

**Professional Development Advisory Council
Workforce Development and Pathways Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2023**

Christi Chadwick	Lauri Morrison Frichtl	Shanna Edison
Gail Nelson	Marie Donovan	Sinthu Ramalingam
Julie Lindstrom	Mercedes Mondragon	Thomas Pavkov
Larissa Mulholland	Sara Beach	Tina Wiegel

Welcome

- The Workforce Development and Pathways (WDP) Tri-Chairs welcomed committee members to the meeting. Sinthu Ramalingam was also welcomed as one of the WDP Tri-Chairs.
- Pat Chamberlain and Cerethal Burnett from the Qualifications and Credentials Committee joined the meeting to listen to the conversation regarding the Prior Learning Assessment recommendation.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- November 7, 2022
 - Marie Donovan moved to approve the minutes.
 - Larissa Mulholland seconded the motion.
 - Minutes were approved.

Recommendation

- Following the November WDP meeting a revised recommendation was drafted along with a rationale for the recommendation. This draft was shared in the meeting materials.
- Committee members during the meeting revised the recommendation. The additional language is shown below in red.

Recommendation

Recommendation: A statewide, standardized Prior Learning Assessment (PA) system, developed using innovative technology (Mursion) should be a priority among our state agencies and higher education institutions to support Illinois' highly diverse incumbent workforce. **Early childhood faculty at Illinois Higher Education Institutions created a series of PLA scenarios (based on workplace challenges) that were piloted at higher education institutions in fall 2022 and spring 2023 in both English and Spanish for learners.** The PDAC Workforce Development and Pathways Committee recommends that this **standardized** state system of PLA developed under the direction of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) via PDG-B5 funds be prioritized and expanded for implementation throughout Illinois higher education institutions to provide greater accessibility and a critical pathway for the ECE workforce. **We also support development of other standardized forms of PLA for statewide use.**

RATIONALE: National researcher The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) found in their study that adult students who participate in Prior Learning Assessment/Credit for Prior Learning (PLA/CPL) are 17% more likely to complete a degree, compared to those without PLA/CPL and that adults' students save, on average, 9-14 months in earning a degree. PLA boosted completion rates for

adult students of color, low-income adult students, and adult students across the academic performance spectrum.

- The recommendation was approved.
- The recommendation will now be shared with the Qualifications and Credentials Committee in the hope of a joint recommendation. The recommendation will be brought forward to the Steering meeting in April.

Strategic Plan Goals identified as priorities or next steps:

- Goal 3 - Increase access to Gateways programs and services by reviewing data to understand and identify barriers and opportunities of various communities (e.g. rural communities, low-income, race, ethnicity, etc. and workforce access to enrolling in school or Gateways Credentials).
 - Will ask that a representative of the INCCRRA data team present on data related to the Governor's emphasis on child care deserts and the workforce in those areas.
- Goal 5 - Create a range of feedback loops and mechanisms for workforce to provide input into and to inform programs/processes.
 - We will review ways that INCCRRA outreaches to the field.

