



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

Illinois Professional Development System

PDAC Higher Education Committee Meeting April 3, 2024 Minutes

Emily Dorsey	Marcus Brown
Julia Auch	Marie Donovan
Julie Lindstrom	Marsha Hawley
Kate Connor	Rebecca Pruitt
Leslie Layman	Thomas Pavkov

Kate Connor welcomed Rebecca Livengood back as a Co-Chair to the committee following her sabbatical.

Approval of Minutes

- January 15, 2024
 - Leslie Layman moved to accept the minutes.
 - Julia Auch seconded the motion.
 - Minutes were approved.

The committee continued their work on refining their section of the PDAC Strategic Plan.

Goal 1: Developing systems for identifying, sharing, and promoting flexible and innovative higher education Early childhood/child development program models.

Objectives:

1. Identify information related to policy and how innovations, flexibilities and barriers affect higher education systems that will inform the work of the committee.
2. Identify audiences that benefit from innovative practices (e.g. program directors, early childhood educators, professional development providers (faculty and trainers), PDAC, etc.).
3. Review and identify successful systems (state or national) for sharing innovations (e.g. peer learning, communities of practice, etc.) and determine metrics for success.
4. Implement and test systems for sharing innovative practices /innovations among various audiences.
5. (If funding is available) Participate to be part of shaping the agenda for the Gateways to Opportunity Higher Education Forum.

Goal 2: Expand (Scale up) identified successful innovative professional development higher education Early childhood/child development program models.

Objectives:

1. Develop a process of review/metrics to evaluate effectiveness that includes student voice and insight.
2. Make recommendations for statewide scale-up of models that provide guidance for effective practices.
3. Partner with Financial Supports Committee for recommendations needed to provide funding to bring to scale identified successful/impactful models.

Goal 3: Gather and disseminate information on approaches to support new and/or incumbent early childhood professionals in entering or sustaining the field and/or workforce.

Objectives:

1. Areas investigation
 - a. Early college (dual credit/dual enrollment opportunities)
 - b. Current state of marketing in the workforce (centers, schools, etc.).
 - c. Apprenticeship models
 - d. Head Start in local communities
 - e. Prior learning assessment – strategies to help the cost and strategies for access for prior learning credit
2. Create a strategy to gain an understanding of the roles of the incumbent workforce in centers for easier transition (support role transitions in the ECE field).
3. Review statewide access for high need credentials

Goal 4: Utilize and maximize Illinois' well-developed existing competency infrastructure for Gateways Credentials by increasing transparency.

Objective:

1. Communicate with stakeholders about the competencies and credentials and the way these systems interact in the early childhood field. (includes, but not limited to)
 - a. Illinois Articulation Initiative
 - b. Illinois State Board of Education
 - c. Specialized accreditors
 - d. Illinois Department of Human Services
 - e. New Department of Early Childhood

The Committee decided to send out the PDAC higher Education Strategic Plan goals by email for any feedback and a vote by committee members. Chairs would like plan to be presented to PDAC Steering at their April 17th meeting.

Adjourn

