



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®

Illinois Professional Development System

Professional Development Advisory Council

December 10, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Vision: We envision an inclusive and efficient system of preparation and training of early care and education, school-age, and youth development professionals who nurture, engage, and serve the needs of children and youth in partnership with their families and communities.

Mission: To promote, support, and recognize engaging professional preparation and training opportunities for all current and future early care and education, school-age, and youth development practitioners.

Values: We believe in an engaging, inclusive, and efficient professional development system serving practitioners in all settings.

Engaging: Respects and cultivates education, training, and experience, recognizes, and equitably compensates achievements based on levels of competence.

Inclusive: Has diverse representation of culture, linguistics, ability, ethnicity, gender, age, and geography; supports inclusive, high-quality, culturally responsive, care and education for all children, youth, and families in all settings.

Efficient: Is accessible, affordable, and diverse in opportunities; develops and expands core knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

Welcome

- Welcome PDAC Tri-Chairs: Johnna Darragh, Marcy Mendenhall, and Shauna Ejeh (on sabbatical until January 2026)

PDAC Shift

- To capitalize on the expertise and experience of PDAC members, we will shift the focus of this fiscal year to Gateways credentials and training.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Support IDEC by using data to review the benefits and to look closely at the Gateways Credentials and Training:
 - Finding the benefits and value of the credentials and training.
 - Identifying the difficulties, barriers, and pain points of the credentials and training.

Next steps

- January Meeting – full PDAC meeting

Adjourn

