

Minutes

Meeting: **Illinois Nursing Workforce Center**
 Meeting Date: June 17, 2020
 Meeting convened: 11:04 am
 Meeting Adjourned: 1:05 pm
 Meeting Locations: Video Conference: Remote

Board Members Present: Linda D. Taylor, Chairperson
 Lynda M. Bartlett, Member (beginning 12noon)
 Laura W. Bernaix, Member
 Krista L. Jones, Vice-chairperson
 Cynthia Maskey, Member
 Marsha A. Prater, Member
 Theresa E. Towle, Member
 Board Members Absent: Susan Edamala, Member

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

Guests: Cecilia Abundis, Acting Director, Division of Professional Regulation
 Karen Helland, Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Senior Associate
 Director of Policy Studies

IBHE FY20 Nurse Educator Fellows: Gina Canny, Yasmin Cavenagh, Jennifer Davis, Tina Dorau, Amy Funk
 Sarah Gouwens, Amy Green, Denise Hammer, Annie Imboden
 Julie Kennedy, Kelley McGuire, Daniel Mead, Tara Morris
 Elizabeth Moxley, Katelyn Myroniak, Carla Thomas, Rita Wallace
 Jessica Woloszyk

Topic	Action
<p>I. Reorder agenda. New Business: Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) FY20 Nurse Educator Fellows recognition ceremony begins at 11:04am. Karen Helland presents greetings and thank you from IBHE Executive Director Ginger Ostro and Chair John Atkinson. Director Cecilia Abundis presents greetings on behalf of IDFPR and thank you. Thank you for educating and cultivating nursing student passion especially in our marginalized populations. Each Fellow presented about the project accomplished with the IBHE grant; group picture was taken for a future news release and social media posting. Individual project details are found in Appendix #A of these minutes.</p>	
<p>Break (12:00-12:05pm)</p>	
<p>II. Call to Order Roll call: board members and staff respond.</p>	Meeting called to order by L. Taylor, Chairperson
<p>III. Declaration of a Quorum at 12:05 pm</p>	L. Taylor declares quorum
<p>IV. Approval of Minutes (Action) Approval of the December 11, 2019 Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board meeting minutes. Motion was made/seconded: C. Maskey/K. Jones to approve the December 2019 meeting minutes.</p>	December 2019 minutes approved

V. Announcements

1. COVID-19 Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) update
2. IDFPR RN and APRN renewal deadline extended to September 30, 2020
3. Micro Nurses Academy – Edition 07: Indispensable Nurse- The Wealth of this World, Caring with Mental & Physical Endurance; Susan Edamala presented at this national meeting
4. Illinois Nurses Foundation 40-under-40 annual recognition ceremony to be virtual this fall

VI. Reports

- a. Chairperson Report
 - i. IDPH Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Task Force, she is appointed to this task force which will meet by the end of the month. Healthcare workforce is inclusive of nurses, physicians, pharmacists, therapists.
- b. Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Manager Report
 - i. Reports during initial stages of COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has resources on their website
 - ii. Status of Illinois Nursing Workforce Center RN and APRN data collection with license renewal. The voluntary post-individual on-line license renewal surveys continue through the extended renewal deadline, September 30, 2020. The first renewal email notice went out May 16, 17, approximately 50,000 RNs have renewed since then, the total renewal approximately 100,000 out of approximately 200,000. Survey response, if it continues at the current rate will be approximately 25%. The APRN survey response is approximately 7%; it is unclear if the APRN must complete RN renewal prior to APRN renewal.
 - iii. National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers, the annual meeting is being held virtually. The theme is: the power of data to build a healthier nation. There are 2-3 educational sessions per day for 2 weeks.
 - iv. The document, IBHE Nurse Educator Fellows snippets, which is to be distributed to Illinois deans and directors to recruit participation is on hold. Once the state budget is completed and signed and funding is assured these snippets will be distributed prior to the application open period.
 - v. Appointments, there are 3 vacancies, applications are under review.
- c. Nursing Organization updates
 - i. Public Health Nurse Leaders: successful interprofessional conference: *Return on Investment, Partnerships Add Value*, March 12, McKendree University
 - ii. Organization of Associate Degree Nurses (OADN) has had a few town-halls on COVID-19, providing information on educational resources related to COVID-19 including best practices. There is a task force reviewing virtual learning products.
- d. Nursing Coordinator
 - i. Board of Nursing continues to meet as scheduled.
 - ii. National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) update. Continental Testing Services (CTS), which is the company that processes student and licensure applications for all Illinois licensees, was closed for two weeks in March. Now is fully staffed and continues to process applications. Pearson Vue, which conducts the licensure examinations, has all 8 Illinois sites open, has 2 spots per day for someone to test and test sites are open 6 days per week. Social distancing is maintained and there is rigorous cleaning between testing candidates. Similar to some other states, test sites are booked through July and August, the first available test opportunity is September. Discussion: concern expressed, student test scores are higher when they take the licensure examination closer to graduation date; potential delay in starting work, potential decrease in a schools' annual pass rate.

