

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REGIONAL STUDY CENTERS FUNDING ALLOCATION REQUEST FOR 2014-2015**

**Actions Requested:** (1) Consider approval of the proposed 2014-2015 funding allocations for the Regional Study Centers: \$182,734 for the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center (Council Bluffs); \$96,114 for the Northwest Iowa Regents Resource Center (Sioux City); and \$5,000 for the Quad Cities Graduate Center (Quad Cities). (2) Direct the Board Office to notify, in writing, the General Assembly and the Legislative Services Agency of funds allocated to the centers.

**Executive Summary:** The proposed funding allocations, developed by the State Extension, Continuing, and Distance Education Council (SECDEC), for 2014-2015 describe the anticipated efforts and benefits to be derived at the Regional Study Centers. The 2014-2015 funding allocations for the Regional Study Centers have been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and are recommended for approval.

**Background:** The 2014 General Assembly appropriated a total of \$283,848 to the three regional study centers. Furthermore, the Board of Regents was authorized "to transfer moneys appropriated to the study centers if the Board notifies, in writing, the General Assembly and the Legislative Services Agency of the amount, the date, and the purpose of the transfer."

The **Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center (SWIRRC)**, located on the campus of Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) since August 2011, is part of the Regent Enterprise and includes the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa. The Center also partners with Iowa Western Community College and Southwestern Community College.

- ⇒ The center provides written materials about the universities' programs although the same information is available online through the universities' websites. The majority of offerings by the respective universities are provided online.
- ⇒ In Summer 2013, a mathematics instructor was hired to teach mathematics courses requested by the community colleges and universities. The faculty member teaches for both Iowa Western Community College and the University of Iowa. He also serves as a coordinator for the Center to work with the community colleges and the region to respond to identified educational needs.
- ⇒ SWIRCC supports and enhances the outreach efforts of the Regent universities; there are no other universities (including out-of-state institutions) in the consortium. It supports programming efforts at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- ⇒ The Center serves as a focal point for programming, offers personal assistance to prospective students, proctors examinations, and coordinates promotional efforts for the three universities in partnership with IWCC and Southwestern Community College.
- ⇒ Primary funding for the center is provided by the Iowa General Assembly.
- ⇒ Student support services, such as enrollment and academic advising, are provided directly by the respective Regent university.

- ⇒ In November 2013, a Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held on the IWCC campus to recognize the partnership between the Regent universities, Iowa Western Community College, and Southwestern Community College.
- ⇒ The Center participated for the first time in the annual Celebrate Council Bluffs parade on May 17, 2014. The university mascots were in attendance and they generated significant attention along the parade route. Herky, Cy, and TC shook hands, posed for pictures, and engaged the crowd along the two-mile parade route. Approximately 5,000 people enjoyed the 100 entries, including the mayor, city council, legislators, and a number of community groups.

The **Northwest Iowa Regents Resource Center (NWIRRC)**, which is located on the campus of Western Iowa Technical Community College (WITCC), was created by the 2013 legislature (HF 604) to serve the educational needs of students in northwest Iowa. Creation of the Center resulted from the requests and support of community leaders in Sioux City. The Center is part of the Regent Enterprise and includes the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa. The Center also partners with WITCC and Northwest Iowa Community College.

- ⇒ The center provides materials prepared by each institution about their certificate, baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, and non-credit offerings; the same information is available online on the universities' websites.
- ⇒ NWIRRC supports and enhances the outreach efforts of the Regent universities. It supports programming efforts at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- ⇒ The Center serves as a focal point for programming, offers personal assistance to prospective students, proctors examinations, and coordinates promotional efforts for the three universities in partnership with WITCC and Northwest Iowa Community College.
- ⇒ Primary funding for the center is provided by the Iowa General Assembly.
- ⇒ Student support services, such as enrollment and academic advising, are provided directly by the respective university.
- ⇒ An instructor/coordinator will be hired in 2014-15 to offer specific courses requested by the partner community colleges and to work with the colleges and the region to respond to identified educational needs.

The **Quad Cities Graduate Center**, located on the campus of Western Illinois University – Quad Cities in Moline, Illinois with an office in Davenport, is a consortium of universities in Illinois (Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, Saint Xavier University, University of Illinois, and Western Illinois University-Quad Cities) and Iowa (Drake University, Iowa State University, St. Ambrose University, University of Iowa, and University of Northern Iowa).

- ⇒ The center provides materials prepared by each institution regarding their certificate, master's, doctoral, and non-credit offerings; the same information is available online on the universities' websites.
- ⇒ There are no classes offered at the center. The majority of offerings by the respective universities are provided online or on the institutions' campuses (e.g., St. Ambrose University). A few programs, such as the University of Iowa's Master of Social Work Program, are offered in a face-to-face or blended format at a location arranged by the university.

