



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SHEILA SIMON – LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**P-20 Joint Education Leadership Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Friday, June 20th, 2014 at 1:30pm

Lt. Governor's Capitol Office
Springfield, IL

Lt. Governor's Chicago Office
James R. Thompson Center
Chicago, IL

A- Roll Call

Springfield

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
Candace Mueller, IL Board of Higher Education
Amanda Winters, IL Board of Higher Education
Brian Durham, IL Community College Board
Executive Director Janet Holt, IL Education Research Council
Steve Parrott, IL State Board of Education
Lynne Haeffele, Lt. Governor's Office

Chicago

Miguel del Valle, P-20 Council Chairman
Executive Director Eric Zarnikow, IL Student Assistance Commission
Amber Kirchhoff, Governor's Office
Jonathan Furr, Northern Illinois University
Ken Lowe, Lt. Governor's Office

Telephone

Andrea Messing-Mathie, Northern Illinois University

Absent

State Superintendent Chris Koch, IL State Board of Education
Acting Director Adam Pollett, IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Julie Smith, Governor's Office

George Letavish, Governor's Office
Executive Director James Applegate, IL Board of Higher Education
Executive Director Karen Hunter Anderson, IL Community College Board
President Cathy Veal, IL Mathematics and Science Academy

B- Approval of April 2014 Meeting Minutes

Lt. Governor Simon asked for a motion to approve the April 2014 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Zarnikow and seconded by del Valle. Motion was passed unanimously.

C- State Pathways Initiatives Discussion (1 hour, 15 minutes)

The state agencies were invited to share progress updates for the various statewide "pathways" initiatives intended to provide students with clear direction and opportunities for post-secondary education and careers.

Steve Parrott of ISBE began by giving a brief overview of the Illinois Pathways Initiative and its Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM) Learning Exchanges. Illinois Pathways was started as a partnership among ISBE, DCEO, and the IL Department of Employment Security (IDES), using federal Race to the Top (RTTT) funding to further develop existing STEM Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study. The initiative involves secondary and post-secondary levels and consists of nine STEM Learning Exchanges. Of these, five are doing in-depth work and the others are in the planning stages. The Learning Exchanges consist of partnerships among school districts, higher education institutions, and business entities. RTTT funding runs out in 2015, so the Learning Exchanges are developing sustainability plans for future years. For example, DCEO is providing support for the Energy and Transportation/Distribution/Logistics exchanges.

Jonathan Furr provided a recent Pathways newsletter that highlights progress to date. He stated that the initiative was intended to build on both ICCB's existing Programs of Study and ISBE's CTE work. There is an intergovernmental agreement among ISBE, ICCB, IBHE, ISAC, DCEO and IDES to govern the initiative. Over the course of the coming year, they will develop a sustainability model with strong corporate, private, and local support.

Lt. Governor Simon asked if there were sustainability models from other states from which Illinois could draw ideas. Furr responded that Massachusetts and California have such models, which include features such as 1/3 funding from the state and the rest from private and community sources.

Andrea Messing-Mathie asked that meeting participants review the newsletter, and stated that each Learning Exchange is moving at its own pace. Northern Illinois University is helping to guide their work, including processes and communication. She asked that members contact her with any requests for further information.

Parrott stated that ISBE has designated consultants for 6 of the Learning Exchanges, and while ISBE does the administrative work, Pathways provides the link to strong industry relationships. He added that advisory councils are being created for each pathway. Lt. Governor Simon stated that the business/industry link appears to be the "breakthrough benefit" of the initiative.

Miguel del Valle stated that since Pathway's inception, he viewed it as more intensive than traditional CTE and thus influencing CTE delivery throughout the state. While work-based learning has been around for a long time, Pathways should strengthen those opportunities. He stated that he still hears people talk about Pathways and CTE separately, and that by this time, he thought they would be fully merged. Furr stated that participation in Pathways is not a mandate; it is optional for districts to adopt the model and join the Learning Exchanges. He noted that there is a launch event scheduled for June 23rd in Peoria that includes educators as well as business and local government representatives who have recently agreed to align with the Pathways model.

