



# IDFPR

## Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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**JB PRITZKER**  
Governor

**MARIO TRETO, JR.**  
Secretary

**CECILIA ABUNDIS**  
Director

### Minutes

Meeting: **Illinois Nursing Workforce Center**  
Meeting Date: June 15, 2022  
Meeting convened: 11: 05 am  
Meeting Adjourned: 12:40 pm  
Meeting Locations: Video Conference: Remote

Board Members Present: Krista L. Jones, Chairperson  
Cynthia Maskey, Member

Board Members Absent: Theresa E. Towle, Vice-chairperson  
Lynda M. Bartlett, Member  
Fran LaMonica, Member  
Amanda Oliver (Buechel), Member

Staff Present: Linda B. Roberts, Manager  
Michele Bromberg, Nursing Coordinator

Guests: IDFPR, DPR Director Cecilia Abundis  
IBHE, Executive Deputy Director Stephanie Benoit  
Diana Cafi

**IBHE FY22 Nurse Educator Fellows: (alphabetical order by last name)**

Mallory Bejster, DNP, RN, Rush University College of Nursing; Alisha Carter MSN, RN, University of Illinois Chicago; Tracy Cooley DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; Emily Gail Chin PhD, RNC, CNE, Loyola University of Chicago; Miaake Driscoll MSN, RN, CPN, Saint Anthony College of Nursing; Brenda Drury MSN, RNC-MNN, Illinois Wesleyan University; Shamim Huda DNP, RN, FNP-BC, City of Chicago Colleges, Malcolm X College; Brittany Lawson, MSN, RN, CNE, Lakeview College of Nursing; Jennifer Maffucci Ed.D., RN, ACNS-BC; University of Illinois Chicago; Sandra (Sandy) Nielsen Ph.D., MSN, RN, AMB-BC, CNE, Illinois State University; Melissa (Lisa) Pertl MSN, RN, CNE, Aurora University; Carina Piccinini MSN, RN, CNE, Resurrection University; Ginger Schroers PhD, RNC, CNE, Loyola University of Chicago; Mary Rose Soberano, MSN, RN, City of Chicago Colleges, Malcolm X College; Alissa S. Watkins MSN, RN, PCNS-BC, Saint Francis Medical Center.

IBHE FY22 Nurse Fellows not present: Gina Brassard MSN, RN, DNS-CT, RAC-CT, Lakeview College of Nursing; Lise Hauser DNP, RN, Loyola University of Chicago; Jennifer Wills-Savoia DNP, MSN, RN, University of St. Francis.

Read at the start of the meeting. This meeting is being conducted by audio or video conference without the physical presence of a quorum of the members because the Governor of the State of Illinois has issued a disaster declaration related to public health concerns and an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the disaster described in that declaration. This meeting is further being conducted by audio or videoconference because the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation has determined pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7) that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of a disaster.



A picture of the group was taken at the end of presentations.	
<b>Break: 12:10-12:15</b>	
<b>Return to the agenda</b>	
<p><b>IV. Announcements</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. COVID-19 Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) update: Covid-19 community level is classified as low, medium or high. This community level is based on hospital admissions per 100,000 in the past 7 days, the 7-day average percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients and total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. Counties around Chicago, Peoria, Springfield, Champaign and 4 counties in southern Illinois are classified as “high”; the rest are classified as medium or low. The COVID-19 subvariant, Omicron BA.2, is 48% of the Illinois cases.</li> <li>2. National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers annual meeting: Swing for the Fences! Changing the Nursing Workforce Game; Las Vegas, Nevada, June 20-22, 2022.</li> <li>3. National Black Nurses Association annual conference: Bridging the Gap of Social Injustice and Health Disparities through Excellence in Nursing, Practice, Education, and Research, July 26-31, 2022; The Hilton, Chicago, Illinois.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>VI. Old Business</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF): Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 18 <i>Campaign for Action</i> Summit meeting presented panels discussing recommendations for change. A request was made of each state action coalition to a) send a status report of current activities and b) which one or two Future of Nursing Recommendations or take-aways are the state priorities.</li> <li>• The Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition (IHAC) leadership team of representatives of ANA-Illinois, Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders (IONL) and the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) plan to meet before the end of June to draft a report for submission to RWJF Center to Champion Nursing in America (CCNA). There is also discussion of a survey to member leaders of the Illinois Coalition of Nursing Organizations (ICNO).</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	
<p><b>VI. Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chairperson Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RN, APRN and FPA-APRN data collection using the SurveyMonkey surveys developed by this board will be collected by Eblast in October 2022. The plan is to have one or two Eblasts during a two-week period in October requesting voluntary survey participation. This is after the end of license renewal, which is August 31, 2022.</li> <li>• Public Health Nurse Leaders Workgroup update: there are 6 projects funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the projects will begin Fall semester 2022. Participating schools: Lewis University (2 separate grants), McKendree University, University of Illinois-Chicago, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana Campus, Western Illinois University; the Illinois Nurses Foundation is the fiscal agent.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Manager Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Forum State Nursing Workforce Centers: the annual meeting next week</li> <li>• The plan is to request LPN survey participation through an Eblast after license renewal is completed in 2023.</li> <li>• IDPH CNA-A mentorship apprenticeship program: the apprenticeship is for CNA-1’s through a paid mentorship by CNA-2’s with at least 5 years of experience. The goal of</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

