



# Board of Trustees

Research and Innovation,  
Legal and Legislative Affairs  
Committee

*February 18, 2021*

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee**

**9:45 a.m. – Thursday – February 18, 2021**

**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 November 12, 2020](#)..... *Action*..... 1
5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
6. Public Comment\*
7. University Reports
  - a. [State Legislative Report](#)..... *Information*.....5
  - b. [Federal Legislative Report](#)..... *Information*.....9
  - c. [Sponsored Programs Administration Quarterly Report](#) ..... *Information*.....12
  - d. [Strategic Development Team Report](#)..... *Information*.....24
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.**

Minutes of the  
**NIU Board of Trustees**  
**Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
November 12, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Committee Chair Rita Athas. 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.

Trustee John Butler: Present	Trustee Montel Gayles: Present
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present
Trustee Aidan Shields: Present	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Present
Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present	Committee Chair Rita Athas: Present

Also present were President Lisa Freeman, Committee Liaison and Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Gerald Blazey, General Counsel Bryan Perry, and Board Liaison and Chief of Staff 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**

Committee Chair Athas asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

Committee Chair Athas asked Ms. Cima to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes
Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes	Committee Chair Rita Athas: Yes

The motion was approved.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee Chair Athas asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2020. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

Committee Chair Athas asked Ms. Cima to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Committee Chair Athas welcomed the members of the University Advisory Committee and requested comments.

UAC Representative Kendall Thu commended his colleagues for securing research funding despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trustee Athas noted that NIU was recognized in a global universities report. She further noted that General Counsel Bryan Perry would be providing an overview of the General Counsel's work.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received.

### **UNIVERSITY REPORTS**

Committee Chair Athas asked Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships, Dr. Gerald Blazey to provide an update from the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships. Dr. Blazey reported that despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, NIU faculty and staff have continued and expanded their entrepreneurial and scholarly achievements, which have included book awards, fellowships, as well as new partnerships that encompass COVID-19 research and diagnosis. He further noted that these efforts have been highly collaborative, reaching across campus involving numerous divisions and highlight that as an institution NIU has shown great nimbleness and mission focus.

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

State Legislative Liaison, Jenna Mitchell, reported that NIU received notice that its proposal for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER Funds) was selected and will receive \$456,300. NIU has authorization to begin spending these funds as of October 28, 2020. She further noted that NIU received notice from the Illinois Capital Development Board that funds were available to begin moving forward with the planning process of NIU's new Health IT building. Ms. Mitchell provided a preliminary overview of the November 3, 2020 state election results, noting that the results are considered unofficial until the State Board of Elections certifies the results on December 4, 2020. Ms. Mitchell reported that the state's FY21 revenues are currently projected to be \$6.3 billion below the total FY21 appropriations. Ms. Mitchell reported that adequate and stable funding remains the top request for the spring state legislative session. Ms. Mitchell reported that on October 23, 2020 NIU co-hosted a virtual event with the Partnership for College Completion to bring institutions and legislators together for a discussion on equity.

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

Dr. Blazey provided a federal relations report on behalf of Assistant Vice President Dr. Anna Quider, who was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Blazey reported that national elections were held on November 3, 2020 and that 435 members of the House of Representatives, one-third of the Senate including one Illinois seat, and the Presidency and Vice-Presidency were up for election. Vice President Joe Biden is the President-elect and Senator Kamala Harris is the Vice President-elect of the United States. The House of Representatives will remain in Democratic control, with one of the narrowest margins in history. Control of the Senate will be decided by the January runoff elections for two seats in Georgia; the Republicans only need to win one seat to maintain control of the chamber. He reported that Illinois Senator Dick Durbin won re-election, and, in the house, Marie Newman will replace Dan Lipinski in the 3rd district and Mary Miller

will replace John Shimkus in the 15th district. Incumbent Lauren Underwood has a narrow lead in the 14th district, but it remains too close to call. Dr. Blazey reported that The Office of Federal Relations is seeking opportunities to appropriately position NIU and our federal priorities for success in the new environment.

#### **Agenda Item 7.c. – Sponsored Programs Administration Quarterly Report**

The committee reviewed the sponsored program administration quarterly written report submitted by Assistant Vice President Dara Little. No questions were raised. Committee Chair Athas noted that Assistant Vice President Dara Little had recently been elected to the Board of Directors for the Society of Research Administrators International.

#### **Agenda Item 7.d. – General Counsel Report**

General Counsel Bryan Perry opened by stating that there were no registered public comments for the meeting. He then, provided an overview of the services provided by the Office of the General (OGC), noting that the General Counsel’s office aims to provide high quality legal services to the university in a responsible, constructive, and timely manner. The office aims to protect and promote the mission and values of the university, including compliance with its obligations and protection and promotion of its interests; to minimize legal risks and costs; and to address and resolve legal disputes. He noted that the OGC provides counsel and serves as parliamentarian to the Board of Trustees. The OGC provides legal advice and counsel to the university administration, faculty, and staff on the business and operations of the university, and they provide legal review, interpretation of contracts, and processes.

#### **Agenda Item 7.e. – Faculty Report**

Dr. Melani Duffrin, Professor of Interdisciplinary Health Professions, reported on her scholarship, specifically on her development of the FoodMASTER Initiative, which is a compilation of programs using food to teach mathematics and science. She noted that since 2005, the program received funding from the National Institutes of Health Science Education Partnership Award and has also received funding from the USDA.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

Committee Chair Athas 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**

Committee Chair Athas noted that the next meeting will be held on February 18, 2021.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair Athas asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

Committee Chair Athas asked Ms. Cima to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

Committee Chair Rita Athas: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Cima/Crystal Doyle

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 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

On January 13, 2021, members of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Illinois General Assembly were sworn into office. The current partisan breakdown is 40 Democrats and 18 Republicans in the Senate and 73 Democrats and 45 Republicans in the House. Democrats hold veto-proof majorities in both bodies, although this advantage becomes less important with a Democratic governor.

Most notably, after serving as Speaker of the House for all but two years since 1983, Michael Madigan was not re-elected. After no one received a majority after three rollcalls were cast, Emanuel “Chris” Welch was selected by the Democrats with 70 votes. Welch becomes the state’s first Black Speaker of the House. Greg Harris and Jim Durkin were re-elected as the House majority and minority leaders, respectively. In the Senate, Don Harmon was re-elected as president and Kimberly Lightford as majority leader. Dan McConchie was elected Senate minority leader, replacing Bill Brady.

