

 **GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY**
Illinois Professional Development System
PDAC Higher Education Committee Minutes
April 5, 2019

Bethany Patten	Kate Connor
Cathy Main	Melissa Batchelor
Dawn Munson	Melissa Johnson
Diane King	Pat Chamberlain
Joyce Weiner	Rebecca Pruitt
Julie Lindstrom	Ruth Kimble
Karen McCarthy	Thomas Pavkov

Welcome and Introductions – Cathy Main, Kate Connor, and Rebecca Pruitt - Tri-Chairs

- Participants were welcomed to the telenet.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes

- January 11, 2019 (see Attached #1)
 - Cathy Main moved to accept the minutes.
 - Melissa Batchelor seconded the motion

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- Several ECE occupations are on the Illinois Worknet Demand Occupation List.
 - Should be able to access federal funding for trainings within ECE.
- WIOA funds are for both two- year and four- year institutions.
- Progress: Drafting outreach materials in partnership with Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Illinois Community College Board to raise awareness among:
 - Local Workforce Investment Agencies.
 - Current and potential training providers (such as higher education institutions) could access funds once they reach the eligibility requirements.

Legislative Actions

- Senate and House Bills regarding Higher Education
 - A number of bills are moving through the legislature that have an education, specifically teacher licensure and shortage, component to them.
 - Three to four bills moving through the legislature that makes provisions to remove the requirement of passage of a basic skills test. These bills include HB423 and HB2932.
 - Cathy Main has included a hand-out regarding HB3581 and SB2091 for free college tuition. (See Attached #2)
 - HB256 – A student teacher candidate may not be required to videotape him/herself or their students in a classrooms setting for edPTA.
 - As the member of an organization or as an individual, people can let legislators know about their position on specific pieces of pending legislation by electronically filing a witness slip. A witness slip is a public record that can be submitted in advance of a scheduled legislative committee hearing.

- An Illinois State Board of Education meeting will be held on April 17th. Discussion is expected to be held regarding the teacher shortage. Public comment meetings are being held before the April 17th meeting in both Chicago and Springfield.

Higher Education Partnerships

- Forty Faculty Fellows are engaged in cross-institutional work to expand the assessment repository of the assigned Gateways Competency Toolbox and capture any potential assessment data.
 - Kicked off at the Gateways Higher Education Forum last month.
 - Working in team with Toni Potenza and Jen Asmiow as Faculty Fellow Leads with Annie Reinking as Technology Lead.
 - Fellows will review, create and compile additional assessments that measure each competency for inclusion in a future data repository.
 - A statewide meeting will be held on June 20th to share current work.
 - Following fall regional meetings, trainings will be incorporated into the competency-based system.
- Higher Education Institutions That Have Aligned to Competencies
 - More than 90% of higher education institutions that offer ECE coursework are entitled for Gateways Credentials using competencies.
- Gateways ESL/Bilingual Credential Ad Hoc Committee
 - Joyce Weiner, Sergio Hernandez, and Rebecca Vonderlack Navarro are the ESL and Bilingual Credential Ad Hoc Committee tri-chairs.
 - Consultants Pat Chamberlain and Luisiana Melendez are drafting the competencies for the Credential.
 - Currently sending out RFPs to higher education institutions to pilot the ESL & Bilingual Credential in the fall 2019/spring 2020. Goal is to have four or five pilot institutions.
- City Colleges Scholarship Program
 - Next phase of the project: expanding efforts to additional higher education institutions.
 - Currently have 300 people in the Chicago Scholarship Program across multiple higher education institutions.
 - City of Chicago is committed to supporting the project during the next fiscal year.

Shared Information

- Gateways Higher Education Forum
 - More than 120 people attended the Gateways Higher Education Forum.
 - Of the 120, 82 were faculty members and 11 were deans. This was the highest number of deans to attend a Gateways to Opportunity Higher Education Forum.
 - Keynote speakers were Dr. Charla Long of the Competency-Based Network and Dr. Artin Goncu of the University of Illinois at Chicago.
 - 80% (61 out of 76) of all Illinois Higher Education colleges and universities with ECE/Child Development programs were represented at the Forum, 40 from two-year schools and 21 from four-year schools.
 - State Agencies were represented at the State Panel: Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Board of Higher Education, and Governor's Office of Early Childhood Education.
- NAEYC Power to the Profession

- Comments are still open for Decision Cycles 3, 4, 5 and 6. Links are on the NAEYC website.
- Leadership is the primary focus of Cycles 7 and 8.
- Early Childhood Capacity Study
 - Dr. Toni Potenza and Dr. Marie Donovan presented “Unintended Consequences of the Shrinking ECE Faculty Population in Illinois” at the Gateways Forum in March.
 - They shared initial data from their recent survey of ECE faculty.
 - 17 two-year faculty and 31 four-year faculty responded to the survey.
 - Next steps will be invites for focus groups.

