



# Board of Trustees

Research and Innovation,  
Legal and Legislative Affairs  
Committee

*November 9, 2023*

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee**  
**11:15 a.m. – Thursday – November 9, 2023**  
**Board of Trustees Room**  
**Altgeld Hall 315**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2. Verification of Quorum and Appropriate Notification of Public Meeting
- 3. Meeting Agenda Approval.....*Action*..... i
- 4. [Review and Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2023](#).....*Action*..... 1
- 5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
- 6. Public Comment\*
- 7. University Reports
  - a. [State Legislative Report](#)..... *Information*.....4
  - b. [Federal Relations Report](#) ..... *Information*.....5
  - c. [Sponsored Programs Administration Quarterly Report](#)..... *Information*.....6
  - d. [Alignment with the IBHE’s Thriving Illinois Growth Goals](#)..... *Information*.....25
- 8. Other Matters
- 9. Next Meeting Date
- 10. Adjournment

\*Individuals wishing to make an appearance before the Board should consult the [Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University](#), Article II, Section 4 – *Appearances before the Board*. Appearance request forms can be completed [online](#) in advance of the meeting or will be available in the Board Room the day of the meeting. For more information contact Crystal Doyle, ccoppel@niu.edu, Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Altgeld Hall 300, DeKalb, IL 60115, 815-753-1273.

**Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in the NIU Board of Trustees meetings should contact Crystal Doyle, ccoppel@niu.edu or (815) 753-1273, as soon as possible.**

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs**  
**Committee Meeting**  
August 24, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:52 a.m. by Committee Chair Veronica Herrero in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Rachel Jurs-Lauderdale conducted a roll call of the Trustees.

Committee Vice Chair Rita Athas: Absent     Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present  
Trustee John Butler: Present                     Trustee Montel Gayles: Present  
Trustee Tim Moore: Present                     Committee Chair Veronica Herrero: Present  
Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Also present were President Lisa Freeman; Committee Liaison and Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Yvonne Harris; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Chief Strategy Officer and Liaison to the Board of Trustees Matt Streb; Assistant Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs Dara Little. Present virtually are Director of State Relations, Katie Davison and Director for Federal Relations, Julia Rowe.

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

General Counsel Bryan Perry indicated the appropriate notification of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Mr. Perry also advised that a quorum was present.

**MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 11, 2023. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Board Chair Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Herrero welcomed any University Advisory Committee Members. She also welcomed Yvonne Harris as the newest member of the Committee. Chair Herrero acknowledged that the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships has an incredible team and recognized Dara Little and her department report indicating a 35% increase in funding year over year.

Chair Herrero congratulated Jada Samuels for her 1<sup>st</sup> place finish and \$7,000 win at the DePaul University Pitch Madness Competition. Jada is a management major in the College of Business and shared her vision to create Jada Juice as a way to support generational health with an emphasis on plant based products.

Chair Herrero shared that Governor Pritzker has made the electric vehicle industry a priority for Illinois. We are challenged with building out the infrastructure and talent pipeline with equity and inclusion. Governor Pritzker along with other leaders met in Decatur IL, to break ground on

TCCI's electric vehicle innovation hub. NIU is one of the universities who is participating in building this pipeline through an articulation agreement with Richmond Community College. Through this agreement, students will be able to seamlessly transfer credits and enter directly into the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, as well as the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Computer Science and Chemistry programs. According to President Freeman, NIU will offer new world class training academies in electrification.

Chair Herrero shared that we will be hearing from Dr. Thomas Skuzinski about impacting Illinois communities through sustainability policy.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Committee Chair Herrero introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Bryan Perry confirmed that no public comments were received.

## **UNIVERSITY REPORTS**

Committee Chair Herrero asked Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Dr. Yvonne Harris, to provide an update from the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships. Dr. Yvonne Harris reported that she had no additional information to add other than the congratulations to student, Jada Samules.

### **Agenda Item 7.a. – State Legislative Report**

Ms. Katie Davison, Director of State Relations reported virtually to share remarks. Katie shared that during the slowed summer session, she is taking the opportunity to schedule on campus meetings with legislators, provide legislative summaries, and plan the coming year. She is getting ready for the fall veto session that takes place October 24-26 and November 7-9. The Governor has vetoed a few bills, but we do not anticipate that those will impact higher education. We are collaborating with sister institutions to develop a higher education legislative agenda which will build on successful work from previous sessions. Our House Representative Lance Yednock announced he will not seek reelection. NIU will see new representation in the House for the 104<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

### **Agenda Item 7.b. – Federal Relations Report**

Ms. Julia Rowe, Director for Federal Relations reported virtually. Julia shared the appropriations update and reported both the House of Representatives and the Senate were in recess for August break. She shared that when they return to session in September there is a list of priorities which includes passing twelve appropriation bills to fund the federal government for fiscal year 2024. There is a likelihood that we will see a government shutdown due to ongoing negotiations at the end of the fiscal year November 1. If the government does reach an agreement, we will likely see flat spending and budget cuts across the board. We are working to prevent a majority bill from passing that would eliminate the work study program and other cuts that would result in millions of reductions for student programs. These programs are important to us as many students rely on these to fund their education.

### **Agenda Item 7.c. Sponsored Programs Administration Quarterly Report**

The Committee reviewed the sponsored program administration quarterly written report submitted by Assistant Vice President Dara Little. No questions were raised.

### **Agenda Item 7.d. – Faculty Presentation**

Dr. Thomas Skuzinski, Associate Professor and Director for the Institute for the Study of Environment, Sustainability and Energy presented about impacting Illinois communities through

sustainability policy. To summarize, we want everyone to benefit from economic impacts without harming future generations.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Committee Chair Herrero asked if there were other matters to come before the Committee. Vice President and General Counsel, and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry briefed the Board regarding the Supreme Court case *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard and the University of North Carolina, et al.* This information is just to make us aware of the case and the Supreme Court ruling on June 29. The basis of the case is that institutions cannot use race as a factor for admission if you receive federal funding.

