

Contact: Andy Baumert

**PRIVATE COLLEGE GROW IOWA VALUES FUND (GIVF) PROJECTS**

**Action Requested:** Consider recommending Board approval of GIVF funding for projects submitted by Luther College, Clarke College and Upper Iowa University.

**Executive Summary:**

An evaluation team of the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (IAICU) has reviewed three GIVF proposals submitted by Iowa independent institutions of higher learning. The IAICU has recommended the projects be awarded a total of \$180,000. The projects are:

- Luther College: \$40,000
- Clarke College: \$84,721
- Upper Iowa University: \$55,279

If approved, funding for the proposals will be contingent on auditable and contracted procedures to be developed consistent with state code. Copies of the three proposals are available at the Board of Regents office.

**Background:** House File 809, passed by the 2005 Session of the Iowa Legislature, appropriates \$5 million annually to the Board of Regents for capacity-building infrastructure in areas related to technology commercialization, entrepreneurship and business development for the purposes of state economic development. The legislation also permits the Board of Regents to award funds to independent institutions for these purposes. In the first three fiscal years, the Board awarded \$200,000 per year for projects at independent institutions. As part of flood-related budget adjustments, the Iowa Department of Management reduced the FY 2009 GIVF appropriation by 20%, resulting in \$160,000 being available for private college GIVF grants. The 2009 Legislature reduced the \$5 million GIVF FY 2010 appropriation by 10%, resulting in \$180,000 being available for private college GIVF grants.

A Request for Proposals was distributed to all Iowa independent colleges and universities through the IAICU. Three proposals were received. To evaluate the proposals, IAICU contracted with experienced proposal evaluators from IAICU member institutions that had elected not to submit proposals this year. The presidents of these institutions were asked to identify an experienced proposal or grant evaluator from their institution and enlist that person's commitment to read and evaluate the proposals and make recommendations. Presidents were not told the names of the applicants. Once the evaluations were completed, a recommendation was forwarded to the Board of Regents by the IAICU.

**Luther College: \$40,000 request with \$40,048 institutional match**

The proposal seeks funds for research into the use of cyclodextrins as a new and potentially less expensive method of detecting furans, dioxanes and polychlorinated biphenyls which can pollute water systems. The researcher believes a low-cost, effective detection method could be commercialized and, once proven, could be expanded to detect other forms of chemical pollutants. The research indicates that the results of the project will be shared with environmental regulatory agencies.

**Clarke College: \$84,721 request with \$105,677 institutional match**

The proposal seeks funding to continue work previously granted GIVF funding that created a web-based analysis library and software tool/portal for clinicians and medical researchers gathering HIV data. The project is a collaboration among faculty at Clarke, UIHC, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, Stanford University School of Medicine and physicians at Dubuque Internal Medicine. The additional funding will allow Clarke to use the software, hardware and research tools developed to design and implement an Iowa clinical ontology in collaboration with a Dubuque clinician. The ontology will enable patients and clinicians to obtain statistical analysis related to patient health conditions by taking advantage of electronic medical records. The researchers believe the proposal will enhance the development of health informatics services in Iowa and plan to license the software product. The researchers propose to work with the Small Business Administration to develop a strategy promoting a medical informatics center in Iowa.

Upper Iowa University: \$55,279 request with institutional cash/in kind match of \$36,827, 20% client cash match and \$570,000 endowment

The proposal seeks funding to accelerate a business development program funded in part by the University's Upper Iowa Business Development (UIBD) grant program. The UIBD is a \$570,000 endowment created in 2007. The program supports economic development initiatives including a grant program for entrepreneurs interested in starting or expanding a business in Fayette, Iowa. Local business applicants are evaluated based on their business plan, growth potential, impact on job creation, and sales and taxes generated. Applicants are provided business development assistance and entrepreneurship mentoring through the University's e-Center and are advised about other sources of funding or tax credits. Funding provided the applicants may be used for research and development or commercialization of a product, marketing or advertising or construction and renovation expenses. Applicants are evaluated by a UIBD Grant Advisory Committee which includes representatives of local and regional economic development organizations. Applicants are required to provide a minimum of 20% cash match.