

Contact: Keith Saunders

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

**Action Requested:** Consider recommending Board approval of GIVF funding for projects submitted by Luther College (\$40,000) and Drake University (\$112,000).

**Executive Summary:**

An evaluation team of the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (IAICU) has reviewed GIVF proposals submitted by Iowa independent institutions of higher learning. The IAICU has recommended projects in rank order be awarded a total of \$351,616. The projects are:

- Luther College: \$40,000
- Drake University: \$150,000
- Grinnell College: \$69,200
- University of Dubuque: \$92,416

Total available funding is \$152,000. It is therefore recommended that the Luther College proposal be fully funded at \$40,000 and the Drake University proposal be funded at \$112,000. 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 FY2011 the GIVF appropriation was again reduced to \$3.8 million which leaves \$152,000 available for private college GIVF grants.

A Request for Proposals was distributed to all Iowa independent colleges and universities through the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (IAICU). 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 \$89,044 institutional match**

**Proposal: New Corn-Based Plastics from Two Different Polymerization Technologies**

Currently bioplastics represent less than one percent of the total plastics market. To increase their market share, new bioplastics with different properties must be formulated. The proposal seeks funds for research to develop two new classes of corn-based plastics derived from corn cobs, corn starch and corn oil. If successful, this work will support Iowa's emerging bioplastics industry by developing new materials to expand the range of potential bioplastic products.

Drake University: \$150,000 request (funded at \$112,000)

Proposal: Developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Healthcare Workforce for Iowa: A Laboratory for Training and Research in Pharmacogenomics – Phase II

In December 2008, Drake University received a \$60,000 GIVF grant to establish the Pharmacogenomics Training and Research Laboratory (PTRL). Pharmacogenomics is a discipline of health science related to the manner in which genes affect individual responses to drugs, presenting an opportunity to customize treatment or therapies for diseases such as breast cancer and leukemia. The PTRL will serve as a central facility for Drake faculty involved in research, and on a fee basis for organizations outside the University. The facility is intended to foster the development of intellectual property as a result of the research conducted.

This proposal will expand the technical capabilities of PTRL for training current and future health care professionals in the identification and characterization of protein biomarkers for application in personalized medicine.