

# NEWS RELEASE

## **College of Commerce and Business Administration**

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### **Illinois CIBER Awarded New Federal Funding for Four Years**

Champaign, Ill. — The U.S. Department of Education recently announced continued funding for the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) in the College of Commerce and Business Administration. The award is for \$355,000 annually for four years (2002-06 fiscal years), up 61% from the current funding level. "Technology, Culture, and International Competitiveness" is the new program theme, according to Joseph Cheng, professor and director of the Illinois CIBER program since 1999. "Our goal is to combine the University's expertise in technology management and cultural studies to create programs that increase America's capacity for international understanding and competitiveness."

"As the world becomes increasingly global and more technologically advanced, we need to develop more integrated frameworks to guide international business teaching, research, and practice," said Avijit Ghosh, dean of the College of Commerce and Business Administration. "Our CIBER program has a strong foundation and this new funding will allow us to continue to advance our educational mission."

The new CIBER agenda includes projects that are explicitly designed to serve national audiences and over half involve partnering with campus departments and units outside the College of Commerce and Business Administration. There will be funds to promote interdisciplinary research, expand and enrich courses and curricula, study abroad, expand business outreach, and organize a global consortium of universities to further enhance Illinois CIBER's capability as a national resource center.

"We're extremely pleased with the success of our CIBER program, which builds on Illinois' strength as a world leader in international studies, business education, and research and the development and deployment of cutting edge technologies," commented Earl Kellogg, associate provost of international affairs for the campus. He went on to say that substantial increase in the level of funding is recognition of the quality of programs and services provided by the program during the initial funding cycle.

Nationally recognized as one of the leading business schools, the College of Commerce and Business Administration has outstanding programs in accounting, business, economics, and finance. The college enrolls more than 3,000 undergraduates, 700 MBA and master's students, and 175 doctoral candidates from all 50 states and more than 30 countries worldwide.