<p>iii. School clinicals, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) are partnering to create guidelines including safety precautions and measures for resuming classes.</p>	
<p>VII. Old Business</p> <p>1. Strategic Plan – the ANA-Illinois white paper: The State of Nursing Education Report 2020, published in early March was discussed. This report uses data from the Illinois Nursing Workforce licensure survey reports and the Board of Nursing pre-licensure nursing education mandatory annual report. Discussion included the challenges as listed in the report. Agreement to for board workgroup to meet, focus on nursing education, transition from education to practice, collaboration between academia and practice in both pre-licensure and post-licensure education. Volunteers: L. Taylor, M. Prater, C. Maskey, T. Towle, L. Bartlett.</p>	
<p>VIII. Public Comment</p>	None
<p>IX. Adjournment The next meeting of the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center will be Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Motion was made/seconded: C. Maskey/L. Bernaix to adjourn.</p>	Approved
	There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm

Members of the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) Advisory Board of Directors: Lynda Bartlett, Chicago, IL; Laura Bernaix, Edwardsville, IL; Kathleen Delaney, Evanston, IL; Susan Edamala, Des Plaines, IL; Carmen C. Hovanec, Chicago, IL; Krista Jones, Broadlands, IL; Cynthia Maskey, Springfield, IL; Marsha Prater, Springfield, IL; Linda Taylor, Normal, IL; Theresa Towle, Tinley Park, IL.

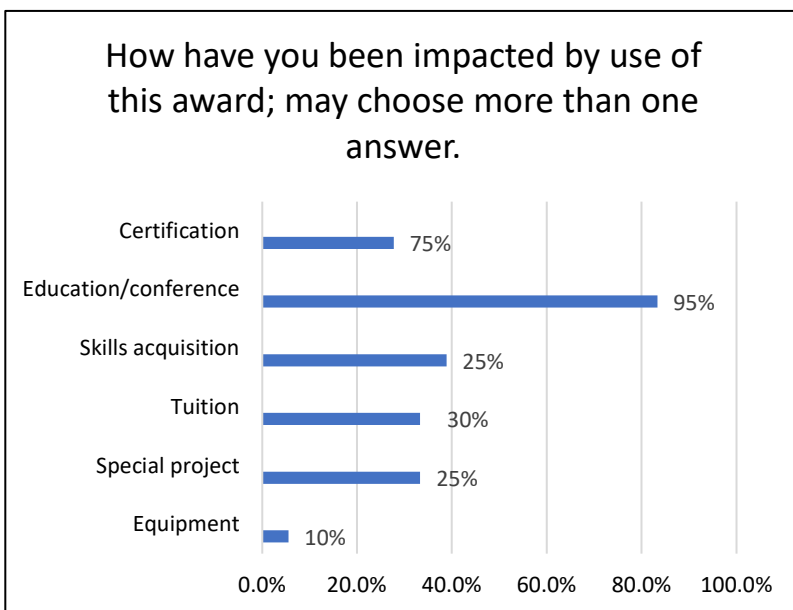
The Illinois State Healthcare Action Coalition (IHAC) was convened to advance *The Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action™*, a collaboration created by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the AARP Foundation <http://championnursing.org/>.