Speaker Welch has promised changes to House rules that would give individual lawmakers and legislative committees more autonomy. He has also promised more transparency and to work across the party aisle.

Although the university will be focused on several issues during this legislative session (e.g., the release of capital funding, procurement reform), the highest university priority remains stable funding in the FY22 budget. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) recently approved a proposed budget model “based on each institution’s percentage of Pell students in its undergraduate student body compared to the statewide percent of Pell students” (IBHE, January 13, 2021, Item #E-1). Under the IBHE’s proposal, NIU would receive slightly more than a 2% increase in state funding in FY22 (\$89.6 million). Recall that in December 2020, the NIU Board of Trustees approved a budget request to the IBHE of \$93.6 million.

Before the new legislature was sworn in, the 101<sup>st</sup> Illinois General Assembly held a lame-duck session unlike any that longtime state political observers could remember. At one point, the Senate remained in session throughout the night. Because of the canceled veto session last fall, there was pent-up demand to pass legislation, particularly a series of omnibus bills proposed by the Black Caucus. The four pillars in the Black Caucus agenda are criminal justice reform, violence reduction and police accountability; education and workforce development; economic access, equity and opportunity; and health care and human services. All four omnibus bills, each of which was several hundred pages long, passed both chambers and now await action by Gov. Pritzker. Three of those bills have significant direct effects on the university. Here is a brief synopsis of each:

### **HB2170 Education Bill**

- AIM High Sliding Scale Match
  - Adds language to the AIM High Grant Pilot Program requiring that if 49% or more of the students at a public university are Pell-eligible in the previous academic year, then the university is only required to match 20% of the funds appropriated to it under the AIM High Grant Pilot Program. However, if less than 49% of the student body at the university receives Pell grants in the previous academic year, then the university is required to match only 60% of the funds appropriated to it under the program. NIU falls under the latter. This is a change from the program’s current 1-to-1 match.
- Creates the Developmental Education Reform Act
  - Requires each institution of higher education to publicly post its placement policy

- in an easily accessible manner to both students and prospective students.
  - Requires each university to submit to the IBHE its institutional plan for scaling evidence-based developmental education reforms to maximize the probability of student placement and completion of certain introductory coursework. Sets minimum components for inclusion with submission on or before May 1, 2022.
  - Requires the IBHE to collect data and give a status report to the General Assembly as well as the public every two years beginning or before January 1, 2023.
  - Requires the IBHE to work with institutions of higher education and other stakeholders to consider additional data reporting requirements for the continued evaluation of the institution's implementation plan and its impact on students, particularly Black students. This action must be taken every two years beginning on or before January 1, 2024.
- Board of Higher Education Equity in Strategic Plan Resolution
  - This resolution supports the IBHE in its efforts to identify more race-conscious and equitable ways to allocate higher education funding and to address long-term inequities by developing equitable funding mechanisms in the Strategic Plan for Higher Education for the next 10 years. Provides that IBHE should:
    - Identify equitable and adequate ways to fund the system;
    - Identify an array of policy, practice and proposed legislative changes required to implement the strategic plan along with an implementation process timeline; and,
    - Embed equity into the state's attainment goals.
    - Urges the Board of Higher Education to prepare an array of policy, practice and proposed legislative changes required to implement the strategic plan, along with an implementation process and timeline by May 1, 2021; and, finally,
    - Urges IBHE to regularly evaluate the impact of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and publicly report this evaluation.
- Changes to the Minority Teacher of Illinois Scholarship
  - Requires that MTI scholarships be allocated first to qualified students who received scholarships in the previous year, and then the remaining funds be allocated to students on the basis of financial need, as well as increases the qualified minority male set-aside from 30% to 35%.
  - Increases the annual individual maximum scholarship from \$5,000 to \$7,500.
  - Provides that Black male candidates be prioritized.
  - Provides that at least 10% of the 35% male set-aside is reserved for qualified bilingual minority candidates.
  - Provides that if ISAC does not receive enough applications from qualified bilingual minorities to award 10% to qualified bilingual candidates on or before January 1 before each fiscal year, then ISAC may award a portion of the reserved funds to other minority applicants at their discretion.
- Illinois Articulation Initiative Resolution
  - The IBHE and ICCB are urged to jointly establish a "major panel" in education to identify respective recommended major courses that shall be accepted as credit toward the Education major at the receiving institutions; and
  - Urges the IBHE, ICCB and ISBE provide a report on the results of this effort and any further actions necessary to achieve the stated goals as part of the report on the status of the Illinois Articulation Initiative.



## **HB3653 Criminal Justice Reform**

- Requires all law enforcement agencies, including the NIU Department of Public Safety, to use body cameras according to specified guidelines. The scheduled date of implementation depends on county and municipality population size. Agency compliance provides preferential grant funding.
- Increases Department of State Police data collection and reporting frequency from each law enforcement agency.
- Creates Statewide Use of Force Standardization Act applying to all peace officers.
- Amends the Uniform Peace Officers' Disciplinary Act by making unavailable a complainant's name and other identifiable information to the peace officer. Removes the requirement of a sworn affidavit, and adds any other legal documentation to the ban applying to any collective bargaining agreement entered after the effective date of the provision.
- Restricts obtainment of military surplus equipment, including prohibitions on municipality acquisitions. Requires a police department to publish public notice of request for non-military surplus program equipment.
- Amends the Criminal Code of 2012.
  - Adds language on justification of use of force to include a "totality of circumstances basis" when making an arrest. Includes language for decision-making based on perspective of a reasonable officer (in the same situation).
  - Encourages the adoption and development of polices to protect certain persons more likely to experience greater levels of physical force during police interactions.
  - Adds a prohibition on chemical agents, chokeholds, and restraints above the shoulder with risk of asphyxiation. Applies to peace officers or any person acting on behalf of peace officer.
- Creates an affirmative duty to intervene to stop or prevent unauthorized use of force exceeding the degree of force permitted. Applies to peace officers or any person acting on behalf of a peace officer.
- Makes it official misconduct for a law enforcement officer to misrepresent or fail to provide details of incident, withhold any knowledge of misrepresentations, or fail to comply with state law or department policy regarding use of officer-worn body cameras.

## **SB1608 Small Business Innovation**

- 30% minimum (previously 20%) of the total dollar amount of state contracts awarded to businesses owned by minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.
  - At least 16% (previously 11%) of these contracts shall be awarded to minority-owned businesses.
  - At least 10% (previously 7%) of these contracts shall be awarded to women-owned businesses.
  - At least 4% (previously 2%) of these contracts shall be awarded to businesses owned by persons with disabilities.