<p>this pilot program is the increase retention of CNA-1's; grant funding is from the CDC: paid tuition and faculty salary for up to 150 days. This information was recently received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are exploring having the Nursing Workforce Center host hour long webinars of the Illinois graduate nursing education programs that prepare nursing faculty. Details to follow.</li> </ul> <p>3. Nursing Organization updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illinois Nurses Foundation (INF): 40-under 40 annual recognition event is on September 22, in Lisle, IL. The top 40 recipients were approved on September 13 and are currently being notified by the INF.</li> <li>• Illinois Coalition of Nursing Organizations – the next meeting is remote Tuesday, August 16, 6-8pm. Agenda: how to support each other next steps targeting the nursing shortage.</li> </ul> <p>4. Nursing Coordinator: Michele Bromberg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Nursing – continue follow-up of pre-licensure schools of nursing that are on probation due to less than standard pass rate</li> <li>• National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) – annual meeting in August</li> </ul>	
<p><b>VIII. Public Comment</b> Public comment was requested, there was not any comment.</p>	None
<p><b>IX. Adjournment</b> The next meeting of the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center will be Wednesday, September 7, 2022.</p>	
	There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1240 pm

Members of the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) Advisory Board of Directors: Lynda Bartlett, Chicago, IL; Amanda (Buechel) Oliver, Oak Forest, IL; Krista Jones, Broadlands, IL; Fran LaMonica, Chicago, IL; Cynthia Maskey, Springfield, IL; Theresa Towle, Tinley Park, IL.

The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) (formerly the Illinois Center for Nursing) was established in 2006 to advocate for appropriate nursing resources necessary to meet the healthcare needs of the citizens of Illinois. INWC is working with industry professionals and educational institutions to ensure that Illinois has a nursing workforce necessary to meet the demands of a growing and aging population. INWC Website: <http://nursing.illinois.gov>

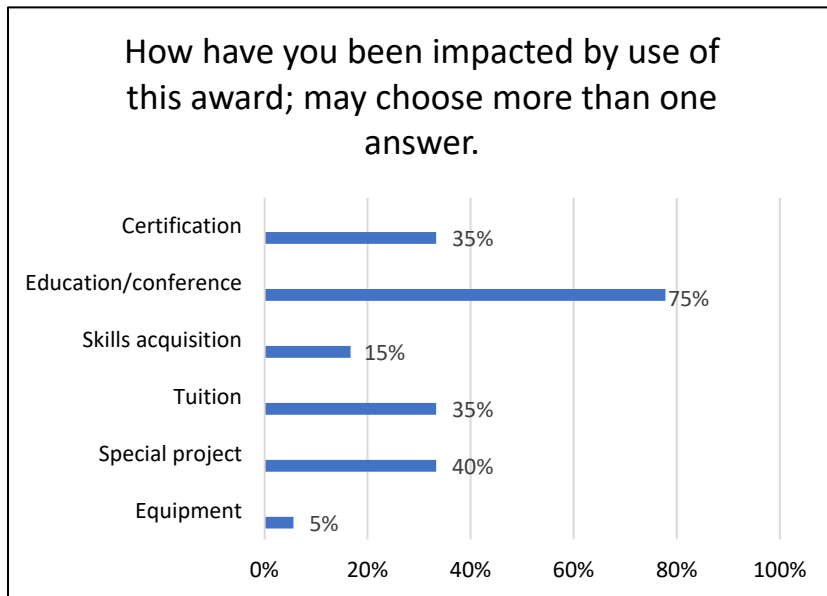
## Appendix A

### FY22 Nurse Educator Fellows Abstracts and Survey Results June 2022

The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board (INWC) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) recognized the Fiscal Year 2022 Nurse Educator Fellows during the Nursing Workforce Center's advisory board meeting June 15, 2022. Each Fellow received a \$10,000 salary supplement and presented verbal remarks on the use or the intended use of the award for professional development activities. Eighteen educators were selected from thirteen institutions in FY22 and were awarded the Fellowships through the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

