

Contact: Ann McCarthy

PRIVATE COLLEGE GROW IOWA VALUES FUND (GIVF) PROJECTS

Action Requested: Consider recommending Board approval of GIVF funding for projects submitted by Grand View University (\$50,000) and Central College (\$10,000).

Executive Summary:

Following a call for proposals from the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (IAICU) three proposals were received by the Board Office. Those projects and their requested amounts included:

- Central College: \$11,808
- Drake University: \$52,599
- Grand View University: \$55,900

Total available funding is \$60,000. Therefore, after review by the Board Office it is recommended that the Grand View University proposal be funded at \$50,000 and the Central College proposal be funded at \$10,000. If approved, funding for the proposals will be contingent on auditable and contracted procedures to be developed consistent with state code. Copies of the proposals are available at the Board Office.

Background:

House File 809, passed by the 2005 Session of the Iowa General Assembly, appropriated \$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 directed the Board of Regents to award funds to Iowa's independent colleges and universities for these purposes. In the first three fiscal years of the GIVF program, the Board awarded \$200,000 per year for projects at independent institutions. In recent years due to flood related budget adjustments and the overall budget difficulty experienced by the state total GIVF funding available to the Board of Regents has been reduced. For FY2012 the GIVF appropriation was reduced to \$1.5 million which leaves \$60,000 available for private college GIVF grants.

Descriptions of the research proposals recommended for funding are below:

Grand View University: Recommended funding level of \$50,000 with \$60,763 institutional match

Proposal: Probing Substrate Level Inhibition of Phosphorylase *b*: Implications Toward Diabetes Regulation

This proposal will seek the synthesis of novel oligosaccharide-4 phosphate derivatives which will provide a better understanding of substrate inhibition for glycogen degradation in phosphorylases. It is anticipated that the outcomes of this research will make a substantive contribution to the design of active site inhibitors of phosphorylase *b*. This will lead to a better understanding of how to design inhibitors to control glycogen degradation and new treatments for diabetes.

Central College: Recommended funding level of \$10,000 with \$23,041 institutional match

Proposal: Prairies for Agriculture Project: Using Diverse Prairie Restorations for Carbon Sequestration within the Agricultural Landscape

This proposal seeks to reconstruct an endangered ecosystem in a manner that provides economic opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and other members of the public. The research team will examine and demonstrate the benefits of restoring prairie ecosystems within the agricultural landscape by planting over 375 plots with different combinations of prairie plants. The broad goal of the research is to determine which specific mixes of plants provide the most biomass for fuel/forage production while simultaneously producing the most agricultural and environmental benefits. The research site will also be used for demonstration purposes to educate agricultural producers, business people, government officials and the public on the potential of prairies.

The Prairies for Agriculture Project has worked with the Tallgrass Prairie Center at the University of Northern Iowa to ensure that this proposed project will compliment and not duplicate research currently being done at UNI. The research team will also collaborate with Iowa State University by sending Central College students to ISU to study the use of pyrolysis to convert biomass into energy.