

Contact: José García | garcia@ibhe.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2024

IBHE Announces Recipients of 76 Nurse Educator Fellowships across Illinois
Fellowships will help retain expert nursing faculty at Illinois institutions

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has awarded 76 nurse educator fellowships, totaling \$760,000, for fiscal year 2024 across the state. The awarded fellowships will help retain well-qualified nursing faculty at institutions of higher education that award degrees that lead to a registered nurse licensure. Retaining qualified nursing faculty will help ensure that nursing students are prepared to enter the workforce and fill a shortage in a critical area of the healthcare workforce. The number of grants awarded nearly doubled from the previous fiscal year due to an increase in funds in Governor JB Pritzker’s fiscal year 2024 budget supported by the General Assembly.

“We are glad Governor JB Pritzker and the General Assembly continue to support the nurse educator fellowships through funding as they are an important strategy in the state’s higher education strategic plan to achieve a thriving Illinois,” **said IBHE Executive Director Ginger Ostro.** “The nurse educator fellows are crucial in helping meet the healthcare workforce needs in our state, and we are committed to continuing working with the institutions to close equity gaps.”

Fellowships were awarded to nurse educators with strong commitments to use fellowship funds to enhance their professional practice in their area of specialty and remain in higher education. Each fellowship is \$10,000, and the funds are salary supplements that may be used for expenses related to professional development and continuing education to enhance the fellow’s practice as a nurse educator, as well as the fellow’s nursing program. This year’s fellows are focusing their fellowship funds on nursing simulation training and instructional development; diversity, equity and inclusion training; development of new curriculum, teaching methods, and research; earning professional certifications and advanced degrees; and attending professional conferences for nurse educators.

Below is the complete list of nurse educator fellowship recipients.

Fellow		Institution
Carolyn	Mistal	Ambria College of Nursing
Susan	Cimino	Ambria College of Nursing
Jamie	Tabrizi	Aurora University
Christina	Cicero	Aurora University
Thomas	Kunstbeck	Aurora University
Joan	Batres	Chamberlain University
Michelle	Sadko	Chamberlain University
Lisette	Mondragon	Chamberlain University
Colleen	Milburn	College of Lake County
Ravinal	Roque	College of Lake County
Stephanie	Byrd	DePaul University
Kashica	Webber-Ritchey	DePaul University

Jonathan	Uebelhor	Dominican University
Lindsay	Roberts	Eastern Illinois University
Nicole	Zeller	Eastern Illinois University
Lisa	Hodson	Elgin Community College
Jennifer	Caringella	Elmhurst University
Jessica	Lamberson	Elmhurst University
Sara	Hollenstain	Heartland Community College
Crystal	Reynolds	Heartland Community College
Susana	Calderon	Illinois State University
Kelly	Rosecrans	Illinois State University
Cherrill	Stockmann	Illinois State University
Cathy	Lenkaitis	Illinois Valley Community College
Stephanie	Moore	Illinois Wesleyan
Shelby	Guthrie	Kaskaskia College
Katy	Knolhof	Kaskaskia College
Tarah	Haskenherm	Lake Land College
Katelyn	Bloemer	Lake Land College
Jennifer	Bosworth	Lewis University
Cynthia	Hinojosa	Lewis University
Jeanine	Haberman	Lewis University
Joi	Kazenski	Lincoln Land Community College
Casey	Hoenes	Lincoln Land Community College
Eric	Zack	Loyola University
Tracey	Hosack-Bartnick	Loyola University
Demetris	Hogan	Loyola University
Ines	Guillen	Malcolm X College
Dawn	Wilson	Malcolm X College
Theresa	Schwindenhammer	Methodist College
Taylor	Rogy	Methodist College
Audra	Trump	Millikin University
Angela	Lafrenz	Millikin University
Kelly	Slade	Millikin University
Jacinda	Ross	Moraine Valley Community College
Kelli	Nickols	Moraine Valley Community College
Alicia	Cardona	Morton College
Julianne	Herrmann	Morton College
Kristina	King	North Park University
Janna	Woodard	Northern Illinois University
Anitha	Saravanan	Northern Illinois University
Alyse	Flury	Northern Illinois University
Teresa	Kirwan	Oakton College
Danielle	Coleman	Prairie State College
Karen	Black-Vetter	Rockford University
Caryn	Ruzic	Rockford University
Tristan	Banks	Rush University College of Nursing
Nancy	Bailey	Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing
Bettianne	Casper	Saint John's College of Nursing
Cheryl	Pope	Saint John's College of Nursing

Courtenay	Vihtelic	Saint Xavier University
Erica	Blumenstock	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Debra	Penrod	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Amy	Kief	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Devon	Bennett	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Amy	Reed	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Karla	Arnotti	Southwestern Illinois College
Misty	Dickey	Southwestern Illinois College
Tina	Decker	Trinity Christian College
Pamela	Smith	University of Illinois Chicago
Dawn	Sarginson	University of Illinois Chicago
Amy	Johnson	University of Illinois Chicago
Tracy	Limbrunner	Waubensee Community College
Sharon	Erickson	Waubensee Community College
Kaila	Fox	Western Illinois University
Ashley	Frederick	Western Illinois University

#