The ruling indicates there is no support for race conscious admissions including to achieve racial diversity. Race neutral strategies are permissible; however, they may not be used for admission. Outreach, recruitment, and collection of race information is permissible to achieve the mission of achieving a diverse campus. The Supreme court shared their opinion indicating that admissions or anything that flows from that should not be determined by race. There was no information shared about race based or targeted scholarships. There are still open questions about financial aid and scholarship that we will continue to watch.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Committee Chair Herrero noted that the next meeting will be held on November 9, 2023.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to adjourn. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

Committee Chair Herrero asked Ms. Jurs-Lauderdale to conduct a roll call vote.

Committee Vice Chair Rita Athas: Absent      Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Tim Moore: Present

Committee Chair Veronica Herrero: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Rachel Jurs-Lauderdale

Recording Secretary

*In compliance with Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq, a verbatim record of all Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees meetings is maintained by the Board Recording Secretary and is available for review upon request. The minutes contained herein represent a true and accurate summary of the Board proceedings.*

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

### **IBHE Big Picture Meeting**

On October 17, NIU participated in the annual Big Picture Meeting with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). NIU framed the presentation around the nine strategies for growth from IBHE's strategic plan, a Thriving Illinois. President Freeman, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Elish-Piper, and Vice President Jensen outlined our clear alignment with the economic and workforce development, pathways to higher education, and student success strategies. Vice President and CFO Middlemist presented a draft maintenance budget. Additionally, NIU outlined our legislative priorities for the 2024 spring legislative session.

### **2024 Legislative Agenda**

- Predictable, adequate, equitable, and stable funding.
- Multi-year capital support for maintenance, renewal and enhancement of facilities.
- Increased transfer pathways through innovative partnerships.
- Regulatory reform to promote operational efficiencies.
- Flexibility within the AIM HIGH and MAP programs to support student financial needs outside of tuition and fees.

### **State Relations Engagement**

Over the past few months NIU has hosted several legislators on campus to provide updates on student enrollment, highlight successes, share budget and capital challenges, and request continued support for higher education. Director Davison also visited area legislators in both Elgin and Rockford.

- Senator Sue Rezin
- Representative Lance Yednock
- Senator Mike Halpin (co-chair of Senate Higher Education Committee)
- Senator Christina Castro
- Senator Carrina Villa
- Senator Steve Stadelman
- Senator Dave Syverson
- Representative Maura Hirschauer
- Representative Maurice West
- Representative Dave Vella

Meetings continue to be scheduled with NIU caucus members and Senate and House leadership.

### **Veto Session**

The House and Senate will convene October 24-26 and November 7-9, 2023, for fall veto session. No legislation impacting higher education is expected to be introduced during veto session.

## **FEDERAL RELATIONS REPORT**

This report covers the period from September to October 2023.

### **Congressional Update**

On October 25, Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA) was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives after Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) was removed as Speaker in October, leaving the House unable to bring legislation to the floor for a vote for more than two weeks. With a new Speaker elected the House will resume regular order.

### **Appropriations Update**

The government is operating under a continuing resolution (CR), funding the government at fiscal year 2023 levels until November 17. The status of NIU's priorities including congressional directed funding requests, key programs impacting higher education Title IV and research funding for FY24 remain uncertain.

### **Legislative Update**

Section 117: On October 11, Rep. Virginia Fox (R-NC) introduced the Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions (DETERRENT) Act, modifying Section 117 of the Higher Education Act which requires foreign gift reporting for institutions of higher education. The DETERRENT Act would lower the reporting threshold from \$250,000 to \$50,000, require disclosures of gifts to individual staff and faculty at research-heavy institutions, and includes penalties for noncompliant universities, including loss of Title IV funding. The bill has not received a hearing or been reported out of the House Education and Workforce Committee.

### **Biden Administration and Agency Update**

FAFSA: The new FAFSA, mandated by the FAFSA Simplification Act, has been delayed from its original October 1 implementation date. The Department of Education plans to launch the form in December. An exact date has not been announced yet.

Title IX: The Department of Education has not transmitted its final Title IX rule to the Office of Management and Budget for review. This is a critical step before the final rule can be issued. Advocacy groups are pushing for the Biden Administration to release the rule so it can be implemented by the 2024-2025 academic year.

Accountability Rules: The Department of Education is preparing to release another package of regulations, building upon the rule package from June, this package could include Financial Responsibility, Administrative Capability, Certification Procedures, and Ability to Benefit, to give agency regulators new tools around accountability. The proposal includes new requirements for colleges to clearly display information in financial aid awards including the total cost of attendance and net price and transcript withholding. The Department has confirmed they will meet the November 1 regulatory deadline to have the finalized rule go into effect in July 2024.

### **Courts Update**

On September 13, a Judge in the Southern District of Texas ruled that DACA was unlawful but fell short of putting an immediate end to the program. This ruling rests on an earlier decision from October 2022 from the U.S. Court of Appeals in the Fifth Circuit. Current DACA recipients status remains unchanged and can continue to renew their status.

### SPONSORED PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION QUARTERLY REPORT

In the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, NIU acquired a total of 63 sponsored awards totaling \$13.6M. These awards were distributed as follows: \$8M for research, \$3.1M for instruction, and \$2.5M for other sponsored activities (OSA) (Figure 1). Despite a 21% decrease over the same period last year, that period included two State of Illinois multiyear awards totaling \$7.8 million<sup>1</sup>. Research funding for this quarter surged by 121% and instructional funding increased by 9%. OSA funding decreased by 77%, primarily due to the two State of Illinois awards mentioned previously.

