



**PDAC Higher Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2024**

Emily Dorsey	Kate Connor	Marie Donovan
Gabriel Holmes	Larissa Mulholland	Marsha Hawley
Julia Auch	Lisa Downey	Mikki Sherwood
Julie Lindstrom	Marcus Brown	Rebecca Pruitt

Welcome – Kate Connor and Rebecca Pruitt, Chairs

Approval of Minutes

- September 26, 2024
 - Marie Donovan moved to accept the minutes.
 - Lisa Downey seconded the motion.
 - Minutes were approved.

New members

- Larissa Mulholland and Gabriel Holmes were welcomed to the Committee.

Gathering Information for the Higher Education Committee

- Thinking about ways to gather information that will assist in achieving PDAC Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives:
 - Would like summary data related to the types of programs that are provided by institutions.
 - Data would need to be accessible and flexible.
 - Could use the ECACE posters that were provided by institutions.
 - Posters listed:
 - What changes were made to program?
 - Areas of strength
 - How to continue the work
 - What data shows achievement?
 - Posters could be shared on a drive for access for the Higher Education Committee.
- What questions could be shared between PDAC Committees related to higher education to help inform work:
 - What is currently being provided for teacher prep programs in early childhood?
 - Who is doing innovative work?
 - What would Navigators want to help their efforts?
 - Workforce Development and Pathways Committee could provide information on what employers may want.

- How are we using advising councils at 2- and 4- year higher education institutions to inform the industry and for the industry to inform higher education?
- The Annual Gateways higher education update forms could be used to gather information about what institutions collectively offer.
 - At the next meeting the Higher Education Committee will review the forms to see if this information would be useful for their collection of data and system information.
- After the review of the update forms the Higher Education Committee will create a list of information that the Higher Education Committee is gathering and share this information with other PDAC Committees. Could ask other PDAC Committees what information is missing or needed as there is an overlap with so many of the other committees.
- An area of further discussion and research is the potential use of the Gateways Scholarship for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA).
 - A recommendation could have overlap with the Financial Supports Committee and the Workforce Development and Pathways Committee.
 - Chairs can reach out to discuss this possibility and barriers of the PLA.
 - This work would have a connection with 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.
- It is important to encourage faculty where possible to invite new faculty members to the Gateways Forum. This is also another avenue to potentially welcome new faculty to the PDAC Higher Education Committee.

2025 Gateways Forum

- Request for proposals have been sent out and those submitted are currently being scored by a faculty peer group.
- Our keynote speakers from Active Play and Learning will present at the dinner and closing lunch.
- The registration will be sent the week of January 27, 2025. The draft schedule will also be sent so attendees will be aware of the workshops and presenters being offered.
- An invitation has been sent to Dr. Teresa Ramos to speak at the Forum.
- Committee members are excited that a topic like play is being placed as a keynote topic.
- Staff will reach out to ILCATE and ACCESS to inform them of the Forum and contact hotel representatives if they would like to hold their meetings at the Doubletree.

Adjourn