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
FY20 IBHE Nurse Educator Fellows Abstracts and Survey Results
June 2020

The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education will recognize the Fiscal Year 20 Nurse Educator Fellows during the Advisory Board's regularly-scheduled meeting in June 2020. Each Fellow receives a \$10,000 salary supplement and will present verbal remarks on the intended use of the award for professional development activities. Nineteen educators were selected from thirty nominations in FY20 and were awarded the Fellowships through the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

The FY20 Nurse Educator Fellows were to complete a short online survey regarding the Fellowship. Though there are 19 Fellows, there were 20 responses, which, for purposes of this report, we will consider a response rate of 100%. 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 and all institutions will be asked to verify continued employment. Eighteen (or 90%) of the respondents are employed as faculty, two (or 10%) have a dual role as administrator and faculty member.



As shown in the chart, the vast majority of survey responses show that the Fellows plan to use the award stipend to attend conferences or other educational events. Approximately one-third responded that they would use the award to help pay for tuition, or for special projects (such as publication of scholarly research). Seventy-five percent answered that the award would be used toward certification (such as a Certified Nurse Educator). Please note that respondents could choose more than one answer, so the percentage totals are more than 100%.

Fellows were asked if the recognition made any changes to their practice as nurse educators. Individual responses include: (1) three comments regarding simulation, including:

new opportunities and best-practices in the fields of nursing education and simulation; (2) two comments about support of PhD completion, and to gain knowledge for continuation of undergraduate education delivery; (3) the funds have allowed me to decrease to working 1 day a week as a bedside nurse, and now have time to reflect and focus on evidence based practice implementation and research; (4) I will be able to teach CNA's now; (5) I am enrolled in a certification class for online education and have been able to implement modules as I learn them; (6) I am planning on attending conferences, they have been cancelled for now; (7) the practice changes that are occurring as a result of these experiences funded by this award are integrating student skills workshops, development of a plan to integrate augmented reality into our simulation curriculum and, integrating faculty training workshops in simulation; and (8) the knowledge learned will be incorporated in clinical practicum education provided.

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.

Gina Canny MSN, RN, CNE, TNS

Millikin University

As a recipient of the Nurse Educator Fellowship Award, these funds will enable me to retain my current faculty position, complete my Doctoral Dissertation, and attend education conferences. A terminal degree of doctorate was a

my learning and offered insight to integrating Virtual and Augmented Reality Simulation and develop a virtual and/or augmented simulation program. This area of simulation has become even more important with the emergence of COVID-19 earlier this year. I was able to bring back many useful ideas to support my colleagues and enhance my student's learning during these last few months of online education.

Additionally, I completed and submitted an abstract related to developing and integrating Google Forms as a simulated Electronic Health record into our BSN program. This abstract was accepted and will be presented as a poster in the Virtual INACSL Conference in June 2020 for which I am able to attend as a result of this grant. By attending this virtual Conference, I aim to further enhance my knowledge about current virtual/augmented reality simulation to support clinical replacement.

Lastly, this grant has supported my returning to school and will provide tuition for Summer 2020. This is extremely important due to the expectation to obtain a doctoral (PhD) degree to remain in Nursing Education. I currently have a significant amount in loans from returning to school for my BSN and MSN. This grant affords me the opportunity to continue my education without increasing the financial burden of returning to school.

I am thoroughly grateful to have received this grant.

Amy Funk PhD, RN-BC

Illinois Wesleyan University

My goal in applying for the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) fellowship is to complete the Professional Diploma in International Nursing & Public Health through the Institute for International Medicine (INMED). The organizational mission of INMED is "to equip healthcare professionals & students to serve the forgotten". The diploma is accomplished in two segments: (1) A ten-week online program with a 2-day, hands-on training. Specific objectives focus on diseases associated with poverty, HIV infection, care of pregnant women and their newborns, health promotion/disease prevention, culturally appropriate healthcare, disaster management, design of health interventions and teaching skills. (2) A two-week, service-learning component at Clinica Esperanza in Honduras.