The Illinois Board of Higher Education maintains strong support of the Nurse Educator Fellowship. Nominee contracts were verified prior to award recognition. Recipients were notified after the September 14, 2021, IBHE board meeting approval. This was followed by completion of contracts and distribution of funds. Many Nurse Faculty Fellows used the funds for professional development between receipt of recognition and the end of June 2022. 100% of survey respondents agreed that receipt of funds would impact achievement of intended goals.

The FY22 Nurse Educator Fellows completed a short online survey regarding the Fellowship. There are 18 Fellows, but 21 responses, a few probably answered twice. This is a summary of responses. All of the respondents continue to be employed in nursing education at the institution that nominated them for this recognition, this is a Fellowship requirement which has been verified with the institution. Sixteen (or 80%) of the respondents are employed as faculty, four (or 20%) have a dual role as administrator and faculty member.



As shown in the chart, the majority (75%/15) of Fellows responded that they plan to use the award to attend conferences or other educational events. Thirty-five percent (7) responded that they would use the award to help pay for tuition; 15% (3) will use funds for skills acquisition. Forty percent (8) answered that the award would be used toward a special project, some of which are listed below. Thirty-five percent (7) indicated that funds would be used to acquire certification (such as Certified Nurse Educator). Please note that respondents could choose more than one answer, so the percentage totals are more than 100%.

The Fellows were asked if the recognition made any changes to their practice as nurse educators including special projects and equipment purchased. The comments on

special projects are also described in the abstracts. Individual comments about changes to their practice included: (1) five comments regarding support of scholarly work and research including new ideas on how to support ESL students, DEI initiatives; (2) four comments about encouraging self to do my best for students, including re-finding joy in nursing education; (3) three comments about intentional use of learning strategies that enhance clinical judgement; (4) two comments about using funds to continue doctoral program work; (5) one comment about joining nursing administration.

The final question, how educating nurses post COVID-19 pandemic might change, elicited comments in four areas: the transition to online teaching; the future to include continued flexibility with didactic and online teaching; clinical settings will broaden to include more non acute care, community settings; the need to include educating students re: self-care. A few comments:

- I feel that there are both positive and negative changes associated with educating nurses post COVID-19. We have adjusted delivery options of material to students making information more available. There have also been some restrictions associated with clinical sites making that component a little more difficult.

- While I believe in-person clinical time, caring for real human patients in real time cannot be compared to virtual experiences, I have come to value what can be accomplished virtually and in simulation/lab settings. I believe we will continue to see more of this type of learning. I see the nurses in the inpatient settings providing even more nurturing, guidance and education to our students in clinical. I believe this can be attributed to the nurses in clinical practice recognizing the desperation of need for new graduate nurses.
- I believe our clinical partnerships will continue to be a challenge, which will limit the students ability to apply what they have learned in the classroom. Moving forward, I strongly feel that professors teaching didactic must be more intentional in how they facilitate application of knowledge. The strategy of “bringing a patient” to each class will be critical in helping students make those connections that promote the development of clinical judgement skills.
- I see a major increase in creativeness, flexibility and technology. We may need to be creative in clinical hours while supplementing with high fidelity simulation, be flexible in changing sites and hours, etc. Health-care professional educators must elevate nursing education by addressing the curriculum while preparing graduates for practice. We must institute more simulation opportunities, clinical opportunities, and extended training exercises within the healthcare nursing practice of nursing institutions.
- We are more able to switch methods of teaching at a moment’s notice. We have implemented some great virtual tools to use in adjunct with our normal styles of teaching. The blended formats for course instruction will continue. Technology will be used to educate students and we will begin to refine the technological tools we have used in the past.
- ...The pandemic has created a great sense of distrust in the healthcare system (among some). I think this is a major theme that these nurses are likely going to be faced with quite frequently for some time to come. We need to prepare them for this.
- ...The pandemic has highlighted the importance of certain concepts such as epidemiology, community level communicable disease control, emergency preparedness, disaster response, and more.
- With COVID we have seen a significant reduction of clinical sites, and a subsequent increase in faculty workload. In academia, we are discouraged by a growing disparity between nursing pay in acute care and pay for nurse educators. This recognition was vital in helping me to retain and spread a positive attitude within nursing education. What we do is important and recognized. We provide for the growing need for excellent nurse graduates. We matter. The state of Illinois encourages nurse educators to continue to strive for excellence. I appreciate the Illinois Nursing Workforce support.

