

Gender Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2013

10:00 a.m.

14th Floor Conference Room B

100 W. Randolph

Chicago, IL 60602

Chair, Sandy Westlund-Deenihan called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Members were reminded to submit their certificate of completion for the Open Meetings Act training and their 2013 Ethics training form.

Roll call resulted in confirmation of a quorum present.

Members attending in person: Sandra Westlund-Deenihan, Julia Oglesby, Ruth Sweetser, Penny Lauritzen, and Deborah Hopper

Members attending by phone: Paul Nijensohn, Dian Albert, Tricia Broughton

Guests attending by phone: Michael Cermak, Brenda Pacey

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Paul Nijensohn moved to accept the minutes of the February 8th and February 25th (special meeting) as presented. Ruth Sweetser seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously and the minutes will be placed on file.

ISBE Update:

Debbie Hopper reported that Amy Jo Clemens has joined the ISBE staff as Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Improvement. The Race to the Top STEM Projects continues to be a focus on the College and Career Readiness division, along with implementation of the Common Core standards. Illinois continues to be a member state of the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE). The annual NAPE professional development institute will be held in the Arlington/DC area on April 7-11, 2014. Debbie introduced Michael Cermak to provide a report on behalf of the ISBE funded Special Populations Leadership project. Michael encouraged attendees to visit the project website at illinoiscte.org for research and activity information. Several new posters reflecting special populations/non-traditional careers have been developed and are available. Currently the project is developing a communication to be disseminated 2 times a month with 4 important items highlighted, such as reviewed articles and sources of information. The 3-D printer training held this summer was very successful and additional trainings are scheduled for FCS and Business teachers this fall. A major project of the grant this year is a professional development program for Illinois CTE high school teachers and counselors entitled: Micro-messaging to Reach and Teach Every Student (trademark). The program will be delivered by NAPE. Michael presented a few observations regarding his review of the 2012 CTE State Summary report including increases in female participation and completion of nontraditional programs, top nontraditional programs in Illinois, and projected job growth areas for 2020.

Partner Updates and Initiatives:

NAPE Education Foundation - Sandy reported IL School District U-46 and San Jose State collaboratively received a grant (Motorola Solutions Foundation Innovation Generation). This will engage up to 100 administrators, counselors, and faculty from U-46 middle and high schools in professional development, implementation of research based practices, and increase access to post-secondary with a focus increase access to STEM by girls and under-represented groups.

Women Changing the Face of Agriculture - Penny reported planning in progress for the March 7, 2014 career discovery event at John Wood Community College. New brochures will be designed by the Ag Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) Club at the University of IL. She distributed the old brochure they had designed, the 2013 program book, and flash drives with WCFA logo.

System Directors Leadership Council (SDLC)- Dian thanked Michael for the work being done on the Special Populations Leadership grant and reported very positive feedback was received from attendees regarding the 3-D workshop. The SDLC newsletter continues to give statewide information about nontraditional programs and projects. A variety of activities are planned across the state to improve nontraditional programs, such as an 8th Grade career Day at Southern IL Career Center, Redbud, on September 27. A report on sign up levels for non-traditional registrations will be shared with members, as well as copies of the SDLC newsletter.

Illinois Department of Labor – Debbie reported Wanda Andrews has taken a promotion and will no longer be participating on the GEAC. Debbie will seek Agency advice on fulfilling the position. Penny suggested someone from the NetWork team and will provide contact info to Debbie.

Illinois Community College Board – Tricia Broughton reported that Geoff Obrzut has retired and Dr. Karen Hunter-Anderson is the new executive director of ICCB. The Forum of Excellence in CTE conference is September 26 & 27 in Peoria. Registration is available online. Tricia also reported she would assist other committee members in disseminating information to the IL CTE group thru the ICCB list-serv.

Project Lead the Way - Brenda Pacey reported that they are getting high school (80% male & 20% female) and middle school students (55% male & 45% female students) involved in PLTW statewide. Twenty percent of the high school students who participate in PLTW are receiving honors credit. School participation in PLTW is growing statewide, including a new site in East St. Louis. Bioenergy classes are currently being developed.

ILAVESNP - Julie reported organization is defunct, however have been able to continue to provide scholarships. IACTE annual conference will be at the Marriott hotel in Bloomington February 20 -21. IACTE is currently seeking presenters for workshops, especially looking for ideas that provide innovation and direction, and how to include common core information in daily lesson plans. GEAC members were encouraged to apply on behalf of their partner initiatives. Julia also added that Wilco has annual meetings with counselors from 10 high schools to emphasize CTE and job opportunities.

AAUW - Ruth reported Tech Trip summer camps for middle school girls on university campuses are very successful and include the aspects of STEM. Tech Savvy is looking to expand in other states and anticipates Chicago to be a targeted location for this program.

Old Business:

STEM Equity Best Practice: Sandy asked for a motion to submit the prepared letter to Supt. Koch. Julie made motion and Ruth seconded to send Sandy's letter to Dr. Christopher Koch, Supt., IL State Board of Education as is with only one change to the 4th paragraph to read "The GEAC wanted to share with you the findings included in this report. We believe it can be helpful as a compliment to the Stem Learning Exchange program." Motion passed unanimously. Sandy will mail letter with copy of Executive Summary of "Why So Few".

Data Work Group – Sandy reported that she will meet with Julia and Michael to review preliminary data and report at February 2014 meeting.

New Business:

Current Events in Education Policy – Sandy reported the Workforce Invest Act (WIA) reauthorization has had bipartisan legislation containing positive elements for CTE including prioritization of career pathways and programs leading to industry recognized credentials and high demand jobs. The Senate committee on Health, Education and Labor markups had majority of support to advance legislation to the Senate floor. GEAC members were asked to be aware of WIA reauthorization process and possible connection to Perkins impact in Illinois.

Sandy also shared with the committee that on July 24 the U.S. Education and Justice Department stated transgender students are protected from sex based discrimination under Title IX. In the past, the GEAC has been asked to provide advice on Illinois rule updates, therefore wanted to committee to be aware of this federal law. Julia shared concern that folks view the GEAC as a feminist group. Discussion amongst members ruled that out.

Workforce Initiative - Sandy reported Illinois Manufacturing Association (IMA) Education Foundation has purchased the statewide license for Dream It. Do It., a premier outreach tool created by the Manufacturing Institute, a subsidiary of the National Association of Manufacturers. Illinois IMA members have been asked by the IMA to personally engage with local high school and community colleges on October 4th, Manufacturing Day. Ruth called attention to the Manufacturing Day website, which will have key information to share about careers available in manufacturing.

Next Step:

The next GEAC meeting will be February 14, 2014, at the ISBE office in Springfield. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

Julia made the motion to adjourn & Ruth seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.