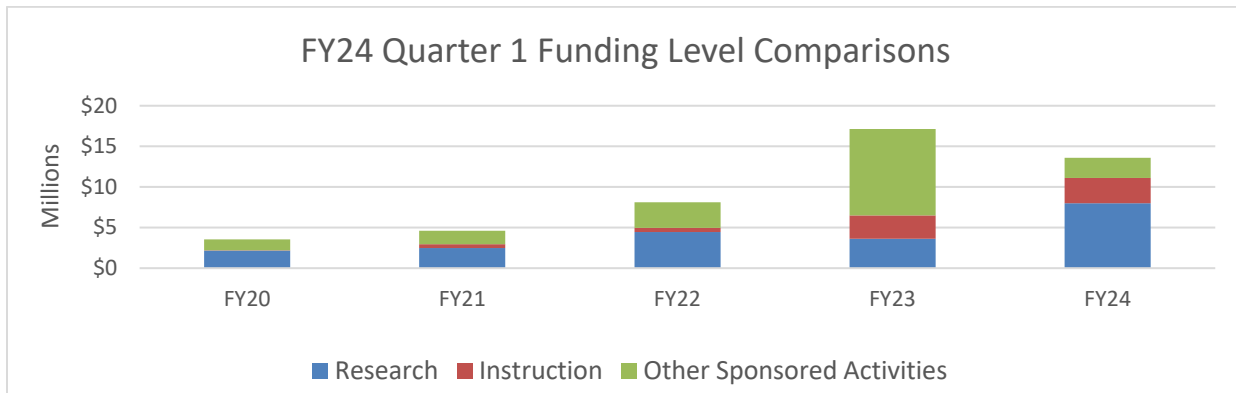


Figure 1

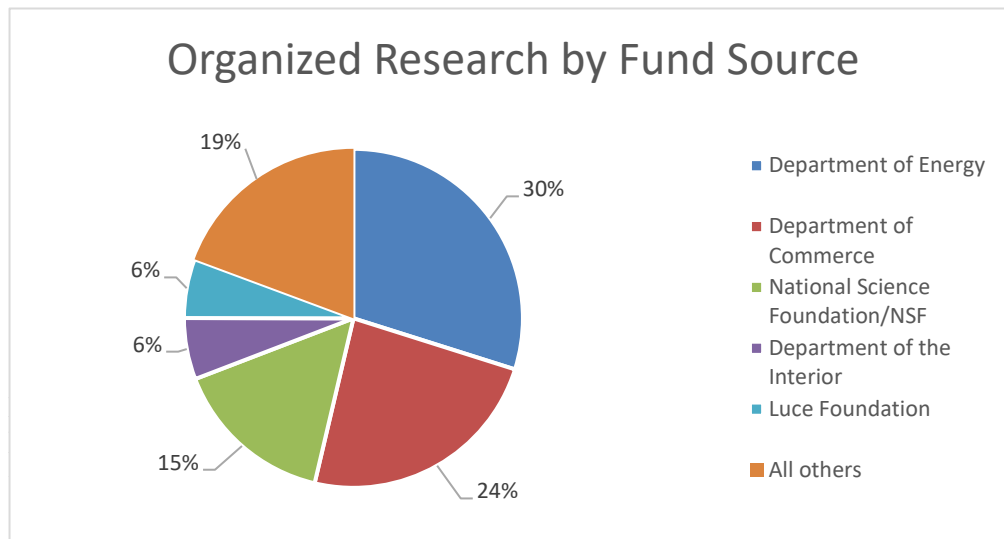


Figure 2

Note: Other category includes agencies contributing 1%-5% of the total. Amounts based on originating fund source.

The Department of Energy and the Department of Commerce provided just over half of all funding for Organized Research (Figure 2). Department of Energy funding (\$2.3M) is supporting research and research training programs in the Departments of

<sup>1</sup> All figures include COVID 19 relief funding. Per the FY 23 Qtr. 4 report SPA will no longer break these totals out for the Board reports. Additional informational available upon request.



Physics and Mechanical Engineering. And furthering our collaborations with area Department of Energy laboratories, Argonne National Laboratory extended its support to 6 faculty members across the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Computer Science; Earth, Atmosphere and Environment; and Mechanical Engineering for joint appointments and research projects. The Department of Commerce support (\$1.9M) continues NIU's participation as an Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) site. Various disciplines also received support (\$1.2M) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for projects in Biological Sciences; Chemistry and Biochemistry; Earth, Atmosphere and Environment; and Physics.

Funding from the Department of Interior will strengthen NIU's research capacity with a \$467K cooperative agreement between NIU and the agency to move the local U.S. Geological Survey team onto campus to support research opportunities between faculty, students, and the agency. Funding this quarter also includes \$450K from the Henry Luce Foundation to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies to explore Asian American communities and connections in Southeast Asia to foster a greater understanding of Southeast Asians in the U.S. and generate teaching in response to the Illinois TEACH Act.

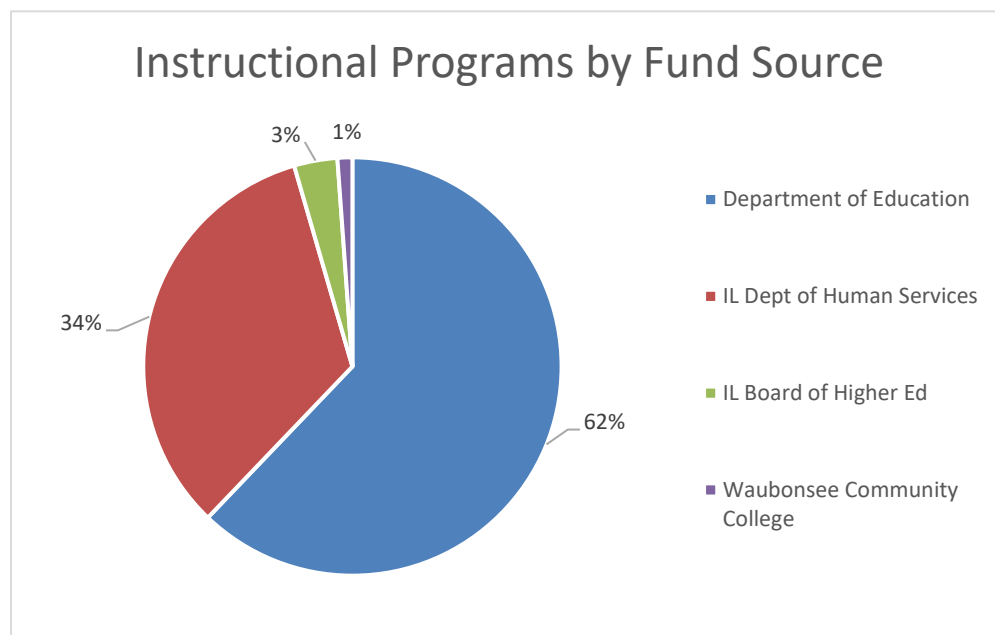


Figure 3  
Note: Amounts based on originating fund source.