- Department of Central Management Services to further establish committed diversity aspiration goals for state contracts awarded to minority- and women-owned businesses and businesses owned by persons with disabilities.
- Amends Illinois Procurement Code by changing evaluation factors. This includes three-part proposals (including pricing and commitment to diversity) and additional subsection on the “method of scoring.”
- Adds a subsection (under duration of contracts) with prohibitive language for vendor eligibility (i.e., those failing to meet goals agreed to in the vendor’s utilization plan).
- Adds language under awards section to require a commitment to diversity factors and methodology with scoring requests for proposals.
- Adds new section on diversity training, requiring certain persons/positions to complete annual training for diversity and inclusion. Tasks the chief procurement officer with prescribing the appropriate program for their jurisdiction.
- Agency Compliance Plans:
  - adds language to subsection on filing an annual report. Requires a plan to increase the diversity of vendors engaged in contracts with public institutions of higher education. Notes a focus on the most underrepresented in contract awards.
- Creates an African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission. Duties include ensuring proportional economic representation in all state contracts, including reviews and updates of state procurement.
- Amends the Department of Central Management Services Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois by adding a section on race and gender wage reports.
  - Requires a public institution of higher education to submit an annual report, categorized by both race and gender, specifying the respective wage earnings of employees of that public institution of higher education. Information will be available to the public.

## FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

This report covers the period of November 2020 through January 2021 and encompasses NIU equities across the federal government.

### Leadership in White House and Congress

On January 6, 2021, the U.S. Capitol was overrun while Congress was in session to certify the presidential election results. The building was secured after several hours and Congress completed the certification. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris assumed office on January 20, 2021.

The House of Representatives remains a Democratic majority by 10 members. Nancy Pelosi was re-elected as Speaker of the House and Kevin McCarthy was re-elected as Minority Leader. The Senate is evenly split, and Vice President Harris has the tie-breaking vote, handing control of the chamber to the Democrats. Chuck Schumer becomes the Majority Leader, Senator Dick Durbin becomes the Majority Whip (the #2 leadership position), and Mitch McConnell becomes the Minority Leader. With Democrats controlling the House, Senate, and White House, they are expected to move quickly and decisively to implement President Biden's legislative agenda. The razor thin margins in both chambers mean that we can expect legislators to use the reconciliation process to pass high priority fiscal legislation with just a simple majority in the Senate. Relying solely on reconciliation would force the Biden Administration to narrow the scope of their legislative agenda, so bipartisan compromise will be necessary to pass legislation on immigration, infrastructure, climate change, and other priority topics.

The committee assignments for both chambers are still being determined. One notable assignment that has been announced is that Senator Dick Durbin will become the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In this powerful position, he will play an important role in advancing immigration reform and managing the confirmation of Supreme Court justices (should vacancies arise).

### COVID-19 Relief

On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) became law. The bipartisan \$900 billion supplemental relief act—over \$1 trillion less than the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed in March—is the product of 9 months of negotiations. The bill provides \$22.9 billion set aside for higher education. These funds are distributed through a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) structure, similar to the CARES Act but with fewer restrictions on their usage. Additionally, the Governors Education Emergency Relief (GEER) fund received an additional \$1.3 billion. The package does not include relief funding for federal science agencies, direct aid to state and local governments, or liability protections.

Legislation	NIU allocation: HEERF student aid	NIU allocation: HEERF institution aid	Illinois allocation: GEER Fund
CARES Act	\$7.4 million	\$7.4 million	\$108.49 million
CRRSAA	\$7.4 million	\$16.3 million	\$47.9 million

Table 1. NIU and Illinois allocations from recent COVID-19 relief legislation.

President Biden has released the outlines of a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package. It includes \$35 billion for higher education relief and \$5 billion for governors' discretionary education relief.

The Administration is hopeful that it will make it through Congress during their first 100 days, yet it faces a tough path in the Senate unless it can be narrowed to meet reconciliation requirements. In the meantime, President Biden and the Department of Education have extended the pause on student loan repayment through September 2021.

The higher education community estimates \$120 billion in losses/expenses related to COVID-19 and has asked Congress to provide commensurate relief. NIU continues to work 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 relief in subsequent legislation that matches the extent of COVID-19 related impacts to operations, education, and research.

### **Appropriations**

Congress completed Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) appropriations in mid-December, ensuring the federal government is funded through September 30, 2021. The enacted appropriation levels are across-the-board year-on-year increases for NIU priorities spanning research, education, and student financial aid. Most year-on-year increases were up to 2.5% but notable standouts are Department of Defense Science & Technology funding increased by nearly 5% and the Economic Development Administration's Regional Innovation Program increased by 15%. The bill also included several higher education policy changes:

- **FAFSA simplification** – The FAFSA will be reduced from 108 questions to 33 questions and will simplify the formula for calculating who qualifies for Pell grants. Then-Senator Lamar Alexander, the champion of this proposal, has said his legislation would make an additional 420,000 students eligible for Pell grants each year and another 1.6 million additional students would receive the maximum award.
- **Student loan interest subsidy** – The legislation repeals the policy of cutting off the subsidy for borrowers who are still in school beyond 150% of their expected program length.
- **Pell grant increase** – The legislation boosts the maximum Pell grant award by \$150 to \$6,495 for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Expanding Second Chance Pell** – Pell grants are now available for students who are incarcerated, lifting the prohibition Congress imposed in the 1994 crime bill.

### **The Administration**

President Biden has nominated Dr. Miguel Cardona as Secretary of Education. His confirmation hearing has not been scheduled. His experience is primarily in K-12 education and his most recent position was Connecticut's state commissioner of education. During his first week in office, President Biden signed a number of executive actions that align with NIU equities. These include:

- Revoking the “divisive concepts” Executive Order while launching a whole-of-government initiative to advance racial equity ([text](#))
- Reinforcing Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to require that the federal government does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity ([text](#))
- Presidential memorandum to “preserve and fortify” DACA and call on Congress to enact legislation to provide a path to citizenship ([text](#))
- Repeals travel ban proclamations and orders a review of “extreme vetting” immigration policies ([text](#))

Additional actions to halt or repeal Trump Administration policies in areas such as immigration are expected to continue in the coming weeks and months. NIU Federal Relations is closely monitoring these developments.

