faculty and staff who secure these awards.

![Five Year Sponsored Funding Trend](image)

**Figure 1**

SPA has seen an uptick in proposal activity as Principal Investigators pursue COVID-19 related research and funding opportunities. Three projects, including the $7.4M CARES award, have been funded. The additional two projects include a National Science Foundation research award to analyze the effectiveness of different testing strategies for COVID-19 and an award for stabilization funding for Northern Public Radio. More proposals are anticipated as State of Illinois and Federal agencies release funding calls to distribute their CARES money. Table 1 provides the status of these proposals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID Related Projects (as of 7/3/2020)</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th># of Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>$7,526,465</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-CARES</strong></td>
<td>$113,876</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CARES</strong></td>
<td>$7,412,589</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>$1,415,209</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declined</td>
<td>$1,272,486</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 The university received an additional $7.4 mil allotment in CARES funding for direct student aid. This funding is categorized as financial aid and is not reported in these figures.
At this time, it appears that Principal Investigators with existing awards have been able to modify their program schedules to accommodate remote work; however, some have had to incur unexpected costs on their grants to manage disruptions due to canceled work, meetings, or lack of access to facilities and field sites. Based on our preliminary review of COVID-19 grant expenses and obligations, unexpected costs are currently ~ $137k.

In March, the federal government issued a series of memorandums directing funding agencies to provide grantees with additional spending flexibilities to cover these unexpected costs but have also made clear that additional funding may not be available to offset these expenses. Agencies have not been consistent in their implementation of these flexibilities. It is unclear how this may impact the Investigators’ ability to meet their final program objectives and deliverables. SPA is working with Investigators on an individual project basis to assist with these situations and monitoring federal funding relief efforts with VP Blazey and AVP Quider.

NIU continues to receive the majority of its sponsored funding from Federal and State of Illinois agencies (Figure 2). The originating source of almost all of NIU’s sponsored revenue, regardless of funding agency, is the federal government (Figure 3). This is because NIU partners with different State of Illinois agencies, other universities, and external entities who receive their funds from the federal government and then flow a portion of the funding to NIU.
As shown in Figure 4, this year, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) provided the largest share of revenue for other (not research or instruction) sponsored activities and public service programs. While this includes the $7.4M CARES funding it is important to recognize that NIU faculty consistently win USED awards. For example, faculty in the College of Education are the recipients of long-standing programs to train graduate students as special education teachers and orientation and mobility specialists to serve the needs of blind or visually impaired children with high intensity needs in preschool through 12th grade. In the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, USED funding provides ongoing support for NIU’s world class Center for Southeast Asian Studies to increase the world’s knowledge and understanding of Southeast Asia through academic and public programs.

Research funding remains consistent across agencies with the majority of revenue received through a combination of awards from Argonne and Fermilab National Laboratories, National Science Foundation, and U.S. Department of Commerce. Over FY20, NIU’s direct funding from the National Institutes of Health, the nation’s largest funder of biomedical research, grew by 35%. In the College of Health and Human Sciences, an NIH award was transferred to NIU as part of a new faculty hire. The award funds an international feasibility study to determine group versus individual self-management of depression. In the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, early career researchers from Biological Sciences and Chemistry and Biochemistry each secured NIH awards for a combined total of $800k. These awards strengthen NIU’s research environment by directly
supporting graduate and undergraduate students and advancing high quality research. The 
College of Engineering and Engineering Technology leveraged NIU’s relationship with the U.S. 
Department of Commerce/Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center to provide $100k for senior 
design programs that provide students with opportunities to identify innovative solutions to real 
world industry problems.