Brian Durham restated that Pathways programs are in various states of development. He noted that one place that JELC could assist is in unifying the language used to describe the various programs. For example, JELC members could work with Congressional representatives during the reauthorization of the Perkins Act in order to provide uniform language that includes "pathways" references. He stated that Illinois could lead the way by doing so within its state programs.

Moving on to ICCB's initiatives, Durham stated that their goal is fully-articulated curriculum from secondary to post-secondary education, including stackable credentials. He noted that ICCB staffs the Pathways Advisory Committee, which is now getting on track. ICCB is developing a survey of "2 +2" agreements between community colleges and 4-year institutions, which is important now that more technical associate degrees are being accepted for transfer into baccalaureate programs. ICCB is also making rule modifications to make dual credit easier to establish, thus providing better support for early college opportunities.

Durham also described Pathways to Results, which ICCB has funded for many years with Perkins money. Perkins is fundamentally a CTE improvement program, recognizing continuous improvement and addressing equity issues. In Pathways to Results, about 180 institutions analyze data, solve problems, and develop improvement strategies. The initiative is managed by the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Durham suggested adding to the pathways list another initiative: Jobs for the Future (JFF) Accelerating Opportunities. This effort provides multiple "on ramps" for students to enter CTE training and careers. For example, it addresses the basic skills needs of adult learners while they take credit-bearing courses. It also provides support models and team teaching. ICCB will be receiving fourth-round funding from JFF.

ICCB is also reviewing developmental education, introducing contextualized co-requisite models rather than stand-alone remediation.

Lt. Governor Simon asked Durham to expand on the dual credit rules changes that are forthcoming. He stated that in the past, dual credit has been grade-restricted; i.e., only open to juniors and seniors. Now the rules will assure that any high school student who demonstrates readiness can earn early college credit. The rules will also clarify faculty requirements. Lt. Governor Simon asked him to keep JELC members posted on these developments. Durham will distribute a slide presentation on the changes.

Amanda Winters stated that IBHE is also redrafting rules on dual credit, using ICCB's work as a model. The effort is meant to "level the playing field" among public, private non-profit, for-profit, on-line, and out-of-state dual credit offerings.

Del Valle stated that dual credit will be a topic at the July 2014 P-20 Council meeting. He noted that as a state, our challenge will be to scale up, getting more institutions to offer dual credit opportunities. They will need resources to implement this effort. He also noted that there are problems with for-profit programs, including student debt and questionable credentials. He said that students need to understand that community colleges are a better option.

Del Valle next questioned the Pathways participants, asking how we are monitoring the use of the RTTT funds and also program results. Furr responded that they are working to establish some standard measures, but this is challenging since each Learning Exchange uses different funding models, student service models, etc. Messing-Mathie added that we do need to measure the value and effectiveness of the Learning Exchanges; she will share some quantitative and qualitative measures that are under development. Del Valle added that he would like detailed information on student participation; for example, demographic data that will help ensure access and equity. Durham suggested that ICCB staff would be glad to participate in this conversation. He stated that if the participating community colleges can be identified, ICCB can extract student demographic data. Furr also suggested working with the Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI). Parrott stated that when ISBE reports to the federal government, it will need to share quantitative data. Amber Kirchhoff added that it would be especially interesting to know female participation, since they are traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields. All agreed that it will be important to continue work in the area of metrics and data analysis.

The discussion moved on to Guided Pathways for Success (GPS). Candace Mueller described GPS as targeted at community colleges and 4-year institutions. Those institutions adopting the GPS model identify students, keep track of them, keep them on a path to a degree culminating in a job and not a worthless credential. Complete College America (CCA) and the Lumina Foundation are both promoting the GPS model nationally. Mueller stated that Illinois currently has two GPS efforts: a CCA technical assistance grant that provides expertise to three institutions to strengthen their STEM degree pathways (Southern Illinois University Carbondale, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Chicago City Colleges); and scaling up the GPS concept statewide through potential assistance from the Lumina Foundation. She noted that only SIUC is applying for the newly announced First in the World federal grant program.

Eric Zarnikow noted that at the July 17th *College Changes Everything* conference, there will be a special session for the P-20 Council to discuss collective impact for improving pathways initiatives.

