

# **Gender Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

February 14, 2014

1 P.M.

Illinois State Board of Education

(4th Floor Webinar Room)

100 N. 1st Street

Springfield, IL 62777

The Gender Equity Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy Westlund-Deenihan at 1:05.

Roll call resulted in confirmation that a quorum was in attendance.

Members attending in person: Deborah Hopper, Penny Lauritzen, Wendy Howerter, Brian Houser

Members attending by phone/GoTo meeting: Sandra Westlund-Deenihan, Julia Oglesby, Ruth Sweetser.

Guests attending by phone/GoTo meeting: Michael Cermak

Chair Sandy Westlund-Deenihan expressed a welcome to all and introduced new appointment representing ISBE, Brian Houser. The Illinois Department of Labor, Displaced Homemakers Program manager position remains with appointed member Wanda Andrews until guidance can be provided on how to fill the position, which is no longer funded/staffed.

**Review and Approval of the Minutes:**

Deborah Hopper moved to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2013 minutes as presented. Wendy Howerter seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously and the minutes will be placed on file.

## **ISBE Update:**

Deborah Hopper reported that College and Career Readiness Division is fully staffed in the CTE area; however some positions in the Core area are vacant. The key focus continues to focus on the Illinois Learning Standards. The Common Core were adopted in 2010 and the Next Generation Science Standards we adopted by the board in February. The Connections Conference is in March 12-13 and features best practice sessions, including sessions that focus on a variety of special populations categories. ISBE received notification that the Office of Adult and Vocational Education (OVAE) has been renamed to the Office of Career and Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE). Additional key focus is on teacher evaluation system.

Brian Houser reported all members need to complete the Open Meetings Act training available online and their Ethics training as a part of their GEAC appointment requirements. The public members of the committee were reminded that they need to complete the Open Meetings Act training and submit the certificate only once during term of appointment to committee. Ethics training must be done annually. Brian and Debbie will contact members regarding their status of submission of their certificates.

ISBE continues to be a member state with the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity. Brian Houser will be attending annual professional development institute in Washington, DC April 7 - 10. Michael Cermak will present with Reed Davenport ([wheelchairdiaries.com](http://wheelchairdiaries.com)) during the conference.

Michael Cermak, ISBE Special Populations Project reported the following:

1). CTE state summary data available for 2011 & 2012 are more consistent in collection and comparable. He also reported on some findings in CTE participation reports that show major increase in female participation, but show a slight dip in Black, Asian, Pacific Islander, and American Indian male participation. He also shared some retention rates in programs for Perkins completers; 2). Presentations were given to nearly 300 counselors, administrators, and teachers in the fall that would impact a minimum of 18,000 students. Three schools updating programs as a result of trainings to incorporate 3-D printers in the CTE classroom; and 3) a micro-messaging workshop training series with NAPE was kicked off in January on Micro-messaging. The series will take twelve teachers through intensive training where they will use baseline data, make changes, and measure results; and 4) classroom posters have been developed to assist with changing the context in the classroom to provide a more welcoming environment and are available. The project website is [illinoiscte.org](http://illinoiscte.org).

#### **Partner Updates and Initiatives:**

American Association of University Women (AAUW) – Ruth Sweetser reported that AAUW has been involved with Equity Library since 1991. She reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dare to Dream conference was held at the College of DuPage for area middle school girls. Over 400 Latina girls & parents attended the conference. The conference provided tracks for parents and students focusing on the encouragement to finish high school. AAUW is partnering with Tech Savvy and having a one day event on May 10 for middle school girls and an adult. Tracks will inform of opportunities in STEM careers. Illinois is one of 10 states in the Tech Savvy initiative. Ruth also reported the IL Girl's Collaborative Project continues as one of 38 Regional Programs. She encouraged signing up current on-going programs and projects to make others aware of resources and programs. These are shown on the national registry.

