Board of Trustees

Research and Innovation,
Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee

August 26, 2021
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee  
9:45 a.m. – Thursday – August 26, 2021  
This meeting is being conducted in person and through videoconferencing communications pursuant to Public Act 101-0640, enacted June 12, 2020, and section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, allowing for virtual board meetings during a disaster declaration relating to public health concerns. As Chair of the Committee, I have determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the disaster. As such, trustees may attend today’s meeting by audio and visual conferencing and not by physical presence.

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 13, 2021 ................................................. Action........... 1

5. Chair's Comments/Announcements

6. Public Comment*

7. University Reports
   a. State Legislative Report ................................................................. Information.......5
   b. Federal Legislative Report .............................................................. Information.......7
   c. Sponsored Program Administration Quarterly Report ..................... Information.......10
   d. Innovation Report ........................................................................ Information.......39

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 or will be available in the Board Room the day 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 10:48 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; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Chief of Staff and Liaison to the Board of Trustees Matt Streb; Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations Anna Quider; Dean of University Libraries Fred Barnhart, and Professor of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences Walker Ashley.

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. General Counsel Perry also advised that a quorum was present.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Committee Chair Athas asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Shields 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 February 18, 2021. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Board Chair Barsema 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
Committee Chair Athas reported that the Committee would be receiving reports from State and Federal Relations regarding the status of legislation and funding. Committee Chair Athas noted that Dr. Gerald Blazey, Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships recently testified to the House Subcommittee on Research and Technology regarding the NSF for the Future Act. Committee Chair Athas welcomed the members of the University Advisory Committee and requested comments. No comments were submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Chair Athas introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Bryan Perry indicated that there were no registered public comments.

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 on his recent congressional testimony to the House Subcommittee on Research and Technology regarding the NSF for the Future Act. Dr. Blazey summarized his testimony, in three primary points: Universities with profiles like NIU deliver high quality research, collectively they have an important role in research opportunities for students of all backgrounds, and the distribution of federal research dollars must be adjusted so that all students have opportunities. Dr. Blazey reported that total external funding for the first three quarters of FY21 was $45 million.

Agenda Item 7.a. State Legislative Report

Chief of Staff and Liaison to the Board of Trustees Dr. Matt Streb, provided the State Legislative Report. Dr. Streb reported on IL Senate Bill 0815 Illinois School Student Records Act, which amends a previous bill and makes a technical change in a section concerning the short title. Dr. Streb also reported on IL Senate Bill 1832, which amends the Public Community College Act and allows the board of trustees of a community college district to establish and offer a baccalaureate degree in early childhood education and a Professional Educator License with endorsements in early childhood education and early childhood special education under certain conditions.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Federal Legislative Report

Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations Dr. Anna Quider reported that she received positive feedback from other universities, think tanks, and congressional offices regarding Dr. Blazey’s testimony to the House Subcommittee on Research and Technology. She also reported on the recently introduced, Endless Frontier Act, which proposes a $95 billion investment in the National Science Foundation over five years. Dr. Quider also reported that the House of Representatives has agreed to reinstate congressionally directed spending, formerly known as earmarks, in a limited capacity called Community Project Funding, or CPF. Congressman Kinzinger selected NIU’s proposal entitled “Understanding and Mitigating Future Weather and Climate Risks” as one of his ten CPF projects. Dr. Quider also reported that the US Department of Education released the official institutional allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act. NIU’s allocation for student aid is $21,079,014 and NIU’s allocation for institutional aid is $21,033,973, for a total award of $42,112,987.
Agenda Item 7.c. – Sponsored Programs Administration Quarterly Report

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

Agenda Item 7.d. – Open Access Presentation

Dean of University Libraries Fred Barnhart reported on Open Access, which is a publishing model for scholarly communication that makes research information available to readers at no cost, as opposed to the traditional subscription model in which readers have access to scholarly information by paying a subscription. He noted that since 2013 the federal government required federally funded research to be published open access and usually within 6 months to a year. Dean Barnhart reported that NIU has its own institutional repository, called the Huskie Commons, which is maintained and curated by the University Libraries and has nearly 10,000 articles in it. The Huskie Commons helps researchers meet the federal grant requirement for open access publishing. He further noted that the Library and the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships are cooperating to provide grants to cover author publishing charges for open access.

Agenda Item 7.3. – Faculty Presentation

Professor of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences Walker Ashley reported on NIU’s Weather, Climate, and Society Research Group, which studies how much climate change and societal change are contributing to natural disasters. Specifically, the research group is trying to determine the contribution of factors through a relatively new area of study called attribution science, which uses numerical modeling to understand how and to what extent weather events are being affected by climate change. NIU is particularly focused on severe storms that include tornadoes, hail, downbursts, as well as changes in floods, tropical cyclones, snowstorms, and fire weather.

OTHER MATTERS

Committee Chair Athas asked 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 August 26, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Athas asked for a motion to adjourn. Board Chair Barsema so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

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 12:37 p.m.

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

2021 Legislative Session Overview

The spring legislative session wrapped up in early June and NIU saw a flat FY22 budget relative to FY21 that was signed by the governor shortly after the session adjourned. All past capital projects were reappropriated. The spring session saw the power of collective voices of universities by convening the presidents and chancellors group and through collaborations among the state legislative liaisons. These partnerships allowed for strong messaging and swift responses around critical bills impacting higher education. Among the most significant wins for NIU and higher education, include the following:

Public Act 102-0174 - Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Act

NIU originally opposed a bill allowing for community colleges to offer a four-year baccalaureate degree in early childhood education. NIU, in partnership with four-year institutions across the state and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and the IBHE’s early childhood education working groups advocated for major changes to the language resulting in the current bill, which was passed in both houses and signed into law on July 27, 2021. Dean of the College of Education Dr. Laurie Elish-Piper provided critical testimony leading to the removal of problematic language in the bill. The new early childhood education consortium language requires IBHE and the Illinois Community College Board to establish the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity of Illinois Higher Education Institutions, which will focus on streamlining, coordinating, and improving accessibility of degree completion pathways for upskilling educational pipelines. Consortium members shall operate jointly to provide streamlined paths to associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s degrees and certificates, gateway credentials and other licensure endorsements in early childhood education.

Senate Bill 815-Higher Education Funding Formula

NIU originally opposed the draft bill that would create a funding formula for higher education based solely on equity. Advocacy efforts led to the sponsor amending the language to create a commission with broad representation to look at a funding formula for higher education based on several different metrics, including equity, research, graduate and professional students, healthcare, innovation, and economic development.

