



IDFPR

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Financial Institutions

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JB PRITZKER
Governor

MARIO TRETO, JR.
Secretary

FRANCISCO MENCHACA
Director

Minutes

Meeting: **Illinois Nursing Workforce Center**
Meeting Date: **May 10, 2023**
Meeting convened: **10:10 am**
Meeting Adjourned: **12:52 pm**
Meeting Locations: **Remote**

Board Members Present: Krista L. Jones, Chairperson
Theresa E. Towle, Vice-chairperson
Lynda M. Bartlett, Member
Fran LaMonica, Member
Cynthia Maskey, Member
Amanda Oliver, Member
Daisy Sherry, Member

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Cecilia Abundis, DPR Director
Linda B. Roberts, Manager
Michele Bromberg, Nursing Coordinator

Guests: IBHE Brooke Stewart, Assistant Director Diversity and Outreach
IBHE Jose Garcia, Communications Director

Malina Campos MSN, APRN, FNP-C, Ambria College of Nursing; Andrea Kilroy MSN, RNC-MNN, Ambria College of Nursing; Tracey Stilley, Aurora University; Matthey Yau MSN, FNP-BC, APRN, RN, Chamberlain College of Nursing; Maricruz "Mari" Diaz-Boylan MSN, RN, CLC, City Colleges of Chicago; Talargie Tafesse, City Colleges of Chicago; Anne Kowalczyk, DePaul University; Jacy N. Ghasht DNP, RN, Eastern Illinois University; Margaret "Peggy" LeMoyne DNP, RN, CNE, PMH-BC, Elgin Community College; Laury Westbury EdD, RN, CHSE, RN-BC (NI), CNOR, RNFA, Elmhurst University; Julie Carr MSN, RN, Heartland Community College; Dameron D. Beverly MSN, RN-BC, CNE, Heartland Community College; Theresa Adelman-Mullally PhD, RN, CNE, Illinois State University; Teresa Novy, DNP, GERO-BC, CNEcl, CWON, Illinois State University; Megan Rappleyea MSN, RN, OCN, CNE, Illinois State University; Sherry Haley, MSN, RN, Kishwaukee College; Katie King MSN, RN, CPN, CNEcl, Lakeview College of Nursing; Leslie Catalano MSN, RN, CHSE, NPD-BC, Lincoln Land Community College; Bridgette Hudson MSN, RN, CCRN, Lincoln Land Community College; Julia K. Auton APRN, FNP-BC, Millikin University; Gail Fyke DNP, APRN-BC, Millikin University; James Travis Whisman, Millikin University;

Leslie Moyar EdD, MSN, APRN, AGACNP, Moraine Valley Community College; Meredith Watkins DNPc, MSN-Ed., RN-CEN, Morton College; Stephanie Uhr PhD, RN, IBCLC, Northern Illinois University; Reem Azhari, PhD, RN, CNOR, Oak Point University; Monique Reed PhD, RN, FAAN, Rush University; Judith April Dollins, EdD, MSN, RN, CLC, C-EFM, Shawnee Community College; Kelli Whittington PhD, RN, CNE, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; Elizabeth Alvarez DNP, RN, Southwestern Illinois College; Cynthia Winfield DNP, RN, Southwestern Illinois College; Ife Muyiwa-Ojo DNP, MSN-Ed, MBA, NP-C, CCRN, CNE, St. John’s College of Nursing; Lorna J. Scoggins MSN, RN, PMH-BC, University of Illinois at Chicago; Amanda Sperry MSN, RN, PEL-CSN, NCSN, University of Illinois at Chicago; Kathryn “Katie” Vanderzwan DNP, APRN-BC, CHSE, University of Illinois at Chicago; Courtney Pritchard MSN, RN, CCRN-K, 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.

Topic	Action
<p>I. Call to Order Chair Dr. Krista Jones welcomes all, thanks for patience with technical difficulties. Due to the time, we will reorder the agenda and begin with the FY23 IBHE Nurse Educator Fellows recognition event.</p>	
<p>Reorder agenda, begin with New Business</p>	
<p>II. New Business</p> <p>1. FY23 IBHE Nurse Educator Fellows Recognition Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductions: IDFPR Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board self-introduced as did IDFPR staff Nursing Coordinator M. Bromberg and Manager L.B. Roberts. - Chair, Dr. Krista Jones began by providing a brief background on the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator Fellowship annual awards that began in 2007 and are a partnership, the INWC and IBHE. - The Division of Professional Regulation Director Cecilia Abundis: states is excited there are forty nursing faculty recipients. She states that while reading the abstracts, she is amazed at the creativity of projects, renewing and furthering education and attending different conferences, all things that are needed to maintain qualified nursing faculty. Thank you for your dedication to our students; if we don’t have qualified faculty our students won’t be able to pass the NCLEX® nurse licensure exam, and to become part of our workforce. This is teacher appreciation week and from the bottom of my heart I appreciate your work and dedication to our nursing students, thank you. 	

-IBHE Assistant Director Brooke Stewart: thank you for being here and taking part in this important event. Thank all of you for your service and dedication to the nursing profession. Thank you for realizing and achieving the goals of equity sustainability is outlined in the strategic planning initiative thriving in Illinois. I am excited to be a part of this day. I am excited to hear the great things you are participating in and doing this year.

- Presentations in the following order:

<u>Nurse Educator Fellow</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Malina Campos MSN, APRN, FNP-C	Ambria College of Nursing
Andrea Kilroy MSN, RNC-MNN	Ambria College of Nursing
Kathryn "Katie" Vanderzwan DNP, APRN-BC, CHSE	University of Illinois at Chicago
Matthey Yau MSN, FNP-BC, APRN, RN	Chamberlain College of Nursing
Maricruz "Mari" Diaz-Boylan MSN, RN, CLC	City Colleges of Chicago
Talargie Tafesse MSN, DVM	City Colleges of Chicago
Anne Kowalczyk DNP, MS, APRN, FNP-BC, AMB-BC, CPN, CNE	DePaul University
Jacy N. Ghast DNP, RN	Eastern Illinois University
Margaret "Peggy" LeMoyne DNP, RN, CNE, PMH-BC	Elgin Community College
Laury Westbury EdD, RN, CHSE, RN-BC (NI), CNOR, RNFA	Elmhurst University
Julie Carr MSN, RN	Heartland Community College
Dameron D. Beverly MSN, RN-BC, CNE	Heartland Community College
Theresa Adelman-Mullally PhD, RN, CNE	Illinois State University
Theresa Novy, DNP, GERO-BC, CNEcl, CWON	Illinois State University
Megan Rappleyea MSN, RN, OCN, CNE	Illinois State University
Katie King MSN, RN, CPN, CNEcl	Lakeview College of Nursing
Leslie Catalano MSN, RN, CHSE, NPD-BC	Lincoln Land Community College
Bridgette Hudson MSN, RN, CCRN	Lincoln Land Community College
Julia K. Auton APRN, FNP-BC	Millikin University
Gail Fyke DNP, APRN-BC	Millikin University
James Travis Whisman	Millikin University
Leslie Moyar EdD, MSN, APRN, AGACNP	Moraine Valley Community College
Meredith Watkins DNPc, MSN-Ed., RN-CEN	Morton College
Stephanie Uhr PhD, RN, IBCLC	Northern Illinois University
Reem Azhari, PhD, RN, CNOR	Oak Point University
Monique Reed PhD, RN, FAAN	Rush University
Judith April Dollins, EdD, MSN, RN, CLC, C-EFM	Shawnee Community College
Sherry Haley, MSN, RN	Kishwaukee College
Kelli Whittington PhD, RN, CNE	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Elizabeth Alvarez DNP, RN	Southwestern Illinois College
Cynthia Winfield DNP, RN	Southwestern Illinois College
Ife Muiyiwa-Ojo DNP, MSN-Ed, MBA, NP-C, CCRN, CNE	St. John's College of Nursing
Lorna J. Scoggins MSN, RN, PMH-BC	University of Illinois at Chicago
Amanda Sperry MSN, RN, PEL-CSN, NCSN	University of Illinois at Chicago
Courtney Pritchard MSN, RN, CCRN-K	University of St. Francis

Not present, information on slide shared:

