

## Highlights

- **NSF Fastlane Reminder** 2
- **FY 2000 Fringe Benefit Rates** 2
- **Highlights of Funding Opportunities** 4

*Volume 4, Issue 1*

*August, 1999*

*Deb Russell, editor*

# UIS Grants and Contracts Bulletin

## Summary of FY 99 Activity

UIS grant and contract awards totaled just over \$8 million in FY 99, a substantial increase over FY 98's total of \$5.7 million. These awards resulted from nearly \$10.6 million dollars in proposed funding submitted to federal, state, and local government; not-for-profit organizations, and corporations by 48 UIS project directors from all four colleges, the library, Institute for Public Affairs, Continuing Education, Student Services, and Business and Administrative Services.

The state of Illinois remained the top funder for UIS projects, accounting for 77% of the total. Other funding sources included federal government (18%), corporations (2%), not-for-profit organizations (2%), and local government (1%). Funding from federal sources increased by more than \$300,000 over FY 1998.

The Public Affairs Central Office was the highest grossing unit on campus with \$3.3 million in awards. Other units grossing over \$1 million were the Center for Legal Studies (\$1.4 million) and the GPSI office (\$1.15 million).

Student intern programs and education awards continued to receive strong support. The following programs received funding equal to or above that of the previous year:

- Graduate Public Service Internships, Nancy Ayers
- Cooperative Work Study Program, Barbara Jensen & Elaine Rundle-Schwark
- Illinois State Legislative Internships, Kent Redfield
- Project STP and Project MSS, Loretta Meeks
- Secondary Chemistry Instruction Laboratory, Gary Trammell

Many individual awards were highlighted during the fiscal year in issues of The Bulletin. Listed below are awards that were received during the last quarter.

Patti Faughn, director of the Cox Children's Center, received a renewal award from the Illinois Department of Human Services. The award provides financial support that allows families to pay for child care on a sliding scale.

The Office of Business and Management Development secured two contracts during the

fourth quarter. The first is for development of a strategic plan for the Illinois Chamber of Commerce; this project is led by Michael Ayers, Professor of Economics. The second is a study of out-sourcing contracts for the Illinois Secretary of State's office. This project is directed by Joe Wilkins, Professor of Management, and is being run through the Institute for Public Affairs.

Dan Matthews, Assistant Professor in Teacher Education, received an award from the Illinois State Board of Education to conduct a review of public comments on draft Illinois teacher preparation standards. The award is managed through the IPA, with significant assistance from the Survey Research Office.

Sangamon Auditorium received a grant from the Illinois Arts Council in support of the performance of the Joffrey Ballet. This award is in addition to the award for general operating support received from the IAC last fall.

Congratulations to all FY 1999 applicants and awardees. Watch for early highlights of FY 2000 grant and contract activity in the next issue of the Bulletin.

## Fulbright Faculty Awards

Fulbright faculty applications are due August 1 each year. While the official deadline for the 2000-2001 awards is past, it's never too early to think about next year's competition, especially if you are considering a sabbatical in the future. Also, opportunities for the current application cycle may still be available later in the year. You can get application materials and keep posted on new opportunities at the IIE website, <http://www.iie.org/cies/>

## Retention of Human Subjects Records

Faculty, staff and students at UIS are increasingly conducting research involving the participation of human subjects. The University of Illinois requires that all records associated with a research project, including signed informed consent forms, be retained for three years beyond the completion of the project. This rule applies to both funded and unfunded research. Please contact Grants and Contracts if you have any questions regarding this policy.

## Fringe Benefit and Indirect Cost Rates

Fringe benefit and indirect cost rates have been updated for FY00. The current fringe benefit rate is 21.04% of salaries. This rate must be applied to all faculty and staff salaries that appear in grant and contract budgets. Student salaries and wages should be charged .30% for workmen's compensation only.

All proposals to federal agencies should include an indirect cost calculation. For FY 2000, the campus has been granted a provisional indirect cost rate of 63% of salaries and wages.