Additional key legislation includes the following:

- **SB1697** – The passage of legislation to exempt higher education institutions from the Grants Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), which applies federal uniform guidance grant management principles to state and federal pass-through awards issued from Illinois’ state agencies to public universities. GATA is more restrictive than the federal government and does not recognize the difference between state agencies and institutions of higher education, which produces significant barriers and administrative impacts to public universities. SB1697 reforms GATA for Illinois’ public universities by improving the application of uniform guidance to state grant making processes, this includes amending the Act to recognize that institutions of higher education fall under a different set of uniform guidance principles for a variety of cost considerations.

- **SB581** – Clean-up bill to provide regulatory procurement relief. Currently, the procurement code requires universities and agencies entering contracts exceeding $20,000 of locally held funds (contracts that do not obligate funds held within the state treasury), to file a copy of that contract with the Illinois Office of the Comptroller (IOC) within 30 days. IOC serves...
only as a repository for these contracts. SB581 eliminates this filing requirement, and instead requires a quarterly report outlining the contract specifications and scope not currently captured in reporting to the IOC. This report will be made public, and each individual contract will remain available for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) inspection through the agency or university.

- **SB2338** – Legislation to allow student athletes to profit from their own name, image, and likeness. The bill includes a set of principles that allows our student-athletes to earn compensation for commercial use of their name, image, likeness, and voice. It also establishes needed guidelines to shield student-athletes from bad actors, protects the integrity and core principles of collegiate athletics, and honors the academic mission of educational institutions. Athletic Director Sean Frazier advocated alongside the division I athletic directors to ensure the best interest of student athletes were protected during the drafting of this legislation.

- Additionally, NIU played a critical role in the passage of HB3438-Higher Ed DREAM Resource bill through the testimony from the Coordinator for Undocumented Student Support Sandy Lopez, and former NIU Dream Action student Laura Vivaldo Cholula. The bill did not affect NIU since we already provide the resources outlined in the bill but it demonstrates how NIU is viewed as a leader in serving undocumented students.

**Legislative Map Redistricting**

Following several weeks of public hearings, Illinois House and Senate Democrats released the new legislative maps that are re-drawn every ten years. NIU sees a significant difference in representation under the new maps. Currently, DeKalb proper is represented by Rep Jeff Keicher (R-Sycamore) and a portion of DeKalb County is represented by Rep. Tom Demmer (R-Rochelle) in the house, and Sen. Dave Syverson (R-Rockford) with a slight portion of the southern part of the county represented by Sen. Brian Stewart (R) in the senate. Under the new map, NIU would be represented by Rep. Lance Yednock (D-Ottawa) and by Sen. Sue Rezin (R) in the house and senate, respectively.

**Ongoing Initiatives**

- Participation in hearings on return-to-campus plans and how the university is addressing mental health issues on campus.
- In-district meetings with legislators.
- Planning of upcoming NIU Caucus events.
- Coordination with the NIU Alumni Association’s advocacy committee on various fall and spring events.
- Updating advocacy materials and NIU’s legislative agenda for the spring 2020 session.
- Discussions with the Governor’s office regarding its various higher education initiatives, including the release of the funding for the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability (NICCS)

**Spring 2020 Initiatives and Goals**

- Continue to advocate for increased investment in higher education among members of the General Assembly.
- Achieve the release of state capital funding.
- Continue to advocate for regulatory relief for faculty and staff while providing input on ways of achieving goals set out through regulations.
- Advance partnerships with the Black and Latino Caucuses.
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEDERAL RELATIONS REPORT

This report covers the period of May through July 2021 and encompasses NIU equities across the federal government.

U.S. Congress

Three pandemic relief packages have become law from March 2020 through March 2021. This quarter, the US Department of Education finalized and released the third allocation to NIU. Across these three bills, NIU has received $84.6M in funding: $44.7M for the institution and $35.9 million for students. There are presently no plans in Congress to provide further pandemic relief.

The Senate is working on a $1.2T infrastructure bill, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The bill is being negotiated by a bipartisan group of senators working within the Senate and with the Biden Administration. The bill text is still being amended as of this writing. It is not expected to include provisions specifically related to higher education, although APLU has compiled a list of provisions in the bill’s base text that may be of interest to its members.

Once the infrastructure bill is completed, the Senate will turn to passing a FY22 budget resolution. The budget resolution will pave the way for a major reconciliation bill that is expected to cost up to $3.5T and will need only a simple majority vote to pass. The final bill text is still coming into focus as of this writing, although it is expected to incorporate elements of President Biden’s American Families Plan.

President Freeman joined with the presidents and chancellors of Illinois public universities in writing to the Illinois congressional delegation in May and August to convey their shared priorities for these two major legislative efforts. The priorities include:

- Enhancing higher education affordability and access by doubling the maximum federal Pell Grant award to $13,000, indexing it to inflation, and providing a broad strategy to increase access and affordability of public four-year university students
- Investing in campus, research, and student infrastructure
- Increasing funding for innovation and economic growth
- Prioritizing efforts to enhance diversity and equity
- Restoring incentives for charitable giving and advance refunding bonds

Congress is poised to finalize the most significant policy and funding recommendation updates in over a decade for several key federal research agencies. Affected agencies include the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy Office of Science (DOE/SC; including the National Laboratory system), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Senate bill at play is S. 1260, the US Innovation and Competition Act, and there are 10 House bills involved in the negotiation. The negotiations are expected to stretch into the fall.

A busy fall is shaping up. Speaker Pelosi has said that the House intends to consider the infrastructure and reconciliation bills together in the fall. The nation is projected to reach its debt limit in the fall, which requires raising the debt ceiling, a politically challenging undertaking throughout the past decade. Also occurring in the fall is the final leg of the annual appropriations process.
Appropriations
Congress continues its work on FY22 appropriations. This work is not expected to be completed by the end of September, so a short-term continuing resolution is likely, possibly into December 2021.

The House and Senate agreed to reinstate congressionally directed spending, formerly known as earmarks, in a limited capacity for FY22. In the House, NIU has been allocated $660,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Understanding and Mitigating Future Weather and Climate Risks to Agriculture, sponsored by Congressman Adam Kinzinger. In the Senate, Senator Dick Durbin has recommended that NIU receive $500,000 from the Small Business Administration for food entrepreneurship, improving employment for underserved communities, and experiential learning opportunities. Senator Tammy Duckworth has recommended that NIU receive $577,000 from the US Department of Education to create the Paraprofessional to Professional Educator Licensure (ProPEL) program, which will help address the shortage of special education licensed educators in northern Illinois. The Senate Appropriations Committee must approve the projects recommended by our senators, and we will find out the outcome when the relevant appropriations bills are made public in the Fall. All congressionally directed spending projects are contingent upon the relevant appropriations bills being passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.