While funding across university units generally maps on to normal patterns with the majority of 
funding concentrated in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Outreach, Engagement and 
Regional Development there are some variations this year. Total funding in the Colleges of 
Health and Human Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts decreased due to expiring awards 
and contracts while increases in the Colleges of Business and Education is the result of improved 
reporting. CARES funding is reported under Other University Units. A detailed listing of awards 
is provided at the end of this report beginning on page 15.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/Division</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>All Sponsored Funding - FY20</th>
<th>All Sponsored Funding - FY19</th>
<th>% Change FY19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$1,904,200</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$1,904,284</td>
<td>$608,926</td>
<td>213%</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>$24,951</td>
<td>$1,735,973</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$1,760,942</td>
<td>$885,166</td>
<td>99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering and Engineering Technology</td>
<td>$719,660</td>
<td>$331,450</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$1,051,150</td>
<td>$1,000,562</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Human Sciences</td>
<td>$840,627</td>
<td>$355,430</td>
<td>$799,326</td>
<td>$1,995,398</td>
<td>$4,306,545</td>
<td>-54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>$9,341,801</td>
<td>$229,428</td>
<td>$9,005,565</td>
<td>$18,576,913</td>
<td>$18,193,992</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual and Performing Arts</td>
<td>$60,500</td>
<td>$18,500</td>
<td>$7,900</td>
<td>$86,904</td>
<td>$125,293</td>
<td>-31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development</td>
<td>$195,736</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$7,983,748</td>
<td>$8,214,515</td>
<td>$8,251,168</td>
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<td>Other Academic Units</td>
<td>$1,684,422</td>
<td>$181,458</td>
<td>$996,116</td>
<td>$2,862,007</td>
<td>$2,053,585</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other University Units</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$7,536,364</td>
<td>$7,536,369</td>
<td>$8,969</td>
<td>83927%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$12,867,700</td>
<td>$4,791,439</td>
<td>$26,329,019</td>
<td>$43,988,485</td>
<td>$35,559,054</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
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ANTHROPOLOGY


This project seeks to develop technologies for high-fidelity simulation of on-line social behavior (the spread and evolution of online information) while rigorously testing and measuring simulation accuracy.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

National Institute of General Medical Sciences/NIH/DHHS for "Control of Polarized Basement Membrane Secretion in Epithelial Cells." Olivier J. Devergne.

Award: $446,999.00. April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2023. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The goal of this project is to identify and characterize new genes involved in the regulation of the basal restriction of basement membrane proteins in polarized epithelial cells.


To study the intersections between geospatial properties and plant and small mammal communities at Nachusa Grasslands.

Lake County Forest Preserve District for "Monitoring and Assessment of Blanding’s Turtle Populations 2020 at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve." Richard B. King.


To provide appropriate field data collection and reporting over the course of a 5-month assessment of the population status of Blanding’s turtles at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve through standard research methods.

Lake County Forest Preserve District for "Blanding's Turtle Reintroduction." Richard B. King/Callie A. Klatt.


Reintroduction is a necessary management tool for species recovery. Our objective is to test if head-starting, in which animals are reared in captivity during vulnerable juvenile life stages, can be used for Blanding’s Turtle reintroduction.
Directorate for Biological Sciences/NSF for "Collaborative Research: RoL: Impacts of plants and communities on soil microbial composition and function across phylogenetic scales." Wesley D. Swingley.


We will combine sampling in a controlled biodiversity experiment and in the field, exometabolomic plant measurements and manipulations, and machine learning approaches to forecast microbial community structure and function.

National Aeronautics & Space Administration for "Chlorophyll d as a model for biosignature evolution." Wesley D. Swingley.

Award: $114,783.00. (Cumulative $222,725.00). February 13, 2020 - February 12, 2021. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

To study phototrophic oxygen production both on Earth and exoplanets using the cyanobacterium Acaryochloris to assess how it extends the limits of oxygenic photosynthesis and how its photosynthetic apparatus performs at the minimum of water oxidation.

CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES

Illinois State Board of Education for "Centralized Demographic Database Administrator." Desheng Xu.

Award: $48,817.00. (Cumulative $225,566.00). July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

CGS will manage the Common Demographic Data Administrator for the multi-agency Illinois Longitudinal Data System.

CENTER FOR NONPROFIT AND NGO STUDIES

Rochelle Area Community Foundation for "Strategic Planning Assistance." Alicia M. Schatteman.


Sauk Valley College Foundation for "Presentation." Alicia M. Schatteman.


Live Healthy DeKalb County for "Strategic Planning Assistance." Alicia M. Schatteman.


DeKalb County Regional Office of Education for "Research and Report on The Basics." Alicia M. Schatteman.

DeKalb County Community Foundation for "Meeting facilitation." Alicia M. Schatteman.


DeKalb County History Center for "Strategic Planning Assistance." Alicia M. Schatteman.

Award: $2,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT


NIU will assist with the evaluation and enhancement of the Air Force Medical Readiness Agency Mental Health Division's Mental Health Resilience Program.