Many state agencies and not-for-profit organizations have their own restrictions on indirect cost rates. Please contact the Grants and Contracts Office for assistance in applying the correct rate to your proposal.

## Illinois Research Information Service (IRIS)

IRIS is a comprehensive, web-based search mechanism to which all UIS faculty and staff have access. Funding opportunities are updated frequently, and notices can be forwarded to you automatically by signing up for IRIS' Alert Service.

IRIS is continuously adding features and making improvements to existing features. New and improved versions of the Alert Service and Expertise Service should be running by early September. IRIS is located at <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/iris/>. Please contact the Grants and Contracts Office if you need assistance with IRIS or encounter any problems accessing the system.

## NSF FastLane Update

Effective October 1, 2000, the National Science Foundation will require the submission of **all** proposals via FastLane. FastLane is an electronic research administration tool that provides for online development and

submission of proposals. While this deadline is a year away, NSF currently encourages and looks favorably upon proposals submitted via FastLane. Now is the time to become familiar with FastLane. Call the Grants and Contracts Office for a tutorial, and try submitting your next NSF proposal via this easy to learn program!

## Approaching the New Foundations, Things to Keep in Mind

The private grant-giving climate in the United States is becoming more and more complex. Determining which foundations might fund a project, what procedures applicants should follow, and what a foundation wants to read in a proposal requires more work than ever before. In large part, this complexity arises from the proliferation of new foundations over the past 15 years. Since 1987, the number of foundations in the United States has grown from about 28,000 to over 48,000. Combined assets of these foundations have also increased from \$115 billion to around \$300 billion.

As the number of foundations and their assets expand, so do the number of activities that they fund and the number of different ways foundation boards and staff choose to award money. Each foundation has a unique mission and behind that mission is a philosophy and culture that drives the foundation's day-to-day activities. This is especially true of the new foundations that have been

established as the grant-giving arms of high-tech or computer technology firms, especially in the West and Southeast. Many of these foundations were established with revenues reaped from very successful entrepreneurial businesses. The entrepreneurial spirit that gave birth to the companies and made them profitable is reflected in the expectations of their foundations.

Understanding a foundation's approach to granting-making can make the application process easier and increase chances for success. When either writing a letter of inquiry or a proposal, or when establishing a relationship on the telephone, this understanding can give a context for explaining how the proposed project "fits" the foundation's funding priorities. Even though the new foundations' approaches to making grants may seem less familiar than those of local foundations or of well-established national organizations, there are at least three things that the grant-seeker can keep in mind while searching for potential sources or when applying.

First, an applicant should consider who runs the foundation. Many new foundations are run by individual entrepreneurs. Often, instead of giving money to large, well-established foundations, individuals are keeping their money in a particular region by donating to a local foundation and becoming active administrators. These foundations may be more willing to fund outside of their current priorities in order to fund an

outstanding project in its jurisdiction. This is something that large, national foundations seldom do. Other foundations are operated and funded by "giving circles." Giving circles consist of people who collectively fund and administer a grant-giving program or programs. The good news about having foundations run by individual entrepreneurs or giving circles is that regions of the United States that have not had active foundations in the past now have them. Also, these foundations have a diverse range of funding priorities and retain a certain amount of flexibility in how they manage their funding.

As more people get involved in making grants and the number of perspectives being brought to the table by these people increase, the number of different projects that might be funded is also increasing. In the giving-circle, there may be someone who will be especially sympathetic to your project because of his or her life experiences. Also, applicants who are searching for suitable sources of funding should remember that not all the foundations that give on a national level are located in New York City, on the East Coast, or in the Midwest.