Federal Engagement with NIU
Recent and upcoming federal engagements with NIU include:

Meetings/Events:

- May 6 – VP Blazey Testified to House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. Vice President Gerald Blazey testified at a hearing entitled National Science Foundation: Advancing Research for the Future of U.S. Innovation Part II. His written testimony and video of the hearing can be found here.
- June 24-25 – Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) Virtual Advocacy Days. Faculty from NIU and the University of Illinois System conducted seven meetings with IL congressional offices to advocate for NSF during the CNSF national advocacy days. NIU faculty participants were Professors Victor Gensini (Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences), Liping Guo (Engineering Technology), Mona Rahimi (Computer Science), Nathan Stansell (Geology and Environmental Geosciences).
- July 10 – Rep. Underwood and STEM Scholars Hosted by Professor Holly Jones. Professor Holly Jones hosted Congresswoman Lauren Underwood and 27 (12 in person, 15 virtual) high school student participants in her STEM Scholars program at Nachusa Grasslands. Professor Jones discussed her field research, which included showing the group how to trap and process small mammals.
- September 2 – NIU Alumni Advocacy for Double Pell Grant. As part of a national advocacy effort, NIU plans to launch an alumni advocacy campaign encouraging NIU alumni to contact their congressional representatives in support of doubling the federal Pell Grant maximum award to $13,000 annually.

Requests for Information (RFI):
RFI responses not included in earlier Board or Trustee reports are listed here. The Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships (RIPS) worked with faculty and offices with relevant expertise in developing these responses. The Biden Administration has a strong commitment to understanding and addressing the federal government’s limitations in meeting the needs of underserved communities and these RFIs are an opportunity for NIU to ensure its voice is heard. RIPS has made it a priority to respond to these RFIs as they arise.
- February 23 – RFI Response to USPTO. Vice President Blazey submitted comments in response to the US Patent and Trademark Office’s (USPTO) RFI: Request for Comments on the National Strategy for Expanding American Innovation. The RFI is available here.
- March 18 – RFI Response to NSF. Vice President Blazey submitted comments in response to the NSF’s RFI: Strategic and Performance Plans. The RFI is available here.
- April 23 – RFI Response to NIH. Vice President Blazey submitted comments in response to the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) Request for Information (RFI): Inviting Comments and Suggestions to Advance and Strengthen Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Biomedical Research Workforce and Advance Health Disparities and Health Equity Research. The RFI is available here.
- July 6 – RFI Response to White House. President Freeman submitted comments in response to the White House Office of Management and Budget’s RFI: Methods and Leading Practices for Advancing Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through Government. The RFI is available here and President Freeman’s comments are available here.
- August 6 – RFI Response to DOE EERE. Vice President Blazey submitted comments in response to the Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s (DOE EERE) RFI: Inclusive Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Climate Technology. The RFI is available here.
- By August 31: RFI Response to NASA. Vice President Blazey intends to submit comments in response to NASA’s RFI: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities in NASA Programs, Contracts and Grants Process. The RFI is available here.
SPONSORED PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION QUARTERLY REPORT

NIU received 343 sponsored awards totaling $80M in FY21 (Figure 1). This puts NIU’s total sponsored funding at its highest level in ten years. While federal COVID-19 relief funds account for a significant share of this funding, Sponsored Program Administration (SPA) is pleased to report that even in their absence sponsored funding continues to increase. Non COVID-19 sponsored funding is also at its highest level in ten years, increasing almost 50% in the last five years (Figure 2). This is a tremendous accomplishment for faculty and staff who have secured funding during these challenging times and for all staff who support these awards.

![Figure 1](image1.png)

![Figure 2](image2.png)
Most of the COVID-19 relief funding managed through SPA this year were grant awards approved in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), and Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) federal relief programs (Figure 3). $539K in funding from the other agencies were received from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Illinois State Board of Education, DeKalb County Health Department, Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral and various private foundations. All of these programs are specifically intended to respond to or mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. Between FY20 and FY21 (i.e. the beginning of the pandemic), SPA has processed just under $50M million in COVID-19 related funding. The student aid portion of these awards are not included in this report. This is consistent with previous SPA reporting.

Funding from the Department of Education (USED) accounted for well over half of all funding for other sponsored activities (OSA) (Figure 4). These activities include all programs other than research and instruction. The large share of funding from USED for these activities is consistent with the large volume of relief funds processed through SPA and awarded by USED. Beyond relief funding, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) continue to provide significant funding to NIU for service, outreach, and educational activities. These activities are primarily carried out by NIU’s Division of Outreach, Engagement, and Regional Engagement and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Funding from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) accounted for a larger share of OSA funding this year as the state awarding agency for GEER funding.
Funding for instructional activities, those intended to elicit some measure of change in a learner, increased by 21% this year. COVID-19 funding had very little impact on this growth. Rather, growth is attributed to a doubling in funding from the Illinois State Board of Education and an increase in awards from area school districts for programming ranging from developing social justice podcasts to training teachers to specialize in English as a Second Language (ESL) and Bilingual Education. Other sponsors funding instructional activities are mostly for NIU’s delivery of MBA programs and other contract courses (Figure 5).

The National Science Foundation continues to be the largest funder of NIU research with a 3% increase over last year (Figure 6). A notable change in FY21 is the increased share of direct funding from the U.S. Department of Energy. Contributing to this increase is a large $2M highly competitive award received by faculty in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, secured in collaboration with Argonne National Laboratory and other research universities. Coupled with funding from Argonne (a DOE managed laboratory) for joint appointments and other various research projects, DOE funding accounts for almost a quarter of all NIU’s research support for this year. Faculty in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology (CEET) secured funding from the NSF and NIH, contributing to NIU’s growth. Most colleges, including CEET, saw an increase in sponsored funding this year. A breakout of funding by college and division follows below (Table 1).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/Division</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Sponsored Funding - FY21</th>
<th>Sponsored Funding - FY20</th>
<th>% Change FY20</th>
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**Table 1**

Below is a listing of all awards received for FY21 Quarter 4.

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**

*Office of Postsecondary Education/Department of Education for "ARP Institutional Award." Sarah Chinniah, Shyree M Sanan.*

Award: $21,033,973.00.