Tracey Stilley MSN, RN Richard Clapp DNP, APRN Amy Kiefer PhD, MSN, RN Yeyin Yi DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC Myjal Garner DNP, APRN, FNP-C	Aurora University Eastern Illinois University Loyola University of Chicago Loyola University of Chicago Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville	
Thank you all. We will take a short 5-minute break before beginning the remainder of the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board meeting.		
11: 42 am: Break, request 5-minute break		
11:48 am: Reorder agenda, begin with Declaration of a quorum, approval of minutes		
III. Declaration of a Quorum		K. Jones declared quorum 11:48 am
IV. Approval of Minutes: The April 12, 2023, Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board meeting minutes. Motion was made/seconded: C. Maskey/T. Towle move to approve the April 12, 2023, meeting minutes.		Minutes approved by individual board members.
V. Announcements 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. Data from May 5: of the 102 Illinois counties, there are not any counties at an elevated community level for COVID-19. The state's public health emergency will end on 5/11/23, aligning Illinois with the federal government's decision to end the national public health emergency. 2. National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers annual meeting, June 12-14, 2023, Pentagon City, Arlington, Virginia. Theme: <i>imagining, innovating, and transforming the national nursing workforce.</i> 3. Illinois Nurses Foundation 40-under-40 recognition event, Thursday, September 21, 2023, evening, Lisle, Illinois.		
VI. Old Business		Motion approved

<p>1. Review Draft #3 of Registered Nurse Workforce Survey Report 2022. Brief discussion of revisions and updates based on the recommendations made during the April 2023 Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board meeting. Motion was made/seconded: C. Maskey/T. Towle move to approve the Registered Nurse Workforce Survey Report 2022.</p>	<p>by individual board members.</p>
<p>VII.Reports</p>	
<p>a. Chairperson Report, K. Jones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i.A Nursing Workforce Center FY23 project, webinars highlighting where nurses can receive graduate education in Illinois preparing them to become nursing faculty, is completed. The webinars were conducted this past fiscal year in October, December 2022 and February, March, and April 2023. Each hour-long webinar program that was presented and taped is now available on IDFPR YouTube page https://www.youtube.com/@IDFPRmedia. ii.This fall there is a planned project, in partnership with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN): providing Next Generation NCLEX® (NGN) examination webinars for Illinois pre-licensure nursing faculty. We anticipate that these two 60–90-minute lunch-and-learn webinars, one for LPN faculty, one for RN faculty, will be held in October 2023. iii.(From the Nursing Organization Update section below) the Public Health Nurse Leaders (PHNL) Workgroup – information below; end of grant reports are being collected by the Illinois Nurses Foundation (INF). The PHNL nurse leaders have scheduled a remote planning meeting June 20, 2023. <p>b. Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Manager Report, LB Roberts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i.National Forum State Nursing Workforce Centers – annual meeting, announcements. ii.Outreach activities: April 18, Student nurse political action day, Springfield, IL. The day-long event was in-person, first time since 2019. There were 24 programs approximately 500 students attended. Business cards with QA code distributed, approx. 900 cards to students and to nursing faculty, who sometimes took 50-100 cards for future distribution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - April 28, Nurses Fair, Rockford, IL area: sent IDFPR pamphlets, and business cards with DPR QA code which were distributed from an information table. - Future events: will have details when confirmed. iii. Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Review IDFPR board member travel guidelines that were distributed and placed in SharePoint Online earlier this week. Review the purpose of the travel voucher is to make claim for reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while traveling to/from required board meetings and/or events. Since board meetings begin at 10-11am it is anticipated that use of hotel rooms will not be needed on a routine basis. Review of covered expenses and details page-by-page. Questions asked and answered. 	

- No new HFS information, on the multi-year project that has a focus on the healthcare workforce, various licensed professions. Continue communication and anticipate future meetings
 - ISAC Nursing Education Scholarship Program (NESP) scholarship: annual application submission ended April 30, 2023; this is the first year that ISAC coordinated all scholarship activities. There were 1, 216 applications submitted, the incomplete applications have a May 31, 2023, completion deadline.
- IDFPR Continuing Education (CE) license renewal FAQ sheets with the new 1-hour implicit bias awareness training requirement for LPNs, RNs and APRNs have been posted on the INWC website, tab: Nursing Licensure, subtab: Continuing Education.
- RWJF: there is a remote meeting with state representatives during the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers annual June meeting.

c. Nursing Organization updates

- i. The Public Health Nurse Leaders Workgroup (PHNL) update: RWJF/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation PHNL grants: the INF continues to collect the end of grant reports. All grant funds were distributed in December 2022. There were six grants distributed, 2 reports are received ; 2 are outstanding and 2 are due FY24.
- ii. Illinois Nurses Foundation (INF): weblink shared for current raffle ticket fundraiser.
- iii. Illinois Coalition of Nursing Organizations (ICNO): most recent meeting Fall 2022.

d. Nursing Coordinator Report, M. Bromberg

- i. Illinois Board of Nursing
 - The pre-licensure RN & LPN annual pass rates for 2022 have been posted on the IDFPR website. The categories of schools with less than standard pass rates reviewed. Schools also receive remediation guidelines that have been created by the Illinois Board of Nursing/BON and are nationally recognized.
 - During the 5/5/23 Illinois Board of Nursing Advisory Board meeting: all 16 schools that are on probation presented their remediation plans. Eleven schools that just went on probation will have a site visit conducted in May. The schools that received a warning letter will present their plan of correction at the July 7, 2023, Illinois Board of Nursing meeting.
- ii. Legislative update
 - HB559: this has been sent to the Governor, it is not yet enacted. Since 3/20/20 IDFPR has issued temporary practice permit (TPP) reinstatements and endorsements to certain healthcare professionals, including nurses. All TPP holders may continue to practice if they apply for licensure by endorsement to the Department on or before May 11, 2023. Any such person may continue to practice under their temporary out-of-state permit until the license is issued or the application is denied, at which time the temporary out-of-state permit shall expire. If the license application is not decided by May 11, 2024, the temporary out-of-state permit shall expire. The same terms apply to the temporary reinstatement permit. This applies to licensed professions, including RNs, LPNs, and APRNs.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>HB 2509 Amendment#2</u>: on 5/3/23 this passed out of Healthcare Licenses committee; during this committee hearing DPR Director Abundis presented opposition testimony. Discuss components of this legislation, differences with current Board of Nursing standards, standards with other states. - <u>HB1615</u>: discuss recent proposals regarding supply, demand data collection, funding of proposed changes and concerns. iii. Other 	
<p>VIII. Public Comment Request comments</p>	None.
<p>IX. Adjournment The next meeting of the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center will be Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 11 a.m. Board members will attend in person at either the IDFPR Chicago or Springfield offices.</p>	
<p>Motion for adjournment made/second: T. Towle/C. Maskey: passed.</p>	There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.

Members of the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) Advisory Board of Directors: Lynda Bartlett, Chicago, IL; Krista Jones, Broadlands, IL; Fran LaMonica, Chicago, IL; Cynthia Maskey, Springfield, IL; Amanda Oliver, Oak Forest, IL; Daisy Sherry, Darien, 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

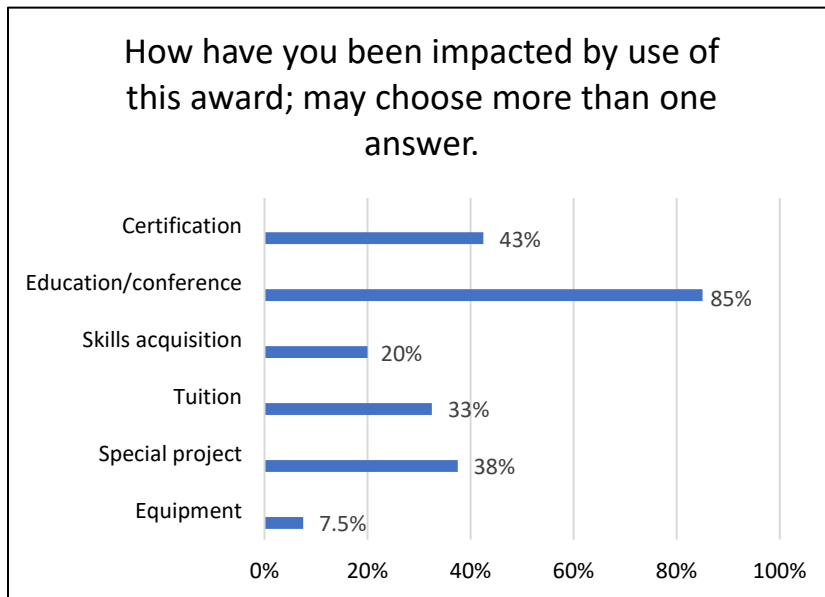
FY23 Nurse Educator Fellows Abstracts and Survey Results

May 2023

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 May 10, 2023. 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. Forty educators from twenty-six institutions in FY23 and were awarded the Fellowships through the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator Fellowship Recognition program.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education maintains strong support of the Nurse Educator Fellowship. Nominee contracts were verified prior to award recognition. IBHE began notifying recipients in December 2022, recognition was announced at the January 18, 2023, IBHE board meeting. 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 2023. 100% of survey respondents agreed that receipt of funds would impact achievement of intended goals.