## **Federal Engagement with NIU**

Senator Tammy Duckworth is scheduled to be the second virtual speaker in the CLAS Rebuilding Democracy Lecture Series on February 18, 2021 at 2-2:45pm CT.

### SPONSORED PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION QUARTERLY REPORT

This report covers sponsored funding activity for the first and second quarters of fiscal year 2021 (FY21), and data presented in this report is through December 31, 2020. For this period, NIU received 89 sponsored awards totaling \$14.8 million (Figure 1). This funding includes \$3.4 million awarded to NIU through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER).

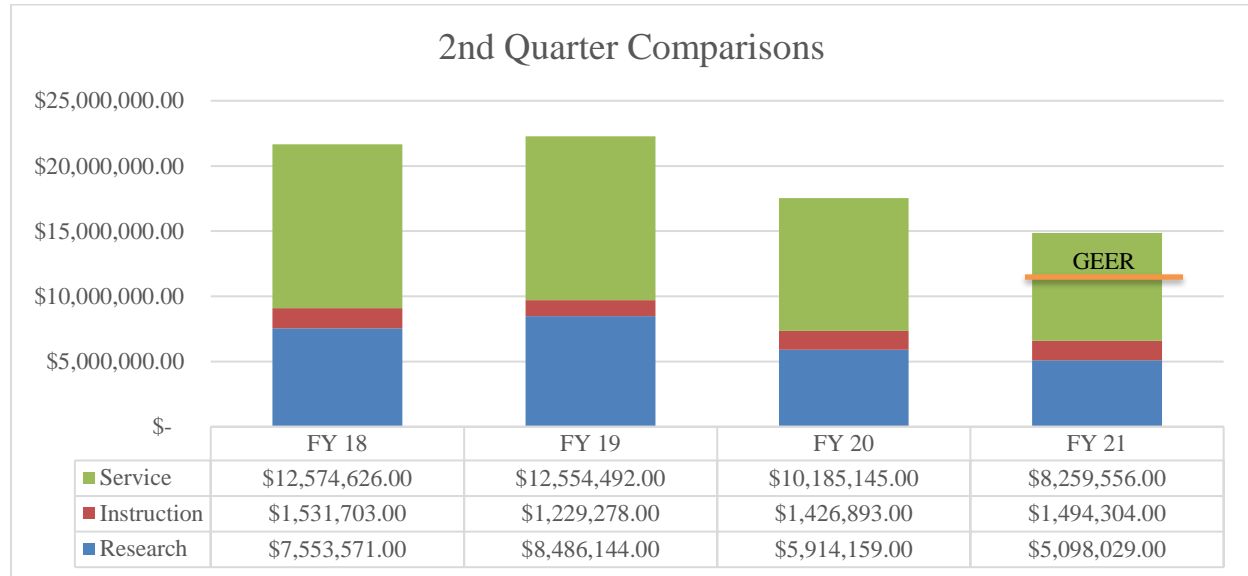


Figure 1

Funding from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) accounts for just over half of all sponsored activities other than instruction or research. See Figure 2. These data are based on the original funding source with over half of these funds flowing to NIU through an intermediary source (e.g., USDE GEER funding flowing

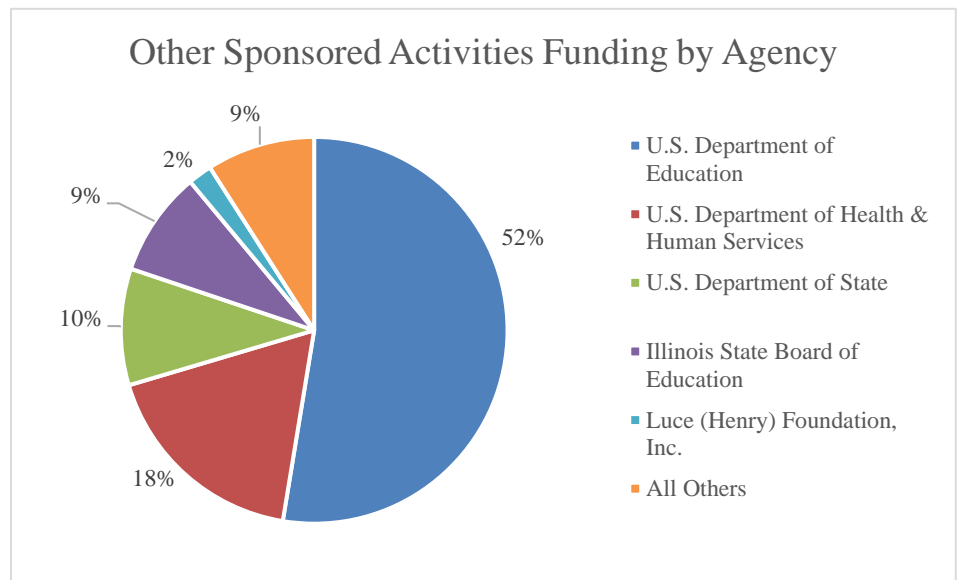


Figure 2 –OSA includes public service and all other activities other than instruction and research.

through the Illinois Board of Higher Education to NIU). Funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services supports NIU’s child welfare service programs conducted on behalf of the State of Illinois as well as other P-20 activities through Outreach and Engagement.

Funding from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and USED accounts for almost all of NIU's funding for Instructional Programs. See Figure 3. ISBE funding supports early learning programs for the DeKalb community. Awards from the USED support faculty training programs in the College of Education to train and prepare those working with the visually impaired. Grant awards from the Illinois Board of Higher Education provide need-based financial awards to underrepresented graduate students as part of the State's Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship (DFI) program.