This diploma will develop my abilities within my primary teaching responsibility as course coordinator for Public Health Nursing. I have a passion for teaching nursing care of vulnerable populations and to develop my expertise in teaching this course from a global perspective. An amazing aspect of this diploma is the ability to form a long-term relationship with the clinic, both to develop myself professionally and the potential for taking students back to the clinic.

Ultimately, obtaining this goal will assist in securing tenure. I will enhance my position as a content expert in international public health nursing and develop a meaningful service trajectory through completion of this certification.

Sarah Gouwens, DNP, FNP-BC

Trinity Christian College

As a nursing educator it is my responsibility to ensure nursing students are given opportunities to excel in their studies as they work toward becoming professional nurses. Receipt of this award will allow me the opportunity to learn and grow as an educator. As an associate professor part of my role is to maintain scholarly activity. This award helps fund activities that meet that requirement for maintaining my position and for promotion within the ranks of professor.

As the simulation and lab coordinator this award will allow me to become a certified simulation healthcare provider through the Society for Simulation in Healthcare and allow me to take courses through the National League for Nursing Simulation Innovation Resource Center. These courses will help me to develop my knowledge and skills related to simulation including implementation, debriefing, and research. A significant portion of my job is to maintain lab equipment. Attending conferences on how to care for simulation equipment and nursing informatics will give me opportunities to enhance my leadership skills and continue to contribute and grow the nursing department's simulation lab to provide exceptional education.

End-of-life care has been an area of research I have been involved with over the last several years. I will have opportunities with this award to continue to research and contribute to improvements in end-of-life care. I look forward to attending the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium. I am thankful for this award and I look forward to these learning opportunities to remain current in nursing education.

Amy Green MSN, RN

Morton College

I would like to first communicate my appreciation for the receipt of the Nurse Educator Fellowship Award. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a large portion of my work as a Nursing Educator's work load would spill over and end up being work that I complete at home. The endless hours of grading papers, creating exciting/education/engaging flipped classroom assignments/activities, exam building, etc. becomes part of the routine

day. With the receipt of this grant I will be able to purchase the items I need to make a conducive work environment at home to be able to focus on the tasks at hand. I plan to purchase a desk top computer with all the office applications, a printer/scanner/copier, desk, and chair. I feel so fortunate to be able to finally have the ability to build an environment to conduct my work while at home in organized and conducive manner.

I plan on purchasing a CPR training equipment including: one adult manikin, one newborn manikin, bag and masks, student work books, an instructor workbook, and the training DVD. I conduct CPR training courses for the Morton College students as well as provide CPR training courses voluntarily during my Military Drill weekends. It is extremely beneficial to be able to purchase the training equipment. Training the members of the community regarding basic CPR is critical to the health and wellbeing of the community I work in. With the remaining funds I plan on attending some COVID-19 training course in order to work with my peers regarding the development and implementation of a COVID-19 tracing course. The training and creation of the curriculum for the course will require numerous research hours. I fortunately, will be able to take some days off to focus and not worry about worry about finances during that time. I also plan to obtain my inpatient OB RNC.

Denise Hammer, DNP, RNC-NIC

Mennonite College of Nursing, Illinois State University

I am honored to be a recipient of the Nurse Educator Fellowship by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. This award will support me to expand my scholarly work and innovative teaching practices. To expand my scholarly work, I will explore and evaluate the neonatal heel stick process including pain control and technique. I will complete a literature search then reflect and focus on ways to improve outcomes for these newborns. I plan to join AWHONN (Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses) and renew my NANN (National Association of Neonatal Nurses) professional membership to increase my professional resources for teaching and my scholarly work.