The FY23 Nurse Educator Fellows completed a short online survey regarding the Fellowship. There are 40 Fellows, 40 responses. 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. Thirty-six or 90% of the respondents are employed as faculty, four or 10% have a dual role as administrator and faculty member.



As shown in the chart, the majority (85%/34) of Fellows responded that they plan to use the award to attend conferences or other educational events. Thirty-three percent (13) responded that they would use the award to help pay for tuition; 20% (8) will use funds for skills acquisition. Thirty-eight percent (15) answered that the award would be used toward a special project, some of which are listed below. Forty-three percent (17) 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 projects are also described in the abstracts. Individual comments about changes to their practice were primarily implementing information, lessons learned from a conference or research into practice; some included learning and incorporating NCSBN Next Gen tools into teaching students; exposing to more opportunities; support of research for DNP degree; support of lifelong learning.

The final question, how educating nurses post COVID-19 pandemic might change, consistently elicited comments in a few areas: a flexibility of teaching modalities developed during the pandemic is now standard; clinical settings have broadened to include more non acute care, community settings; include lessons in prevention, equity and advocacy; include resilience, educating students re: self-care. A few comments:

- Educating nurses throughout covid has been challenging, but I do believe that it has taught our students that health care is constantly changing and as nurses, we have to adapt, sometimes in a very short time frame. Going forward, I do feel we are going to need to intently focus on bringing clinical into the classroom to further develop the clinical judgement skills of our students.
- Educators must be flexible in teaching modalities and meet the students where they are. Education changed dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we need to recognize that by being innovative and diverse.
- We need to exemplify post-pandemic teachings and lessons learned in prevention, equity and advocacy as the pandemic brought forth many of these needs.
- Covid-19 has had a profound impact on healthcare and nursing. It is essential that nursing educators properly prepare new graduate nurses to promote competence, confidence, and retention. Implementation of dedicated education units through academic practice partnerships is a valid method of providing clinical experience to nursing students and ensuring that they are applying theory to practice. This clinical experience will improve clinical judgement, critical thinking, and assist in their role transition.
- Education post-pandemic calls for immersive and experiential learning experiences. This will improve active learning among learners and prepare nursing students for clinical practice.
- I believe that Covid opened the possibility of educating online and in a technological world. I believe nursing education may migrate to more electronic learning environments such as VSim and VR. I also see some classes moving online. This is a result of how Covid provided the opportunity to continue learning in various online environments, but also due to the nursing shortage as a result of Covid and the need to provide nursing education not more students.
- Educating the next generation nurses requires programs that align with NCLEX® Next Generation and faculty creating more interactive classrooms. Students want more than just lecture in coming to class. The pandemic has given easy access to students with online lectures, and students feel if they are commuting, they should be able to have an experience that helps them to learn.
- Two recent surveys, one from New Jersey and one from Michigan, provided valuable data on the challenges that nurses in the field are facing on a daily basis. Nursing education should use this data to change the way we prepare our new graduate nurses. It is more than just teaching clinical judgement and skills, we must teach resiliency!
- The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many things, including nursing education. It has caused nursing students to be more tech savvy than previously. It took away opportunities for clinical rotations, which means that nursing instructors have had to work twice as hard to be creative and bring clinical into the classroom. With a lack of clinical rotations, there's a lack of critical thinking and nursing judgment. On the bright side, I believe that the pandemic has allowed nurse educators to stray away from tradition lecture, and to bring in more hands-on activities.

- I think nearly everything has changed in how we educate nurses in the post-COVID-19 era. From the topics we teach to how we teach (the methods), we are now more accustomed to instant access to knowledge and perhaps lesser prioritization of critical thinking. I believe that the change that is touted as “post-COVID-19” were changes already in the making but catalyzed by the constraints of the pandemic and acceleration of other areas, such as technology dependence. I don’t know if this question can be answered fully here, but my simplest answer is to say that educating nurses post-COVID-19 pandemic HAS changed and remained changed forever.

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 registered professional nurses.

Nurse Educator Fellow

Malina Campos MSN, APRN, FNP-C

Affiliation

Ambria College of Nursing

Growing up, I always knew I wanted to be in education. I have always found teaching to be fun and exciting, and I knew that if I wanted to enjoy my job on a regular basis, it had to include some fun and excitement. Nurses have the ability to work in many areas, whether inside or outside of the hospital setting. More importantly, a nurse can become an educator and pass on the knowledge and skills to the future of nursing.

Being awarded this Fellowship is allowing me to continue to follow my goals, but also to expand and grow. With the receipt of the award, I plan on utilizing portions of that to study for and pass the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) exam. This will include purchasing books and review courses, along with the actual CNE exam. I believe passing this exam will open more doors for me as I continue my career in nursing education and may allow me to also teach at a university level.

Another portion of my award will go towards a leadership certification from Duke Corporate Education. Recently, I have been promoted to Interim Director of Nursing. This role requires much leadership and administrative skills, and being certified will allow me to continue to grow in my role.

I will also be using the grant to obtain a National League for Nursing membership. This membership comes with many benefits that will help me stay up to date on nursing education information.

Lastly, I plan to utilize the remaining funds for various nurse educator conferences and webinars. This grant gave me the opportunity to attend the Nurse Think conference back in February 2023, which was very eye opening and informational. With any funds left over, I would love to obtain the Diversity and Inclusion certificate from Cornell University.

Andrea Kilroy MSN, RNC-MNN

Ambria College of Nursing

I plan on using this award to strengthen my commitment as an educator. Upon receiving the monetary portion of the award, I anticipate remaining and growing in my profession. I have been able to attend a Lamaze seminar and plan on sitting for my Lamaze certification exam later this spring. I plan on allocating a portion of the award to maintaining my current professional memberships to AWHONN and NLN. I will also use the funds to pay for the continued education units needed to maintain my certification in Maternal Newborn Nursing. I am correspondingly planning on attending two professional conferences this year. The ATI

conference which takes place in April, and the AWHONN conference which takes place in June of this year. The ATI conference is beneficial to my practice as my institution utilizes ATI throughout our program. This is a particular area of stress for my students and by attending the conference I can gain a better insight on how to prepare them for standard ATI competences. The AWHONN conference will aid in my instruction for my specialty. I teach maternity nursing and maternal newborn nursing and attending this conference will help me to stay up to date on the most recent, evidence-based information to incorporate into my instruction. I look forward to utilizing this award to continue to become the best nurse educator I can be.

Tracey Stilley MSN, RN

Aurora University

I am so honored to have been chosen as a recipient of the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship award for 2023. I went into nursing education because I wanted to instill the same passion for nursing that I have onto the next generation of nurses.

I believe that nursing education plays a pivotal role on shaping the future of healthcare. At a time when nurses are needed more than ever, nursing education empowers the next generation of nurses to provide the highest quality of care to their patient. I believe this new age of nursing will involve a more holistic approach, as the pandemic has opened up the need for mental and physical healing.

The IBHE grant money has allowed me the opportunity to attend conferences to enhance my ability to educate new nurses. I was also able to use the funds to continue my membership in Sigma Theta Tau, American Nurses Association, as well as, maintain my clinical certifications with BLS and PALS. I, also, will continue my professional growth by taking the CNE certification exam at the end of June and attend an exam review class in preparation. I look forward to utilizing the remainder of the funds to attend a conference held by the NLN in Washington DC in Nov. of 2023. Any remaining funds will go towards my hobby as a freelance nurse writer. My goal is to one day be published in a nursing magazine.