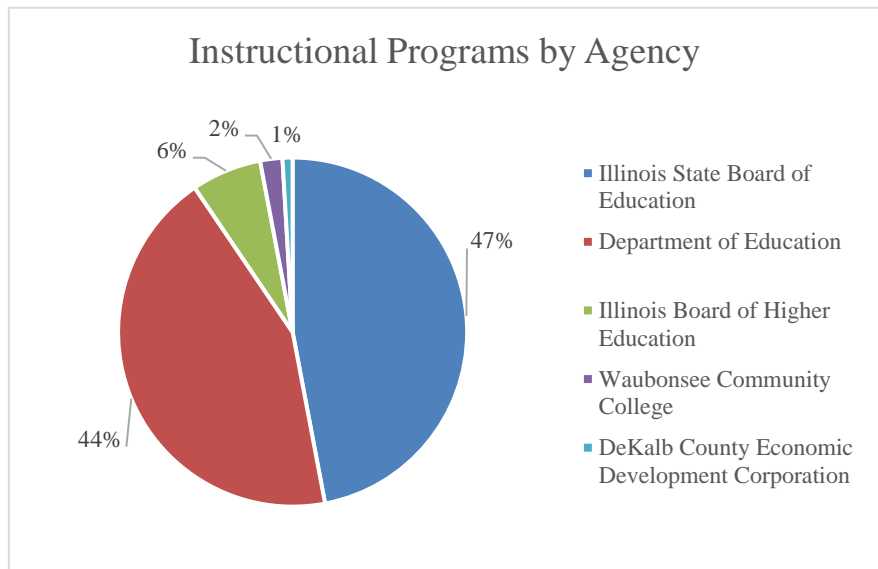


Figure 3

Top fund sources for research have remained relatively unchanged from last quarter's report. This quarter, National Science Foundation (NSF) funding surpassed U.S. Department of Energy funding. Faculty in Computer Science recently secured a NSF award to study machine learning and artificial intelligence while faculty in Psychology received NSF funding to develop principles to evaluate disturbance ecology.

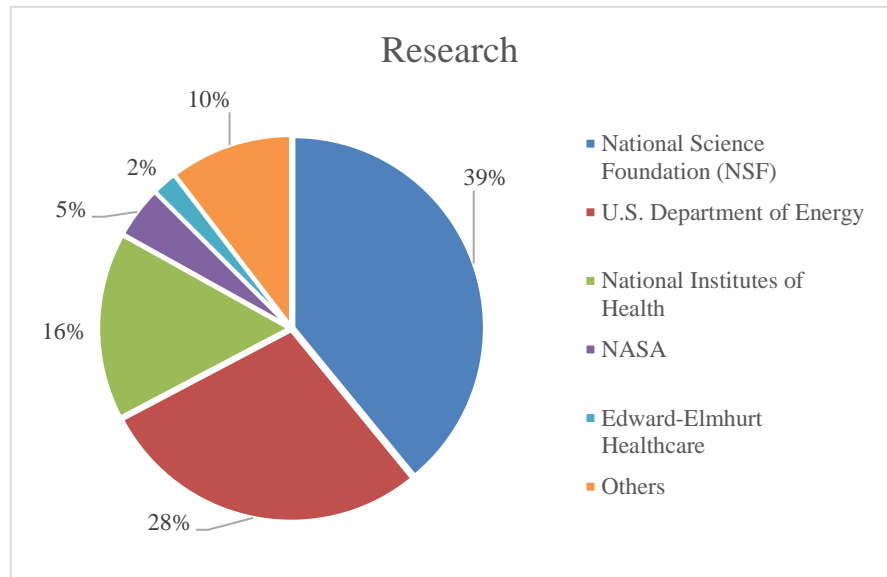


Figure 4

NIU's partnerships with area national laboratories continues to account for the majority (73%) of funding from the U.S. Department of Energy. National Institutes of Health awards support research in the College of Health and Human Sciences. These research data are also based on originating fund source, with slightly over a third (37.85%) flowing to NIU through an intermediary source.

## COVID-19

Since the pandemic began, SPA staff have assisted with \$35 million in COVID-19 related funding requests and awards. Table 1 below provides the status of these actions from the start of the pandemic through the second quarter. As of writing this report, SPA is working with campus units to process the \$16.3 million in additional relief funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). These funds will be integrated with all other funds in the third quarter report. As with CARES, the student aid portion of CRRSAA funds (\$7.4 million) will not be included in the SPA report.

Table 1: Funding associated with COVID relief.

COVID-19 Related Projects (as of 12/31/2020 – FY21 Qtr.2)		
Status	Total	# of Projects
<b>Awarded</b>	<b>\$11,224,571.35</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CARES*</b>	\$7,487,589.00	1
<b>GEER</b>	\$3,402,142.09	2
<b>Other</b>	\$334,840.26	4
<b>Pending</b>	<b>\$18,320,392.00</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CARES</b>	\$0	0
<b>GEER</b>	\$0	0
<b>CRRSAA*</b>	\$16,315,819.00	1
<b>Other</b>	\$2,004,573.05	11
<b>Declined</b>	\$1,813,031.22	9
<b>Withdrawn</b>	\$3,839,859.00	2
<b>Total Funding Actions</b>	<b>\$35,197,853.50</b>	<b>30</b>

\* Figures do not include student aid portion of the CARES or CRRSAA funding. As noted in the August 2020 SPA report, financial aid will report these amounts.

Project changes to address COVID-19 delays and other disruptions appears to have slowed since last quarter’s report with no additional requests to change scope and only two new requests for no cost extensions. This maps on to other patterns noted in RIPS for tracking COVID-19 disruptions to research. Most Principal Investigators seek no cost extensions for their federally sponsored awards so requests specifically due to COVID-19 are not likely cause for concern.

Since SPA’s previous report, SPA has recorded \$1.3 million in COVID-19 related expenses to grants bringing total COVID-19 classified expenses on grants to \$1.5 million. The significant increase this quarter is the result of spending under Administration and Finance’s GEER award.

Table 2 shows the distribution of funds across colleges and university units. The distribution shifted relative to last quarter due to the Division of Administration and Finance’s management of NIU’s GEER funding. An increase for the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology includes new funding from the NSF, NASA and the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN). A detailed listing of awards is provided at the end of this report beginning on page 5.

Table 2: Funding distribution across colleges and units.

College/Division	Research	Inst.	Other	FY21	FY20	Change
<b>Business</b>	\$-	\$-	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	0%
<b>Education</b>	\$27,126	\$650,000	\$45,000	\$722,126	\$674,952	7%
<b>Engineering and Engineering Technology</b>	\$799,097	\$ -	\$ -	\$799,097	\$200,536	75%
<b>Health and Human Sciences</b>	\$451,767	\$702,619	\$188,930	\$1,343,316	\$1,206,678	10%
<b>Law</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%



<b>Liberal Arts and Sciences</b>	\$3,820,037	\$13,905	\$1,608,303	\$5,442,245	\$10,583,691	-94%
<b>Visual and Performing Arts</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$57,900	-100%
<b>Outreach and Engagement</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$2,673,200	\$2,673,200	\$2,426,148	9%
<b>Other Academic Units</b>	\$ -	\$127,780	\$666,234	\$794,014	\$2,376,291	-199%
<b>Other University Units</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$3,077,889	\$3,077,889	\$ -	100%
<b>Total</b>	\$5,098,029	\$1,494,304	\$8,259,556	\$14,851,889	\$17,526,196	-18%

## ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

### *Illinois Board of Higher Education for "Governor's Emergency Relief Funding (GEER)." Sarah Chinniah.*

Award: \$2,945,856.00.