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY


The project is intended to understand at molecular level the nucleation, growth and deposition of electrocatalyst under microfluidic environment, and the electrochemical activities of these electrocatalyst.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Fundamental understanding on the interaction between Pt-alloy electrocatalysts and porous carbon." Yingwen Cheng.


The project is intended to understand at the molecular level the nucleation, growth and deposition of electrocatalyst under microfluidic environment, and the electrochemical activities of these electrocatalysts.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Li Joint Appointment NIU-ANL FY20." Tao Li.


Funds are being used for a joint appointment between NIU and Argonne in support of Dr. Tao Li.
Directorate for Mathematics and Physical Sciences/NSF for "Development of Controlled Polymerization for Hierarchically Organized Conjugated Polymers." Evgueni E. Nesterov.

Award: $450,000.00. July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The project is focused on developing new controlled chain-growth polymerization methods for preparation of complex conjugated polymers.


The goal is to develop a new simple and inexpensive platform for biomolecules quantitation.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

McDonald's Corporation for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.

Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

WeWarriors/AmySquared for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.

Award: $9,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.


Award: $3,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

TransNational Payments for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.

Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

W.W. Grainger for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.

Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Club Colors for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.

Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
Clover Technologies Group, LLC for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.
Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Lakeshore Recycling Systems for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.
Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

WeWarriors/AmySquared for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.
Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Echo Global Logistics for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.
Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The Shelby Group, LLC for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.
Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Option Care Enterprises, Inc. for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.

Omron Automotive Electronics, Inc. for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.

HAVI for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Walgreens Company for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Physicians Immediate Care, LLC for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Old World Industries, LLC for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


National Forwarding Co., Inc. for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Zurich North America for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


US Cellular Corp. for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.

University of Chicago Medical Center for "Chicago MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Keyence Corporation for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


First Data Corporation for "Chicago MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Thomson Linear for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Rush University Medical Center for "Chicago MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.

Merck & Co., Inc. for "Chicago MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


CMI Novacast, Inc. for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.

Elkay Manufacturing for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.

OptumRx for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.

Transervice for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.

Egret Consulting Group for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.

Pepper Construction for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


*Sedgwick Claims Management for "Executive MBA Contract Courses."* Anthony W. Preston.


*Cognizant Technology Solutions for "Executive MBA Contract Courses."* Anthony W. Preston.


*Gas Technology Institute for "Executive MBA Contract Courses."* Anthony W. Preston.


*Cognizant Technology Solutions for "Executive MBA Contract Courses."* Anthony W. Preston.


*Best Buy Co., Inc. for "Executive MBA Contract Courses."* Anthony W. Preston.


*Transform Holdco LLC for "Executive MBA Contract Courses."* Anthony W. Preston.


*Libsys, Inc. for "Executive MBA Contract Courses."* Anthony W. Preston.


*Mars Wrigley Confectionery for "Executive MBA Contract Courses."* Anthony W. Preston.


*AST LLC for "Executive MBA Contract Courses."* Anthony W. Preston.

ValMatic for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


National Express LLC for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


SureStaff Temp Services for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


LSC Communications for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Epsilon Marketing for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


University of Chicago Medical Center for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Elkay Manufacturing for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


High Low Voltage Electrical, LLC for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.

*Legal People for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.*


*Yaskawa America, Inc. for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.*


*Kane Express, LLC for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.*


*ECHO Incorporated for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.*


*ZS Associates for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.*


*Zurich North America for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.*


*Coyote Logistics for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.*


*ORBIS Corporation for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.*


Schwartz Gilligan, Ltd. for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Thomas Engineering Inc. for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


CVS Health for "Executive One-Year MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


Omron Automotive Electronics, Inc. for "Chicago MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


CA Management Services, LLC for "Chicago MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


TravelClick, Inc. for "Chicago MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W. Preston.


COLLEGE OF EDUCATION


Association for Experiential Education for "Golden Apple Scholar Institute." Terry E. Borg.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The purpose of this collaborative project is to support the Senior Design program at Northern Illinois University for the benefit of Illinois manufacturers.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory/NASA for "Senior Design Project: Distributed Carbon Dioxide Sensor Array for the International Space Station." Donald R. Peterson.
Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

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Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.


Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.


Award: $10,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Motorola Solutions for "NIU-Enhancing Engineering Pathways: An integrated Outreach and Mentoring Program to strengthen the STEM pipeline for female students from Middle School to College." Suma Rajashankar.