Once again, I am honored to be recognized for this fellowship, and truly feel that next to being a nurse, and educator is the greatest job in the world. Thanks so much!

Matthey Yau MSN, FNP-BC, APRN, RN

Chamberlain College of Nursing

I am extremely honored to be selected to be a recipient of the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship 2023. I am humbled and very excited to know that I will be using the funds provided to help with enhancing my nursing education as well help with achieving my Doctorate in Nursing Practice. Currently I am pursuing my Doctorate in Nursing Practice as well as working as an Assistant Professor at Chamberlain College of Nursing. I anticipate using this reward by attending nursing conferences that would enhance nursing education. Nursing education is constantly evolving and therefore to ensure that we are addressing a different generation of learners, I would like to utilize the information from nursing conferences to make nursing education more interactive. This would include incorporating more in-class activities with simulation and Next-Generation NCLEX style activities. In addition, this will help with supporting my research and scholarship activities related to attaining my Doctorate in Nursing Practice. I hope to utilize this degree by not only educating Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate students, but to also educate patients and communities. Health care has its own disparities, and I would utilize this opportunity to assist with communities who don't have access to health care. I want

to thank the Illinois Board of Higher Education to allow me to improve my knowledge and to also assist with improving nursing education.

Maricruz “Mari” Diaz-Boylan MSN, RN, CLC

City Colleges of Chicago

I am currently enrolled at Rush University’s Transformative Leadership: Systems Doctor in Nursing Practice program in Chicago, IL. I’m currently in my second semester and my projected graduation date is August 2024. Once, I receive the monetary award from Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator Fellowship program I plan to use it towards my tuition at Rush University. The monetary award will have a positive financial impact in my nursing education. The monetary award will take a large financial burden from Rush University’s tuition. The monetary award will allow me to focus on my studies to further my education and expertise in nursing education by gaining expertise in effective project planning, transformational leadership, policy advocacy, and systems level thinking by improving outcomes and leading change at a systems level. This program will also prepare me to learn how to translate research into practice as a doctorate prepared nurse to identify evidence-based teaching strategies and best practices to implement in my teaching practice. In addition, IBHE’s monetary award will lessen my student loan payments once I graduate from Rush University. I am truly grateful for being awarded this funding and I am truly committed and dedicating in continuing to provide my experience and expertise to educate future nurses in Illinois.

Talargie Tafesse MSN, DVM

City Colleges of Chicago

I am currently enrolled at Purdue University Global for the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program. If everything goes as planned my goal is to complete the course work and the clinical hours by December 2023. The financial award I will receive from Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator Fellowship program will be spend towards the Tuition. The money will give me a financial relief and will help me to focus on my study. As a PMHNP certified practitioner I will serve to prepare students and sever my community to meet needs in an area where there is an acute shortage of Mental Health workers. The monetary award has a great impact to complete my study as planned and will give me relief to focus on teaching and studying effectively. Having the PMHNP will be a great asset to the students I am preparing to serve healthcare needs in our global city and beyond. The PMHNP education will provide me holistic understanding of both practice and teaching environments. I am already applying the knowledge into practice in classroom. As I work towards completing my PMHNP I am completing clinical hours under seasoned psychiatrist and Psychologist in a state facility where underserved mental health patients receive standard care. I have benefited immensely from the experience. I feel by the time I complete the PMHNP I will be better equipped to create a greater impact and serve my community better.

Anne Kowalczyk DNP, MS, APRN, FNP-BC, AMB-BC, CPN, CNE

DePaul University

This wonderful award has allowed me to apply to a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program to pursue additional education both to support mental health in practice and also in the future, to utilize my education and practice as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner in my role as an educator. I have also had the opportunity, because of this funding

to attend a MNRS virtual writing workshop to aid me in dissecting and subsequently further disseminating my Doctor of Nursing Practice Research titled “The Barriers to Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment of Attention-Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder in the Pediatric Primary Care Setting my Advanced Nurse Practitioners.”

The Nurse Educator IBHE Fellowship funding has also allowed me to allocate time to focus on an interdisciplinary partnership with the School of Design through the Summer Impact Grant Committee. Through this committee, I have proposed collaborative work on a project to build an education piece for nurses and nursing students to better understand the barriers that Veterans face seeking healthcare in the community. My hope for this project is to formally teach nurses and nursing students how to screen Veterans for suicidality and mental health conditions while providing empathetic care to Veterans. By partnering with the Summer Impact Grant Committee, the modality of this education will be developed by the School of Design and the content will be development by myself and nursing students who have chosen to be a part of this project. I am thankful, excited, and inspired to create change in the academic setting and beyond with the goal of positively impacting one of our most sensitive populations.

Richard Clapp DNP, APRN

Eastern Illinois University

THANK YOU to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center for your generous support. I greatly appreciate this recognition and am honored to be included among this distinguished group of nurse educators.

This award afforded me the invaluable opportunity to engage in professional development and scholarship experiences that would likely have not been otherwise possible. As a clinician, this award provided the means to purchase the necessary study materials to prepare for the Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) exam, a long-time goal of mine. As an educator, this award provided the funding necessary to register for the upcoming 22nd Annual Nurse Educator Convention in Branson, Missouri. Attendance planned for June 2023. As a scholar, this award provided a generous salary supplement to develop and launch an evidence-based practice project at a local hospital. The project, titled “Implementation of a Nurse-Driven Clinical Assessment Tool to Reduce the Unnecessary Use of PRN IV Antihypertensives”, has been a subject of particular interest for me for several years now and I am excited to finally be able to see it go live. I do plan to use the funds to disseminate the findings pending the conclusion of the project.

I am truly grateful for this award and hope that it is used in manner that benefits not only me professionally, but also my students and the nursing profession.

Jacy N. Ghast DNP, RN

Eastern Illinois University

I currently work for EIU in Charleston, IL where we started a four-year traditional nursing program in 2020 which is very exciting! I am very proud to be one of the founding faculty here at EIU and plan to stay with EIU until retirement. I am honored to have received the Nurse Educator Fellowship award. This award has impacted me personally and professionally. I was able to use the award to finish paying off the last of my DNP loans. I obtained my DNP through Northern Kentucky University in 2020. I would like to use the funds to work towards obtaining my certified nurse educator certificate (CNE). This award will help me pay for the exam and obtain materials to review. Obtaining this certificate will further

enhance my knowledge of nursing education and my teaching. I am also interested in attending a nursing conference with a focus on research in the future. The university I teach for does not put a significant amount of value on research, however, I feel that it is an area of weakness for myself.

Margaret “Peggy” LeMoyné DNP, RN, CNE, PMH-BC

Elgin Community College

I would like to thank the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDPFR) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) for awarding me with the Nurse Educator Fellowship. I was very fortunate to realize early on, that I wanted to become an educator at my alma mater, Elgin Community College (ECC). Since graduating in 1998, my goal was to gain experience so I could be well-rounded in the classroom. During my tenure as a nurse, I have gained a collection of anecdotes to impart in the classroom. My students appreciate my historical knowledge and experience.

My educational journey was fraught with hardships due to working full-time and being a single mother to three children; this seems to be the new normal. In the early 2000’s, there were not as many options for childcare to attend college outside of working hours. Nonetheless, I went on to obtain my BSN, MSN, and finally a DNP in 2020.

My nursing experience has allowed me to teach various courses in nursing. I am currently teaching mental health and I absolutely love it. The mental health needs of my community are increasing and I hope to instill a passion for compassion in my students.

My goal with regards to the usage of the IBHE Fellowship funds is to become a Mental Health First Aid trainer at my college and in my community. I have noticed many students and faculty struggling with their own mental health. Many faculty members do not know how to recognize when someone is experiencing a mental health challenge or crisis. This campus-wide training will be valuable for all personnel in my organization.