July 14, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Student Service.

The proposal is to support efforts to enroll and retain low income, underrepresented, and first-generation students, that might otherwise not enroll or return due to the pandemic, including by closing digital equity gaps.

## ALLIED HEALTH AND COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS

### *American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation for "Advancing Academic-Research Careers Award." Milijana Buac.*

Award: \$5,000.00.

August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This award will support the PI's academic research career through mentored teaching and research.

## ANTHROPOLOGY

### *University of Central Florida for "SocialSim Modeling/Repast HPC Programming Support." John T Murphy.*

Award: \$63,847.00. Cumulative \$275,162.00.

September 1, 2020 - December 10, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

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.

## CENTER FOR LATINO AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

### *University of Nebraska for "Crisis and Culture of Fear Among Latino Communities in the Midwest." Christina D Abreu.*

Award: \$3,500.00.

June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will develop a framework for understanding the construction of fear among Latino/a/x communities in the Midwest.

## CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

### *Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs/Department of State for "Southeast Asia Youth*

***Leadership Program." Eric A Jones.***

Award: \$550,000.00. Cumulative \$1,049,546.00.

February 20, 2021 - February 3, 2022. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

This project will fund 60 students from ASEAN nations visiting the US and learning about civic engagement and good governance.

**CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**

***National Institutes of Health/NIH/DHHS for "Fluorescent Cellular Assay for Kinase Inhibitors." Evgueni E Nesterov.***

Award: \$398,249.46.

September 15, 2020 - August 31, 2023. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

To develop a simple HTS-compatible cellular assay for kinase inhibitor profiling in native environments.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "Investigating the High Concentration Electrolyte Solvation Behavior." Tao Li.***

Award: \$74,440.00.

December 1, 2020 - November 30, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

To study the effect of ionic size, charge, and composition on how solvation phenomena and the resulting clustering behavior regulate solubility limits across a range of electrolyte classes, including those containing divalent cations and redoxmer species.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "Fundamental Understanding on the Interaction Between Pt-alloy Electrocatalysts and Porous Carbon." Yingwen Cheng.***

Award: \$5,000.00. Cumulative \$40,229.88.

May 16, 2020 - May 15, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

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.

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY CENTER**

***Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies for "Child Care Restoration Grant." Amy S Lofthouse.***

Award: \$143,931.00.

July 1, 2020 - November 15, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

These funds will provide supplemental revenue to assist the Child Development and Family Center, which has reduced capacity due to COVID-19 regulations.

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**

***University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for "NIU/ISGC NASA Internships, Fellowships, and Scholarships, STEM Engagement, Institutional Engagement, Educator Professional Development Project." Donald R Peterson/Kyu Taek Cho/YJ Lin.***

Award: \$29,808.00.

April 10, 2020 - April 9, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to support ISGC's mission to positively influence and support students in the pursuit of space sciences and aerospace engineering careers.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

***National Science Foundation/NSF for "Collaborative Research: Identifying Reproducible Research Using Human-in-the-loop Machine Learning." Hamed M Alhoori/David A Koop.***

Award: \$155,740.76.

September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.  
Funds are requested to develop datasets of reproducible and irreproducible research and machine learning models and algorithms to predict reproducibility and confidence level in a given research.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "High Performance Computing Research." Michael E Papka.***

Award: \$148,656.00. Cumulative \$341,017.24.

August 16, 2020 - August 15, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The funds support research and development in high performance computing, including visualization and analysis of abstract datasets based on ALCF operational logs, quantum computing algorithms, and dashboard development for monitoring of systems.

***Crane Composites, Inc. for "Measurement of Surface Smoothness of Composite Materials Using Computer Vision and AI Techniques." Pratoool Bharti.***

Award: \$70,984.95.

November 20, 2020 - May 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will design an automated model to measure the surface smoothness of the Sponsor's composite materials.

## **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

***Occupational Safety and Health Administration/Department of Labor for "Susan Harwood Training Program 2020-2021: Targeted Training Program." Pettee Guerrero.***

Award: \$116,644.00.

September 30, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

This project will fund the development and delivery of machine guarding training to prevent fatalities and amputations.

## **COUNSELING AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

***Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling for "The Development and Initial Validation of the Cultural Humility and Enactment Scale in Counseling." Peitao Zhu.***

Award: \$1,610.65.00.

August 3, 2020 - October 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of the study is to develop a client-rated, conceptually and psychometrically sound measure on counselors' cultural humility.

## **CENTER FOR CHILD WELFARE AND EDUCATION**

***Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for "Permanency Enhancement Project FY 2021." Yasmina Sefiane.***

Award: \$153,000.00.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

This project is looking to ensure the rights of youth in care around issues of representation, with the PEP Program focused on permanency and disproportionality of African American youth.

***Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for "Educational Access Project FY 21." Yasmina Sefiane.***

Award: \$1,065,487.20.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Educational Access Project for DCFS FY20.

## **EDUCATION SYSTEMS CENTER**

***Illinois Department of Human Services for "Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) IDHS." Jon Furr.***

Award: \$58,000.32.

October 1, 2020 - December 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

The purpose is to support high-level deliverables related to PDG B-5 data objectives.

***Illinois State Board of Education for "PDG B-5 FY 2021." Jon Furr.***

Award: \$150,000.00.

December 31, 2020 - December 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

NIU staff will support pursuit of high-level deliverables related to PDG B-5 data objectives.

## **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

***Jet Propulsion Laboratory/NASA for "Engineering-in-Residence: Developing Natural Gas Upwind Survey Regions Through Machine Learning." Benedito J Fonseca/Mansour Tahernezehadi.***

Award: \$33,916.680.

October 15, 2020 - August 14, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will fund a Master level engineer-in-residence student to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at NASA to use machine learning to develop natural gas upwind survey regions as a step-in defining methodologies for statistical gas leak surveys.

## **ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**

***Illinois Innovation Network for "Modification of Basil Flavor Via Adjustment of Light Environment." Kevin B Martin.***

Award: \$15,367.00.