Funds are requested to develop an integrated outreach and mentoring program to strengthen the STEM pipeline for female students from middle school to college.

Navistar Inc. for "Contract Courses: MS Mechanical Engineering." Mansour Tahernezhadi.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DEAN

California Institute of Technology for "Jet Propulsion Laboratory subcontract." Donald R. Peterson/Mansour Tahernezhadi.


Assist with the development of a rugged ultra-sensitive chemical sensor that provides for human safety, and also with the development of wireless-communicating network capability for an array of miniature CO2 sensors.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES


Award: $314,932.00. (Cumulative $1,223,634.00). February 16, 2020 - February 15, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Through participation in the MACRA-Provider Resource Network, NIU will provide clinicians in rural Illinois with customized direct technical assistance and peer-level support to deliver care in a patient-centric and efficient manner.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Argonne National Laboratory for "System Software Integration and Development." Nicholas T. Karonis/Joe Insley.


Argonne support for Brian Toonen to work on Cobalt Scheduler, RAM Area Network, and library tracking.


NIU is part of a collaborative team with ProtonVDA and other institutions in joint research to produce and test a fully functional prototype of a proton tomography system with all required clinical features.

CONTROLLER


CARES Act funding issued via Department of Education in order to provide emergency assistance funding for institutional costs related to COVID-19.

CENTER FOR CHILD WELFARE & EDUCATION


This project will serve the needs of Native American youth in care, to assist them in accessing appropriate social and cultural resources as required by law.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION


*School District #205, Elmhurst Community Unit for "Contract Courses: MS Ed in Literacy Education: Reading Specialization." Sally R. Blake.*


*Rochelle Elementary Education Association for "Contract Courses: ESL/Bilingual Endorsement." Sally R. Blake.*

Award: $60,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

*Commission for Educational Exchange between Uruguay and the United States of America (Fulbright Uruguay) for "2020 Uruguay Fulbright Teacher Experience." James A. Cohen.*


Award: $1,000.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

ECONOMICS


Award: $9,955.00. (Cumulative $76,016.00). September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The PI will work in collaboration with RDCEP researchers on the development of robust optimal control methods for economic models re: climate change.

EDUCATION SYSTEMS CENTER


Award: $50,000.00. June 1, 2020 - December 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

The project will involve expanded analysis on the cost of providing high quality early childhood care and education services to all families.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING


Funds are requested to develop CloudMEMS, a cloud-based platform in response to the cyber manufacturing initiative from NSF.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY


Provide technical research on various environmental issues as needed.


Two engineers in residence will assist Edward-Elmhurst Healthcare to develop policies and procedures surrounding the patient discharge process.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Campus Compact for "NIU Communiversity Gardens Internship." Melissa E. Lenczewski/Melissa A. Burlingame.


To hire a summer college student intern to gain professional experience while assisting with the Communiversity Gardens.

GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES


To examine the forcings and feedbacks associated with East Antarctic Ice Sheet development during the Miocene Climatic Optimum. Middle to late Miocene Antarctic Ice Sheet expansion into the Ross Sea will also be documented.

National Science Foundation/NSF for "Collaborative Research: REU Site: Water Resources and Quality in the Riviera Maya, Mexico." Melissa E. Lenczewski.


To provide an opportunity for STEM undergraduate students interested in water sciences to carry out laboratory and field research under the supervision of faculty mentors from NIU, Northeastern Illinois University, and CICY.

National Science Foundation/NSF for "Collaborative Research: REU Site: Water Resources and Quality in the Riviera Maya, Mexico." Melissa E. Lenczewski.

To provide an opportunity for STEM undergraduate students interested in water sciences to carry out laboratory and field research under the supervision of faculty mentors from NIU, Northeastern Illinois University, and CICY.

Directorate for Geosciences/NSF for "Collaborative Research: Testing the Linchpin of WAIS Collapse with Diatoms and IRD in Pleistocene and Late Pliocene Strata of the Resolution Drift, Amundsen Sea, Antarctica." Reed P. Scherer.


The study will contribute answers to urgent questions about the background rates of ice sheet-ocean change in West Antarctica that must be answered in order to contextualize the physical basis of contemporary change and develop a societal response.

National Science Foundation/NSF for "Collaborative Research: Transient Forcing of the Local Last Glacial Maximum in the Tropical Peruvian Andes.” Nathan D. Stansell.


