



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

Illinois Professional Development System

PDAC Higher Education Committee

August 31, 2020

Minutes

Anne Pradzinski	Joni Scritchlow	Melissa Johnson
Carolyn Beal	Joyce Weiner	Melissa Szymczak
Cathy Main	Julie Lindstrom	Mikki Sherwood
Danyle Watkins	Karen McCarthy	Pat Chamberlain
Dawn Munson	Kate Connor	Pat Steinhaus
Diane King	Lisa Downey	Rebecca Pruitt
Johnna Darragh Ernst	Marie Donovan	

Welcome & Introductions

- **Approval of Minutes** - January 24, 2020
 - The minutes were approved by hand signal.

Higher Education Opportunities & Partnerships

- Credential Waiver
 - Through the PDG B5 grant, funding is allocated for the waiver of credential fees.
 - Free credentials were announced on June 15th for ECE, ITC, IDC, FCC, FSC and TA.
 - More than 2,300 applications have been received.
 - Encourage your students to apply for credentials before funding runs out. Applications stay open for 3 years.
- PDG B-5 Funded Projects: Cohorts & Modularization
 - Heartland Community College, Moraine Valley Community College, National Louis University, Northern Illinois University, and Illinois State University were selected through the RFP process to redesign early childhood teacher preparation courses into smaller modules of learning.
 - Kick-off held with faculty on August 3rd to make a work plan and assign teams.
 - A state-wide meeting with Faculty Fellows will be held on September 25th to give feedback on the design and structure of the work with another meeting to be held in December.
 - If funding is available, the goal is to pilot in 2021 with the institutions currently in the PDG modularization project and then pilot again using the modifications and tweaks learned during the first pilot.
- Cohort
 - 1.3 million dollars were granted to Joliet Junior College, Lewis University, National Louis University, Western Illinois University and Quincy University to strengthen and diversify the early childhood workforce pipeline. Funds will support 150 students during the 2020 fall semester.

- Early Educator Investment Collaboration
 - In March, outreach was made to all the entitled institutions in Illinois to see if they wanted to collaborate on a Letter of Intent.
 - The goal is to diversify the racial, linguistic, and ethnic diversity of the teacher pipeline for early childhood and work toward compensation parity.
 - The project will build on the ECE credential modularization work currently underway to include ITC, ICD and FCC credentials and using the Gateways Registry to build a repository that would track the individual progression through the competencies across the state.
 - In June, Illinois was asked to submit a full proposal with a due date of September 4th with a decision in December. Eight (4 – 2yr. and 4 – 4yr.) higher education institutions have partnered on the project. Those eight schools have sub higher education institutions partners.
- Illinois Board of Higher Education
 - The Equity in Attainment Map was shared. It can be located at <https://www.ibhe.org/equity/html>
- Kate Connor recommended creating a subgroup or ad hoc group from the HE Committee to capture faculty questions and concerns.
 - Dawn Munson, Marie Donovan, and Pat Chamberlain volunteered.
 - Goal would be to bring next steps/lessons learned to the November Higher Education meeting using a top 10 format to highlight challenges/questions or what needs to change how to change.

Lessons Learned from the PEL Pathway Work

- Higher Education Committee could focus on the following
 - Student barriers i.e. transcripts and experiences
 - Program barriers i.e. policies and hours
 - Content test
 - Need to explore strengths and challenges and then look at what changes we could recommend.

Shared Faculty Resources

- Inclusion
 - A grant from the Illinois Council for Developmental Disabilities gave funding to embed inclusion resources across the competencies.
 - Ensures resources supporting students and faculty knowledge of inclusion are meaningful embedded and specifically tied to competencies designed to be pulled and dropped into faculty courses as appropriate as they are available on the Gateways website.
- Bilingual/ESL
 - Dr. Pat Chamberlain and Dr. Luisiana Melendez have put together a similar resource for the ESL/Bilingual credential for each individual competency within the credential with related resources identified. These resources will be placed on the Gateways website soon.

- **Anti-Racist Document**
 - Another area that have been collected to enhance the Gateways toolbox is around anti-racist.
 - PDAC Higher Education committee members are asked to review the document shared to get feedback and collect additional resources and ideas that would be included in the document.
 - More than 100 resources can be found within the document.
 - When these resources are placed on the Gateways website an email blast to faculty should be sent out highlighting where they are located on the website to make more user friendly and transparent. An announcement could also be made to the Center to help reach a broader audience in sharing knowledge of and access to the resources. These resources will also be shared with 150 authorized training entities in Illinois.

Illinois Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals

- The Document was designed to be a representative core knowledge document for the field.
- The intent behind the document was to compile all the published information we have related to credentials, competencies, focusing mainly on the ECE Credential and its relationship to other credentials that could serve as a way a holistic master document that could have individual communication pieces produced developed off of it.
- Want the document to be forward facing and engaging to the field/practitioners.
- It is a compilation with attention to trying to put things in with an active voice, engaging, approachable with a holistic representation
- It would serve as a document to build off 1 pagers/briefs specific to appropriate audiences.
- It has been shared and feedback has been received with different PDAC committees. We are asking feedback to this document.
- The document will be placed on the Gateways Website for people to be able to access.

Teach Plus Presentation –guests Roisleen Todd, Cindy Rice, and Sinthu Ramalingam

Addressing the Teacher Shortage Crisis in Illinois

- Survey sent using the Illinois Gateways Registry and social media
- The Problem:
 - ECE Classrooms across the state are struggling to find lead teachers to fill the classroom
 - In the future the current teacher shortage will contribute to the equity gap.
- Research Questions:
 - What is stopping paraprofessionals from pursuing lead teacher certifications?
 - What would need to be in place for paraprofessionals to begin and successfully complete lead certification programs?
- Findings:
 - 82% of paraprofessionals want to become lead teachers.
 - If paraprofessionals have taken steps to becoming a lead teacher which challenges have, they faced money and time are the leading barriers.
 - 90.% would consider lead teacher certification if competency-based were offered to receive course credit for prior experience.

