



# GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

Illinois Professional Development System

## PDAC Higher Education Committee November 23, 2020 Meeting

Anne Pradzinski	Karen McCarthy	Pat Steinhaus
Cathy Main	Marcus Brown	Rebecca Pruitt
Joni Scritchlow	Marie Donovan	Tammy Landgraf
Joyce Weiner	Melissa Szymczak	Teresa Gammons
Julie Lindstrom	Pat Chamberlain	Tom Pavkov
		Ty Giles

### Welcome & Introductions

- **Approval of Minutes - August 31, 2020**
  - The minutes were approved by hand signal.

### Student Barriers

- Early Childhood Content Test
  - Trend continues of students needing to take the test several times in order to pass.
    - ECE has a first time pass rate of close to 60%.
    - Could banking scores be introduced to help the pass rate?
  - Test cancellation continues to be an issue for certain areas within the state.
  - Issues regarding the wording and/or distractors of the test.
  - Cathy Main has pulled statewide data, Illinois has not updated test scores since July 2019.
  - Karen Yarbrough is drafting a report regarding the bridge of the Level 5 to PEL for the Illinois State Board of Education.
  - Actions to take:
    - Need to advocate that the test is designed to confused rather than evaluate knowledge and ability. Could Advance Illinois, Start Early, or the Alliance assist with advocacy?
    - Share test prep strategies that have been successful such as study guides.
    - Conversation about the content test could start with the cut score of 240 and the need to revise it.
    - Request from ISBE the most recent data in order to show a three-year trend.
    - Request that higher education institutions share their data on pass rates and trends. Marie Donovan offered to collect this information and compile data to share.
  - In the next two weeks ISBE is facilitating focus groups with deans regarding recruiting a more diverse teacher candidate pipeline.
  - Joyce suggested letting Cristina Zayas know of the content test issue as this is something she would want to know in her role on the ISBE board.
- Transcripts and Articulation

- Many students encounter barriers from moving from a 2-year institution to a 4-year institution often having to repeat courses.
  - We need to continue to look at barriers and ways to mitigate these on behalf of the student. These barriers include both general education courses and child development/early childhood courses.
    - It might be a good time to review the IAI transfer policy.
    - Seeing more transparency from the 4-year programs because of better student advising and information placed on websites than 5 years ago. Currently seeing students taking fewer extra classes.
    - Marcus Brown stated a challenge is of the number of institutions submitting courses, especially the 4-year institutions.
      - A reminder about how to submit courses to IAI could be shared with institutions to help encourage submission for review.
      - ICCB and IBHE are working with academic leadership to remind provosts to submit, and also a reminder was given at the transfer coordinators meeting that the panel needs courses to be submitted in order to review.

### Higher Education Partners Shared Information

- ACCESS
  - Held a listening tour asking questions about what was working/not working. Came up with a list of things that were strengths and challenges. Were able to form support groups for community college partners regarding NAEYC alignment and accreditation and a support group for program reviews. Held conversations working on grants, pipeline, competencies, and where community colleges need to prioritize.
- ILAECTE
  - ISBE is collecting data around the IPP. ILAECTE is writing a letter to go to multiple stakeholders regarding concerns about the IPP system. Concerns include: looking at selection and recruitment, focus on standard times of completion, issues with number of graduates that are placed in Illinois public schools versus graduates that are with community-based sites, private schools which will not be counted, and GPAs etc. being penalized.
  - The Faculty Advisory Council is also submitting a letter of concern regarding the IPP.
- INCCRRA
  - Expected to hear back regarding the Early Educator Investment Collaboration (EEIC) grant before the end of the year.
    - The goal of the grant is to diversify the racial, linguistic and ethnic diversity of the teacher pipeline for early childhood.

### Dates to know:

- The 2021 Gateways Higher Education Forum will be held virtually on April 15 and April 16, 2021.
  - Please forward to Teresa Gammons [tgammons@inccrra.org](mailto:tgammons@inccrra.org) any recommendations for speakers for the forum.

- Topics that have been recommended include: early childhood trauma, early childhood mental health, brain development and technology.
- The virtual conversations that began in November with representatives from IBHE and ICCB and higher education faculty will continue. Upcoming dates are February 8<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