These survey responses indicate that the Fellowship is achieving its intended goals, i.e., to help institutions retain their well-qualified nurse educators to educate and train nursing students so that Illinois can continue to address the long-term demand for well-trained registered professional nurses.

**Nurse Educator Fellow**  
**Mallory Bejster, DNP, RN**

**Affiliation**  
**Rush University College of Nursing**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse Educator Fellowship Award has positively impacted my ability to continue my professional development in nursing education in several ways. The anticipated funds for this award has allowed me to become a member of three additional professional organizations along with maintaining my membership in two professional organizations I am already a part of. As a member of these various organizations, I have had the opportunity to participate in multiple service opportunities including sitting on organizational committees, serving as a conference abstract reviewer, serving as a student poster judge at a conference, and adding content for a toolkit revision. Additionally, the anticipated funds will support my attendance at six professional conferences this academic year. Along with being able to attend multiple sessions to grow my knowledge and skills as a public health nursing faculty member, I have also grown my scholarship skills and opportunities by presenting or planning to present at many of these conferences (a total of three posters and three oral presentations) as either a lead author or co-author. Finally, the anticipated funds from this award will allow me to obtain resources to study for and take both the Clinical Nurse Leader exam and the Certified in Public Health Exam.

I am honored to have received the 2022 Illinois board of higher education Nurse educator fellowship. As a recipient of the Nurse Educator Fellowship Award, the funds will allow me to retain my current position as a full-time nursing education faculty member while I complete my Doctorate. I am currently attending Olivet Nazarene University, with a future graduation date for March 2024. As I pursue this degree, it will make me a well-rounded nursing educator. As a result, I can provide my students with the best education needed to become nursing team members. Teaching nurses is a true calling, and I want the knowledge to give my students the best education.

Using this fellowship provides me with an opportunity to complete the doctorate program and focus on education. In addition, learning leadership can improve my abilities as a nursing leader. I have experience nursing leadership through being director of nursing and became certified in 2017. Being a well-rounded leader can assist with the education of students, help in faculty experience and show determination to improve oneself and the others around you in the nursing field.

I am always trying to improve myself with continuing education and will be pushing for my certified nurse educator soon. I serve as secretary on my school's Sigma theta tau chapter. In addition, I received my online teaching certificate. I will continue my education journey and continuously improve myself for my students and those around me to provide the best education to our future nurses.

I want to thank the Illinois Board of Higher Education for this opportunity to improve my teaching and knowledge.

**Alisha Carter MSN, RN****University of Illinois Chicago**

I am extremely honored to have been selected to receive the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship. It has increased my passion for nursing education. I look forward to using those funds to enhance my nursing education expertise as it relates to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This fellowship will help support research and scholarship activities as well as allowing me to attend professional development conferences. It will pay for professional memberships in Sigma Theta Tau International, The American Nurses Association, and The Illinois Nurses Association.

Certification in diversity and inclusion from Cornell University will be completed. Funds will be used to assist in paying for implementation of my DNP project and opportunities will be sought out to present and publish my findings. As my passion is in diversity, equity, and inclusion, this fellowship will allow continued expansion of knowledge to be used to educate my students as well as the other faculty at my college of nursing. Thank you for selecting me to receive the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship.

**Tracy Cooley DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC****Southern Illinois University Edwardsville**

I would like to extend my humble appreciation for this fellowship to assist me in my research interests as well as retainment as a nurse educator in Illinois. The fellowship award has supported my research and scholarship activities in an invigorating fashion. The crux of my research focuses on mental health. I am enthusiastic about promoting mental health and wellness in all individuals, especially augmenting awareness in underserved communities. The fellowship has allowed me to start a mental health ministry program at two churches in my community. My goal is to identify needed support for churches establishing mental health ministries, develop training focused on trauma, depression, anxiety, substance addictions, and explore the role of faith as it relates to mental health promotion.