Laury Westbury EdD, RN, CHSE, RN-BC (NI), CNOR, RNFA

Elmhurst University

The impact of the IBHE Nurse Fellowship Award has allowed me to improve and inform my teaching and learning in a profound manner. In nursing academics, we align our curriculum to the AACN Essentials. One of our competencies is to align towards providing students the knowledge and responsibilities to practice as global citizens, fostering health equity. Yet, as educators, we sometimes lack the finances or the time for self-growth in global citizenship. The grant allows me to travel to Rome, Italy (June 2023) to attend the International Nursing Conference 2023, and most importantly be a podium presenter on the topic of guided reflection in interprofessional classroom and simulation experiences. Having the lived conference experience in global learning and networking will allow me to enhance the classroom curriculum for further student knowledge and global awareness in international nursing education and practice outside of the United States.

I will also be attending various local conferences to focus on my areas of course teachings: nursing leadership and technology and informatics. As I progress through my mid-tenure status at the university, providing growth as an educator and scholarship is not only essential but desired to bring currency to the teaching role for our student stakeholders. The story-telling of experiences, allows students to more fully understand the world without boundaries, especially in a post-pandemic world. I am very appreciative to have received the

fellowship award to refresh and retain my commitment to nursing education. My deepest and sincere thanks.

Julie Carr MSN, RN

Heartland Community College

With the Fellowship funds, I had the opportunity to attend the Nurse Tim Next Gen Learning Conference. At this conference, I gained valuable insight on the changes that are coming with the Next Gen NCLEX (NGN) that graduating nurses began taking April 1st, 2023. I learned strategies on how to better incorporate the Clinical Judgement Model and NGN test question into my current courses. I set the personal goal of switching ten percent of exam questions over to NGN style questions. I was able to achieve this goal with the remaining exams in my courses. Through the opportunity to network and interact with other nursing education professionals, I got great suggestions on how to improve the project for my Family Health Concepts course to better incorporate the Clinical Judgement Model. I had the students develop a case study using the 6 steps of the clinical judgement working in groups of 4. Each group then presented their case study to the class. I benefited from meeting other nursing educators and I have continued to reach to for suggestions on various things as the semester progressed. I plan to use the remaining funds to purchase study materials to help me obtain my Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) certification. Obtaining my CNE is a professional goal I have set for myself.

Dameron D. Beverly MSN, RN-BC, CNE

Heartland Community College

As a nurse educator, it is imperative that I am knowledgeable of engaging and meaningful learning activities. Nursing students must be able to transfer classroom theory to application in caring for patients. The use of simulation in nursing education is a valuable method of teaching because it allows students to practice clinical judgement within a realistic, safe environment. During the pandemic, nursing programs had to develop alternative clinical and skills lab experiences which led to increasing use of several types of simulations. This included the use of low and high-fidelity mannequins and virtual reality programs. I observed the value of these alternative strategies and became interested in furthering my knowledge and expertise in nursing education simulation. As a recipient of the IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education) fellowship, I will engage in professional development opportunities to continue to advance my knowledge, implement innovative methods in my lesson plans, and share with colleagues. I will learn about the most current simulation research and education by attending a nursing simulation conference. This award allows me to cover membership costs and have access to a wealth of resources by joining the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INASCL). Lastly, I am applying to sit for the Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator (CHSE). As the lead facilitator of simulation activities, it is important to ensure implementation of standards of best practice and incorporate student centered simulation activities that meet the need of the two-year associate degree nursing program. I am grateful for this award. I look forward to increasing my skillset and the number of nurses entering the workforce.

Nurse Educator Fellow**Theresa Adelman-Mullally PhD, RN, CNE****Affiliation****Illinois State University**

As a tenure track faculty member at Mennonite College of Nursing, my top priority for the IBHE Fellowship Award is dissemination. Specifically, to disseminate curriculum revision project outcomes at the AACN Transform 2023 Conference. Many attending this conference will be in various stages of integrating the new Essentials, so sharing our journey will be crucial. Even if the presentation of findings is not accepted, attending this conference is critical to my further engagement as a nurse educator. I also plan to use the award funds to attend the NLN 2023 Education Summit Conference.

Additionally, I serve as a parliamentarian on the College Council and am a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP). Therefore, I will also use the funds to attend the NAP Biennial Convention. And like any nurse educator, I am a lifelong learner, and furthering my knowledge lends to my professional satisfaction and retention. Therefore, I will be using the rest of the award to register and attend two specialty continuing education sessions. One of these is a certificate program for "Understanding the Brain-Behavior Connection." The other session is Competency-Based Training for Suicide Prevention. I will also purchase educational materials to aid in my personal growth as a nursing educator. I sincerely appreciate being selected as an IBHE Fellowship Award recipient and the opportunities to continue my growth as a nursing educator.

Teresa Novy, DNP, GERO-BC, CNEcl, CWON**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 in expanding my scholarly work and innovative clinical teaching practices. To expand my scholarly work, I will explore and evaluate the geriatric wound and ostomy patient teaching modalities. I continue to refer to the evidence for the care of wound patients and I am working on cutting edge research to help teach operative ostomy patients through the continuum of care.

As the Sequence Leader for the Accelerated Nursing Student Cohort for Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, I teach in the acute care setting and coordinate the expanding Dedication Education Unit (DEU). I enjoy teaching and connecting with students, preceptors, and leadership in the clinical setting. This has proven to elevate the nursing practice for all who are involved.

I have been a member of the Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing (WOCN) for the last eight years. This professional membership facilitates my professional resources for teaching novice nursing students and continuing my scholarly work. As an acute care consulting CWON I bring relevance to my teaching role and have strong relationships within the clinical facility I partner with. As well, my Certified Gerontological background lends nicely to the patients I serve in this CWON consultant role.

The Nurse Educator Fellowship will provide support for me to focus and reflect on my scholarly work, complete professional development and enhance my clinical teaching skills.

Megan Rappleyea MSN, RN, OCN, CNE**Illinois State University**

Receiving the Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse Educator Fellowship Award has been a great honor and blessing for my professional development. I have renewed my Oncology Certified Nurse certification, and I will be able to take steps toward further CEs for my Certified Nurse Educator certification.

The IBHE grant has allowed me to move forward with pursuing my Ph.D. in Nursing with a focus on simulation and trauma-informed care. Trauma-informed care is critical for nursing students to be equipped with in post-pandemic health care and will also align strongly with many of the AACN Essentials. The funds provided will help cover the program's costs, allow me to take on more credit hours during the summer, and receive training and certification in related areas. I am looking into training and certification for the Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator, virtual reality training, and Ph.D. electives in psychological trauma and simulation technology. I also plan to apply to the Midwest Nursing Research Symposium to present some of my Ph.D. work during my time in the program.

While the IBHE grant will be used to supplement my income directly, this supplementation has opened many opportunities for me to accelerate my professional growth and development in ways that I would not have been able to otherwise. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and thank the Illinois Board of Higher Education for supporting nursing faculty.

Sherry Haley, MSN, RN

Kishwaukee College

The IBHE Fellowship provided opportunities for professional development that I could not otherwise participate in as I keep a clinical job prn to both keep skills current and help bridge the salary gap of an educator vs. a full-time clinician. Having the money to look beyond the internet's webinars and college walls fulfills a quest for further knowledge of higher education and the art and science of teaching nursing. With the fellowship money, I already reinstated my ANA/ANA-IL membership and Sigma Theta Tau membership; both organizations keep me up to date in my field, provide professional development, and networking. I signed up for Nurse Tim's Nuts and Bolts Nurse Educator conference in August 2023, where I will learn how to analyze and write test questions incorporating Next Gen items, foster, strengthen, and apply clinical judgement in my courses, and enhance understanding on social determinants of health, cultural aptitude, and implicit bias and their influence on health outcomes so that I can adequately prepare future nurses. Finally, I will use the remaining money to sit for the certified nurse educator exam, for which I have already purchased study materials, to demonstrate commitment and excellence in the role as a nurse educator. With any remaining funds, I will either attend the 2023 OADN conference to expand my knowledge base and improve my teaching in nursing education, or INASCL simulation training so that I can expand my skillset to include certified simulation educator to further serve my institution.

Katie King MSN, RN, CPN, CNEcl

Lakeview College of Nursing

Thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity of receiving the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator Fellowship Award. The IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship Award has positively impacted my ability to continue my professional development in nursing education in several ways. I will be able to attend the Society of Pediatric Nurses annual conference, as well as the National League of Nursing Education Summit. By attending these conferences, I can network with other educators and gain insight into how to better facilitate my students' learning. I will also be able to renew my memberships to Sigma Theta Tau International (Alpha Alpha Delta chapter), the Society of Pediatric Nurses, American Nurses Association, as well as the Illinois American Nurses Association.