May 11, 2020 - January 16, 2022. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), these funds are used to help NIU defray expenses associated with COVID-19.

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

*Primate Conservation, Inc. for "Chemical Niche Divergence in Sympatric Lemurs - Understanding Species Food Selection and Vulnerability to Environmental Change." Chloe Gherardi, Mitch Irwin.*

Award: $2,230.00.


This project will contribute to understanding the natural history of Avahi laniger and Lepilemur mustelinus and inform questions regarding the niche separation within the lemur community, and nutritional factors limiting the 6 species.
**Global Wildlife Conservation** for "Chemical Niche Divergence in Sympatric Lemurs - Understanding Species Food Selection and Vulnerability to Environmental Change." **Chloe Gherardi, Mitch Irwin.**

Award: $4,843.00.


This project will examine the dietary strategies and nutritional niche separation of 6 sympatric lemurs (Avahi laniger, Lepilemur mustelinus, Eulemur fulvus, Eulemur rubriventer, Propithecus diadema, and Hapalemur griseus) in Tsinjoarivo, Madagascar.

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

Award: $46,488.00. Cumulative $378,348.00.


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.

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

Award: $56,698.35. Cumulative $378,348.00.


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.

**Illinois Innovation Network** for "Sustainable Urban-Regional Modeling Network (SURE Modeling)." **John T Murphy.**

Award: $9,348.00.


This project will establish a network of researchers to examine sustainability of large cities and the communities in their surrounding regions, including modeling of coupled social and ecological systems, from conceptual models to large-scale simulation.

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

**Department of Agriculture** for "Identification of Regulatory Genes in A. Flavus that are Involved in Mycotoxin Production, Morphogenesis, and Virulence." **Ana Calvo.**

Award: $25,000.00. Cumulative $75,000.00.


The purpose of this project is to further the understanding of the signaling pathways involved in the production of mycotoxins, and fungal development and the role of VeA in fungal virulence.

**Directorate for Biological Sciences/NSF** for "Collaborative Research: The Roles of Community Assembly and Consumer Impacts in Shaping Ecosystem Function." **Holly Jones.**

Award: $34,190.00. Cumulative $492,737.00.

To determine how community assembly influences ecosystem function by establishing a unique biodiversity experiment informed by field data to create realistic, nonrandom community changes in richness, composition, and functional diversity.

_Nature Conservancy for "Nachusa Grasslands Science Externship (Nicholas Foster)." Mel Duvall, Nicholas T Foster._

Award: $6,000.00.


Funding supports a science externship at Nachusa Grasslands for summer 2021.

_Lake County Forest Preserve District for "Monitoring and Assessment of Blandings Turtle Populations 2021." Richard B King._

Award: $11,996.62.


NIU and the Lake County Forest Preserve District are conducting long-term monitoring of state endangered Blanding's turtles on properties managed by the county. This agreement provides funding to hire field technicians to participate in this work during the 2021 field season.

_Lake County Forest Preserve District for "Blanding's Turtle Reintroduction." Richard B King, Callie A Klatt._

Award: $100,250.00. Cumulative $118,977.00.


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.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

_Kansas State University for "Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program FASOR/NPSP Quality Assurance Projects." Joel S Milner, Julie L Crouch, Randy J McCarthy, Wendy J Travis._

Award: $60,334.00. Cumulative $1,595,343.00.

October 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

This project assists the U.S. Air Force to accurately assess child maltreatment and intimate partner violence and implement prevention and treatment.

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for "Congregate Care Assessment Program (CCAP)." Julie L Crouch.

Award: $604,421.36. Cumulative $497,078.31.

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

The Congregate Care Assessment Program (CCAP) is funded through DCFS to conduct independent assessments of youth in care to determine if level of treatment is appropriate.

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

_Argonne National Laboratory for "Investigating Battery Fading Mechanism with X-ray Technique." Tao Li._

Award: $47,250.00.
The objective of this work includes: synthesis of inorganic-organic hybrid electrode; measurement of the structure of the hybrid electrolytes with X-ray technique; and understanding the battery fading mechanism with X-ray technique.

**Directorate for Engineering/NSF for "Collaborative Research: Design of a Novel Photo-Thermo-Catalyst for Enhanced Activity and Stability of Dry Reforming of Methane." Tao Li.**

Award: $16,380.00. Cumulative $203,167.00.

June 1, 2021 - October 30, 2021. (Organized Research) Basic Research.
To test the hypothesis that a catalyst can be designed for effective CO2 (dry) reforming of methane (DRM) to produce syngas (CO and H2) that will enhance the conversion efficiency and catalyst stability compared with traditional thermal catalysts.

**Argonne National Laboratory for "Li Joint Appointment NIU-ANL FY21." Tao Li.**

Award: $27,846.19. Cumulative $100,056.96.

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


Award: $1,275,828.00.

This project addresses the critical challenge of how to build an integrated CO2 capture and utilization system to achieve carbon neutral or even carbon negative manufacturing.

**Argonne National Laboratory for "Electrode Surface Protection by Self-Assembled Monolayers (SAM) for lithium Battery - GRA Support." Tao Xu.**

Award: $31,714.20. Cumulative $31,714.00.

This project is to provide funding to produce electrolyte with high stability and electrochemical performance.

**Argonne National Laboratory for "Fundamental Studies on the Scalable Synthesis of Electrocatalysts under Microfluidics." Yingwen Cheng.**

Award: $15,997.00. Cumulative $51,226.88.

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.**

Award: $15,997.00. Cumulative $56,226.88.

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**

*Community Coordinated Child Care for "Quality Improvement Funds." Amy S Lofthouse.*

Award: $7,746.12.

April 26, 2021 - May 17, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

To select materials to provide children in the infant and preschool classrooms with many and varied developmentally appropriate materials that will allow for quality learning and experiences.


Award: $115,145.00. Cumulative $375,060.00.


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


Award: $7,319.16.

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

This grant will provide funds for the Child Development and Family Center to alleviate burdens related to COVID-19.

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

*Calamos Investments for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*

Award: $31,975.61.

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

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

Award: $31,975.61.

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

*Northwestern University for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*

Award: $31,975.61.

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

*Oakton Community College for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*

Award: $31,975.61.

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

*City of Chicago for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*

Award: $31,975.61.