Illinois Community College Board – Wendy Howerter, President-elect of the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) so will be planning the Forum for Excellence in Nov. 2014. The council is looking at adding a CTE track within the ICCCA. The Accelerating Opportunities grants that ICCB has participated in to create bridge units to move GED students into career and tech courses while completing their GED. Many projects with secondary schools including common core, college and career readiness, and piloting PARCC assessment program are on-going. Pathway to Results allows for career and tech course evaluations to foster continuous improvement under Community College Perkins funding. Perkins Grant provides funding to Accelerating Opportunities CTE. The Continuous Quality Improvement project was created by the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL) involves are large piece of equity evaluation. OCCRL was recognized nationally for their evaluation process.

ILAVESNP – Julia Ann Oglesby reported that ILAVESNP continues to give scholarships. IACTE Conference will be February 20 – 21<sup>st</sup>. Excellent pre-sessions, including teacher evaluations, state standards, and assessment will be available. Julia also noted an increase in males headed in the Health Care career field through her work at Joliet Junior College.

NAPE Education Foundation – Sandy Westlund-Deenihan reported continue to update Strategic Plan. Moving forward and receiving grants. NSF is the best place to look for information. Motorola Solutions Foundation grant for \$80,000 is for high school and middle school professional development of STEM and CTE teacher, administrators and counselor teams for ISDU-46 in coordination with San Jose State Project expanding to feeder middle schools in both locations. Web based and on site professional development and resource tools provided. Enrollments are increasing in non-traditional programs. NAPE Professional Development Institute in Arlington, VA is April 7-10.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) - Brian Houser (filled in for Brenda) He attended the fall Administrator & Counselor's PLTW Conference in Lisle. The University of Illinois currently has a grant from ISBE to provide statewide PLTW services to schools. He attended a Gender Equity session provided by Courtney Buss at James B. Conant High School in Schaumburg which has increased female participation in Science, Engineering and Math through hosting a Gems Extravaganza. Why So Few? AAUW report data was also recognized in the session.

System Directors Leadership Council – No report

Women Changing the Face of Agriculture – Penny Lauritzen reported 550 students registered for March 7 event at John Wood Community College, Quincy, IL & 72 – 75 companies are represented as sponsors, career fair participants, breakout session presenters or in-kind contributors. At least 5 are new, including Ag PR firm Osborn-Barr, BASF Corporation, Carthage Vet Services.

Other: Ruth Sweetser expressed questions regarding IL Pathways providing information about career opportunities and electronic portfolios. What will be included? How would it be used, structured, operated? Would it be cloud based and accessible to all students and employees?

### **Old Business:**

STEM Equity Best Practice – Sandy Westlund-Deenihan reported letter from committee was sent to IL Board of Ed. The AAUW info “Why so Few” was presented by Deborah Hopper to STEM Learning Exchanges during a monthly conference call.

Data Workgroup (Michael Cermak, Julia Oglesby, and Sandy Westlund-Deenihan) had conference call last February. We now have 3 years of data now available and presented in same matter to provide a better look at patterns. Deborah Hopper reported that CTE Report Card is anticipated at the end of February/early March. Michael added that Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics reports occupations with the most job growth in the the Health Care Industries. The Data Workgroup will reconvene before September meeting of GEAC.

### **New Business:**

Congratulations to Sandy Westlund-Deenihan – Dream It!!! Do It!!! Project that was designed to change the face of manufacturing led to her nomination to IL Manufacturing Assoc. Board of Directors and she was inducted today, February 14 in Oakbrook, IL during IMA Board meeting. She took our concerns for the DIDI initiative to President Greg Baise and Jim Nelson. Sandy is serving on their Educational Foundation. They want her to develop a Women in Manufacturing mentoring program.

**Next Meeting:** September 12, 2014, ISBE Office, Chicago.

Deborah Hopper made the motion to adjourn and Julia Oglesby seconded. Sandy Westlund-Deenihan adjourned.