I plan to pursue my certification as a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) through the National League of Nursing with this fellowship and recertify as a Certified Pediatric Nurse. In addition, with these funds, I can obtain resources for student success and classroom resources, such as a test taking strategies book and pediatric triage tags to aid with the Population & Global Health course that I teach. My goal with the student success resources is to render assistance to students who are having difficulty in the program before they get to graduation and sit for their NCLEX exam.

My students will reap the benefit of my continuing education as well as my fellow colleagues. I will be able to bring back information that not only applies to my specialty courses, but to the nursing program as a whole, especially in regard to clinical judgment and the Next Generation NCLEX.

Leslie Catalano MSN, RN, CHSE, NPD-BC

Lincoln Land Community College

Thank you for choosing me as a recipient of the FY 23 Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator Fellowship Award. I am currently enrolled at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in the Doctor of Nursing practice (DNP) leadership and management program. With my grant funds I have been able to increase the number of hours I am working and will be able to complete my program a year earlier than previously thought. My projected graduation date is now Summer 2025 instead of Summer 2026. I have also created the website (TheHealthyNurseConnection.org), started a social media group, and podcast (The Health Nurse Connection) designed to help improve the health and wellness of nurses already working in the field of nursing. This is my project away from my job as an educator, but as a future nursing leader I believe we must help nurses learn how to manage the stress of being a nurse. Otherwise, nurses will continue to burn out after a few years, and we will always be in a nursing shortage.

Bridgette Hudson MSN, RN, CCRN

Lincoln Land Community College

My name is Bridgette Hudson, and I am honored to be a recipient of the FY 23 Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator Fellowship Award. The plan is to use the funds for the tuition needed for attendance in a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. I am currently attending courses at Northern Kentucky University (NKU) with an anticipated graduation date of December 2023. As many people are aware, graduate education does not come cheap. Tuition assistance has allowed me to advance my professional education. The knowledge I have gained through my DNP program has given me confidence in my ability to impact nursing education. I will soon be implementing a DNP project focused on individualized education plans (IEP) for nurses in specialty care areas. The inspiration for the project came from my nursing students. More than ever, new graduate nurses are entering specialty care areas of nursing (i.e. critical care nursing, obstetrics, etc.). There is a well-documented gap in knowledge existing between specialty care areas and the focus of undergraduate nursing studies. Finding ways to bridge the gap is crucial for the success of any nurse entering a specialty care area of nursing. By using an IEP, education and orientation processes can be tailored to the individual, which is a best practice in education. In addition, a collaborative effort between leaders at the collegiate level and hospital administration is also crucial to the process.

Nurse Educator Fellow
Yeyin Yi DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC

Affiliation
Loyola University of Chicago

My professional goal was always to come back to academia and help contribute to the field of nursing through exceptional instruction and clinical practice, and I am tremendously honored to be awarded the financial support to further pursue this goal as an IBHE Nurse Educator Fellow.

A high priority focus in my fellowship will be to gain a deeper understanding of how nursing and technology intersect, a fast-growing area that I wish to develop an innovative and sustainable program of scholarship at Loyola University Chicago. I plan to attend the *American Nursing Informatics Association Annual Conference* to learn how nursing, technology, data analyses, and applied sciences merge. The fellowship also will readily afford me the opportunity to attend more educational workshops and conferences that will further inform my understanding of current nursing education areas that address intersectional sociocultural and multigenerational domains that impact modern challenges in higher education and the changing tides of our current nursing workforce. Additionally, the fellowship will help maintain my clinical practice as an advance practice nurse.

Finally, I will use the remaining fellowship funds to acquire resources and tools that will sponsor additional queries that will seek to advance more nursing research, discovery, scholarship, and dissemination, which will enrich, promote, and transform nursing curricular frameworks. Through this fellowship, I hope to openly exhibit the knowledge I gain and aspire to develop collaborative professional development learning opportunities for fellow faculty, colleagues, and peers that aims to highlight innovative nursing education. Thank you for your support.

Amy Kiefer PhD, MSN, RN

Loyola University of Chicago

In my current role as Program Director, and as faculty, I am frequently concerned about burnout. My own personal risk of burnout, burnout of our nursing faculty, as well as burnout of the students. This fellowship will allow me to build my own resilience and mindfulness practice, as well as provide access to training for me to bring the tools to our faculty and students.

Our Accelerated BSN track prepares a unique set of students with a unique set of challenges. Many of these students require a different type of support as they have family obligations, work obligations, or financial difficulties that our direct-entry or traditional students do not face. In my role as Program Director, and as faculty, I am frequently concerned about burnout.

The fellowship funds will be used to further explore how nursing educators are supporting wellbeing, resilience, and the development of professional identity in individual courses as well as an entire program. The funding would allow me to become a Mindful Leader through a Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Training. The funds will be used to help me connect with other universities with wellness programming. Finally, the funding will be used to seek certification as a Certified Resilience Trainer/SMART Trainer. This training will help me to create a program that would build the wellness of our ABSN students at LUC-MNSON.

Julia K. Auton APRN, FNP-BC**Millikin University**

I am honored to have received the 2023 Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse educator fellowship. The fellowship came at an opportune time as I am currently finishing my final project in the DNP-completion program at Millikin University. A portion of the funds I received was used for project supplies, manuscript editing fees, and printing fees for my presentation poster. I am very excited to be graduating this May as I feel achieving this goal will enable me to continue teaching and growing professionally as a nurse educator. Additionally, I believe my DNP education will aid the development of scholarship, research, and leadership skills both at the university level and in the field of nursing.

In addition to my personal student and full-time teaching responsibilities, I am working part-time as a university-based urgent care healthcare provider. I feel working in this setting will help maintain my FNP professional skills and augment the instruction of FNP students. As part of my professional responsibility, it is important to stay up to date with current practice guidelines. Using funds from the fellowship, I was able to attend a live primary care conference that provided updates on a variety of patient care topics over the span of five days. The funds covered all the associated costs for me to travel and attend this conference. I am extremely grateful for this fellowship as it has provided an avenue for educational and professional growth.

Gail Fyke DNP, APRN-BC**Millikin University**

The fellowship funds received from the Illinois Board of Higher Education has been immensely beneficial in the compensation for expenses I have accrued during my tenure journey at Millikin University. As part of my teaching growth I am committed to attending conferences and have limited professional development funds to apply toward this goal. I successfully was able to attend the AACN DNP conference this year which was only possible with the IBHE fellowship. Most of my tenure journey and ongoing goals relates to teaching so I also have certification expenses and professional membership expenses which I updated with fellowship funds. I also was able to purchase resource texts and supplies for the classroom and student advising. Maintaining a professional career in academics is costly as one must stay current in evidence-based practice and medical advances. The best way to stay current is through journal subscriptions, webinars, conferences, and professional memberships which are expensive. Oftentimes advanced practice nurses working in an academic setting earn lower salaries in the nursing profession compared to hospital and primary care based advanced practice nursing positions. Having incentives to stay in nursing education is important to offset these salary gaps one must endure. Support from the IBHE has been very appreciated.

James Travis Whisman MSN, RN**Millikin University**

As an educator that is currently enrolled in a Ph. D in nursing education program at Capella University, the grant will help continue to pay for and fund the costs of the remaining semesters that I have left in in finishing the final portion of the program. The funds from this fellowship will also be used to finish data collection and the writing of my dissertation so that I can continue to help current and future nursing students succeed and challenge the boundaries of the nursing profession to provide positive patient outcomes. My dissertation and research focus on emotional intelligence and its role in helping students succeed in nursing programs,

but more specifically how it can relate to their success on passing the NCLEX examination. I love my role here at Millikin University as an instructor and the funding that I received will allow me to continue to give back to the students on our campus, as well as hopefully sharing the same information with other educators and students. The fellowship award is an honor to receive, as it gives the opportunity to apply knowledge and experiences in creating new teaching and learning environments for present and future nursing students.

Leslie Moyar EdD, MSN, APRN, AGACNP

Moraine Valley Community College

I am grateful for the opportunities for professional growth that were afforded to me by the Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse Educator Fellowship award. The award has been extremely valuable in helping me improve as an assistant professor in nursing at Moraine Valley Community College. At MVCC I am confronted daily with the challenge of preparing students for the rigors of a nursing career.