The goal of this project is to develop new records of past glacier and climate variability from the Andes.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Waubonsee Community College for "Graduate Student Placements at Waubonsee Community College." Bradley G. Bond.


This project provides three Graduate Assistants to Waubonsee Community College to work under the Dean of Students in the areas of Student Affairs (two students), and the under the Athletics Manager to work with the Athletics Trainer (1 student).

HISTORY

Black Metropolis Research Consortium for "Summer Short-term Fellowship." LeNie Adolphson.


Russian Science Foundation for "Imaginary Anthropocene: environmental knowledge production and transfer in Siberia in the XX-XXI centuries." Andy R. Bruno.


Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina for "Research, Science, and Technology Project "Raíces"." Damian M. Fernandez.

American Council of Learned Societies for "At the Origins of the Hispanic Legal Tradition. A Translation and Commentary of the 'Book of Judgments' in Collaboration with Noel Lenski (Classics/History, Yale University)." Damian M. Fernandez.

Stiftung Mercator for "Mercator Fellow of the SFB 933 at the University of Heidelberg." Valerie L. Garver.


Yale University for "Humboldt Yale History Network Travel Grant." Brian W. Sandberg.

Centre Roland Mousnier for "Visiting Professor (Chaire Dupront)." Brian W. Sandberg.

INDUSTRIAL AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

SKF USA Inc. for "Value Stream Mapping for SKF Test Lab." Purushothaman Damodaran.

Aurora Specialty Textiles Group, Inc. for "Lean Six Sigma Yellow & Green Belt Workshop." Purushothaman Damodaran.

SPX Flow for "Warehouse Layout Design for Bar Stock Machining Operations." Purushothaman Damodaran.

SD Wheel for "Improving Warehouse Picking and Put-Away Processes." Purushothaman Damodaran.

Nobelus LLC for "Increasing Production Rate of Laminate Through Process Efficiency." Purushothaman Damodaran.

**Six-Sigma for "Lean Six Sigma Yellow & Green Belt Workshop."** Purushothaman Damodaran.


**CST Storage for "Minimization of Galvanized Steel Expedite Costs."** Purushothaman Damodaran.


**Motorola Solutions for "Improving Worker Utilization and Flow of Defective Materials Through the Analysis Line."** Purushothaman Damodaran.


**SKF USA Inc. for "Improving Work Order Visibility and Trackability in the Materials Lab."** Purushothaman Damodaran.


**Motorola Solutions for "Improving Material Management for High Variation Lines and Warehouse."** Purushothaman Damodaran.


**Hoffer Plastics for "Improving Layout and Efficiency of Assembly Area."** Christine V. Nguyen.


**Bergstrom, Inc. for "Improving Bergstrom Zone 12 Layout Efficiency and Part Accessibility."** Christine V. Nguyen.


**KINESIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Hinsdale Racquet Club, Inc. for "Graduate Assistant for High-Performance Tennis Programming."** Steven M. Howell.

The student will assist the club's tennis pro with overall tennis club operations, player recruitment and development, junior league programming, and high-performance practice session development and execution.

**LEADERSHIP, EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND FOUNDATIONS**


Award: $6,628.05. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.


**MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES**

*Simons Foundation for "Dynamics and Geometry in the Quasi-world." Alastair N. Fletcher.*

Award: $14,000.00. (Cumulative $35,000.00). September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

This project aims to build on existing collaborations and forge new ones in areas of the PI's expertise relating to quasiconformal mappings including, in particular, Teichmueller theory and the iteration theory of quasiregular mappings.

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

*National Science Foundation/NSF for "RAPID: Collaborative Research: Agent-based modeling toward effective testing and contact-tracing during the COVID-19 pandemic." Sachit Butail.*


Funds are requested to develop agent-based modeling to analyze the effectiveness of different testing strategies for COVID-19.


Funds are requested to support the research objectives of NIU-INL interns as they investigate Additive Manufacturing-related research topics.
MUSIC


NORTHERN PUBLIC RADIO


Award: $8,600.00. April 15, 2020 - August 31, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds are used for high quality public radio programming.


Award: $8,600.00. April 15, 2020 - August 31, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds are used for high quality public radio programming.