As the Maternal Infant Course Leader for Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, I teach both theory and clinical as well as provide support and guidance to the maternal infant clinical faculty team. I enjoy teaching and connecting with students in both the classroom and the clinical setting. To enhance student learning in the classroom, I incorporate current topics, hands on stations, critical thinking group activities along with lecture.

I appreciate the opportunity to learn the latest enhancements for teaching and will use the fellowship award to participate in The Teaching and Learning Conference this Spring to adopt innovative teaching techniques. The Nurse Educator Fellowship will provide support for me to focus and reflect on my scholarly work, complete professional development and enhance my teaching skills.

Katherine Hess MS, RN-BC

Chamberlain University

This fellowship award will contribute advancing my professional development and role as a nurse educator. I have two anticipated uses for this IBHE fellowship award. The first is to disseminate the results of my DNP Scholarly Project on a national level. In fact, I just received notification this past week, my poster presentation has been accepted for the American Psychiatric Nurses Association national conference in September 2020. With this fellowship, I am able to disseminate findings and collaborate with other psychiatric nurse educators across the country.

The second anticipated use of this fellowship is to expand my role as a nurse educator and gain an international perspective from my DNP scholarly work. I plan to research the international perspective of bedside shift reporting in Ireland. Through my experiences in APNA I have collaborated with a faculty colleague at the National University of Ireland, Galway. She is an expert in psychiatric nursing and nursing education. Being able to replicate my DNP project focusing on nursing communication and bedside shift reporting and then compare and contrast the findings with nurses from Ireland will be most beneficial. I plan to spend time in Galway Ireland and the benefits of this award will support my time and travel internationally. Upon completion of this study, I plan to disseminate these findings both internationally and nationally.

Annie Imboden, DNP, APRN, CPNP

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

I am proud to have been chosen to receive an IBHE fellowship. Being granted the IBHE fellowship will allow me to prepare for and take the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) certification exam to further enhance my knowledge and skills as an academic nurse educator. I have purchased recommended texts to prepare and study for the exam. I will also plan to attend a test prep education event and use funds for the examination fees.

In addition to the CNE certification, funds from the IBHE fellowship will also provide me with the opportunity to join professional organizations and attend nursing conferences directed towards education and research. Examples of

such conferences include the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Baccalaureate Education and Faculty Development Conference, the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) annual conference, and the Society of Pediatric Nurses (SPN).

I was pleased to have a poster presentation accepted for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners annual conference in New Orleans this June, however unfortunately this and several other opportunities have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. My hope is that once the pandemic passes, attending these conferences will expand my knowledge of current education strategies and trends and allow me to network with colleagues that are teaching and conducting research in the area of pediatrics.

I look forward to using the IBHE fellowship to advance as a clinician and educator. I appreciate this opportunity very much.

Julie Kennedy, PhD, RN, CMSRN

Millikin University

The receipt of funds from the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship will advance my ability to function as an excellent nurse educator in several ways. I plan on using part of the money to attend conferences and educational opportunities that will spark ideas so that I may initiate a salient program of research. I will also be using funds to purchase educational materials that will enhance my knowledge of the latest interventions being used in oncology and neuroscience nursing. This will increase my ability to provide students with the most up to date information in the field. Money will also be utilized to purchase materials to prepare for the Certified Nurse Educator Exam. This certification will demonstrate my knowledge and dedication to nursing education. By receiving this funding, I will have the opportunity to better myself as an educator and mentor to future nurses in the state of Illinois.

Kelley McGuire PhD, RN

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

The Nurse Educator fellowship has, and will continue to be, a monumental asset to my ability to remain successful in a nurse educator role. The funds have been carefully balanced to provide support to each of the three categories of the teacher-scholar model: scholarship, service, and teaching.

A portion of the funds from the Nurse Educator fellowship will be used to assist with conference registration and any necessary accommodations for the dissemination of previous research at an international conference. Additionally, one of the key findings of my dissertation research has led me to explore a new subject area. I plan to use funds from the Nurse Educator fellowship to support the cost of a continuing education course on that topic so that I can ensure that I am following an accurate and relevant path.