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

Award: $31,975.61.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
Award: $31,975.61.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Discover Financial Services for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $31,975.61.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Strategic Coach for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $31,975.61.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Berry Global for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $31,975.61.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Sonas Marketing for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $39,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*PSAV for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $39,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Plitek, LLC for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $31,975.61.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Boncura Health Solutions for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $39,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Crowe LLP for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $39,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Sikich, LLP for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $39,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
Costco Wholesale Corporation for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Cummins Allison Corp. for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Henkel for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The Parts Place, Inc. for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Transform Holdco LLC for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

JP Morgan for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Best Buy Co., Inc. for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $31,975.61.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

AST LLC for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Thomas Engineering Inc. for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Enterprise for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $39,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Schwartz Gilligan, Ltd. for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*HA International LLC for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $31,975.61.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Gogo, Inc. for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $31,975.61.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Gas Technology Institute for "Executive MBA Contract Courses." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $27,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Kraft Heinz Food Company for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $22,750.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*Transervice for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*General Electric for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $22,750.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
*OptumRx for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.*
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Navistar Inc. for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.

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

National Forwarding Co., Inc. for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.

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

Aramark Corporation for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush Medical Center for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

Google for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

Fidelitone, Inc. for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

Northwestern Medicine for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

Fresenius Kabi for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.

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

Walmart for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

GTPL Broadband for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

*Genesis Automation, Inc.* for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

*Experian* for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

*Collins Aerospace* for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

*Digital Practice* for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

*Columbus Vegetable Oils* for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

*United Airlines* for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

*DoubleTree by Hilton* for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

*Liberty Travel* for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

*Department of Health & Human Services* for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

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

*Austin Chemical Company, Inc.* for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.
Lake County for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $22,750.00.

Keyence Corporation for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.

Ferrara Candy Company for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.

Lee Kum Kee for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.

Chicago Extruded Metals (CXM) for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.

Rush University Medical Center for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.

OMD for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.

Amazon.com, Inc. for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.

Amita Health for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.
Northwestern University for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Chicago)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $39,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

National Forwarding Co., Inc. for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Option Care Enterprises, Inc. for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Elkay Manufacturing for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Old World Industries, LLC for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Egret Consulting Group for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Walgreens Company for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Pepper Construction for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Karis Global LLC for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." Anthony W Preston.
Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $20,700.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

**Omron Automotive Electronics, Inc.** for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." *Anthony W Preston.*

Award: $20,700.00.

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

**HAVI** for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." *Anthony W Preston.*

Award: $20,700.00.

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

**Convenience Concepts, Inc.** for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." *Anthony W Preston.*

Award: $20,700.00.

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

**Joliet Oncology-Hematology Associates, Ltd.** for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." *Anthony W Preston.*

Award: $20,700.00.

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

**Physicians Immediate Care, LLC** for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." *Anthony W Preston.*

Award: $20,700.00.

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

**Lutheran Social Services of Illinois** for "One-Year MBA Contract Courses (Hoffman Estates)." *Anthony W Preston.*

Award: $20,700.00.

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

**Caterpillar, Inc.** for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Projects." *Daewoo Park.*

Award: $20,000.00.

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

**Rust-Oleum** for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Projects." *Daewoo Park.*

Award: $10,000.00.

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

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

Award: $10,000.00.

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

**Numerator** for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." *Daewoo Park.*

Award: $8,000.00.

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

**Heel Strike** for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." *Daewoo Park.*
Award: $8,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

**Purafil, Inc. for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.**
Award: $10,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

**Echo Global Logistics for "Experiential Learning Center Corporate Project." Daewoo Park.**
Award: $10,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

**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: $18,000.00. Cumulative $47,808.00.
Funds are requested to support ISGC's mission to positively influence and support students in the pursuit of space sciences and aerospace engineering careers.

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES**

**Altarum Institute for "MACRA: Quality Improvement Direct Technical Assistance." Kathryn D Mazurek.**
Award: $283,556.06. Cumulative $1,507,190.00.
February 16, 2021 - February 15, 2022. (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.

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**Hughes (Howard) Medical Institute for "HHMI Driving Change Learning Grant (Phase I)." Leslie Matuszewich.**
Award: $50,000.00.
April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2023. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.
The Driving Change Initiative intends to produce lasting change at NIU in addressing structural inequalities and provide undergraduate students support to excel in STEM education, pursue advanced degrees, and eventually assume leadership roles in STEM.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**Northwestern University for "Education and Outreach for SAGE." Michael E Papka, Joe Insley.**
Award: $45,276.63. Cumulative $102,174.00.
Funds are requested to design and build citizen science components for SAGE, reusable software components and cyberinfrastructure services to enable deployment of intelligent environmental sensors, including tutorials and documentation on components use.

**National Science Foundation/NSF for "EAGER: Requirements Domain Specifications for Machine-Learned Software Components." Mona Rahimi.**

Award: $146,385.17.


We propose to capture and exploit the existing domain knowledge about hard-to-specify concepts, such as pedestrian, to conduct the process of training Machine-learned software components.

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

Award: $192,578.10. Cumulative $379,638.88.


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

**COUNSELING AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

**School District #131, East Aurora for "Professional Development Session: De-Escalation Strategies From Room to Zoom." Adam W Carter.**

Award: $500.00.

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

**Association of College and University Housing Officers-International for "Surviving Anti-Asian Hate."**

**“Asian/Asian American Students Experiences Living in the Residence Hall During COVID-19 and Beyond." Gudrun Nyunt.**

Award: $3,858.00.


The purpose of this phenomenological study is to investigate the experiences of Asian residential college students during times of increased anti-Asian hate.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**School District #201U, Crete-Monee for "Mentoring Program Needs Analysis." David G Nieto.**

Award: $5,075.00.

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

**School of Expressive Arts and Learning (S.E.A.L.) for "Social Justice Podcasts." Joseph E Flynn.**

Award: $2,000.00.

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

**School District #212, Leyden High for "Social Justice Podcasts." Joseph E Flynn.**

Award: $2,000.00.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
Award: $2,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $23,500.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

School District #96, Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated for "Contract Courses: M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education: English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education Specialization." Sally R Blake.
Award: $132,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $192,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $66,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

School District #205, Elmhurst Community Unit for "Contract Courses: M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education: Reading Specialization." Sally R Blake.
Award: $110,000.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

EDUCATION SYSTEMS CENTER

Award: $50,000.00.
May 5, 2021 - June 20, 2022. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.
Education Systems Center at NIU (EdSystems) will provide professional development and technical assistance for EFE systems and schools piloting Career Exploration and/or Career Development Experiences.

