**Appendix A**

**8. Grant Name and Purpose.**

This is an RFP (Request for Proposals) for the Growing Agriculture Science Teachers (GAST) Grant. Grants in amounts up to $50,000 to eligible institutions for the purpose of addressing the shortage of agricultural science teachers in Illinois. The major goals of this grant program are to 1) recruit agricultural science teacher candidates into preparation programs leading to teacher certification in agricultural education; 2) ensure that candidates' preparation as teachers make good use of the knowledge of professionals in varied agricultural occupations and exposes them to practical, field-based experiences; and 3) provide support for agricultural education teachers during their first five years of service that will improve retention of these individuals in the teaching force.

**14. Criteria for Eligibility**

Pursuant to Sec. 2-3.80a of 105 ILCS 5/2-3.80a criteria for eligibility is as follows:

9a) Subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education shall develop an agricultural science teacher education training continuum beginning at the secondary level and shall provide grants to the following:

1. Institutions of higher education that offer State-approved agricultural science teacher preparation programs; and
2. Public community colleges in this State that provide an articulated agricultural science teacher education course of study.

Furthermore, Sec. 75,20 of 23 Illinois Administrative Code 75, Subtitle A, Chapter 1, Subchapter b, Part 75 outlines:

“Eligible applicants under this Subpart A shall be as specified in Section 2-3.80a of the School Code, provided that public community colleges that *provide an articulated agriculture science teacher education course of study* [105 ILCS 5/2-3.80a] are only those that offer at least:

1. The introductory agricultural education course for which transfer credit is accepted by the public universities under the Illinois Articulation Initiative (see the information posted by the Illinois Board of Higher Education at www.itransfer.org); and
2. A one-semester-hour internship or other, equivalent field experience