Most of the Instructional funding received this quarter is to continue existing programs; the Department of Education and the Illinois Department of Human Services provided most of this support (Figure 3). The Department of Education is supporting multiple visual rehabilitation training programs in the Department

of Special Education including a new \$250K award for Project Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) that will prepare diverse scholars in an orientation and mobility program to serve children with visual impairments and high intensity needs.

The Department of Psychology secured \$250K for continuing training funds also from the Department of Education for Project Prevent and Address Bullying Behavior at All Tiers (PPABB) to recruit, train, and graduate 12 school psychology and 12 special educator scholars with specialized interdisciplinary training in addressing bullying with expertise in applied behavior analysis. In the College of Education, an additional \$1.3M of Department of Education funding

was received through the Illinois Board of Higher Education to continue the Illinois Tutoring Initiative.

The College of Health and Human Science’s School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions secured additional funding (\$1M) from the Illinois Department of Human Services to continue the Peer Recovery Training program that trains individuals with a lived experience of mental illness and/or substance use disorders to become certified mental health professionals.

Direct funding (\$105K) from the Illinois Board of Higher Education continues support for the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty (DFI) program this fiscal year.

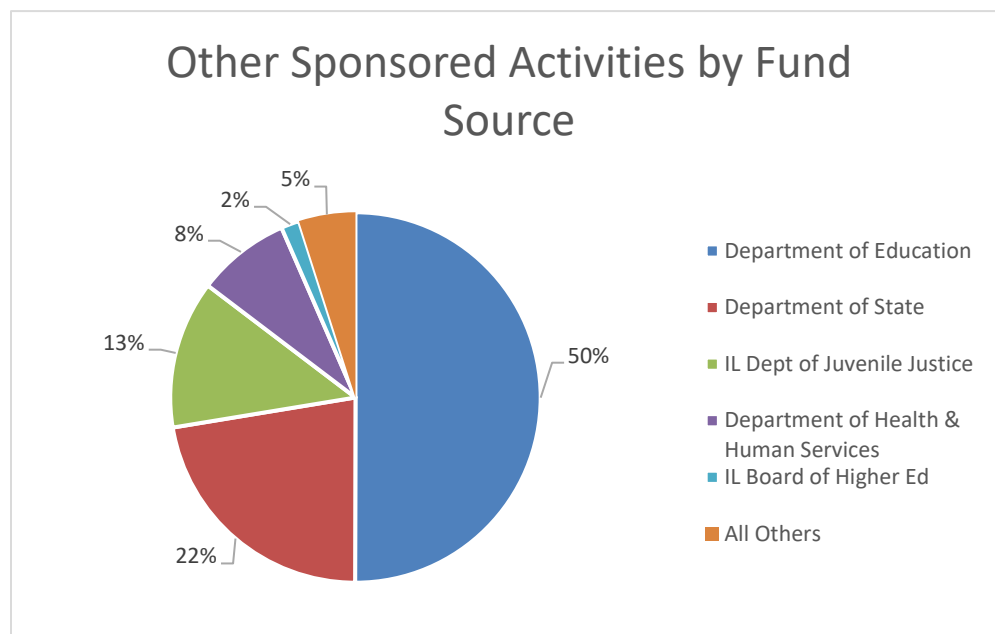


Figure 4  
Note: Other category includes agencies contributing 1% to the total.  
Amounts based on originating funding source.

The Department of Education and Department of State provided most of the funding for Other Sponsored Activities (Figure 4). The Department of Education provided additional funding of \$757K to the College of Health and Human Science’s School of Family and Consumer

Sciences Child Development and Family Center to provide campus-based, high-quality childcare services to low-income student families. This support is instrumental in enabling parents to pursue higher education. Other funding from the agency includes \$291K to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies to support foreign language fellowships for graduate and undergraduate students.

Locally, the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice provided \$317K to faculty in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education to deliver sport leadership programming within Illinois Juvenile Facilities as part of Project Flex and Governor’s State University authorized \$31K in National Science Foundation funding to NIU for our partnerships in the NSF ENGINES program; this funding supports the Smart Logistics Engine (SLE) project to plan and implement regional community events to improve understanding of barriers to workforce development, amplify unheard voices of stakeholders, and connect SLE research to workforce implementation.

NIU’s Education Systems Center received \$200K in Department of Health and Human Services support through the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to support workforce development in early childhood education.

Across various colleges, significant increases were observed for this current quarter. See Table 1 below. The 384% increase in funding for Other Academic Units is due to the \$1.9M in funding mentioned previously for the Department of Commerce/Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center managed through the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships.

Likewise, the College of Health and Human Sciences recorded a significant uptick of 270%. This increase is primarily due to the instructional award of \$1M from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions and \$757K for the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, both mentioned previously.