Illinois State Board of Education for "PDG B-5 FY 2021." Jon Furr.
Award: $604,840.32. Cumulative $754,840.32.
June 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.
NIU staff will support pursuit of high-level deliverables related to PDG B-5 data objectives.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT

Award: $2,975.00.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Award: $18,500.00.

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

Miaoli County Government Education Department, Taiwan for "Immersive Knowledge Network - Opening the World - Rollover." Wei-Chen Hung.

Award: $12,912.05.


This project develops a student leadership and diversity awareness development program that allows Taiwanese high school students to become champions of an accepting, equitable learning community.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING


Award: $36,329.18.


Implement the most important aspects of the BLE standard related to the Connection Mode by evaluating the performance of BLE Connection Mode, the impact of internal and external inference and the effect of configuration parameters on network performance.


Award: $12,442.57.


The goal of this project is to develop robotic and remote sensing technologies tailored for specialty cropping systems.


Award: $140,603.36. Cumulative $140,603.00.


Funds are requested to evaluate the efficacy of the flexible substrate on acoustic coupling, adhesion strength and motion-related noises in pediatric friendly conductive hearing aids.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

RYMAC Industries LLC for "Research for Company Seeking to Develop Technologies with Hemp Residue." Mahdi Vaezi, Robert Tatara.

Award: $25,330.00.


NIU will study developed technologies, in laboratory and commercial scales, using hemp residue in two industries: producing bioplastics having hemp as an additive and in the manufacture of pulp/paper.

Award: $572,899.32. Cumulative $859,734.54.


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

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Institute of International Education for "Visiting Scholar." Melissa E Lenczewski, Eric A Jones.

Award: $25,000.00.


The purpose of the funds is to support a visiting research scholar.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

Partnership for College Completion for "Supporting Student Success in Math." Beth Ingram, Omar A Ghrayeb.

Award: $12,000.00.

May 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The purpose of the project is to hire and train tutors to offer supplemental instruction in math coursework for undergraduate students.

GEOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) for "Graduate Student Internship with DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation." Philip P Young.

Award: $5,040.00. Cumulative $18,945.00.


This project provides one graduate assistant to the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation to provide research services of mutual benefit to NIU and the DCEDC.

GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES


Award: $20,011.24.


The goal is to understand fundamental processes linking injection-initiated pore pressure diffusion and triggering of seismicity and provide scientifically based operational guidance for mitigating seismicity associated with energy development.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Waubonsee Community College for "Graduate Student Placements at Waubonsee Community College." Purushothaman Damodaran.

Award: $810.00. Cumulative $112,455.60.

May 15, 2021 - June 1, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.
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 (one student).

Waubonsee Community College for "Graduate Student Placements at Waubonsee Community College." Purushothaman Damodaran.

Award: $17,521.00. Cumulative $112,455.60.
July 1, 2021 - May 15, 2022. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

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 (one student).

HISTORY

Russian Science Foundation for "Imaginary Anthropocene: Environmental Knowledge Production and Transfers in Siberia in the XX-XXI Centuries." Andy R Bruno.

Award: $13,812.00.

INDUSTRIAL AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING


Award: $34,986.16.

Funds are requested to develop a new layout for the push rod manufacturing area and conduct a benefit to cost analysis to justify process improvements.


Award: $7,500.00.
August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Paragon Medical, Inc. for "Senior Design Project: Paragon Medical: Improving Metrology Calibration Frequency and Traceability." Purushothaman Damodaran.

Award: $7,500.00.
January 1, 2021 - April 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

AGCO Corp. for "Senior Design Project: A Lean Assessment of Agco's Compact Utility Tractor Assembly Lines." Purushothaman Damodaran.

Award: $7,500.00.
August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Elgin Industries for "Distribution Improvement at Elgin Industries." Ziteng Wang/Christine V Nguyen.

Award: $34,974.82.
Funds are requested to analyze and improve the processes and operations of the distribution area at Elgin Industries.

**KINESIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**


Award: $13,590.00. Cumulative $58,590.00.


The purpose of the program is to establish mentoring relationships at a youth center to provide educational programming that promotes fitness and health.

**LEADERSHIP, EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND FOUNDATIONS**


Award: $323,449.98.

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

*School District #205, Rockford for "Contract Courses: M.S.Ed. in Educational Administration." Carolyn J Pluim.*

Award: $144,000.00.

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

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

*Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for "Dark Matter Searches Employing Quantum Metrology." Iman Salehinia.*

Award: $6,426.00. Cumulative $58,004.00.


Professor Iman Salehinia will mentor a graduate student in the design and analysis of components for dark matter searches employing quantum metrology.

*Argonne National Laboratory for "Modeling support to advance the performance of next-generation batteries at Argonne." Kyu Taek Cho.*

Award: $18,956.70. Cumulative $33,321.00.


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.

**MORGRIDGE ENDOWED CHAIR, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

*National Science Foundation/NSF for "Collaborative Research: DTI: Implementing Mixed Reality for Inclusive and Embodied Learning for Young Children." Yanghee Kim, Jaejin Hwang.*

Award: $642,621.47. Cumulative $642,621.00.


This project aims to study the development of a mixed-reality environment combining a robot and augmented reality for young children.
NORTHERN PUBLIC RADIO

Corporation for Public Broadcasting for "2021 Community Service Grant." Staci Hoste.
Award: $203,380.00.
October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.
Funds are used to support high quality public programming.

Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) for "IACA WNIU Operating FY22." Staci Hoste.
Award: $9,575.00.
June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.
IACA grant funds enable the people of Illinois to have access to locally operated public radio and television stations that provide unique services to their communities, including local productions, arts programming, educational outreach & local & region.

Award: $9,575.00.
June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.
IACA grant funds enable the people of Illinois to have access to locally operated Public Radio and Television stations that provide unique services to their communities, including local productions, arts programming, education outreach, local & regional.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting for "American Rescue Plan Act Stabilization Grant." Staci Hoste.
Award: $181,927.00.
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.
Funds will be used to maintain the grantee's public media station's programming and services impacted by the coronavirus and attendant loss of revenues.

Award: $8,950.00.
Funds are used for high quality public radio programming.

Award: $8,950.00.
Funds are used for high quality public radio programming.

NURSING

Award: $10,000.00.
Funding will provide a fellowship for a faculty member in the School of Nursing.
Illinois Board of Higher Education for "FY21 Nursing School Grant." Nancy M Petges, Jie Chen.
Award: $99,947.32.
April 22, 2021 - December 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.
This grant will provide funds for the School of Nursing to improve diversity and academic equity in its student body.