I will continue to expand partnerships with faith-based organizations and other community organizations who have a desire to promote mental health and wellness in their communities. I am currently investigating coping strategies used by nursing students and will continue to seek research opportunities to improve mental health and wellbeing of students, faculty, and individuals in the community.

This fellowship will help my development in the teacher-scholar role. I will be able to attend professional conferences to further my skills and knowledge as a psychiatric nurse practitioner. I will be able to better bridge theory and clinical experiences in my teaching, giving students a clear picture of how internal and environmental factors, traumatic events, can impact the mental health and well-being of all individuals.

**Emily Gail Chin PhD, RNC, CNE**

**Loyola University of Chicago**

I am honored to be considered alongside the other educators in this award cycle and I am grateful to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for this generous support. In a typical year, with limited faculty development funds, I may be able to attend only one nursing conference. This year's award extended opportunities for me to attend additional educational events. With the funds received from the Nurse Educator Fellow award, I have attended/will attend three conferences. Two were within the nurse educator realm and one was broader in focus.

I participated in the ATI Nurse Educator Summit as a first time attendee in April. I was refreshed and renewed by the speakers at this conference. I gained new ideas for preventing and protecting ourselves from burnout, introducing just culture to students, and ways to support students with test anxiety. I am finding ways to implement these strategies in my own classroom. I will also be attending the upcoming NLN Nurse Educator Summit in September as a poster presenter, traveling with LUC colleagues to present the work, "Wrap It Up: Post Exam Feedback". I have always found this conference to provide motivation and inspiration to change up the classroom.

In March, I was able to attend AAC&U's Diversity, Equity, and Student Success Conference. I was excited to attend the AAC&U event as this was a unique opportunity to mix with educators in disciplines outside of nursing. Beyond the content, I relished the chance to connect with educators and staff members who shared their victories and struggles with DEI initiatives including advising, mentoring, and creating opportunities for historically underrepresented groups.

As a faculty and program director, I have many responsibilities. Personal development does not often take priority. The IBHE award has provided me much needed support to seek out information that will support our students.

**Miaaake Driscoll MSN, RN, CPN**

**Saint Anthony College of Nursing**

I am truly honored to be a recipient of the Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse Educator Fellowship Award. I have been blessed to work with the pediatric and MCDD (Medically Complex Developmental Disabilities) populations for 26 years. I believe there is a need for more education in our curriculum related to these topics, primarily developmental disabilities. I am passionate about helping prepare our future nurses on how to care for these exceptional individuals. This award will allow me more opportunities to attend conferences through DDNA (Developmental Disabilities Nurse Association) and SPN (Society of Pediatric Nurses). This award will also allow me to pursue my doctorate with a primary focus in these areas. These individuals have been underserved for too long and I feel there is so much to learn and a tremendous amount of research that needs to be done to deliver the extraordinary care that they deserve.

I also would like to allocate some of the award to purchase educational tools through Nurse Tim to help my colleagues, as well as myself, prepare our students for the NextGen NCLEX. Clinical Judgement is such a vital component to our student's education, and this will help to ensure their success. I am so incredibly excited and grateful for these next steps, thank you.

**Nurse Educator Fellow**

**Affiliation**

**Brenda Drury MSN, RNC-MNN**

**Illinois Wesleyan University**

I am honored and thankful to receive the Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse Educator Fellowship grant. I teach nursing full time, practice at the bedside part time and will complete my Doctorate in Nursing



Practice (DNP) degree in August. The support from the grant has allowed me to grow and give in scholarship, service and teaching. I worked with two groups of students on literature reviews that we presented at the Academy of Neonatal Nurses National Mother Baby/Neonatal Nurses conference. The 2021 conference was held in person in our great state of Illinois, providing me with the unique opportunity to take three undergraduate nursing students to present at a national conference. Two of those students were selected to be part of a group of forty students nationwide to participate in an Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) infection control project. From their they were selected to present at AWHONN Convention in June!

I purchased resources and attended educational offerings to help me best prepare our students for the Next Gen NCLEX beginning at the sophomore level foundations course I coordinate. I was the chapter delegate at the Sigma Biennial Convention which allowed for networking, leadership and educational offerings around a variety of nursing topics. Finally, I attended and presented my DNP scholarly project findings at the biennial Cribs for Kids® conference.

I am thankful for the support to positively impact the future of nursing.

