GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY
Illinois Professional Development System

PDAC Higher Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2023

Emily Dorsey	Kate Connor	Marsha Hawley
Joni Scritchlow	Leslie Layman	Natalie Vesga
Julia Auch	Marie Donovan	Pat Steinhaus
Julie Lindstrom	Marilyn Toliver	Rebecca Pruitt
		Tom Pavkov

Kate Connor, Rebecca Pruitt and Marsha Hawley welcomed members to the PDAC Higher Education Committee Meeting.

Approval of Minutes
- December 8, 2022
    - Pat Steinhaus moved to accept the minutes.
    - Marilyn Toliver seconded the motion.
    - Minutes accepted.

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Expanding Eligibility in Fall 2023 – Marsha Hawley
- Things that stayed the same:
    - Must be part of the incumbent workforce
    - Must be enrolled in an eligible Gateways entitled program
- Things that have changed:
    - Freshman and sophomores will now be included, they still have to meet all the criteria in terms of being a part of the incumbent workforce, and still have to have a position title that matches the scholarship requirements
    - Expansion to post baccalaureate

Higher Education Institutions are hesitant to hire additional faculty. Unsure of additional extension of funds as the fiscal source of the federal money is tied to COVID relief funds, so the likelihood of additional funds is limited.

PDG B5 Grants – Joni Scritchlow
- Federal money for 3 years for specific projects designated by the Governors Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD).
- In 2021 faculty created curriculum for each of the Gateways Infant Toddler Credential competencies, and in 2022 the curriculum was piloted. These infant toddler modules will be available to faculty in summer 2023.
- In 2022 faculty developed curriculum for each of the Gateways Illinois Director Credential competencies, there is no money to pilot the modules in 2023. These modules will be made available in summer 2023 for faculty to use.

- Diverse Workforce Supports for Equity - All of the Gateways ECE Level 2 Credential curriculum was translated into Spanish, including videos and resources. These were tested at 3 higher education institutions and will be made available to faculty in summer 2023.
- Prior Learning Assessment - Faculty developed scenarios in 2021, and in 2022 the scenarios were tested with students in both English and Spanish. In 2023 we will continue to pilot with our higher education institutions and meet with them to address scaling up of PLA for statewide use.
- The Gateways Higher Education Forum will be held on April 20th and April 21st. Sessions will address the PLA project.

PDAC Higher Education Goals and Objectives Strategic Plan IX
- Goal 3 Objective 2: Discussion regarding PLA
- Committee members shared their institution's prior learning activities:
    - City Colleges: Faculty worked to develop PLA for Health Safety and Nutrition and Introduction to Early Childhood Education. Each outcome is aligned to various assessment tools that will show competencies. Included faculty from three other departments to participate in the planning and had rounds of piloting. Currently working on how to accept students transferring into CCC outside of the child development.
    - National Louis: Have an Office of Credit for Prior Learning so they have systems in place and policies. Evaluate by – credit for prior learning, direct assessment, and portfolio. Experience barriers due to fees costs for students.
    - Northern Illinois University: Uses a portfolio system, have added a new course to the rotation, Portfolio Workshop, course provided with a mentor/coach to receive one-on-one support. Students receive course credit.
    - Lewis University – Through the EC4Grant had a faculty that led the work. Currently making sure they have a faculty lead to mentor adjuncts and a lead for PLA and will hand the evaluations for PLA. A professional advisor holds conversations with the potential students who are interested in PLA and circles back with the faculty on what is needed for the student.
    - Chicago State University – Very diverse understanding of what PLA is, maybe ECACE can provide statewide education on PLA.
    - DePaul – Have a competency-based system. Need to think about what we can standardized, similar to IAI.
- Goal 4 Objective 1: Develop ways to be competency informed across and within institutions for retention and advancement of the workforce.
    - Should gather information from higher education institutions where do you see competency informed.

Proposed to set up some sub-groups to discuss goals.

Adjourn