*Corporation for Public Broadcasting for "FY20 CARES Stabilization Grant." Staci Hoste.*

Award: $75,000.00. April 16, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

The stabilization funding is being provided to address the emergent situation due to COVID-19.

*Corporation for Public Broadcasting for "2020 Community Service Grant." Staci Hoste.*


Funds are used to support high quality public programming.

P-20 CENTER

*Illinois State Board of Education for "FY20 Title I Migrant Summer." Susana A. Das Neves.*


The federally funded Migrant Education Program (MEP) provides supplemental education and supportive services to migrant children during the summer months.

Award: $2,293.00. April 1, 2020 - August 31, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds will be used to expand on and supplement services and activities under the Migrant Education grant.

PHYSICS

National Science Foundation/NSF for "REU Site: Undergraduate and teacher research in physics at Northern Illinois University." Jahred A. Adelman/Mike Eads.


This project aims to fund a new REU site, based at the Department of Physics of Northern Illinois University.

Columbia University for "ATLAS Detector Upgrade R&D for High-Luminosity LHC." Dhiman Chakraborty.


Funds are requested to construct Low-Voltage Power Supply Boxes for the Front-End Electronics of the HL-LHC upgrade of the ATLAS Tile Hadronic Calorimeter.

University of Notre Dame for "The Quarknet Project." Dhiman Chakraborty/Mike Eads.

Award: $3,000.00. (Cumulative $6,000.00). September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The purpose of this project is to involve high school teachers and their students in state-of-the-art research that seeks to resolve some of the mysteries about the structure of matter and the fundamental forces of nature.

State University of New York at Stony Brook for "US ATLAS Operations." Dhiman Chakraborty.


Funds are requested to develop and maintain the ATLAS calibration database and related software.


This project supports the research and supervision activities of NIU's Professor Omar Chmaissem within the Neutron and X-ray Scattering (NXRS) Group of the Materials Science Division at Argonne National Laboratory.
Argonne National Laboratory for "ANL Graduate Support for Mr. Danylo Lykov." Andreas Glatz.


Graduate student support for Mr. Danylo Lykov.


Funds are requested to develop a high-repetition-rate source of bright electrons.

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for "Syphers Joint Appointment NIU-FNAL FY20." Michael J. Syphers.


FY20 Joint Appointment for Dr. Michael J. Syphers.

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for "Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE)." Vishnu V. Zutshi.


Funds will support the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE) Single-phase Photon Detector consortium to support the DUNE Technical Design Proposal.

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for "High Luminosity (HL) LHC CMS Detector Upgrade Project Endcap Calorimeter." Vishnu V. Zutshi/Alexandre S. Dychkant/Nicholas A. Pohlman/Iman Salehinia.


NIU will provide test beam support especially in the area of data acquisition software on the High Luminosity LHC CMS Detector Upgrade Project Endcap Calorimeter.

PSYCHOLOGY

Cornerstones of Science for "Patron Experience Pilot." Amanda M. Durik.


Assisted in helping to design and implement strategies to foster library patrons' interest in Earth and space science.

Award: $90,470.53. (Cumulative $6,550,563.03). July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds support the Integrated Assessment Program, which provides clinical screening and assessment services to children under the care of DCFS in the northern, central, and southern IA program regions.

Museum of Science and Industry for "Travel Award to attend a conference on science education." Christian C. Steciuch.


PUBLIC SAFETY


Award: $2,100.00. July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

The purpose of the project is the purchase of a climate-controlled case for the storage of medications in the NIU Department of Police and Public Safety.

REPORT CARDS


Award: $1,750,000.00. July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Innovation and improvement for FY21 in the MyllRC (Illinois Interactive Report Card) data portal with respect to continuous improvement planning and 21st Century CLC benchmarking tools.

SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Illinois Department of Public Health for "County Wide BRFSS." Kathryn D. Mazurek.


The purpose of this project is for data collection, data management, reporting and technical support on the Illinois County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH STUDIES


Expand existing database of tap water lead levels, housing age, water characteristics, plumbing factors, and regional factors to water lead levels, and randomizing 75 households with measurable water lead to one of three remediation approaches.

STUDENT AFFAIRS


Award: $7,500.00. (Cumulative $90,077.00). March 17, 2020 - June 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Northern Illinois University’s Complete Count Committee (CCC) has prepared a multifaceted approach to reach hard-to-count students within DeKalb County and to provide education and programming to support census completion.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Ohio University for "LuceSEA with CORMOSEA/UM." Hao N. Phan.


