

Contact: Andy Baumert

PRIVATE COLLEGE GROW IOWA VALUES FUND (GIVF) PROJECTS

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

Executive Summary:

An evaluation team of the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (IAICU) has reviewed four GIVF proposals submitted by Iowa independent institutions of higher learning. The IAICU has recommended three projects be awarded a total of \$200,000. The projects are:

- Drake University: \$71,207
- Luther College: \$32,337
- Clarke College: \$97,164

If approved, funding for the proposals will be contingent on auditable and contracted procedures to be developed consistent with state code. Copies of all four proposals are included in the Regent Exhibit Book.

Background: House File 809, passed by the 2005 Session of the Iowa Legislature, appropriates \$5 million 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.

A Request for Proposals was distributed to all Iowa independent colleges and universities through the IAICU. Four proposals were received. To evaluate the proposals, IAICU contracted with experienced proposal evaluators from IAICU member institutions that had elected not to submit proposals in 2007. 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 each of the evaluations was received, a tally of the cumulative rankings was completed. One of the applications was eliminated from consideration because it did not include a commercialization component. Because the total funding requested exceeded \$200,000 it was determined to negotiate with the institutions regarding funding for the three successful proposals. As a result of the negotiations, the institutions have agreed to the following levels of funding: Drake University \$71,207, Clarke College \$97,164 and Luther College \$32,337.

Drake University: \$71,207

Drake University seeks \$71,207 to enhance technology and product commercialization through DU's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences DELTA Rx Institute and the Drake Undergraduate Science Collaboration Institute (DUSCI). This represents a second year of GIVF funding for this project. The goal of the project is to bring students, practitioners and research faculty together to develop the practices and skills for successful development of innovative pharmaceutical practices and products. The proposal would fund programs designed to develop entrepreneurial skills through entrepreneurial workshops to educate and assist faculty and students seeking commercialization of a product or idea. The project will also provide funding for participation by students in a pharmaceutical compounding boot camp where they will learn how to develop new formulas and how to find markets for commercialization to hospitals and pharmacies in Iowa. Students will work with mentors to prepare business plans for submission to the Pappajohn Center business plan competition at Drake University. The DELTA Rx Institute is also in development of a "product concept competition" that will provide a further venue for commercialization. The project budget identifies \$71,607 in matching cost share.

Luther College: \$32,337

Luther College seeks \$32,337 for a project to document DNA content variation in Iowa prairie plants. The project will provide basic data to allow researchers to develop the most productive and efficient plantings to provide sustainable sources of biomass for alternative fuel production. The same database will be used by researchers and seed producers interested in prairie restoration projects and in efforts to minimize and eradicate invasive species of plants. An Iowa company, Ion Exchange, Inc. will partner with the researchers to provide a source of seeds and plants for the project. Project leaders indicate more than 20 Iowa companies currently supply native seeds and plants in the state. The project budget identifies a total of \$32,405 in matching cost share.

Clarke College: \$97,164

Clarke College seeks \$97,337 for a project to develop a web-based HIV analysis library and a software product to be made available through licensing agreements. The library and software product will enable researchers to more efficiently mine HIV databases and develop statistical analyses which are necessary for providing better treatment options. The proposal is a result of collaborative efforts involving Clarke College, the University of Iowa, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Stanford. The cooperating institutions have existing HIV data sets and/or have medical and software expertise in related areas. Clarke College will host the proposed database and provide a secure network. In addition to the software product, Clarke anticipates being able to market related consultation services. The proposal identifies \$114,928 in matching cost share.