**Section 2400.40 Determining and Administering Awards**

a) In determining the recipients of the awards, the Consortium Board shall consider:

1) whether students are enrolled full-time in doctoral programs or admitted to other traditionally recognized terminal degree programs, i.e., programs leading to career positions for which no further degree is necessary such as the Master of Fine Arts degree;

2) for master's degree programs nominees, whether students express the clear intent to pursue doctoral education or enroll in programs leading to careers in higher education; and

3) the disciplines and fields of study, other financial aid programs that are available to minority students and the number of years normally required for the graduate or professional program in which the student is enrolled.

b) In determining the recipients of awards, the Consortium Board shall:

1) consider only members of traditionally underrepresented minority groups who are underrepresented in particular fields of study;

2) favor recipients who received awards in previous years who maintain conditions of eligibility as enumerated in Section 2400.30(b), and have made satisfactory academic progress toward a degree, as determined by each institution, provided that no student shall receive assistance for more than four years.

c) A full-time student is eligible for the maximum annual award. A student enrolled at least half-time but less than full-time is eligible for one-half of the maximum annual award.

d) In administering the award, the Consortium Board shall:

1) direct the Board to deliver the awards to the institution to disburse to the recipients, conditioned upon the recipients' satisfactory academic progress; and

2) attempt to achieve distribution of the awards among participating institutions so that the awards are distributed equitably within fields of study and geographic locations in the State of Illinois and between public and private institutions of higher education.

e) Grant funds shall be distributed by participating institutions to grantees in equal monthly payments during the period of ICEOP enrollment, not to exceed 12 months per award.