This award provided me with the means to finish the final semester of my doctoral degree in education as well as attend two professional continuing education conferences. At the *Nurse Tim: Nurse Think for Nurse Educators* conference, I was exposed to alternate teaching strategies – specifically, the use of gamification and immersive case studies – that have proven successful in connecting with the current generation of students as well as prepare students for the new NCLEX exam. At the *International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL)* conference, I will be exposed to more ways to incorporate simulation into the classroom, including the use of virtual reality technology. These advanced simulations appeal to the newest generation of college students, who prefer technology and a hands-on approach to learning. This fellowship has enabled me to improve as a professional educator. It gave me the means to network with my peers in the profession and has increased my preparedness for the future of nursing education. I look forward to putting the tools and strategies that I learned this year into practice as I continue to work toward improving my students' transition into practice.

Meredith Watkins DNPc, MSN Ed., RN, CEN

Morton College

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has played a critical role in supporting the completion of this recipient's DNP project which investigates the impact of active learning on the development of clinical judgment in pre-licensure nursing students. Through the provision of funding, this recipient has been able to hire a statistician to help analyze the data gathered during the study. A portion of the funding has also been used to cover tuition and bills, allowing the recipient to stay in nursing education and focus on their research.

The recipient attended the NextGen Learning nursing education conference in Orlando, Florida, in February 2023. This conference focused on active learning and clinical judgment, providing valuable insights and networking opportunities for the recipient.

With the support of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the recipient plans to complete their DNP project this year and disseminate the findings at various nursing conferences and through publishing in nursing journals. The funding provided has been instrumental in enabling the recipient to stay in nursing education and grow as an educator while conducting research on nursing education.

Overall, the Illinois Board of Higher Education has played a crucial role in supporting this DNP project, providing resources that have helped the recipient to pursue their goals and contribute to the field of nursing education. This recipient wishes to express gratitude for this grant/award funding.

Stephanie Uhr PhD, RN, IBCLC

Northern Illinois University

The IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship Award will significantly impact the dissemination of my research at professional conferences in 2023. I will also put a portion towards laying the groundwork for my research program. Attending conferences will not only disseminate my work but also allow for expanded networking with other nurse scholars. I will present at one national conference this year, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) annual convention in June. If the submitted abstracts are accepted, I will present at the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference for two research projects with colleagues this fall.

The funds from the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship will also fund my summer salary as I continue to submit three articles for publication and write a proposal for the NIU Research and Artistry grant due in the fall of 2023. Additionally, during the summer months, I will be working on creating a research collaboration group with two fellow scholars who share my research focus.

Any additional funds remaining will allow me to renew or activate my membership in professional organizations, such as MNRS, AWHONN, APHA, and Sigma.

I thank the Illinois Board of Higher Education for its support through the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship Award grant.

Reem Azhari, PhD, RN, CNOR

Oak Point University

With this IBHE grant, I will continue to work on creative ways to engage our nursing students and strengthen the curriculum to go beyond teaching the hard sciences. This grant will support the expansion of a curriculum that includes healing the disenfranchised and supporting our healthcare workforce with specialty Interprofessional education (IPE) scholar programs. These programs will focus on educational specialty electives that are used to give our student nurses as well as supporting professionals a leg up in the workforce as they go beyond what is required in their job descriptions.

Specifically, this grant will be used to set up an interprofessional health fair in an area of need. I hope to partner with our local law enforcement offices to create these health fairs as well as offer lectures on mental health, leadership and conflict resolution to any first responders or police officers that wish to have such education. Law enforcement supports mental and physical health for all and as such I believe them to be critical members of the interprofessional healthcare team.

Given what our men and women in blue have to engage in daily, we can use our interprofessional collaboration to help them understand issues such as mental health as well as further help them understand their role in clinical support.

Monique Reed PhD, RN, FAAN

Rush University

Being a recipient of this award has directly impacted my commitment to remain in nursing education in Illinois. When I graduated with my PhD in 2011 I was one of only 55 Black nurses in the [nation](#) to graduate with a PhD. Today Black women comprise 12% of the RN workforce as compared to 67% White RN's and only 9% of Black faculty. Although I love my career, being a woman of color in this space can be filled with isolation and pressure to serve in spaces and for students that need diverse voices. I plan to use the IBHE funds to continue career coaching that I began in 2021. Career coaching is tailored for women of color in academic medicine. Coaching was a key turning point in my career when I made a mind shift that led to NIH R01 funding and renewed my commitment to a career in academia. Without this IBHE award I will not be able to continue coaching sessions which for me, is a form of self-care. In addition, to using the funds for self-care I am also able to participate in Restorative Justice and Circle training. Restorative Justice training will help me learn how to facilitate circles to promote: 1)inclusive decision making, 2)active accountability, 3)repairing harm, and 4)rebuilding trust. Grounding student engagement, connectivity, and problem solving in these principles helps support student development. Thank you for your commitment to retain nurses in Illinois.

Judith April Dollins, EdD, MSN, RN, CLC, C-EFM

Shawnee Community College

I am humbled and grateful to have received the 2023 IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship Award. At times, we may question what impact we are having on the students we serve. However, as I was writing this, I received a message from one of my students telling me she had been offered and accepted a RN residency position in her dream specialty and thanked me for inspiring her. It is in these moments, we feel the vastness of the influence we have as we prepare the next generation of nurses.

The funds awarded are being utilized to further develop myself as a nurse educator in order to better prepare my students to enter into nursing practice. First, the award funds will be used to cover my final semester of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Northern Kentucky University. Receiving this award assisted me in fulfilling my goal of obtaining my DNP without having to obtain student loans or to incur debt. Secondly, I attended the NurseThink for Nurse educators conference that provided me with additional skills and strategies to implement in the classroom setting to promote the development of clinical judgement skills of my students. While at the conference, I also attended a preparation course for the Certified Nurse Educator exam, which I am waiting to take until after I have completed my DNP in August. Lastly, I have utilized the award funds to purchase materials to help me prepare for the CNE exam, utilize evidence-based teaching strategies in the classroom, and to promote clinical judgement in the classroom.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to further improve as a nurse educator so that I may continue to cultivate and grow our future nurses.

Kelli Whittington PhD, RN, CNE

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

It is humbling to be part of such an extraordinary group of nurse educators within Illinois. When evaluating the experiences of former and current recipients of this fellowship, it

underscores how driven these individuals are to influence the health of individuals within our state by positively impacting the education of nursing students.

As nursing education transforms to best prepare students for success and nurses for entry into practice, my funds have been used in three distinct ways. First, it has allowed me to renew membership in professional organizations crucial to my development as a nursing leader. These memberships allow me to network with colleagues and engage in meaningful dialogue to promote our profession. Second, I have been able to present research at one professional conference and will present at an additional conference in the summer. Attendance at both conferences will allow me to secure tangible techniques to be utilized in the classroom to enhance clinical judgment skills of my students. Third, funds have been utilized to purchase educational resources for myself and fellow faculty, specifically looking at building leaders in the clinical setting.

Thank you for this opportunity; the ramifications will be appreciated by my students for years to come.

Myjal Garner DNP, APRN, FNP-C

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Being selected for the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator Fellowship is an honor. Through this fellowship, I will increase my knowledge, thus enhancing my contributions to students, the school of nursing, the university, and the nursing profession. The IBHE funding has enabled me to attend conferences, take a more active role in nursing by becoming a member of multiple nursing organizations, and create simulations to augment classroom learning. Recently, I attended the Nurse Educator Research Conference (NERC), which taught me about grant funding in addition to types of research. I am also scheduled to attend the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators (ACHNE) and National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) conferences. These conferences allow me to learn from my peers while networking for future research opportunities. I have joined the National League for Nursing (NLN), ACHNE, and NBNA. My membership in these organizations provides additional research and grant funding opportunities. Recently I had a mass casualty event on the university campus in which I partnered with the local fire department, EMS, and Air Evac. The event was created to provide a real-life simulation for nursing students to increase their knowledge of mass casualty triage, comfort level in communicating with emergency responders, and ensure a competent workforce. The moulage supplies were purchased using IBHE funds. The IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship has made me feel more comfortable and confident in my role as a nurse educator.