Higher Education Shared Information

- ACCESS – Melissa Johnson
 - ACCESS held a meeting during the Gateways Higher Education Forum.
 - Melissa Johnson will be stepping down as chair of ACCESS following a transition period.
- ILAECTE – Rebecca Pruitt
 - ILAECTE held a meeting during the Gateways Higher Education Forum.
 - A presentation was given regarding The Pyramid Model of training.
 - Kathy Slatery from StarNet gave a presentation and shared resources.
 - Joyce Weiner and Nancy Latham gave an update on the ICCD grant

IAI

- Malinda Aiello from the Illinois Board of Higher Education joined us for a presentation on the IAI.
- Three of the IAI Major panels have established course recommendations, both major courses and GECC courses, for specialized areas within their majors. The following are links to two of those majors – Agriculture and Engineering.
 - IAI Agriculture Major Page: <http://itransfer.org/courses/majors/agriculture/>
 - IAI Engineering Major Page: <http://itransfer.org/courses/majors/egr/>
- Malinda shared the website page for the IAI Early Childhood Education Major <http://itransfer.org/courses/majors/ece.php>

Adjourn



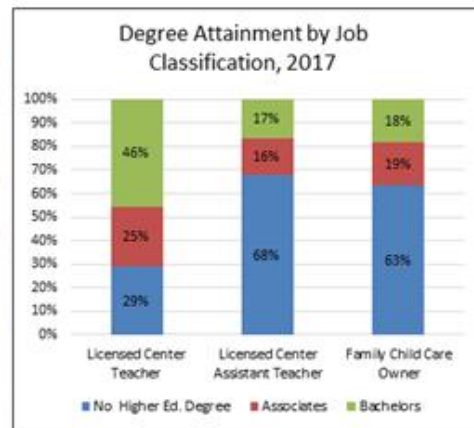


Free College for Early Childhood and Child Care Workforce HB 3581 & SB 2091 (Ammons/Aquino)

In order to prioritize the growth of early learning programs in Illinois, the workforce crisis must be addressed. Nationwide, credential requirements for child care and early learning professionals have and will continue to increase to reflect the changing demands and professionalization happening in the field. Illinois must take steps to ensure the growth is coupled with programs to maintain—not push out—our diverse workforce and create a pipeline leading to high quality, properly compensated, stable jobs in the field.

The Workforce Crisis in Illinois:

- **Low Wages:** In 2017, the median hourly wage for a teacher in a licensed child care center was \$12.50; assistant teachers made \$10.00. The average student graduates with over \$26,000 in student loan debt.
- **High Turnover:** Turnover rates for lead teachers in licensed centers were twice as high (42%) as turnover rates in school-based programs (21%).
- **Low Enrollment:** From 2014-2017, the number of Early Childhood Education degrees has decreased by 42%.
- **Highly Varied Qualifications across Early Learning and Child Care field:** Qualifications vary based on program type which leads to a wide arrangement of educators holding different credentials.
- **Debt:** The average Illinois student graduates with over \$26,000 in student loan debt.



What this Bill Does and Who it will Impact:

- **Creates a pathway of access to reward experienced Educators in the field:** Allows those who have been working in the field for at least 2 years in the past 5 years to enroll in a program, in which they will attain a Child Development Associate (CDA) or Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree through a Public Institution or online program, or pursue a teaching license through an Approved Alternative Licensure Program.
- **23,000 educators and thousands of others working directly in child care settings** would have the potential to obtain a Bachelors or Associates degree or teaching license through this pathway.

Contact: Alex Paterakos-Figueroa 312 287-2392 Dave Lowitzki 312 296-5802 Andrew Kretschmar 847 525-1404