Table 1

College	Organized Research	Instructional Activities	Other Sponsored Activities	FY24 - 1st Qtr. Totals	FY23 - 1st Qtr. Totals	% Change
Business	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$-	\$-	0%
Education	\$273,863.44	\$1,700,000.00	\$329,725.00	\$2,303,588.44	\$2,147,478.74	7%
Engineering & Engineering Technology	\$1,049,358.11	\$ -	\$15,304.20	\$1,064,662.31	\$636,107.28	67%
Health and Human Sciences	\$ 216,072.00	\$1,046,666.00	\$756,853.00	\$2,019,591.00	\$ 545,378.00	270%
Law	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Liberal Arts and Sciences	\$3,917,015.09	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 877,340.69	\$5,044,355.78	\$ 4,874,471.35	3%
Visual and Performing Arts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,600.00	\$ 10,600.00	\$ 9,500.00	12%
Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development	\$ 157,500.00	\$ -	\$ 429,100.00	\$ 586,600.00	\$ 8,369,988.40	-93%
Other Academic Units	\$2,367,840.58	\$ 141,046.00	\$ -	\$2,508,886.58	\$ 518,261.00	384%
Other University Units	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,433.00	\$ 39,433.00	\$ 36,000.00	10%
<b>Total</b>	\$7,981,649.22	\$3,137,712.00	\$2,458,355.89	\$13,577,717.11	\$17,137,184.77	-21%

A full listing of all sponsored awards received for the first quarter follows.

## ANTHROPOLOGY

*Primate Conservation, Inc. for "Nutritional Niche Separation Amongst Sympatric Threatened Lemurs: The Role of Micronutrients in Food Selection and Physiologic Health." Mitch Irwin.*

Award: \$2,900.00.

May 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The project will provide a novel approach to studying community ecology and niche separation among mineral consumption between three sympatric lemur species, Hap lemur griseus, Propithecus diadem, and EU lemur fulvus.

## ART MUSEUM

***Illinois Arts Council for "Art Museum Support." Josephine E Burke.***

Award: \$10,600.00.

September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

This award will support ongoing exhibits and operating costs for the NIU Art Museum.

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

***Department of Agriculture for "Identification of Regulatory Genes in A. Flavus that are Involved in Mycotoxin Production, Morphogenesis, and Virulence." Ana Calvo.***

Award: \$35,000.00. Cumulative \$135,000.00.

June 3, 2023 - June 2, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of this project is to further the understanding of the signaling pathways involved in the production of mycotoxins and fungal development and the role of VeA in fungal virulence.

***National Science Foundation/NSF for "On the Ground and From Above: A Multi-Scale Analysis of the Factors Influencing Small Mammal Populations in a Restored Tallgrass Prairie." Holly Jones/Erin Rowland-Schaefer.***

Award: \$17,780.00.

September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This proposal intends to determine the landscape factors that influence the population patterns of tallgrass prairie small mammals and investigate the most effective methods to teach landscape ecology in undergraduate classes.

***National Science Foundation/NSF for "CAREER: Ecological and Evolutionary Drivers in an Invasive Host-Parasite System." Jennifer A Koop.***

Award: \$59,604.00. Cumulative \$251,648.00.

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The proposed body of research aims to better understand how and why some parasite species are successful at invading new habitats and hosts.

***Directorate for Biological Sciences/NSF for "Collaborative Research: RoL: Impacts of Plants and Communities on Soil Microbial Composition and Function Across Phylogenetic Scales." Wesley D Swingley.***

Award: \$79,998.00. Cumulative \$488,040.00.

June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

We will combine sampling in a controlled biodiversity experiment and in the field, exometabolomic plant measurements and manipulations, and machine learning approaches to forecast microbial community structure and function.

### **CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES**

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for "Climate and Equity Jobs Act Workforce Training Programs." Brian W Richard.*

Award: \$157,500.00. Cumulative \$315,000.00.

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

CGS is responsible for participating in, and leading portions of, a multi-university partnership to ensure successful launch of DCEO's Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), workforce development initiatives.

### **CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES**

*Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs/Department of State for "Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program 2022-2025." Judy L Ledgerwood.*

Award: \$549,999.76. Cumulative \$1,100,000.34.

September 17, 2022 - September 30, 2025. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

This project will fund 60 students from ASEAN nations visiting the U.S. and learning about civic engagement and good governance.

*Luce (Henry) Foundation, Inc. for "Expressions of Global Asia: Southeast Asian Americans in Illinois." Judy L Ledgerwood.*

Award: \$450,000.00.

August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2028. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will explore Asian American communities and connections in Southeast Asia, foster greater understanding of Southeast Asians in the U.S. and generate teaching in response to the Illinois TEACH Act.

*Asia Foundation for "Council on Thai Studies Conference." Judy L Ledgerwood.*

Award: \$5,000.00.

August 29, 2023 - November 23, 2023. (Other Sponsored Activities) Conference.

This funding will support the holding of a desired panel at the Council on Thai Studies Conference held October 2023.

***Office of Postsecondary Education/Department of Education for "2022 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)." Judy L Ledgerwood.***

Award: \$291,148.00. Cumulative \$582,296.00.

August 15, 2023 - August 14, 2024. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

This funding will support 6 graduate FLAS fellows and 4 undergraduate FLAS fellows during the academic year and 5 graduate fellows and 4 undergraduate fellows for summer study.

## **CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

***Kansas State University for "Collection of Intimate Partner Violence Incident Data." Joel S Milner/Joe A Ammar/Julie L Crouch.***

Award: \$50,000.00. Cumulative \$175,000.00.

April 30, 2023 - April 29, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will use an Automated Telephone Data Collection (ATDC) system to collect data from study participants to determine the extent to which new incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV) occur following an alleged incident of IPV.

## **CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**

***National Science Foundation/NSF for "Collaborative Research: Rational Design of Ni/Ga Intermetallic Compounds for Efficient Light Alkanes Conversion Through Ammonia Reforming." Tao Li.***

Award: \$18,000.00. Cumulative \$300,721.00.

October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2025. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The research will test a proposed concept that could allow lower cost, CO<sub>2</sub>-free hydraulic fracturing for the energy industry, which could have major industrial applications and play a pivotal role in ensuring a clean, secure, and affordable energy future.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "University to Argonne Joint Appointment - Tao Li AY 22-23." Tao Li.***

Award: \$90,896.69. Cumulative \$212,016.32.