August 16, 2020 - August 15, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project aims to address current limitations and investigate the use of light quality through use of cutting-edge tools to enhance the flavor of basil.

***Illinois Innovation Network for "Integrated Logistical, Techno-economic and Socio-environmental Assessment Framework for Sustained MSW Conversion Facilities: New Paradigm Shift for the State of Illinois." Mahdi Vaezi.***

Award: \$29,052.00.

August 16, 2020 - August 15, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to develop a comprehensive model to integrate the analysis of logistics, technical, economic, environmental, and social parameters of MSW handling facilities.

## **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST**

***Illinois Board of Higher Education for "Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) for Underrepresented, First Generation and High-Need Students." Beth Ingram.***

Award: \$456,286.09.

October 22, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Student Service.

The federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) is intended to overcome

barriers created by the COVID-19 pandemic to enroll and retain underrepresented, first-generation, and high-need students.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

*Illinois State Board of Education for "NIU Preschool for All Expansion." Thomas W Pavkov.*  
Award: \$352,949.00.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

This project will enhance cohesive and comprehensive early learning opportunities for preschoolers in the DeKalb community.

## **GEOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES**

*American Family Insurance for "Northern Illinois University Weather/Climate Modeling and Analysis." Walker S Ashley/Victor Gensini.*

Award: \$104,708.00.

November 1, 2020 - October 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funding will support the transfer of knowledge in existing weather and climate data foundations, expansion of both weather and climate datasets, model research and development, and the exploration of climate simulation/scenario analysis.

## **JOBS PLUS**

*Illinois Board of Higher Education for "Northern Illinois University FY2021 Cooperative Work Study." Chad R Glover/David A Dosier/Joseph N Griffey.*

Award: \$44,563.00.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Student Service.

The purpose of the project is to provide valuable career-related work experiences to students that are applicable to their fields of study.

## **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for "National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program: Artemis Student Challenge Opportunities." John T Shelton.*

Award: \$83,626.50.

May 16, 2020 - August 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The goal is to develop web-based education portal to house multiple components of overall STEM education program.

*Argonne National Laboratory for "Modeling Support to Advance the Performance of Next-Generation Batteries at Argonne." Kyu Taek Cho.*

Award: \$14,364.00.

September 15, 2020 - March 14, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to provide the computational modeling/simulation support to improve performance of the batteries under development in Dr. Srinivasan's group at Argonne.

*Life fitness, LLC for "Biodynamic Analysis of Treadmill Suspension Systems." Ting Xia/Donald R Peterson.*

Award: \$21,387.98.

November 20, 2020 - May 20, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

**Biodynamic Analysis of Treadmill Suspension Systems.**

## **NURSING**

*National Institutes of Health/NIH/DHHS for "Feasibility of Group Versus Individual Self-Management of Depression Using a Mobile App, to Increase Treatment Adherence Among Dominican Primary Care Patients." Susan Caplan.*

Award: \$175,848.00. Cumulative \$364,701.00.

September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The proposed research project will examine using a mobile app to deliver group-based CBT for depression treatment in a primary care setting in the Dominican Republic.

## **P-20 CENTER**

*Illinois State Board of Education for "FY21 Migrant Education - Regular Year." Neves, Susana A Da/Amy Jo Clemens.*

Award: \$59,119.00.

August 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

To ensure that migrant children fully benefit from the same free public education provided to other children and to address the special educational needs of migrant children to better enable them to succeed academically.

## **PHYSICS**

*University of Chicago for "Graduate Student Support for Mr. Danylo Lykov." Andreas Glatz.*

Award: \$40,201.56.

February 20, 2020 - August 19, 2021. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

Graduate Student support for Mr. Danylo Lykov to perform research related to ColdQuanta project, funded at the University of Chicago under the DARPA ONISQ program.

*Department of Energy for "Nonlinear Dynamics of Integrable Hamiltonian Systems for Novel Particle Accelerators in High Energy Physics." Bela Erdelyi.*

Award: \$75,000.00. Cumulative \$150,000.00.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The project will undertake a comprehensive investigation of the dynamics of nonlinear integrable Hamiltonian systems for particle accelerators in high energy physics, with a special emphasis on the Integrable Optics Test Accelerator (IOTA) at Fermilab.

*Office of Science/Department of Energy for "High-Performance Electron Sources: Numerical Methods and Beam Dynamics at the Precision Frontier." Bela Erdelyi.*

Award: \$74,000.40. Cumulative \$145,000.00.

September 25, 2020 - September 24, 2021. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

Funds are requested to develop an efficient and accurate numerical method to fix the boundary layer instability and devise an indirect method for very low emittance and temperature measurements based on caustics of multi-beamlet expansion.

*Argonne National Laboratory for "Nuclear Resonance Time-domain Interferometry." Dennis E Brown.*

Award: \$28,900.95. Cumulative \$56,659.23.

October 31, 2020 - October 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Will perform quasielastic scattering experiments to extract relaxation times of the vibrational

diffusive motion of atomic systems, measure very soft phonon lattice modes and spin dynamics, and measure extremely small energy shifts on the order of 1 neV.

***Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for "Resonant Extraction at Fermilab Muon Campus (support for PhD Program - Aakaash Narayanan)." Michael J Syphers.***

Award: \$51,358.64.

September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of this proposal is to further the development of the third-integer, slow resonant extraction system to be used to provide such beams and verification of its performance by Fermilab PhD Accelerator Program student Aakaash Narayanan.

***Illinois Institute of Technology for "Chicagoland Accelerator Science Traineeship." Michael J Syphers/Philippe Piot.***

Award: \$235,000.00. Cumulative \$370,000.00.

September 25, 2020 - September 24, 2021. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

Funds are requested to establish the proposed "Chicagoland Accelerator Science Traineeship".

***Cornell University for "Optical Transport and Beam Manipulation for Optical Stochastic Cooling." Philippe Piot.***

Award: \$63,602.00. Cumulative \$127,204.00.

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

Funds are requested to develop subsystems (laser amplifier and electron-beam bypass beamlines) associated with the Optical Stochastic Cooling technique.

***Universities Research Association, Inc. for "Dark Energy 2021 Project." Prudhvi Raj Varma Chintalapati.***

Award: \$15,000.00.

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The goal is to understand the nature of cosmic expansion and the nature of Dark Energy by utilizing the data from the Dark Energy Survey experiment.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "Computational X-ray Spectroscopy (Support for William Baker)." Veenendaal, Michel A Va.***

Award: \$7,683.48.