P-20 CENTER
Illinois State Board of Education for "FY21 Summer Migrant Education Program." Susana Das Neves.
Award: $115,461.00.
April 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.
The purpose of the Migrant Education Program (MEP) funding is to develop and provide supplemental educational services to migrant children.

PHYSICS
Argonne National Laboratory for "NIU to Argonne Joint Appointment: Dr. Andreas Glatz. FY21." Andreas Glatz.
Award: $34,483.50. Cumulative $132,549.08.
Funds are being used to support a joint appointment between NIU and Argonne National Laboratory for Dr. Andreas Glatz.

Award: $75,000.00. Cumulative $225,000.00.
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.

Award: $99,999.63. Cumulative $200,000.00.
The purpose of this proposal is the development of a novel 5-D calorimetric that will allow significant improvements in particle identification and tractability of high-density particle environments.

Columbia University for "ATLAS Detector Upgrade Construction 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.

*Argonne National Laboratory for "Research on Ion Transport in Nanostructured Liquids
Observed by X-Ray Photon Correlation Spectroscopy." Jyotsana Lal.*

Award: $28,890.54. Cumulative $28,891.00.


This project will use and develop new coherent x-ray methods, such as X-ray Photon Correlation
Spectroscopy (XPCS), to observe the high-speed dynamics of complex fluids.

*Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for "Joint Appointment FNAL/NIU under CRADA." 
Michael J Syphers.*

Award: $65,507.86. Cumulative $649,656.58.

September 16, 2020 - September 15, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) IPA or Joint
Appointment.

Funds are being used, per the CRADA between NIU and FNAL, to support 49% of the PI's
11-month calendar salary as a joint faculty appointee of the Department of Physics and the Fermi
National Accelerator Laboratory.

*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.*

Award: $201,694.00. Cumulative $529,687.00.


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.

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

Award: $17,552.85. Cumulative $75,193.65.

May 16, 2021 - August 15, 2022. (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.

*Argonne National Laboratory for "Xiao Joint Appointment NIU-ANL FY 21." Zhili Xiao.*

Award: $45,395.28. Cumulative $167,295.08.


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

**PRECOLLEGIATE-UPWARD BOUND**

*Office of Postsecondary Education/Department of Education for "Upward Bound Program." 
Felicia R Bohanon.*

Award: $19,741.00. Cumulative $2,245,323.00.

June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.
Funds will be used to identify, select and serve 120 low-income, potential first-generation college students who lack the adequate preparation to successfully pursue a postsecondary education and need academic support.

**PSYCHOLOGY**


Award: $19,584.00. Cumulative $42,225.24.


This project will examine the reciprocal relationships between parent engagement and child ADHD symptoms, and how these relationships influence academic and social-emotional outcomes over time.

*Winnebago County for "Research and Evaluation of the Winnebago County Adult Drug Court Program."* Julie L Crouch.

Award: $68,921.17. Cumulative $203,480.25.


NIU will serve as the primary research partner/local evaluator for the Winnebago County Adult Drug Court Enhancement Project.

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

*Village of Schiller Park for "MPA Internships."* Kurt M Thurmaier.

Award: $16,222.50.

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

*Little City Foundation for "MPA Internships."* Kurt M Thurmaier.

Award: $8,497.50.

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

*Region 1 Planning Council for "MPA Internships."* Kurt M Thurmaier.

Award: $18,585.00.

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

Village of Hinsdale for "MPA Internships." Kurt M Thurmaier.

Award: $5,407.50.

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

*Opportunity DeKalb for "MPA Internships."* Kurt M Thurmaier.

Award: $16,222.50.

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

*Village of Hoffman Estates for "MPA Internships."* Kurt M Thurmaier.

Award: $13,905.00.

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

*Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency for "MPA Internships."* Kurt M Thurmaier.

Award: $16,222.50.
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

**Village of Glen Ellyn for "MPA Internships." Kurt M Thurmaier.**
Award: $17,792.00.

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

**Elk Grove Village for "MPA Internships." Kurt M Thurmaier.**
Award: $16,222.50.

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

**Village of Gurnee for "MPA Internships." Kurt M Thurmaier.**
Award: $10,815.00.

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

**City of Geneva for "MPA Internships." Kurt M Thurmaier.**
Award: $16,222.50.

PUBLIC SAFETY

**Illinois Department of Public Health for "EMS Assistance 2021." Darren D Mitchell.**
Award: $2,498.00.

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

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.

REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

**Whitt Law, LLC for "Sales and Service Contract." Lisa Kaye Bergeron.**
Award: $2,500.00.

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

**Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance for "Sales and Service Contract." Lisa Kaye Bergeron.**
Award: $1,600.00.

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

**DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation for "Sales and Service Contract." Lisa Kaye Bergeron.**
Award: $3,500.00.

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

REPORT CARDS

**Illinois State Board of Education for "Illinois Interactive Report Card FY22." Alan D Clemens.**
Award: $2,565,000.00.

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Innovation and improvement for FY22 in the MyllRC (Illinois Interactive Report Card) data portal with respect to continuous improvement planning and 21st Century CLC benchmarking tools.
SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN

National Gallery of Art for "Visualizing Difference in Roman Art: Portraits of Aethiopians and the Limits of Ethnic Representation." Sinclair Bell.

Award: $7,000.00.


This project undertakes research for a scholarly monograph under a Leonard A. Lauder Senior Visiting Fellowship from the National Gallery of Art.

National Endowment for the Humanities/National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities for "NEH Fellowship: Race and Representation in the Roman Empire: Images of Aethiopians in Imperial Visual and Material Culture." Sinclair Bell.

Award: $60,000.00.


This book project investigates how artists and their social patrons conceptualized racial difference in the Roman empire (c. 100 BCE-200 CE).

SCHOOL OF HEALTH STUDIES

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for "A Comprehensive Public Health Approach to Asthma Control Through Evidence-Based Interventions." Arlene M Keddie.

Award: $26,206.00.


This project will support evaluation for the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Office of Health Promotion’s project “A Comprehensive Public Health Approach to Asthma Control Through Evidence-Based Interventions.”

SPECIAL AND EARLY EDUCATION


Award: $5,670.00.

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


Award: $500.00.

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

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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

Award: $132,110.00. Cumulative $470,342.00.