### **Lise Hauser DNP, RN**

### **Loyola University of Chicago**

Receiving the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship Award allowed me to explore and access new resources for educating undergraduate nursing students. With this award I joined professional organizations and purchased educational materials to help me expand the ways in which we teach about menopause in course content related to medical, surgical and healthy aging. I joined the North American Menopause Society (NAMS), Nurse Practitioners for Women's Health, and the Association for Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing. I conducted evidence-based practice research into undergraduate nursing education regarding menopause, purchased the Menopause A-Z slide set from NAMS and registered for the NAMS 2022 national conference. The award will help cover the costs of travel and lodging at this conference.

As an educator, I am aware that students have a variety of learning styles. I purchased professionally-made teaching tools for the obstetrics and gynecology course I teach every semester to supplement the hand-made teaching tools I use. This year I began the process to become a National League for Nursing Certified Clinical Educator.

This award also allowed me to participate in a service immersion trip to the Dominican Republic with five Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing students, in which we learned about how the public health system functions and challenges the population faces. We also traveled to rural communities to learn from and work with local health promoters. We conducted health screening clinics and home visits for diabetes and hypertension in collaboration with Dominican physicians and nurses.

### **Shamim Huda DNP, RN, FNP-BC**

### **City of Chicago Colleges, Malcolm X College**

I am thankful to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) for honoring me with the fellowship and providing me with this opportunity. With the money I just received, I plan to purchase an Apple Mac book Pro which is a reliable Laptop for instruction especially in clinical settings during post conferences to use tools available electronically. I also plan to buy a mini projector so I can conduct my conferences more efficiently because these resources are not readily available in clinical sites, and it sometimes hinders the teaching plans.

My goal is to attend nursing conferences which will enable me to remain current in my area of practice. Our college has invested in a huge simulation lab which can be utilized more effectively especially when more creative ways to educate nursing students in clinical areas and critical thinking is empirical. I plan to take a course from Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Care Professionals in clinical simulation and certified as simulation educator.

The monies will also help me to apply for the CNE (Certified Nurse Educator®) exam which I had been procrastinating on for financial burden. Being an educator for more than a decade, it is time to get this certification to prove my knowledge and skills.

Finally, I also plan to attend a conference called Transform 2022. I initially planned to attend this conference in 2021, but funds were not available at that point, so I will attend this conference in December 2022. This is a new conference addressing new and seasoned faculty to discover new developments in academic nursing along with the latest innovations impacting higher education and healthcare delivery and immerse into a rich and diverse learning environment including plenary and breakout sessions, focused discussions, and informal breakfast forums.

**Brittany Lawson, MSN, RN, CNE**

**Lakeview College of Nursing**

Being selected as a 2022 Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator fellow is an honor. This fellowship will have a long-lasting impact on myself, my students, and those I serve. The funds provided by this fellowship allowed me to complete my Executive Certificate in Nursing Education Leadership, which was conferred on March 18, 2022. Through this program, I was able to develop a deeper understanding of how to be an effective, compassionate, well-rounded nurse educator. Additionally, I was able to pursue my certification in nursing education through the National League of Nursing. I am pleased to report that I am now a certified nurse educator (CNE), thanks to the IBHE.

The impact of this fellowship reaches far beyond simply funding my continuing education. As I seek to further my knowledge and experience in teaching, I will continue to share new insights and teaching strategies with my fellow educators. In addition, the new knowledge, and perspectives that I have gained through my education, inspired me to volunteer for several service opportunities with the National League for Nursing and Sigma Theta Tau International. I want to express my deep gratitude to the IBHE for investing in me, my students, the profession of nursing, and all the other IBHE nurse educator fellows, both past and present.

**Jennifer Maffucci Ed.D, RN, ACNS-BC**

**University of Illinois Chicago**

My name is Jennifer Maffucci. I am very humbled and honored to have received the IBHE fellowship for the 2022 year. I have a passion for nursing education and this fellowship has helped support me in my faculty position. The grant allowed me to develop some professional activities and supported me in my scholarship.

First, I was able to develop and deliver a three-day NCLEX review course for our students at the University of Illinois Chicago. Similar courses are often cost prohibitive for our students, so I used this funding to develop a high-quality course at no cost to them. Because I am a faculty in their program, I was also able to tailor it to the cohort's individual learning needs. Providing this course increased equity in access to NCLEX preparation for our students. I had strong results from those who attended and will be continuing to offer this course every graduating semester.