January 1, 2021 - May 15, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The graduate student William Baker will work on the computation of X-ray spectroscopy, such as X-ray absorption and resonant inelastic X-ray scattering.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "University to Argonne Joint Appointment - Dr. Xueying Lu." Xueying Lu.***

Award: \$75,883.50.

September 15, 2020 - May 15, 2021. (Organized Research) IPA or Joint Appointment.

Funds are being used to support a joint appointment between NIU and Argonne National Laboratory for Dr. Xueying Lu.

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE**

***United States Institute of Peace for "Inclusive Democratization in the Aftermath of Civil Resistance." Ches Thurber.***

Award: \$28,020.00.

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project explores the relationship between popular protest and inclusive democratization using a combination of quantitative analysis and case studies from Nepal and Indonesia.

## **PRESIDENTS OFFICE**

*DeKalb County Health Department for "NIU COVID-19 Hotline with DeKalb County Health Department." Matthew J Streb.*

Award: \$132,033.26.

September 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

NIU will manage COVID-19 hotline including providing recommendations for testing, isolation, quarantine and return to campus.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

*Learning Partnership for "Collaborative Research: Developing a Generalized Storyline that Organizes the Support for Evidence-based Modeling of Long-Term Impacts of Disturbances." Amanda M Durik/Anne Britt.*

Award: \$214,036.00. Cumulative \$416,647.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2022. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

This project will teach basic principles of the ability to evaluate evidence related to disturbance ecology in the Chicago school system using the model of Hurricane Maria's damage to a Puerto Rican rainforest.

## **REPORT CARDS**

*Illinois State Board of Education for "Illinois Interactive Report Card FY21." Alan D Clemens.*

Award: \$725,000.00. Cumulative \$2,475,000.00.

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**

*National Institute of General Medical Sciences/NIH/DHHS for "The FoodMASTER Initiative: Supporting the STEM learning pipeline for underserved, minority youth through informal science learning environments." Melani W Duffrin.*

Award: \$231,708.00. Cumulative \$705,082.00.

August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project investigates the impact of the FoodMASTER (Food, Math, and Science Teaching Enhancement Resource) Initiative on attitudes towards science among underserved minority youth in southern states to impact the health professions STEM pipeline.

## **SCHOOL OF HEALTH STUDIES**

*Borchard Foundation Center on Law and Aging for "Telehealth for Hospice Care: Implications for Racial/Ethnic and Rural Health Disparities." Courtney Hughes.*

Award: \$20,000.00.

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.



This study explores using telehealth for traditionally underserved hospice patients from the perspectives of caregivers and hospice administrators.

***Northern Illinois Food Bank for "Research and Outreach at the Northern Illinois Food Bank." Henna Muzaffar.***

Award: \$19,211.22. Cumulative \$71,350.08.

August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

NIU will provide consultation for the Northern Illinois Food Bank related to research and nutrition education program implementations.

## **SOCIOLOGY**

***Lake County for "Redeploy Illinois Planning Grant Research and Analysis." Carol S Walther.***

Award: \$13,272.60.

July 15, 2020 - December 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

NIU researchers will collect, code and analyze comprehensive data regarding recent participants in the Illinois juvenile justice system pursuant to a Redeploy Illinois Planning Grant.

## **SPECIAL AND EARLY EDUCATION**

***Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education for "Preparing New Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments and Existing Personnel with Certifications in Assistive Technology for the 21st Century Workforce." Stacy M Kelly/Sean Tikkun.***

Award: \$250,000.00. Cumulative \$1,250,000.00.

May 2, 2020 - May 1, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The purpose of this program is to train undergraduate and graduate students as teachers and assistive technology instructors to serve the needs of children who are blind or visually impaired in preschool through 12th grade.

***Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education for "Preparation of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists and Orientation & Mobility Specialists to Prepare Individuals with Visual Disabilities for the 21st Century Workplace." Stacy M Kelly.***

Award: \$150,000.00. Cumulative \$300,000.55.

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The purpose of the project is to train vision rehabilitation therapists (VRT) and orientation and mobility (O&M) instructors to provide services for adults and transition-aged adults with visual disabilities.

***Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education for "Project Fusion: Bringing Together Scholars in Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Programs to Serve Children with Visual Impairments in the 21st Century Classroom." Stacy M Kelly.***

Award: \$250,000.00. Cumulative \$750,000.00.

August 15, 2020 - August 14, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The purpose of this program is to train graduate students as special education teachers and orientation and mobility specialists to serve the needs of children who are blind or visually impaired with high-intensity needs in preschool through 12th grade.

## **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT**

At the beginning of the fiscal year, NIU launched the Strategic Development Team (SDT), an initiative comprised of members of the Divisions of Research and Innovation Partnerships (RIPS), Outreach, Engagement, and Regional Development (OERD), University Advancement (UA) and the NIU Foundation (NIUF). The vision of the SDT is to create a culture of strategic development through new, interdivisional approaches. The team mission is to develop “game-changing” opportunities that crosscut the NIU ecosystem, match donor, investor, and partner interests with NIU priorities, and drive enduring value to the University.

With its multi-divisional membership, the SDT possesses a variety of relevant backgrounds and expertise, which collectively creates a robust opportunity development capability. Backgrounds in donor/investor relations, STEM/workforce development, university outreach and engagement, technology transfer, commercialization and partnership development ensure that the team is poised to help the university identify nascent game-changing opportunities and foster and capitalize on them.

The SDT operates within the broader university planning and prioritization context. Underpinning the work of the SDT are the university Mission, Vision, and Values, the Presidential Goals, and the Strategic Action Planning Framework. Emerging opportunities and concepts, therefore, are contextualized within the whole of ecosystem including planning bodies, existing programs and efforts, and early stage or planned programs.

The SDT is building processes to develop and nurture game-changing ideas emanating from the entire NIU ecosystem. For example, the SDT is working on building off concepts previously developed for the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability (NICCS) and the West Campus. Likewise, the SDT is routinely engaging with key faculty for potential game-changing concepts, such as the Emerging Research Initiatives. To broaden perspective and seek a wider pool of opportunities, the SDT is also engaging with alumni and external partners to envision new horizons and possibilities.

The primary focus of the team this year is to hone its processes, build its network, and generate a more nuanced understanding of the NIU ecosystem’s strengths. The team aims to generate high-potential opportunities for both near and long term.