August 16, 2023 - August 15, 2024. (Organized Research) IPA or Joint Appointment.

The purpose of these funds is to support a joint appointment for Dr. Tao Li with Argonne National Laboratory.

***National Science Foundation/NSF for "Collaborative Proposal: FuSe: Spin Gapless***

***Semiconductors and Effective Spin Injection Design for Spin-Orbit Logic." Tao Li.***

Award: \$239,983.00.

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

This project will develop both materials and devices using spin-gapless Heusler compounds for magneto-electric devices for future energy-efficient logic operation.

***University of Iowa for "Discovery and Development of Antifungal Acetyl CoA Synthetase Inhibitors." Timothy J Hagen.***

Award: \$251,501.00. Cumulative \$749,849.11.

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Our goal is to identify a lead ACS inhibitor scaffold along with a back-up series for further pre-clinical development as broad-spectrum antifungal drug candidates.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "Elucidating Electrochemical Interface via Single Crystal Electrochemistry." Yingwen Cheng/Elizabeth R Gaillard.***

Award: \$12,600.00. Cumulative \$51,595.70.

September 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

This position is primarily defined within the Lead Battery Science Research program, where the project is intended to understand at atomic levels the fundamental limits of lead-acid battery technology and its electrochemical processes.

***American Chemical Society for "Exploring Methane Activation and Conversion on Modified Chevrel phase Chalcogenides." Yingwen Cheng.***

Award: \$46,759.00. Cumulative \$110,000.00.

August 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

We propose a fundamental study on verifying the Chevrel phase chalcogenides as a new class of catalyst materials.

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

***Illinois Board of Higher Education for "Illinois Tutoring Initiative." William A Pitney.***

Award: \$1,300,000.00. Cumulative \$2,804,798.76.

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. (Instructional Programs).

The purpose of the project is to establish a service area in northwest Illinois for the tutoring and

support of K-12 students with academic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**

*Milwaukee Tool for "Master Research Services Agreement." Donald R Peterson.*

Award: \$15,304.20. Cumulative \$49,394.35.

August 16, 2023 - October 15, 2023. (Other Sponsored Activities) Testing/Evaluation.

Master testing agreement with task orders for evaluating vibration reducing gloves and resilient materials in accordance with ISO 10819 international standard.

## **COMMUNICATION**

*Pennsylvania State University for "Licensed to Greenwash? Exploring Sustainability-Driven Prosocial Communication Strategies through the Moral Framework of Corporate Sustainability Communication." Shupei Yuan.*

Award: \$4,560.00.

July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project aims to develop a Moral Framework of Corporate Sustainability Communication among company sustainability types, prosocial communication topics, audience characteristics; and how sustainable companies' strategies are associated with anticipated influences.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

*Argonne National Laboratory for "University to Argonne Joint Appointment - Brian Toonen." Nicholas T Karonis/Joseph Insley/Michael E Papka.*

Award: \$213,352.65. Cumulative \$416,545.65.

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Organized Research) IPA or Joint Appointment.

Funds are being used to support a joint appointment between NIU and Argonne National Laboratory for Mr. Brian Toonen.

## **EARTH, ATMOSPHERE AND ENVIRONMENT**

*Argonne National Laboratory for "University to Argonne Joint Appointment - Brendan Wallace." Brendan C Wallace/Alex M Haberlie.*

Award: \$47,616.75. Cumulative \$99,562.11.

August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024. (Organized Research) IPA or Joint Appointment.

The purpose of these funds is to support a joint appointment for Dr. Brendan Wallace with



Argonne National Laboratory.

***Columbia University for "Investigation of Silicic Acid Supply and Utilization During MIS 11/12 Glacial Termination in Iberian Margin Using Silicon Isotopes in Biogenic Opal." Justin P Dodd/Viviane Dos Santos Rocha.***

Award: \$20,000.00.

August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

PI (Dodd) seeks supplemental funding to cover post-expedition research activities led by a PhD student who participated in Expedition 397 of NSF's International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP).

***National Science Foundation/NSF for "MRI Track 1: Acquisition of Agilent 8700 Laser Direct Infrared (LDIR) Chemical Imaging System." Megan R Brown.***

Award: \$414,523.00.

September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2026. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The goal of this MRI is to foster interdisciplinary research, education, and community engagement to promote understanding of microplastics (MP) and the development of creative and effective solutions to this unsustainable issue.

***National Science Foundation/NSF for "IRES: TransArctic Connections: Linking Alaskan Students with Finnish Arctic Scientists for Research in the Rapidly Changing Arctic." Nathan D Stansell.***

Award: \$75,000.00.

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This 3-year project studies how research experiences influence undergraduate STEM students' academic and career decisions and will help researchers learn more about STEM students' experiences and motivations.

***National Science Foundation/NSF for "Effects of Instructional Analogies on Illusions of Understanding in Introductory Geoscience." Nicole D LaDue.***

Award: \$131,311.00.

August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2027. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This proposal investigates how best to engage students with analogies found in introductory geology texts.

**EDUCATION SYSTEMS CENTER**

***Nebraska Children and Families Foundation for "Nebraska Children & Families Fdn." Sessy Nyman.***

Award: \$200,000.00.

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Building on the work of the Workforce Commission and the SLFTF, this planning process will have a strong focus on developing improved workforce development pathways and stronger financing systems to support high-quality ECCE.

## **EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT**

***School District #205, Rockford for "Computational Making in SAITIS." Pi-Sui Hsu/Eric M Lee.***

Award: \$87,113.44.

August 15, 2023 - August 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The PI will collaborate with middle school science teachers in the Rockford School District and an Assistant Professor in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology at NIU through co-designing Computational Making activities.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

***Governors State University for "NSF Engines: Type-1: Smart Logistics Engine." Thomas S Skuzinski/Yolanda J Clark.***

Award: \$31,192.93.