June 6, 2021 - June 5, 2022. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

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.
INNOVATION REPORT

The mission of the Office of Innovation is to support the transformation of NIU ideas from inception to impact. We envision a thriving innovation ecosystem focusing on inclusivity, approachability, and societal benefit. The Office of Innovation strategy in the near to medium term focuses on developing an inclusive culture of innovation across the NIU campus and broader community; investing in and developing critical enablers that help catalyze and drive innovation ecosystem growth; and supporting strategic development.

A key component of our strategy is the 71 North Partnership Studio. This enterprise-level innovation center serves as the center of gravity for the Office’s innovation programs and initiatives. With its location in the heart of campus at the Founders Memorial Library, 71 North provides a readily accessible conduit for catalyzing inclusive innovation with students, faculty, alumni, industry, and community.

The model for the studio centers on creating a thriving micro innovation ecosystem by providing valuable, relevant program content that grows and develops the culture and community of innovators in exchange for leasing revenue from coworking industry partners and in-kind services from more resource constrained partners such as student/faculty/alumni/community start-ups. Innovation-focused grants will help augment the funding required to continue developing relevant, quality programming. As of this August, the Office of Innovation has facilitated two related lease agreements with industry partners—one with Experimentica (locating in wet lab space in the Montgomery Building) and the other with Premier Crop (locating in the 71 North Partnership Studio). Both entities aim to be deeply involved in innovation activities in the 71 North Partnership Studio, in collaborative research, and in student employment. Experimentica will also be taking advantage of fee-based services through the Molecular Analysis Core Lab, further demonstrating the important financial impact of these kinds of partnerships.

In terms of the programming the Office will offer this fall at 71 North, the team will be providing startup incubation sessions, technology and trends subject matter expert talks, pitch contests, catalytic coffee sessions, facilitated innovation club meetings, grantsmanship development training, and strategic development efforts. Innovation Hours, the Office’s twice-weekly standing session for engaging the campus, will feature the innovation team opening the doors to the Partnership Studio every Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9am-12pm to invite students, faculty, alumni, and community members to meet with the team. The team will use the time to assist with addressing startup questions, concept ideation, and intellectual property matter concerns. The open doors of the Innovation Hours will make the team more accessible to a broader audience in a more relaxed environment and will help encourage walk-in engagement in innovation related activities. This will also provide students with the opportunity to experience innovation activities, such as startup incubation, firsthand while affording them the chance to participate and get involved.

In tandem with the Innovation Hours, the Office will continue its Innovation Conversation Series. This series features fireside chat discussions by leaders across a range of technical fields and disciplines, providing in depth windows into technology trends, challenges, and research and innovation opportunities. There will also be a miniseries that features entrepreneur “tales from the trenches”—real life experiences of successes and failures in startup businesses. These talks will seek to especially highlight women entrepreneurs and underrepresented minority entrepreneurs. Each talk in the series will allow for students to ask questions and network with the entrepreneurs.
In addition to the entrepreneur stories, there will be several tech topics that align with the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability (NICCS) food systems thrust. The Office will also partner with Innovation DuPage, Dell, local law offices, and others ecosystem members to provide additional exciting series topics such as deep dives into augmented reality, data and privacy, and emerging trends in technology. The Office is actively seeking collaboration opportunities with faculty to develop additional topics relevant to specific research interests that cross-cut domains.

The Office of Innovation will be partnering with faculty from across campus to help launch a new program focused on helping faculty develop grantsmanship skills and build multidisciplinary collaborative innovation networks. STARS (Strategically Training, Academic Research and Scholarship) is a faculty academy for building grantsmanship skills, developing better networks and exploring opportunities for collaborative innovation. STARS was inspired by the College of Health and Human Sciences Doctorate in Health Sciences course called Research Positioning and Grantsmanship Skills. Skill sets taught in this course are valuable for doctorate-level students and faculty aiming to capacity build positioning in a focused area of research to improve the likelihood of successful grant applications. STARS represents an initial pilot effort as part of a broader strategy for implementing research development practices at NIU. Initial programming will include facilitated lunch-and-learn sessions, teambuilding events like bowling, and poster sessions for sharing research interests and networking. An advisory committee of senior faculty and staff will be serving to guide both the program content and long-term objectives of the program.

This summer, the Office helped launch a new student-led Innovation Club. The Innovation Club will provide students from across NIU, regardless of academic discipline, an opportunity to engage in innovation activities. The Club is focused on fostering an inclusive innovation ecosystem that bridges colleges and cultures and inspires creativity, curiosity, and collaborative innovation. The Office views the Club as a key opportunity to engage with students in innovation, gain insight into student innovation interests, as well as leverage student creativity in developing potential innovation opportunities for NIU IP. With support from the Office of Innovation, the Club’s founding President, a third-year student in the College of Law, has developed an ambitious agenda that includes site visits to regional accelerators and national labs, tech-watch parties, NIU STEM Fest involvement, and IP concept ideation sessions.

In collaboration with the NIU Foundation, the Office of Innovation helped fund and launch an Innovation Fund. The I-Fund will support student and faculty innovation opportunities. In particular, the Office of Innovation aims to utilize funds to create a summer Innovation Fellows Program, where students would reside on campus over the summer months and work with the Office of Innovation on startup concepts. The Fellows Program will be open to all, though women entrepreneurs and underrepresented minority entrepreneurs will be encouraged to apply. The Office of Innovation will look to continue to increase its contributions year-over-year to the I-Fund by leveraging revenue received from its 71 North Partnership Studio leases.

For ongoing efforts in NIU intellectual property strategy and management, the team facilitated a major change to the IP policy, which will increase inventor share from 33.3% to 50%. This will place NIU in an elite category of universities with the most favorable of inventor share terms and will further incentivize innovation productivity. This change is pending faculty senate approval.

The Office anticipates the launch of two medical device products that leverage NIU IP within the next two years. The first, a noise cancelling incubator system for use in neonatal intensive care units will undergo FDA submission this August with approval and launch anticipated within one year of submission. The second, an imaging system for proton therapy in cancer patients is expected to undergo regulatory submission this calendar year. We anticipate approval in calendar year 2022. Lastly, we have been working with the College of Business to develop commercialization plans for NIU patented technologies. Based on these initial efforts, we plan to
expand student involvement in our IP commercialization efforts, including involving the Innovation Club in specific activities.

In support of strategic development, the Office of Innovation played a leading role in the Strategic Development Team’s Community Project Fund efforts. Team members assisted in multiple proposal submissions and provided significant facilitation and support to the Understanding and Mitigating Future Weather and Climate Risks to American Agriculture proposal. This proposal, endorsed by Congressman Kinzinger’s office, has been allocated $660,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).