



**GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY**  
Illinois Professional Development System  
**PDAC Higher Education Committee Minutes**  
**June 21, 2019**

Anni Reinking	Kate Connor	Pat Chamberlain
Bethany Patten	Marcus Brown	Pat Steinhaus
Cathy Main	Melissa Batchelor	Rebecca Pruitt
Joni Scritchlow	Melissa Johnson	Tom Pavkov
Joyce Weiner		

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

- Participants were welcomed to the telenet.

**Approval of January Meeting Minutes**

- April 5, 2019 (Attached #1)
  - Joyce Weiner moved to accept the minutes.
  - Melissa Batchelor seconded the motion.

**Workforce Compensation**

- Bethany Patten from the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development presented on Early Childhood Educator Compensation in Illinois.
  - A cross-sector statewide group lead by the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development with support from representatives from various boards, higher education institutions and organizations undertook this work.
  - The goal is to increase compensation parity for early childhood educators in Illinois.
  - Principles of the work:
    - Work of early childhood educators is sophisticated
    - Educators should reflect the families and communities they serve
    - Compensation parity is the foundation of a quality workforce
    - Current ECE market functions because ECE professionals forgo a living wage
  - Proposed Policies from the work include:
    - Develop a wage and salary schedule
    - Expand compensation language in contracts
    - Incorporate compensation into QRIS (ExceleRate) and tiered reimbursement.
  - Looking to build support around the consensus statement
    - Will bring this information to other PDAC committees and hope to have PDAC support the draft consensus statement.
  - The consensus statement report is expected to be finalized in late August.
  - This work will be shared with the Early Learning Council’s Executive Committee and the Governor Office.
  - Feedback of consensus statement from the Higher Education Committee members is welcomed.

**Legislative Update**

- SB1952 “teachers – various” is currently in the legislature.

- Provides that for an early childhood education endorsement, an individual can meet the student teaching requirement of his or her early childhood teacher preparation program through placement in a setting with children from birth through grade 2, and the individual may be paid and receive credit while student teaching. SB1952 also removes all requirements for passing a test of basic skills as required under Section 21B-30 of the IL Compiled Statutes.
  - If passed, higher education institutions will need to look at how transfer and articulation agreements, and pathways are structured so students will have greatest access and ease of movement.
- HB2237 “Higher Education Savings Program” is currently in the legislature.
  - Provides that the State Treasurer shall establish the Illinois Higher Education Savings Program for the purpose of expanding access to higher education through savings.

### **Credit for Prior Learning**

- Is as evaluation of an assessment of a student’s life learning through employment and training experiences outside an academic environment setting for which skills that comprise terminal objectives are mastered to an acceptable level of proficiency for college credit certification of advancement standing towards further education or training.
- Credits can include military training, standardize tests, proficiency exams, and portfolio.
- Students might have enough pre-coursework to bypass an introductory course, or the student could do credit by advance placement.
- If colleges are interested in prior learning, they should reach out to the chief academic officer at their institution, or Marcus Brown [marcus.brown@illinois.gov](mailto:marcus.brown@illinois.gov) at the Illinois Community College Board.

### **College Level Coursework Draft Recommendation**

- As a subcommittee of PDAC, the committee can make recommendations to PDAC.
- The committee will identify items that are most important for the field, so these can begin to be moved forward. One potential topic for conversation could be around health and safety.

### **Webinars by Charla Long – Competency-Based Education Network**

- A webinar, A Deeper Drive Into the Next Steps Toward Competency Based Education, will be held on July 15th with Dr. Charla Long. Dr. Long is the Executive Director of the Competency-Based Education Network. Please contact Julie – [jlindstrom@inccrra.org](mailto:jlindstrom@inccrra.org) if you have questions about registering for the webinar.

### **Adjourn**