May 15, 2023 - April 30, 2024. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

In Smart Logistics Engine (SLE), this project will plan and implement regional community events to improve understanding of barriers to workforce development, amplify unheard voices of stakeholders, and connect SLE research to workforce implementation.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

***Office of Postsecondary Education/Department of Education for "NIU CCAMPIS Grant FY2022." Thomas W Pavkov/Kristin E Schulz.***

Award: \$756,853.00. Cumulative \$1,513,706.00.

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. (Other Sponsored Activities) Student Service.

This project allows the Child Development and Family Center to provide low-income student families with high-quality, campus-based childcare to allow the parents to seek higher education.

## **GRADUATE SCHOOL**

***Illinois Board of Higher Education for "Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) FY2024." Jessica Reyman.***

Award: \$105,000.00.

August 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Instructional Programs).

NIU will administer grants awarded by the DFI Program Board to fellows at NIU under the DFI program.

***Waubensee Community College for "Graduate Student Placement at Waubensee Community College FY24." Kerry K Wilks.***

Award: \$36,046.00.

August 1, 2023 - May 15, 2024. (Instructional Programs).

This project provides three Graduate Assistants to Waubensee Community College to work under the Dean of Students in the area of Student Life.

## **HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES**

***Illinois Board of Higher Education for "IBHE FY24 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant." Catherine W Doederlein/Alicia M Schatteman.***

Award: \$39,433.00.

July 26, 2023 - August 31, 2024. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

The purpose of the project is to provide valuable career-related work experiences to students that are applicable to their fields of study.

## **INDUSTRIAL AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING**

***Chalmers St. Consulting for "Improving MSP Operations." Purushothaman Damodaran.***

Award: \$41,606.27.

September 15, 2023 - January 13, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The proposed project aims to improve the overall operations of a facility that receives hardware (i.e., computers) from their clients and works on any customer specified upgrades, repairs, etc. The facility recently moved from Addison, IL to Germantown, WI.

***AGCO Corp. for "Improving Warehouse Operations." Purushothaman Damodaran.***

Award: \$96,788.00. Cumulative \$190,275.00.

September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to improve warehouse inbound and warehouse operations to enhance productivity.

## **KINESIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

***Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice for "Project FLEX - A Sport Leadership Program for Incarcerated Youth." Jennifer M Jacobs.***

Award: \$317,725.00.

August 16, 2023 - August 23, 2024. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

This is a contract to deliver sport leadership programming within Illinois Juvenile Facilities.

***Great Lakes Athletic Trainers' Association (GLATA) for "Piloting Clinical Pilates as a Method to Reduce Concussion-Related Musculoskeletal Disability." Tyler A Wood/Nicholas E Grahovec.***

Award: \$500.00.

August 1, 2023 - May 30, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Concussions cause mobility issues and disability. Neuromuscular re-education may be effective in reducing these. The current project is examining if Clinical Pilates, an easily accessible neuromuscular re-education program, can reduce mobility deficits.

## **LEADERSHIP, EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND FOUNDATIONS**

***National Institutes of Health/NIH/DHHS for "Word Learning and Vocabulary Development in Blind Children." Lindsay N Harris/Allison L Gladfelter.***

Award: \$186,250.00.

September 30, 2023 - July 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project examines how school-age blind children acquire word meanings and develop vocabulary to potentially improve instructional approaches for blind children.

## **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

***Argonne National Laboratory for "Modeling Support to Advance the Performance of Next-generation Batteries at Argonne - GRA Support." Kyu Taek Cho.***

Award: \$13,512.24.

August 16, 2023 - February 15, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Modeling Support to Advance the Performance of Next-generation Batteries at Argonne.

***Office of Science/Department of Energy for "RENEW: Accelerating Underrepresented Engineering Careers through Accelerator Innovations." Nicholas A Pohlman.***

Award: \$850,000.00.

September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Research Training.

The purpose of the project is to provide research and career opportunities in engineering and accelerator science for under-represented students.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "ANL-Graduate Visiting Student (Francis Kim)." Sahar Vahabzadeh.***

Award: \$47,451.60. Cumulative \$92,634.82.

August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The GA will interact with ANL research staff to execute experiments in support of DOE funded programs. The work conducted at Argonne will be part of the student's PhD dissertation.

## **NORTHERN PUBLIC RADIO**

***Illinois Arts Council for "PRTV Operating FY23 WNIJ-FM Summer." Staci Hoste.***

Award: \$9,450.00.

June 25, 2023 - August 31, 2023. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

IACA grant funds enable the people of Illinois to have access to locally operated Public Radio and Television stations that provide unique services to their communities, including local productions, arts programming, education outreach, local & regional.

***Illinois Arts Council for "PRTV Operating FY23 WNIU-FM Summer 2023." Staci Hoste.***

Award: \$9,460.00.

June 25, 2023 - June 24, 2024. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

IACA grant funds enable the people of Illinois to have access to locally operated Public Radio and Television stations that provide unique services to their communities, including local productions, arts programming, education outreach, local & regional.

***Illinois State Library for "Northern Illinois Radio Information Service (NIRIS) FY 24." Staci Hoste.***

Award: \$28,273.00.

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds are used to provide informational services for persons who cannot read conventional print due to visual or physical disability, and because individual libraries cannot provide such services.

## **P-20 CENTER**

***Illinois State Board of Education for "FY24 Migrant Education - Regular Year." Susana A Das Neves.***

Award: \$181,917.00.

August 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Rochelle Migrant Education Program provides recruiting, tutoring, advocacy and other support services and supplies to migrant-eligible children who remain within the local territory after the summer school program.

## **PHYSICS**

***Office of Science/Department of Energy for "Intra-Beam Scattering and Beam Cooling for Circular Modes." Bela Erdelyi.***

Award: \$150,000.00.

September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project aims to develop and benchmark methods that will improve the performance of future particle accelerators used for discovery in nuclear and high-energy physics research.

