

## **Gender Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

November 4, 2011  
10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> floor Webinar Room  
100 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

### Welcome & Introductions

Debbie Hopper called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. along with a welcome to everyone.

Roll call showed the following present (\* denotes electronic attendance):

Members-Julia Ann Oglesby, Dian Albert, Wanda Andrews\*, Wendy Howerter, Penny Lauritzen, Sandra Westlund Deenihan\*, Ruth Sweetser\*, Paul Nijensohn\*, and Deborah Hopper.

Guests attending-Michael Cermak, Illinois State University CTE Special Populations Leadership Project Director and Amber Kirchhoff\*, Policy Analyst Education and Early Childhood Office of the Governor.

A quorum of members is present.

### Approval of the Minutes

Julia Ann Oglesby made a motion to approve the October 7, 2011 minutes, Sandra Westlund-Deenihan seconded. Motion carried.

### Committee Structure and Responsibilities

#### Chair and Secretary

Deborah Hopper shared that a communication was received from Lolita Hardiman that she will no longer be able to serve on the GEAC due to changes in employment, but enjoyed her service to the GEAC.

Election of Chair- Sandra Westlund-Deenihan nominated by Dian Albert, seconded. No further nominations. Vote called and elected unanimously.

Election of Secretary-Deborah Hopper nominated by Sandra Westlund-Deenihan, seconded. No further nominations. Vote called and elected unanimously.

#### Ethics Training 2011

Deborah Hopper reminded members they are required to annually complete State required ethics training. An e-mail was sent to members requesting review of the 2011 Ethics Training and signature of acknowledgement on page 37 to be returned to Darren Reisberg, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Discussion among members noted that this form must be submitted as a member of the GEAC, even if you have submitted this form for other committee's you may serve on.

Meeting dates 2012. After discussion, members decided to meet the second Friday of February and September in 2012. The February 10, 2012

meeting will be held at the ISBE office in Springfield. The September 14, 2012 meeting will be held at the ISBE office in Chicago. Electronic attendance will be offered at both locations, however in person attendance is preferred.

#### ISBE Update

CTE Special Populations Leadership Project-Deborah Hopper introduced Michael Cermak to provide an update on the progress of the new ISBE leadership project. Michael reported many progressions are underway. Four items highlighted include: 1) Meeting with Caterpillar regarding equity in the workplace was great. Reviewing code of conduct and thankful to them as a business partner. 2) Project Leadership Team meeting noted three areas of focus-business partnerships, curriculum alignment, and equity. 3) Participated on a NAPE STEM-equity conference, and 4) Preparing for a Data training for System Directors in January, 2012.

NAPE-Deborah Hopper shared that a communication had been received from NAPE regarding OVAE's first recommendations for Perkins Accountability measures did not include nontraditional measures. Continued attention will be necessary. A copy of the Pipeline Press was shared and electronically sent to members. As a participating State, Illinois receives several opportunities to participate in webinars and receive equity news. The NAPE professional development institute "Access, Equity, and Diversity: We've Got an App for That!" will be April 16-19, 2012 in Arlington, VA.

#### Partner Updates and Initiatives

Women in Trades Technology and Science-Wendy Howerter shared the conference was an intimate small group that offered a wealth of information and networking. She shared information gained from the training, such as ideas to encourage, support, recruit, and retain female students in STEM, as well as an institutional assessment checklist for recruitment and retentions of women in technology programs.

Sandra Westlund-Deenihan provided an update on the ISDU-46 STEM Equity Pipeline program. Since the announcement publically on August 16, a variety of communications have been published. The good news continues to be picked up and posted as well as other opportunities have been added, which include donations from AAUW to pay for AP exams in STEM classes, several Women in STEM conferences, teacher trainings, and a STEM Fair to name a few. Meetings are progressing and data is continuing to be analyzed. U-46 is now a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) certified district. Concern was shared that less schools are participating in science fairs.

Penny Lauritzen reported the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Women Changing the Face of Agriculture event planned for March 9, 2012 already has 81 students registered. The event can host 450 participants. Registration is available online. The events funding drive is going very well.

Ruth Sweetser announced *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*, the 3<sup>rd</sup> research report in a series of research studies on sexual harassment in middle and high school grades has been released. The report

includes aspects of bullying and cyber-bullying. This report is available on the AAUW.org website. Additional research reports are forthcoming.

Amber Kirchhoff provided a brief update on the Illinois Pathway to Results. (PTR) Initiative. Nine new projects in STEM have been added which are to provide a more direct pathway for students that includes learning exchanges/apprenticeships. Collaborative partners are the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities (DCEO). Discussion noted that focus on female participation in STEM programs has not been a focal point, but is an future opportunity of discussion.

#### Old Business

Strategies for Improving Performance/Non Traditional Performance Report. After a brief discussion, a sub-committee was developed to delve into the data and bring back a report to the committee. It was recommended that the committee contact NAPE to see if they have a resource to show how Illinois data compares to other States. The sub-committee will also utilize FY09 and FY10 CTE Performance reports for statewide trend data. Post-secondary data will also need to be reviewed. Sandra Westlund-Deenihan will lead the sub-committee, which includes Julia Ann Oglesby and Michael Cermak. Minutes of the sub-committee are to be recorded.

#### New Business

Ruth Sweetser requested a presentation or document be created to share with newly elected members the charge of the committee, advice that has been provided, and response/action to the advice. Discussion resulted that Deborah Hopper and Ruth Sweetser will work together to prepare the requested information.

Penny Lauritzen inquired about the Illinois status with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grants, per the October 27, 2011 OVAE Connection and the Illinois status with the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP). Illinois continues to develop and implement a SLDS. Patty Sievert of Northern Illinois University was mentioned as a point person of inquiry regarding the development of the Illinois Girls Collaborative Project.

Penny Lauritzen requested members to share data collections resources they may be familiar with, as the Illinois Agri-Women, Women Changing the Face of Agriculture event has developed the need for a data-base.

#### Next Steps

Next meeting will be Friday, February 10, 2012 at the Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Springfield.

Adjournment

Chair, Sandra Westlund-Deenihan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m.