Second, this fellowship allowed me to serve on an expert nurse panel with ANA-IL. My subcommittee's focus has been to look at ways to increase education on social determinates of health in Illinois nursing schools. This is an 18-month appointment and will continue through the summer.

Finally, I was able to have support for my scholarship activities by being able to attend the MNRS conference in Schaumburg this past March. At this conference I was also able to present my findings from my dissertation. I am very grateful to the IBHE committee for this opportunity.

**Sandra (Sandy) Nielsen Ph.D., MSN, RN, AMB-BC, CNE**      **Illinois State University**

Receiving the Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse Educator Fellowship Award was a great honor at a difficult time in nursing education history. Since receiving the award, I became the director of our undergraduate program. I also teach students and mentor new faculty. More than ever, I see the difficulties in educating potential nurses. I note that our clinical sites are less accepting of our students and change health

and safety requirements regularly. Meanwhile, the already large discrepancy between nursing wages and instructor wages is growing exponentially. It has been difficult to retain and recruit nursing faculty.

As a result of this encouraging fellowship award, I was able to maintain and create a positive attitude of growth and purpose in our state educational institution. I was also able to maintain my memberships in professional organizations, SIGMA, National League for Nursing and ANA-INA, and Midwest Nursing Research Society which provide numerous opportunities to acquire skills and education for my new role in the administration. Besides that, I was able to focus some of my time and energy on working with students in independent study as well as in three research projects. At Mennonite College of Nursing, we are all deeply embedded in the AACN New Essentials, and I am leading the faculty to find gaps, and reevaluate program and course outcomes. Which makes the additional training opportunities that I have received in part as a result of this funding, even more, valuable not just to myself but to all the Undergraduate Faculty at our college.

### **Nurse Educator Fellow**

**Melissa (Lisa) Pertl MSN, RN, CNE**

### **Affiliation**

**Aurora University**

I would like to begin by expressing my very sincere appreciation to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for choosing me as one of the recipients of the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship Award for FY22. This fellowship has afforded me the opportunity to attend several valuable and highly educational conferences over the course of this year! As a nursing professor, my passion is all about helping students learn how to critically think and develop sound clinical judgement skills, within the framework of clinical decision making.

The professional development opportunities provided insight into numerous active learning strategies that were focused on the development of clinical judgment skills. The conferences also served to broaden, strengthen and inform my ability to effectively evaluate student learning.

Ensuring our nursing students learn clinical judgment is of highest priority as the National Council of State Boards of Nursing moves toward the use of its Clinical Judgment Measurement Model in the spring of 2023.

I have been able to share the education I received with my nursing colleagues at AU. Faculty learning circles were implemented during the spring '22, semester. Through sharing and collaboration, we have created clinical judgement activities and NGN style test questions that we have already begun to incorporate in the classroom!

The students are already reaping the rewards made possible by the IBHE, as they are preparing for the Next Generation NCLEX-RN and most importantly, for clinical practice.

### **Carina Piccinini MSN, RN, CNE**

### **Resurrection University**

The IBHE NEFP has allowed me to create an engaging and relevant Evidence-Based Practice and Quality Improvement course at my institution as part of a newly designed curriculum. In addition, I have been able to add to my credentials as a professional nurse and expand my knowledge and creativity of EBP and QI. The funds have been used to purchase the equipment needed for a low-fidelity, in-class simulation of QI PDSA cycles for the course I teach and coordinate; to purchase self-study package and test registration for the Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality designation; and to attend the University of Iowa EBP Conference and the QSEN Conference.

I am especially excited about how these funds have helped me create an in-class simulation for QI PDSA cycles, based on a teaching strategy in the QSEN repository. I was able to implement the simulation this past Spring, and students were very engaged in the activity. It allowed them to learn how PDSA cycles can rapidly improve the quality of care, and they then took the learning from the simulation to work through a group-based personal improvement project using the QI PDSA tools.

My own professional development would not have been fully realized this academic year without the funds. I was able to attend the University of Iowa Evidence-Based Practice conference virtually in April; I will be attending the QSEN Conference in Denver in early June; and I am currently studying for the CPHQ exam, which I hope to sit for by the end of June. I am extremely grateful to the IBHE for choosing me for this opportunity to help my students and my professional development.