Elizabeth Alvarez DNP, RN

Southwestern Illinois College

My name is Elizabeth Alvarez. I am grateful for being a recipient of the Nurse Educator Fellowship Award and the opportunities it has afforded me. The award has permitted continuing education in research and work towards my Nurse Educator certification. My original proposal was adjusted due to time constraints, but the change has allowed me to explore other areas.

I was able to attend a Dr. Seller's Educate conference in preparation for the CNE exam. This conference provided areas in which to focus my studies as well as recommended textbooks to purchase. This will aid in my studies and assist in a pathway to success.

I attended the NLN Nurse Educator Research Conference in Washington, D.C. Several presenters from around the world presented timely and appropriate research that I can utilize within my nursing program.

I also attended the ATI Nurse Educator Summit in San Antonio, TX at the end of April. The conference provided me with information focused on student learning, retention, and Next-Generation NCLEX.

I hope to utilize my remaining funds to attend a nursing mission trip to Ghana with Student Nurse Association students in December.

Thank you for the ability to expand my horizons and knowledge. Without grant assistance, many of the aforementioned opportunities would not have been possible and I am truly grateful.

Cynthia Winfield DNP, RN

Southwestern Illinois College

I am humbled and honored to be a recipient of the Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse Educator Fellowship Award. The impact of receiving this award went far beyond my attending conferences. Receiving the award allowed me to gain more insight and access to additional resources for educating undergraduate nursing students.

Participating in professional activities that support best practices is essential for nurse educators. As a result, I wanted to find resources that made me a better educator and improved my ability to connect with my students authentically. I attended the Regenerating Research in Nursing Education: Moving the Science Forward conference and the 2023 National Nurse Educator Summit. These conferences improved my knowledge and insight into motivating and encouraging students to think critically and strengthen my ability to teach clinical reasoning and judgment. I also attended two webinars, Avoiding the Pitfalls in Nursing Practice and Education and Implementing a Just Culture in Nursing Academia: Developing Practice Ready Nurses.

Additionally, I am pursuing my certification in nursing education through the National League of Nursing. I took a certified nurse educator review course and plan to take the exam for certification this summer. The remainder of my funds will be used to pay off the student loans that have enabled me to be an educator.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to grow professionally as I guide the next generation of nurses.

Ife Muiyiwa-Ojo DNP, MSN-Ed, MBA, NP-C, CCRN, CNE **St. John's College of Nursing**

I am delighted to share that I have received the funds provided by the FY 23 Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nurse Educator Fellowship Award, and I will be putting them to excellent use. As a nurse educator who is passionate about the field, this award will enable me to pursue my educational aspirations as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) while continuing to provide high-quality education as a full-time educator.

The fellowship funds have helped me to defray some of the costs associated with my PMHNP program, providing me with the opportunity to expand my knowledge and expertise in this critical area of nursing. With this award, I will be able to enhance my knowledge and skills in the area of mental health, which I believe is critical for nursing educators. Moreover, I will be

able to bring this knowledge and skills back to the college where I currently teach to further expand their offerings in the near future.

As a nurse educator, I have always strived to be a well-rounded professional, focusing on practice, scholarship, teaching, and service. This fellowship award will provide me with the opportunity to continue to excel in all these areas while pursuing my PMHNP program which will advance my practice and enhance my ability to deliver quality education to my students. I am grateful for this award and look forward to continuing to provide service to the nursing profession by mentoring and guiding the next generation of nurses.

Lorna J. Scoggins MSN, RN, PMH-BC

University of Illinois at Chicago

I currently teach at the University of Illinois Chicago, Springfield campus. I have over 30 years experience as a registered professional nurse with experience in acute care psychiatric and medical-psychiatric nursing. I am ANCC board-certified in psychiatric nursing. As a nurse educator, I am enthused about using my skills as a psychiatric nurse to teach students psychiatric nursing. Nurses will care for patients with mental health issues in every setting, especially as inpatient settings continue to be reduced nationwide, for this marginalized population.

I have recently submitted an abstract of my work providing auditory hallucination simulation for presentation at the 2023 American Psychiatric Nursing Association Annual Conference (APNA). This award will allow me to disseminate my evidence by supporting travel expenses and conference fees. The funding will facilitate expansion of my expertise and creativity as an educator. I plan to continue my certification as a psychiatric mental health nurse. I have a goal to take the Certified Nurse Educator exam. Before taking the exam, I would like to complete a review course. I would also like the opportunity to join the National League for Nursing and to continue my memberships in the American Psychiatric Nursing Association and Sigma Theta Tau International.

I have a passion for undergraduate education. It is very rewarding to see students gain strong nursing knowledge and apply it to the clinical setting. It is also enjoyable to see former students in various health care settings and see how their professional careers have grown.

Amanda Sperry MSN, RN, PEL-CSN, NCSN

University of Illinois at Chicago

As a recipient of the IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship, I plan to use awarded funds for memberships to professional nursing organizations, registration/travel fees to attend state and national nursing conferences, and expenses related to continued education and pursuit of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in Advanced Population Health Nursing (APHN).

Memberships to professional nursing organizations have been purchased for the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators (ACHNE) and the Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN). Registration has been purchased to attend the ACHNE & APHN joint conference in San Diego, CA in June 2023. Travel associated costs for hotel and airfare will soon be secured. Registration has been purchased to attend the Illinois Rural Health Association (IRHA) annual conference in Champaign, IL in August 2023, and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) virtual conference in July 2023.

Included in the original IBHE fellowship application were plans to attend the NLN Nursing Education Research Conference (NERC) in March 2023, however, due to delayed

receipt of funds, I was unable to attend. Those funds intended for the NLN conference will now be applied to DNP-related expenses.

The remainder of the IBHE awarded funds will be used for expenses related to continued education and pursuit of the DNP in the APHN specialty. The IBHE fellowship will provide a variety of experiences to help me grow professionally in my nursing practice as both a community health nurse and nurse educator. Thank you for the opportunity to grow professionally as a nurse educator!

Kathryn “Katie” Vanderzwan DNP, APRN-BC, CHSE University of Illinois at Chicago

The 2023 Nurse Educator Fellowship through the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) provided 57 high school students from Chicago Public Schools with a “Nurse-for-a-Day” simulation experience at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing. Additionally, IBHE funded three continuing education activities to foster my further development as a nurse educator. The “Nurse-for-a-Day” events occurred March 2, 2023 (George Westinghouse College Prep; Noble Academy) and April 27, 2023 (UIC College Prep). During the events, high school students were provided with an immersive simulation experience while interacting with UIC nursing students and faculty. This event was intended to expose underrepresented youth to a career in nursing. Students were impressed by the realism of the simulations and Westinghouse College Prep faculty commented that, “UIC created a safe and welcoming space in which their students felt comfortable.” My attendance at the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) conference in March 2023 afforded me the opportunity to disseminate my recently published integrative review and in June 2023, I will attend the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Nursing (INACSL) conference where I will disseminate my ongoing work on nursing handoff. Finally, the National League for Nursing (NLN) Summit will take place in September 2023 and attendance at this conference will provide continuing education on health equity which aligns with the intent of this fellowship

Courtney Pritchard MSN, RN, CCRN-K University of St. Francis

I want to express my sincere gratitude for this award. The majority of the funds awarded to me from the Nurse Educator Fellowship will be applied toward the funding the implementation of my DNP scholarship project focusing on the development of academic-practice partnerships. I have recently been part of the implementation of a Dedicated Education Unit through collaboration of the University of St. Francis and OSF Healthcare. This academic practice partnership has demonstrated how clinical experience and mentorship can positively affect nursing students, nursing preceptors, and healthcare. Implementation of the project will assist in my students’ success as they transition into the nursing profession. By creating an academic practice partnership with the University of St. Francis and a local healthcare organization, I will assist in bridging the gap between nursing education and the transition to practice. Outcomes that I hope to achieve are an increase in student confidence and competence, improvement in the nursing shortage, and optimization of patient outcomes. Obtaining my DNP will also assist me in enhancing my leadership abilities, promoting evidence based practice, and impact nursing education and healthcare.

Thank you for this opportunity to continue to advance my education and promote excellence in nursing education. Nursing students are the future of healthcare and I am honored to mentor and educate individuals that will impact this profession.