Funding will help to strengthen digital collections on Southeast Asian studies through the documentation of Cham religious rites, digitization of selected palm leaf manuscripts, and development and updating of online language and cultural materials.


Award: $348,630.00. July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2022. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

This project will support digitization of dime novels and story papers of a major publisher to allow the works to be freely and widely available and add index entries at dimenovels.org.
INNOVATION IMPACT REPORT AND PLANS

Overview

This report summarizes key Office of Innovation metrics and activities for FY20. We provide an update on the intellectual property portfolio including active cases, issued patents, licensing agreements and additional vital information. We also provide highlights from a recent innovation impact report, in which NIU ranked favorably, and offer insight into how we might put the report recommendations into action. Lastly, we review current Office of Innovation activities and initiatives with a look to the coming year.

Intellectual Property Portfolio Metrics

At the time of this writing, there are 46 active technology cases (defined as cases with at least one patent filing). The breakdown of these cases by technology domain follows: 24 Chemistry and Biochemistry technology cases; 13 mechanical and/or electrical engineering; 4 physics; 3 computer science; 1 biology; and 1 mathematics case.

Currently, there are 39 issued United States patents and 18 issued foreign patents. NIU has 13 patent applications in prosecution, two license agreements (one with Proton VDA and the other with Invictus), two options agreements (one with Bourn & Koch and the other with Therome Business Partners), and one issued trademark. In FY20, the NIU research and innovation ecosystem saw a total of three invention disclosures.

Innovation Impact Report Highlights

A recent study by the George W. Bush Institute, Opus Faveo Innovation Development, and Southern Methodist University found that NIU ranked third in innovation impact productivity among U.S. universities with under $100 million in total research spending. The study evaluated 195 institutions, examining nine innovation factors: 1) new patents issued; 2) new license agreements; 3) license income; 4) spinout companies; 5) licenses to spinouts; 6) academic paper citations; 7) patent citations; 8) new STEM doctoral graduates; and, 9) new STEM bachelor’s and master’s graduates. The study covered the period 2013-2017 and the data was taken from the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) data base and supplemented from other publicly available sources. The study provided insights into what university leaders as well as policymakers, business leaders, philanthropists, and communities might do to improve a university’s overall innovation productivity and impact.

For University Leaders:

1) Prioritize research.
2) Compete hard for and retain star faculty researchers.
3) Run an efficient, outcomes-focused technology transfer operation.
4) Instill a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the university.
5) Engage closely with the surrounding business and innovation communities.
6) Avoid overreliance on sponsored research funding from industry.
7) Monitor, quantify, and transparently disclose innovation impact results.

For Policymakers, Business Leaders, Philanthropists, and Communities

1) Increase public sector support for university research.
2) Understand how institutions vary in their innovation impact productivity.
3) Compete hard for talent, including immigrant talent.
4) Invest in integrated physical spaces that connect researchers with entrepreneurs, investors, and other potential nonacademic partners.

5) Support technology transfer operations and other enablers of innovation impact.

As discussed below, we are taking steps that are coherent with these recommendations.

**Innovation Impact Report Context**

The report paints a positive picture of NIU’s innovation efforts for the period covered, 2013-2017. In particular, NIU’s efficiency in achieving innovation impact when benchmarked against similar institutions is notable. Research and pedagogy played an important role in NIU punching above its weight—paper citations and STEM graduates helped boost NIU numbers, in addition to research activity leading to patents. From an innovation office perspective, the ranking likely speaks to sound technology transfer practices such as our practice of employing a market rubric to guide investment decision making and carefully choosing which inventions to back.

However, there is room to grow and improve. For instance, in terms of other measures of innovation impact, the NIU ecosystem has few licensing deals, few spin out companies licensing and leveraging NIU intellectual property, and modest licensing revenue. When viewing this within the context of the innovation impact report, this means that the bulk of NIU impact rested upon the shoulders of the faculty producing cited research papers, research that lead to patents, and the number of STEM graduates. More can be done within the Office of Innovation to shore up the lagging measures and further boost NIU innovation impact.