Another point to remember is that foundations run by entrepreneurs may demand a fairly stringent, results-oriented approach. In accordance with this "investment" approach, these foundations will want to know explicitly what their money will accomplish and how the accomplishment will be measured. They may also demand

that sufficient money and organizational support be in place before they contribute to a project. Applicants should remember this and not be discouraged. This approach may seem overbearing to some, but it also shows that the foundation has given a lot of thought to what it funds. By establishing a dialogue with the foundation, applicants will not only write a proposal that looks better to the foundation, but they also might gain insight into how their projects should be improved. Demanding guidelines may also have the unforeseen benefit of increasing the chances of getting funded again-if you met their requirements once and demonstrated good results, the foundation will appreciate that and take your proven track record into consideration.

A third element to remember is that some new foundations are going to make mistakes. Establishing good philanthropic practices takes time, and players who are new to the game may not see how their expectations are unrealistic--maybe not even possible--for a specific project or institution. Take the time to explain why the foundation's expectations are burdensome and demonstrate what good practices have been used in the past.

The Grants and Contracts Office can help you research foundations and interpret guidelines. Give us a call! (This article excerpted from the Grant Resource Center Reports).

## Funding Opportunities

The items listed below are a selection of funding opportunities relevant to faculty and staff at UIS. For a more extensive and up to date listing, please visit the Grants and Contracts home page at [www.uis.edu/~russell/gc.htm](http://www.uis.edu/~russell/gc.htm). Also, the Grants and Contracts Office can conduct specific searches in your field of interest; contact 206-7409 for assistance.

### University of Illinois Online Service or Informal Education Projects

*Deadline TBD*

Contact 217/244-6465, [lynnward@uillinois.edu](mailto:lynnward@uillinois.edu), or the UI Online home page at [www.online.uillinois.edu/](http://www.online.uillinois.edu/)

This funding opportunity will support service or informal education projects that focus on the development of organized, Internet-based resources or activities that will benefit society in unique ways consistent with the land grant, service mission of the University of Illinois. Funding in the amount of \$15,000 to \$50,000 per project is anticipated. Successful projects will propose the delivery of unique resources or services to an audience that has a demonstrated need and is supportive of receiving the service from the University of Illinois. The full Request for Proposals will be located on the web page listed above.

### Illinois Campus Compact University as Citizens Award

*Deadline October 1, 1999*

Contact Shawn Sweeney, 309/438-8123

This grant competition is one component of a collaboration between Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio Campus Compacts. The grants will be for planning and implementing projects that develop campus environments conducive to service learning and/or other forms of community engagement. Awards will range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for one year. Contact Grants and Contracts for a full RFP.

### National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipends

*Deadline October 1, 1999*

Contact 202/606-855, [stipends@neh.gov](mailto:stipends@neh.gov), or the NEH home page at <http://www.neh.gov>

NEH Summer Stipends support two months of full-time work on projects that will make a significant contribution to the humanities. Each institution can nominate up to two candidates. The stipend awarded is \$4,000.

### American Council on Education Fellows Awards

*Deadline November 1, 1999*

Contact Marlene Ross, 202/939-9420, or the ACE home page at <http://www.acenet.edu/About/programs/Programs&Analysis/CIII/fellows/home.html>

This program provides a year-long internship for administrators (at another or home institution) dealing with fundraising, planning, budgeting, personnel management, and legal strategies in higher education. Candidates, with a minimum of five years experience as faculty members or administrators, must be nominated by the president or senior officer of their institution. Host institutions must provide a \$5,000 program fee and a professional development budget of up to \$12,000 to attend national meetings and visit other campuses. Semester-long programs are also available.

### Open Society Institute Fellowships

*Deadline December 15, 1999*

Contact Joanna Cohen, 212/548-0119, [jcohen@sorosny.org](mailto:jcohen@sorosny.org), or the Institute's home page at <http://www.soros.org>

Individual Project Fellowships support individuals in the U.S. and abroad whose work furthers the development of open society. Awards are made for a term of up to 18 months and range from \$15,000 to \$100,000. Proposals are evaluated on their potential for influencing audiences of significance to the problem being addressed, how likely it is that the project can be completed within the term of the grant, how realistic the budget is, and whether the applicant has the qualifications and experience to carry out the project.