I have been able to utilize funds from the Nurse Educator fellowship to also assist with the cost of membership dues that help to support my mission in service. I will use funds from the fellowship to renew my membership to SIGMA, an international honor society of nurses, among several others. I will also serve in the role of SIGMA chapter president for my local chapter in the upcoming year. Finally, I have been able to purchase several new textbooks and software that help to support my mission as an educator. One, in particular, is the Certified Nurse Educator study book, as I plan to sit for a certification test later this year

Daniel Mead, DNP, APRN, AGNP-C

DePaul University

Once received, the Nurse Educator Fellowship will allow me to sit for my CNE, my CNN-NP (certified nephrology nurse-nurse practitioner), as well as begin my studies for my MPH in chronic disease epidemiology. I have recently scheduled my CHSE (certified healthcare simulation educator), something to show my expertise in simulation education, and now I wish to complete my CNE and CNN-NP to show my expertise in the areas of nursing education and as a nephrology nurse practitioner, respectively.

I want to also start gaining my MPH, specifically, the research methods and epidemiology of chronic disease for separate reasons. First, I want to start researching in both the simulation education setting and will need to have a bit more didactic understanding of research methods which can be gathered in a strong quantitative program requiring tuition. Secondly, I wish to pursue additional training in epidemiology, specifically chronic disease, to help complete research within under-served communities. Given that I have interests in both simulation education pedagogy and chronic disease in nephrology, this fellowship will help serve me financially to help achieve my goals.

Ultimately, I wish to pursue tenure-track, but I want to be more established in both clinical and educational research before I embark on this rather long and challenging path. I would not likely be able to be successful in tenure-track without additional training in research and epidemiology.

Tara Morris, MSN, RN**Heartland Community College**

Greetings. My name is Tara Morris and I am the 2019-2020 IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship recipient from Heartland Community College. I am humbled to have been chosen for this distinguished honor.

Nursing and Teaching are two of my biggest passions, so to be able to do both is beyond my wildest dreams. With teaching, comes sacrifices especially in the financial realm of life. That is why I am so very excited and blessed to have been given this financial stipend to offset some of the cost towards obtaining my personal goals. For the last two years I have written in my annual self-evaluation that I am going to study and sit for my Certified Nurse Educator certification. Although this is very easy to write on paper, it has proven to be a quite daunting task. Not only do the study materials cost extra money, but the test itself is quite expensive. Therefore, with this financial stipend I will be purchasing study materials, paying for my National League for Nursing membership and paying for my opportunity to sit for my certification exam.

Not only are additional certifications expensive, but so is professional development. Faculty at Heartland Community College is afforded the opportunity to attend professional development and is given some financial assistance but many times, this is not enough to attend national conferences. In addition to all that is encompassed by my certification, I will be utilizing some of the IBHE stipend to attend the National Nurse Educator Summit next April in San Antonio, Texas.

Thank you again for honoring me with this Fellowship. I greatly appreciate your generosity.

Elizabeth Moxley PhD, RN, BS**Northern Illinois University**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator Fellowship Award has greatly improved my ability to remain in nursing education by providing me with several opportunities to improve my scholarship, teaching and service. With this award, I was able to attend the American Heart Association Epidemiology/Lifestyle Subcommittee conference, held between March 3rd through the 6th. This conference greatly enhanced my scholarship and teaching, in addition to providing opportunities for networking and collaboration. I met researchers from various disciplines besides nursing who share similar research interests to my own, specifically physical activity and exercise. The presentations were tremendous, with state of science updates on the topic of cardiovascular disease prevention, primarily through lifestyle interventions. The knowledge gained from the science not only provides insight into my research pursuits but enhances the courses which I am currently teaching; pathophysiology for undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

On May 20 through 21st I will attend the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA) conference. This is also a key scholarship opportunity, as I have been working with PCNA colleagues to develop a diabetes and cardiovascular-related resource for clinicians as part of a professional education project. In the future (due to cancellation) I will attend an American College of Sports Medicine conference which is an event that I have always wanted to attend but have not yet had the opportunity. I thoroughly enjoy nursing education, and I am very appreciative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for this award.