- ⇒ Primary funding for the center is provided by the Illinois General Assembly and the Iowa General Assembly. Illinois funding remained the same in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 at \$83,900. Iowa funding decreased from \$34,513 in 2012-2013 to \$5,000 in 2013-2014 as a result of changing priorities both for the Center and for the Regent universities.
- ⇒ Student support services, such as enrollment and academic advising, are provided directly by the respective university.

### **PROPOSED 2014-2015 REGIONAL STUDY CENTERS FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

The State Extension, Continuing, and Distance Education Council (SECDEC), in collaboration with the Council of Provosts, proposes the following allocation of funds to the Regional Study Centers in 2014-2015:

#### **◆ Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center.**

- ⇒ SECDEC proposes an allocation of \$182,734 to the Center in 2014-2015. This is a decrease of \$20,000 (-9.9%) from the prior year. The purpose of the decrease is to allocate additional funding to the Northwest Iowa Regents Resource Center.
- ⇒ The relocation of the Center to the IWCC campus in 2011 has enhanced the Regent universities' presence in the region, built a stronger connection with the community colleges, and increased the connection with prospective students interested in either distance or residential programs.
- ⇒ In order to meet student needs, serve local business and industry, and provide cultural opportunities, the universities will continue to partner with IWCC and SCC.
- ⇒ Funding was used to hire an instructor/coordinator with both teaching and oversight responsibilities. The instructor/coordinator met the requirements for appointment as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Iowa. The courses taught by this faculty member will be accepted at any of the three Regent universities. In 2013-14, Dr. Michael Hero taught the following courses – History of Mathematics, Elements of Mathematics, and Calculus.
- ⇒ Dr. Hero also served as a coordinator for the Center to work with the community colleges and the region to respond to identified educational needs. The following issues were identified – (1) on-site university faculty will insure the quality of program content; (2) clarity of the program is critical to avoid credit transfer issues; and (3) advisors from the respective university will be responsible for contact with the students in the programs.
- ⇒ Three program areas of interest to the community and to IWCC have been identified – education; business; and entrepreneurship.
- ⇒ Historically, SWIRRC has focused on serving the population in the IWCC district. However, the Southwestern Community College District is a partner in the SWIRRC collaboration. The partner community college districts have been invited to co-sponsor the faculty position and identify teaching needs.

- ⇒ The academic area(s) selected jointly by the community colleges and the Regent universities will address the instructional needs of community college students, particularly in the STEM fields.

◆ **Northwest Iowa Regents Resource Center.**

- ⇒ SECDEC proposes an allocation of \$96,114 to the Center for 2014-2015. This is an increase of \$20,000 (+26.3%) from the prior year. The proposed increase will allow the Regent universities to expand the level of activities at the Center.
- ⇒ Locating the Center on the WITCC campus has enhanced the Regent universities' presence in the region, built a stronger connection with the community colleges (Western Iowa Tech Community College and Northwest Iowa Community College), and increased the connection with prospective students interested in either distance or residential programs. This partnership can help to meet the needs of local businesses and provide cultural opportunities.
- ⇒ In its initial year, funding was used to hire a part-time NWIRRC coordinator to identify needed program areas which are being reviewed by SECDEC. These include upper division courses and degrees for police science/criminal justice, hospitality industry and culinary science, agricultural science, entrepreneurship, industrial teacher education, and long-term care administration.
- ⇒ Future plans call for the employment of an instructor/coordinator with both teaching and oversight responsibilities. The instructor/coordinator will meet the requirements for a faculty member at the community colleges and will be appointed by an academic department at one of the Regent universities. The courses taught by this faculty member will be accepted at any of the Regent universities.
- ⇒ One of the objectives of the new Center is to serve not only the population in the WITCC district, but also the population in the Northwest Iowa Community College district. The partner community college districts will be invited to co-sponsor the faculty position and identify teaching needs.
- ⇒ The academic area that will be selected jointly by the community colleges and the Regent universities will address the instructional needs of community college students, especially in the STEM fields.

◆ **Quad Cities Graduate Center.**

- ⇒ SECDEC proposes an allocation of \$5,000 to the Center for 2014-2015. This level of funding is the same as the prior year's and is consistent with the strategic priorities identified by SECDEC, the level of direct services provided to Regent university students, and the new direction that the Center has adopted for its region. The bulk of the Center's budget is allocated to administrative overhead.
- ⇒ Technology and methodologies used to deliver and market distance education courses and programs have changed significantly in the last decade. The majority of programs offered by the three Regent universities rely on on-line delivery capabilities. The two on-site graduate programs in the Quad Cities area are well established and rely on web and program specific marketing strategies.

- ✓ Both the Master of Social Work Program and the Master of Business Administration Program are site-based. The MBA program is housed at the Palmer College of Chiropractic. The University of Iowa offers the Master of Social Work Program on the campus of Scott Community College. It had been located on the Western Illinois University campus but space is no longer available on that campus.
- ⇒ The value added by the Center is limited because the services it provides to the universities is duplicative of services already provided by the universities.