



Illinois Board of Higher Education

Pat Quinn, Governor

Carrie J. Hightman, Chairwoman • G. W. Reid, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Renewal Applicants for the 2012-2013 DFI Fellowship Program

FROM: Arthur Sutton, Deputy Director Diversity and Outreach

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur Sutton".

DATE: January 5, 2012

RE: Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI)
2012-2013 Renewal Application Materials

The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Program Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) are pleased to announce the release of the 2012-2013 Renewal Application for the DFI Fellowship Program. For more than 21 years, the DFI program and its predecessor programs have provided competitive need-based financial awards to underrepresented students who have earned graduate degrees (master's or doctoral) from a participating Illinois higher education institution.

Accompanying this memorandum are the 2012-2013 renewal application materials for the DFI Program. Completed application materials must be submitted to the DFI Institutional Representative at the participating institution on or before **February 17, 2012, 5:00 p.m. CST**. A complete list of the DFI Institutional Representatives can be found on the DFI website at: <http://www.ibhe.org/DFI/instRep.asp>. It is important that renewal applicants contact the DFI Institutional Representative at their institution to determine if other internal submission deadlines have been established. Incomplete applications or applications submitted after February 17, 2012 will not be considered. **If you will not be renewing your Fellowship in 2012-2013, please let us know and the reason.**

Due to the state's budget condition and the uncertainty of the FY2013 state budget, the DFI Program Board is uncertain of the exact amount of the Fellowship award. The DFI Program Board is committed to full funding. Because of funding cuts to the DFI program the past two years, the DFI Program Board voted to fund renewals at \$14,000 and new Fellows at \$10,000 in FY2012. Program funding for the 2012-2013 academic year (FY2012) is contingent on the availability of funds appropriated by the Governor and Illinois General Assembly.

DFI renewal applicants should contact their DFI Institutional Representative to review their eligibility status. The DFI Institutional Representative must certify that an applicant remains eligible and meets the DFI renewal criteria. To begin the renewal process, an applicant will be asked to enter general biographical information via an online system found at the following link:

<http://www.ibhe.org/OGA/DFI/renew.asp?Y=2013&C=DFI&T=R>

Renewal applicants who have not registered via the online renewal system and received an application number will not be accepted. Do not send in hardcopy renewal applications without completing the online renewal process. Please be reminded that renewal applicants are required to **enroll full time** while receiving this fellowship.

There are two new requirements for 2012-2013. It is important for current renewal Fellows and alumni Fellows to complete an annual online survey so the IBHE can respond to questions from Legislators about the continued success and placement of Fellows. Your participation is related to the success and continuation of this important program.

You must have completed the annual online survey before you can renew. If you have not, please do so now at:

Link to online survey <http://www.ibhe.org/OGA/DFI/survey/login.asp>

For Fellows who will be receiving their final year of funding through the DFI program, we ask that you provide the IBHE with changes to your contact information such as e-mail addresses and phone numbers in order that we can keep in touch with you in the future.

E-mail those changes to DFI@ibhe.org

Completed 2012-2013 DFI Renewal Application forms must be submitted directly to the DFI Institutional Representative on or before February 17, 2012.

Thank you for your interest in the DFI program for 2012-2013. For questions regarding the renewal application process, please contact the DFI Institutional Representative at a participating institution or Dr. Arthur Sutton, Deputy Director Diversity and Outreach at (217)557-7347 or via e-mail: DFI@ibhe.org.

cc: Institutional Representative