**Ginger Schroers PhD, RNC, CNE**

**Loyola University of Chicago**

I'd like to first express my sincere gratitude to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) for this award. The support through this fellowship has provided me many opportunities to enhance my development as a nurse educator and researcher. The monetary portion of this award has allowed me to attend nursing conferences, renew professional memberships and certifications, and attend a research-intensive workshop.

The award supported dissemination of my research, which is focused on education of nursing students on skills surrounding patient safety, at the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Conference in March 2022. The funding will also be used to support dissemination of teaching methods that I currently use in my classroom. I will be presenting to fellow nurse educators on active learning teaching methods and nursing student clinical judgment formation at the National League for Nursing (NLN) Summit. The summit will be held in Nevada in September 2022 - the award will fund my registration and travel expenses. In addition, the award funded my certified nurse educator (CNE) renewal fee, and membership fees in two professional nursing organizations. Lastly, the award funded the registration fee for a research-intensive workshop that will be held in June 2022. The workshop will focus on the design and implementation of intervention studies, which aligns well with my plans to conduct future studies on various teaching interventions used with nursing students. I am extremely appreciative of the opportunities this award has provided me. Thank you for this support.

**Mary Rose Soberano, MSN, RN**

**City of Chicago Colleges, Malcolm X College**

In the fall semester of 2021, I finally decided to go back to school to pursue a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at Northern Kentucky University. It was an honor to have been selected as a recipient of the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship Award. I was granted the financial assistance that I needed to start my educational journey at NKU. I recently completed my 4th course in the DNP program and although it was initially challenging to assume the role of a student once again, I have managed to navigate my way through the process of making the essential transition.

The knowledge I have gained thus far since I started the program has enhanced my efficacy and confidence as a nursing faculty in one of the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC). The courses I completed have amplified my understanding of the significance of evidence-based practice in the delivery of high-quality and cost-effective services to healthcare consumers. Nurse educators need to raise awareness among their students on how their role as future nurses can be utilized in various ways to effect desired changes. The strengths of DNP-prepared faculty are attributed to their advanced knowledge of scientific inquiry, application of evidence to improve nursing education, formulation of strategic plans to generate successful student learning outcomes, and leadership skills that foster teamwork and collaboration.

The proposed topic for my DNP project is about reducing workplace violence against nurses. Since my specialty area as a nursing instructor is mental health nursing, my project will be integral to educating our students on ways to maintain patients' safety as well as their own as they join the workforce. I look forward with great anticipation to completing my scholarly work and graduating with a terminal degree in nursing that will optimize my ability to shape the future generation of nurses.

**Alissa S. Watkins MSN, RN, PCNS-BC**

**Saint Francis Medical Center**

I would like to extend my humble gratitude to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for choosing me as a recipient for the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship Award. Receiving the award impacted my ability to remain

in my current faculty position. The Nurse Educator Fellowship has affected the ability to continue my education as I am currently enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Education program at Capella University. At this time, I am in the dissertation phase of the program. The funds will be used to offset any expenses, such as data analysis software, incurred during the research phase. Any remaining funds will be applied to the remaining tuition balance of the Doctoral Program. Because of the Fellowship Award, I will have the funds necessary to complete the program.

Upon completion of the doctoral program, I will be better equipped to disseminate research and provide quality education opportunities for nursing students. I appreciate the opportunity to further develop as a nurse educator by advancing my knowledge in the field of nursing research, facilitating learner development and socialization, engaging in scholarship, and pursuing continuous quality improvement in education. Each of these improvements will allow me to meet the needs of the students I educate. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

**Jennifer Wills-Savoia DNP, MSN, RN**

**University of St. Francis**

One of the main reasons I enjoy nursing education is watching lives transform! As a full-time faculty member, advisor and Director of Clinical and Simulation, I have been fortunate enough to play an integral role in this transformation.

One of my favorite roles in education is advising my students. This is when I get to know them personally as well as scholarly. The very diverse student population that we have here at the University of St. Francis, allows me to meet, advise, and mentor students from all over the world. The students who have English as a Second Language (ESL) face some challenges along the way and this population of students has always held my interest. I usually ask for these students as my advisees as I am always looking for a way to bridge the gap for them in test-taking. Many have told me that they have to translate the questions to their native language and back in order to fully understand and this takes time. I have been working with and studying ways in which I can help with this challenge.

In addition, I had just finished my DNP and thought I would have to leave nursing education to pay for the tuition. At the same time, the fellowship was awarded and afforded me the opportunity to stay in nursing education and continue my work with ESL students! I am eternally grateful!