Winters stated that IBHE has now taken on adult education as a priority, including veterans, non-traditional students, and those who have “stopped out.” The IBHE Board is developing an action team for this effort and is working with ICCB to ease transitions and support completion. IBHE and the Governor’s Office have applied to the National Governors Association for a grant to support the work. This effort also includes an examination of the potential for prior learning assessment, to give credit for knowledge obtained outside the classroom. To date, IBHE has not been heavily involved in the Learning Exchanges but is now trying to find a bigger role for both 4-year institutions and private business and vocational schools.

Lynne Haeffele suggested that from the discussion so far, the state could consider the pathways model as an “umbrella” concept, while GPS provides a design process and “mindset”: faster, cheaper, smarter, more supportive. Durham added that the state needs more technical assistance and training in order to scale up pathways.

The meeting participants suggested several additions and modifications to the draft pathways table used for the discussion. Haeffele will make the changes and redistribute prior to the next JELC meeting.

Janet Holt offered to provide IERC student cohort data that could serve as a baseline for some of the metrics as discussed earlier. She added that IERC would like to be involved.

Lt. Governor Simon thanked participants for the depth of the discussion, and stated that JELC meetings will continue to work on pathways issues in the coming months. The focus going forward will be to identify overlaps and gaps, funding issues, and ways to synergize the work across initiatives and agencies. She noted that much of the language in the discussion today used transportation analogies, indicating that pathways are indeed a means of moving students to the next level. She noted that at the August meeting, Lumina representatives will present pathways work from other states.

D - Preview of the July 23rd P-20 Council Meeting (15 minutes)

Kirchhoff reviewed the July 17th P-20 Council agenda, which will feature some pathways models. The meeting will focus on career readiness, with a workforce development panel, some featured pathways models, and the ICCB dual credit rules changes. There will also be presentations on ISBE's ESEA waiver, the Chicago Public Schools truancy task force, and various committee reports and updates. She asked that participants send suggestions for pathways models to highlight at the meeting.

E - Agency Updates (20 minutes)

Lt. Governor Simon noted the passage of HB 3939, strengthening the military compact law to support for children of military families. The bill awaits the Governor's signature.

Holt announced the IERC Symposium scheduled for October 7-8 in Bloomington. The request for proposals has been posted. She also noted that IERC has received grant funding from the McCormick Foundation and the Wallace Foundation to review implementation of revised principal preparation programs.

Mueller noted two pieces of legislation from the Spring 2014 session: (1) SB 3441, which creates the Higher Education Distance Learning Act. It authorizes the Board of Higher Education to participate in a state authorization reciprocity agreement (SARA) on behalf of the state and to be the lead agency in coordinating interstate reciprocity for distance learning for participating institutions in Illinois; and (2) SB 2846, a bill that would have exempted religious institutions offering degrees from IBHE oversight. The latter did not pass.

Durham He also announced that the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) will hold its annual meeting in Chicago October 26-28th. He will forward an on-line registration link.

Winters stated that IBHE is working across states on military credit for prior learning, and will seek support for a convening from the Lumina Foundation.

Zarnikow informed the participants that funding for ISACorps is running out. He also reviewed spring legislative developments: flat funding for the MAP grants, some administrative funds awarded to the

agency, establishing a pilot program to award MAP grants to dislocated workers, and a study of a “pay-it-forward” program model, due to be filed with the General Assembly by September 1st.

Haeffele announced that the GPS board resolutions adopted by ICCB, ISAC, and IBHE have been featured on Lumina’s Strategy Lab website for the month of June, as a national model for policy alignment in support of GPS.

Del Valle noted that today’s discussion had been excellent, but that someone listening from outside would be “lost.” He stated that there are too many disparate pathways, and that we have to find common language to communicate clearly to all sectors about these efforts to create a “P-20 to workforce” seamless system toward the 60x2025 goal. He noted that the IL Longitudinal Data System will be the “glue” that will undergird the processes and their continuous improvement. Kirchhoff stated that Julie Smith of the Governor’s Office would support the common packaging effort and branding.

Lt. Governor Simon noted that the August 8th meeting will start earlier due to the Lumina presentations, and that lunch will be provided at both the Chicago and Springfield locations.

D- Other Business

No other business was introduced.

E- Next meeting is August 8th, 2014

F- Adjournment