Katelyn Myroniak DNP, RN, CMSRN**Lewis University**

As an awardee of one of the IBHE's Nurse Educator Fellow Awards, I will be able to pursue many professional development opportunities that were not available to me in the past. I plan to attend the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation & Learning Conference. Due to the cost of this conference, I have not attended it in the past, and this fellowship will help make attending this conference a reality. By attending the conference, I can take back best practices in adapting simulations for undergraduate nursing students.

My DNP Scholarly Project was titled *Improving Safety and Competence of Medication Administration with Simulation in a New Graduate Nurse Residency Program*. I plan to use the funds from this award to adapt this simulation for use in the undergraduate program in which I am a faculty member. I plan to purchase medication administration equipment needed to make this simulation as realistic as possible for students and incorporate the latest technology. I also plan to complete the National Council of State Boards of Nursing test development and item writing course and take the NLN's Certified Nursing Educator exam.

I am a fairly new educator and opportunities to learn and grow as a nurse educator is something I want to address more in depth. There are many goals I have for the future of my professional development and this fellowship will help me to achieve those goals.

Carla Thomas, DNP, FNP-C, APN, RHIA**City Colleges of Chicago – Malcolm X School of Nursing**

First, I am humbly and deeply honored to be a recipient of this award. To date, I am not in receipt of the award, but I anticipate using the funds to support graduate tuition costs toward my education as a mental health nurse practitioner that began at Samford University January 2020. This additional education will help provide me with the latest evidence based didactic and clinical education to enhance and support my prerequisite nurse educator skills in mental health, taught to the student nurse at the City Colleges of Chicago School of nursing (CCCSO).

As an educator, I continue to look for avenues to further develop and hone my skills as a clinical instructor in the delivery of quality-based education to the student nurse. The future of nursing in mental health is now and, with the pandemic of 2020, there will increasingly be a need for nurses prepared to take care of those diagnosed with mental health disorders. This fellowship award will help to provide invaluable education and support my choice to continue practice as a clinical nursing instructor at the bedside.

Rita Wallace MSN, Ed, RN

Lakeview College of Nursing

I will attempt to be brief when I say this fellowship has brought me new hope in our possibilities as nurse educators. In a time when we need incredible nurses more than ever, these funds have made it possible for me to not only help pay for a portion of my student loan debt in obtaining my MSN Ed., it helps me move forward in new training through the National League for Nursing. Because of this fellowship, I am enrolled in a ten-week NLN Intensive Online Workshop every Thursday for 3 hours. While I am sheltering-in-place and teaching nursing students online this summer, I will also be learning the best practices in nursing education from some of our nation's finest nurse educators! Being a nurse educator is not an occupation, it is a profession with a living, breathing contract with your students to provide the absolutely best knowledge to them so they can in turn provide optimal care for their clients. You are making this a reality for me this year, thank you so very much.

Jessica Woloszyk MSN, RN, CCRN

Elgin Community College

As one of the IBHE Nurse Educator Award winners I will discuss how I will use the provided funds to improve my ability to provide the best nursing education possible. Due to the ongoing pandemic it is likely that I will use my fellowship award differently than what I had originally intended, however, my intentions are to still meet my original goals. Being a professional nurse without a background in education this fellowship is imperative to my ability to remain in nursing education. Knowledge is power and I need more knowledge specific to nursing education. I am looking to take courses and attend conferences that will improve my ability to write test questions that closely reflect what the students will see on the NCLEX. In 2021 the NCLEX test plan will be changing to reflect an ever-evolving nursing practice. I plan to attend a nursing conference specific to the next generation NCLEX. I really look forward to attending various conferences to collaborate with other nursing instructors. I would like to learn from other nursing educators about what successful teaching methods are being used in the classroom. My plan is to also obtain my CNE certification. I will utilize my fellowship funds to prepare and take this exam. I look forward to using the awarded grant to benefit my students by becoming a better, more informed nursing educator.