

**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

Report No. 2020.02/4000.01
Grant and Contract Activity Report

Introduction

External sources of funding make substantial contributions to the advancement of faculty scholarly activities, student experiential learning, and University outreach. The work made possible by such funding supports the core values of Illinois State University, most directly the values of Learning and Scholarship, Civic Engagement, and Collaboration. Furthermore, the research, creative activities, and educational outreach made possible by such external support are integral parts of the University's Strategic Directions, Objectives, and Actions outlined in *Educate•Connect•Elevate*.

Summary

External support for sponsored projects at Illinois State University totaled \$28.5 million in FY19, the third straight year of double-digit percentage increases, and the second-highest level of funding ever. Only FY11 had a higher amount awarded (\$36.9 million), when a \$15.3 million grant was awarded to establish the Central Illinois Broadband Network (CIRBN). The \$28.5 million awarded in FY19 represents an increase of 17.7% from FY18, 49.2% from FY17, and 71.8% from FY16.

The Colleges receiving the most external funding in FY19 were the College of Education (\$13.6 million), the College of Arts and Sciences (\$7.5 million), and the Mennonite College of Nursing (\$2.1 million).

Additionally, in FY19:

- A total of over \$1.9 million in indirect costs were recovered through University grants and contracts. These funds provide additional services in support of research, scholarship, and creative activities, plus they support initiatives designed to increase external funding.
- Three agencies provided over half of the total funding: the U.S. Department of Education (\$8.6 million), the Illinois State Board of Education (\$5.1 million), and the National Science Foundation (\$4.4 million).

- The three academic units receiving the highest amount of external funding in FY19 were the Department of Educational Administration and Foundations (\$8.7 million), the School of Biological Sciences (\$3.5 million), and the Department of Special Education (\$2.2 million).

Data Summary

The following table details sponsored project funding for FY19 and FY18. The numbers of awards/submissions for each item are included in parentheses.

	FY19	FY18
Total Awards	\$28,536,306 (143)*	\$24,237,476 (209)
Federal Awards	17,754,982 (53)	12,915,365 (35)
Federal Flow-Through	6,929,681 (31)	5,784,719 (36)
State Awards	2,252,484 (21)	2,374,834 (26)
Other	1,599,159 (38)*	3,162,558 (112)
Submissions	\$44,856,650 (171)*	\$44,021,366 (257)
Total Indirect Costs Recovered	\$1,973,432	\$1,745,355

*Beginning with FY19 graduate practicum agreements will no longer be included in these totals. For comparison purposes, the FY18 totals included 50 graduate practicums totaling \$421,850.

Current Initiatives

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies strives to provide resources and administrative support for faculty, staff, and students involved in research and other grant-supported activities. Each of these initiatives is aligned with *Educate•Connect•Elevate*, and the Strategic Plan for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression.

- **Launching the Office of Student Research.** The Office of Student Research (OSR), formally launched in the fall semester of 2019, organizes and coordinates efforts to promote, support, and publicize student research and innovation. In its inaugural year, OSR will provide research fellowships for undergraduates, sponsor an *Image of Research* competition for undergraduate and graduate students, and equip a Virtual Reality/Extended Reality lab in Julian Hall. The Office will also work with faculty and students to create research opportunities for current and prospective students, as opportunities to engage with faculty on in-depth research projects are known to enhance learning and improve student retention.
- **Formation of the Illinois State University Hub of the Illinois Innovation Network.** In the spring of 2019, ISU joined with the other public universities to create the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN). The ISU Hub, currently under development, will leverage University and community expertise to develop a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development. Key strategies to accomplish this goal will involve the creation of a community makerspace/educational center in partnership with the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology (CeMaST), and the startup incubator to be located in the upcoming Trail East building in Uptown Normal.
- **Unified Administrative Support for Research.** In March of 2019, Grants Accounting, formerly of the Comptroller’s Office, joined Research and Sponsored Programs, with the combined office reporting to the Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. The integration of these two offices into a single entity will help streamline processes and reduce the administrative burden on faculty seeking and managing external funding. The goal is to create a “one-stop shop” with consistent messaging and a service level that better meets faculty needs.

Additional Ongoing Activities

- **Increased Funding for University Research Grants.** The Office of Research and Graduate Studies has increased its funding for research that will lead to new external grant applications. In the round of University Research Grants that were submitted in FY19, the Office added over \$120,000 from its share of recovered indirect costs, bringing the total funding for University Research Grants to over \$460,000—the highest level since FY03. These added funds are earmarked for research that will strengthen grant

applications submitted to external agencies, which should lead to improved funding rates and additional external support for faculty, student, and staff research efforts.

- **Redbird Scholar.** This biannual publication focused on research and creative expression is funded by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and produced by University Marketing and Communications. *Redbird Scholar* serves as one of the primary channels for raising public awareness of the outstanding research and creative activities occurring at ISU.
- **Faculty Publication/Exhibit Support and Book Subvention Program.** The Office of Research and Graduate Studies provides matching funds in support of publication charges, open access fees, exhibition costs, and book subvention costs for publications/exhibits and books resulting from faculty research and creative activities.
- **Travel Award Program.** Funds are provided to support faculty travel to meet with agency program officers, to collect preliminary data, or to meet with collaborators at other institutions. A required outcome of this travel is the submission of a grant proposal to an external agency. Travel is arranged and coordinated by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.