

INNOVATION IN ACTION

REACHING THE WORKFORCE

2025 Gateways Higher Education Faculty Forum

Day 1: April 10, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Registration	Pre-function Hallway
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Welcome from the Committee: What to Expect	Brickyard 2 & 3
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Networking Break	
	INTEREST SESSIONS – SELECT 1	
2:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Building a Community of Practice for Assessment and Course Revision: Inclusive and Collaborative Strategies (Session 1) <i>Carrie Nepstad, Harold Washington College and Kate Varey, Harry S. Truman College</i>	Brickyard 4
	Equity by Design: Features of the Outcomes from the UIC Early Childhood Alternative Licensure Program (Session 2) <i>Catherine Main and Natalie Vesga, University of Illinois at Chicago</i>	Brickyard 5
	Innovations and Frameworks in Credit for Prior Learning for the ECE Workforce (Session 3) <i>Leslie Layman and Flor E. Carabez, McCormick Institute of Early Childhood</i>	Brickyard 6
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Networking Break	
	INTEREST SESSIONS – SELECT 1	
4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Culturally Sustaining Practices & Pathways (Session 4) <i>Inna Dolzhenko, Kimberly Garrett, and Mary Quest, Chicago State University</i>	Brickyard 4
	Flexible Student Teacher Options Supporting and Advancing the Early Childhood Workforce Through An Alternative Bachelors' Degree Completion Program (Session 5) <i>Linda Ruhe Marsh, Amanda Quesenberry, Nicole Offutt, and Elizabeth White, Illinois State University</i>	Brickyard 5
	Putting Loose Parts Together Cooperatively (Session 6) <i>Tanille Yow Ulm, Lake Land College and Sarah Gowler, Kankakee Community College</i>	Brickyard 6
5:15 PM – 6:00 PM	Networking Break	
6:00PM - 8:00PM	Dinner and Keynote: Active Playful Learning Be ready to engage in innovation in action! <i>Debbie Leslie, Active Playful Learning</i>	Brickyard 2 & 3
8:00PM - 9:30PM	<i>Chat with Colleagues - Come join for stories and informal conversation with each other. Alicia Meno and Kamilah Wilson, National Louis University, will also host a discussion during this time.</i>	Fox Creek

INNOVATION IN ACTION

REACHING THE WORKFORCE

2025 Gateways Higher Education Faculty Forum

Day 2: April 11, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	<i>Café with Colleagues</i> - Come for coffee and light breakfast items and join your colleagues for topics and stories to share. <i>Jin-ah Kim, Roosevelt University</i>	Fox Creek
	INTEREST SESSIONS – SELECT 1	
	Weaving a Tapestry of Talent (Session 7) <i>Judson Curry, Kishwaukee College, Susan Carrington, Birth to Five Illinois (Region 16), Kendra Nenia, 4-C Community Coordinated Child Care, and Samantha McDavid, DeKalb County ROE</i>	Brickyard 6
8:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Exploring Faculty Perspectives in Implementing Online Competency-Based Modules For ECE Preparation (Session 8) <i>Melissa Clucas Walter and Florensia Surjadi, Northern Illinois University</i>	Brookridge
	Apprenticeship Partnership Perspectives from Higher Education (Session 9) <i>Karen Yarbrough and Joanna Skourletos, University of Illinois at Chicago and Marcy Mendenhall, SAL Community Services</i>	Ironwood
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM	Networking Break	
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	State Representative Conversation <i>Teresa Ramos, Illinois Department of Early Childhood, Michelle Wood, Illinois Department of Human Services-Division of Early Childhood, Joyce Gronewold, Illinois State Board of Education, Christi Chadwick, Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity - Illinois Board of Higher Education, and Marcus Brown, Illinois Community College Board</i>	Brickyard 4 & 5
11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Networking Break	
11:45 AM – 1:30 PM	Luncheon with Active Playful Learning <i>Debbie Leslie, Active Playful Learning</i> Closing remarks	Brickyard 4 & 5