**Office of Innovation Activities and Initiatives**

The Office of Innovation is currently working on a number of initiatives well-aligned with the recommendations found in the impact report, while simultaneously negotiating the fiscal constraints. Highlights from our recent efforts follow:

- Given the realities of shrinking budgets, the Office must further reduce the total number of patents and patent applications. To address this, the Office began an in-depth review of the NIU intellectual property portfolio to prioritize investment in IP with the highest licensing and commercialization potential. The Office categorized IP into broad buckets such as commercial activity, commercial potential, additional research required, and little-to-no commercial viability. This categorizing is guiding research and marketing efforts to focus attention where most needed.

- The Office began a review of internal processes to identify opportunities to reduce spending, while improving impact outcomes. As part of this review, we conducted a literature review and a number of interviews with other tech transfer offices to better understand best practices and potential options. The primary result of these activities was the decision to migrate active IP cases to the Northern Illinois Research Foundation, a move we believe will ultimately improve efficiency in prosecuting IP cases, limit overall risk exposure to the University from commercial deals, and potentially reduce overall costs.

- The Office analyzed the NIU research portfolio to better understand research funding streams and identify potential innovation opportunities. We noted far less Department of Defense (DoD) grant funding when compared to other federal institutions such as Department of Energy, National Science Foundation et al., despite a ramp up in recent years of DoD innovation funding. Since then, the Office has been actively engaging defense innovation ecosystem elements such as the National Security Innovation Network to make introductions, identify opportunities, and pursue potential innovation funding leads.
In addition to pursuing federal innovation funding, the Office has been investigating potential industry innovation partnerships. Our first order analysis has focused on two separate engagement tiers: local industry—i.e. DeKalb Community Economic Development Corporation-connected companies; and Illinois Fortune 500 companies. The intent of this effort is to identify likely companies to develop opportunities similar to the Discover Code Orange partnership with a deeper focus on innovation activities. To date, the investigation has focused on companies that 1) align well with NIU research and innovation (e.g. NICCS thrust areas); 2) have a history of hiring NIU alumni; 3) have alumni in prominent positions; and, 4) have a history of investing in higher education collaborations. To coordinate efforts and ensure engagement across the whole ecosystem, we have shared this preliminary analysis with Engagement and Outreach; the Deans of Engineering and Engineering Technology and Business; Career Services; Alumni Relations; and the NIU Foundation. We plan to approach the most likely candidates with a team of representatives from other key elements across the university to show a more complete value offering.

The Office has been working on deepening ties with the local, external innovation ecosystem. To this end, we have been connecting with the DCEDC, Innovation DuPage, the Army Research Laboratory Midwest Office, Fermi Lab and Argonne, in addition to the U of I system. We have focused on engaging with DCEDC with the understanding that engaging with and helping build the local innovation ecosystem is a necessary condition to improving the overall innovation impact of NIU.

The Office is working to support small business-faculty-led spin-outs. We have been supporting Dr. Beth Gaillard’s Therome Innovation Partners through engagement with the College of Business Experiential Learning Center (ELC), Innovation DuPage, and other potential partners.

The Office, in partnership with others across the university, assisted in the strategy and design of an Economic Development Agency grant proposal. Although on hold, the exercise provided significant material for future innovation ecosystem concept development, including a collaborative innovation studio, engineering skunkworks and test kitchens which could complement NICCS innovation on the west side of campus, while incorporating the sellable feature for partnerships of the Opportunity Zone. We are currently converting the concepts from this proposal into a broader, more ambitious commercialization concept in preparation to compete for a potential larger economic development grant opportunity in the Spring of 2021.

The Office is looking for creative ways to engage students in innovation and entrepreneurial activities. We submitted an application to participate in the Rookie Researcher program of the Office of Student Engagement & Experiential Learning. We are examining opportunities for student involvement in DoD-sponsored activities such as Hacking for Defense. We are exploring creative ways to engage students remotely in helping crowd source marketing leads and other necessary background research for promoting the licensing of NIU IP.

The Office is collaborating with Dr. Beth Gaillard and the MAC Lab to assist in identifying potential hemp growers to leverage the MAC facility for crop testing of hemp for agricultural use. Services will provide a new revenue stream for NIU and will include: Monitoring effects of growing conditions on potency; Complying with state and federal laws for THC levels; Screening for pesticide residues on product; Verifying absence of mycotoxins and heavy metals contamination. The Office has also been engaging with local growers as well as industry partners to explore additional innovation opportunities in the nascent Illinois hemp domain.