***Office of Science/Department of Energy for "C<sup>2</sup>-THE-P<sup>2</sup> = Chicagoland Computational Traineeship in High Energy and Particle Physics." Jahred A Adelman/Michael Papka.***

Award: \$540,000.00. Cumulative \$655,000.00.

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Organized Research) Research Training.

This project intends to train physics students at NIU and UIC in instrumentation and detector construction.

***Office of Science/Department of Energy for "Enabling High-Gradients Efficient Wakefield Accelerators with High-Quality Shaped Electron Bunches." Philippe Piot/Xueying Lu.***

Award: \$110,000.00. Cumulative \$330,000.00.

June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The proposal will develop methods to demonstrate efficient electron-beam acceleration in

high-gradient wakefield accelerators. The research will include theoretical, numerical, and experimental investigations.

***Illinois Institute of Technology for "Chicagoland Accelerator Science Traineeship." Philippe Piot/Xueying Lu.***

Award: \$135,000.00. Cumulative \$975,000.00.

September 25, 2023 - September 24, 2024. (Organized Research) Research Training.

Funds are requested to establish the proposed "Chicagoland Accelerator Science Traineeship."

***National Science Foundation/NSF for "Theory and Phenomenology at the Frontiers of the Standard Model." Stephen P Martin.***

Award: \$180,000.00.

August 15, 2023 - July 31, 2026. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The goal of this project is to conduct research that advances the theoretical understanding of the frontiers of the Standard Model of high energy physics.

***Office of Science/Department of Energy for "Innovative High-Frequency Structures for High-Gradient Wakefield Acceleration." Xueying Lu.***

Award: \$174,000.00. Cumulative \$447,000.00.

August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This program will explore a set of new research directions to demonstrate the full potential of structure-based wakefield acceleration at high frequencies with high gradients.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

***Psi Chi: The National Honor Society in Psychology for "Understanding Organizational and Individual Level Motivations' Effect on Impression Formation for Persons with Disabilities in the Workplace." Lauren F Luchetti/Alecia M Santuzzi.***

Award: \$1,500.00.

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The current project attempts to shed light on the mechanisms that can improve the effectiveness of hiring motivations, performance-related judgments, and disability hiring rates in response to the business case for disability.

***Institute of Education Sciences/Department of Education for "A Randomized Pilot Study of Brief Intervention Group Support (BIGS): A Tier 2 Intervention for Students with Social-Emotional and Behavioral (SEB) Concerns." Michelle Demaray/Christine E Malecki.***

Award: \$365,130.00.

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project is a pilot study investigating the effectiveness of the fully developed BIGS Tier 2 intervention on the social, emotional, behavioral, and academic outcomes of students at risk for disabilities.

***Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education for "Project Prevent and Address Bullying Behavior at All Tiers (PPABB)." Michelle Demaray/Christine E Malecki/Jesse W Johnson/Julia A Ogg.***

Award: \$250,000.00. Cumulative \$1,000,000.00.

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. (Instructional Programs).

This project will recruit, train, and graduate 12 school psychology and 12 special educator scholars with specialized interdisciplinary training in addressing bullying with expertise in applied behavior analysis.

## **SCHOOL OF HEALTH STUDIES**

***Northern Illinois Food Bank for "Research and Outreach at the Northern Illinois Food Bank (FY24)." Henna Muzaffar.***

Award: \$30,072.00.

August 15, 2023 - May 15, 2024. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

NIU will provide consultation for the Northern Illinois Food Bank related to research and nutrition education program implementations.

## **SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

***Illinois Department of Public Health for "County Wide BRFSS." Kathryn D Mazurek.***

Award: \$186,000.00. Cumulative \$3,554,486.00.

July 14, 2023 - December 31, 2023. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of this project is for data collection, data management, reporting and technical support on the Illinois County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys.

***Illinois Department of Human Services for "Peer Recovery Training." Paul E Priester.***

Award: \$1,046,666.00.

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Instructional Programs).



This program will train individuals with a lived experience of mental illness and/or substance use disorders to become certified mental health professionals.

## **SPECIAL AND EARLY EDUCATION**

***DeKalb County Mental Health Board for "NIU Penguin Players." Bess Wilson/Joe King.***

Award: \$12,000.00.

August 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds will support local programming for the DeKalb Penguin Players by providing NIU students preparing to become special education teachers the opportunity to work one on one with adults with disabilities through community theater.

***Department of Education for "Project Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI): Preparing Diverse Scholars in an Orientation and Mobility Program to Serve Diverse Children with Visual Impairments and High-Intensity Needs." Stacy M Kelly/Molly A Pasley.***

Award: \$250,000.00.

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. (Instructional Programs).

The purpose of the project is to increase the number and improve the quality of personnel who are certified as orientation and mobility specialists (OMSs).

***Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education for "Preparation of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists and Orientation & Mobility Specialists to Prepare Individuals with Visual Disabilities for the 21st Century Workplace." Stacy M Kelly.***

Award: \$150,000.00. Cumulative \$700,000.55.

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. (Instructional Programs).

The purpose of the project is to train vision rehabilitation therapists (VRT) and orientation and mobility (O&M) instructors to provide services for adults and transition-aged adults with visual disabilities.

## **VP RESEARCH AND INNV PRTNRSHP**

***U.S. Geological Survey/Department of the Interior for "Cooperative Agreement with United States Geological Survey (USGS)." Barrie P Bode/Karinne N Bredberg.***

Award: \$467,700.00.

September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Other.

USGS cooperative agreement to expand USGS' footprint on the NIU campus to expand the collaborative scientific relationship between the agency and the university.

***Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center for "IMEC Year Four FY2024." Yvonne Harris.***

Award: \$1,900,140.58.

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of the five-year project is to perform research services directed toward increasing the productivity and global competitive advantage of regionally-based manufacturing and technology-related firms.

**ALIGNMENT WITH THE IBHE'S THRIVING ILLINOIS GROWTH  
GOALS**

Members of the Senior Leadership Team will give a presentation on “Alignment with the IBHE’s *Thriving Illinois* Growth Goals.”