

Gender Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
9th Floor Conference Room 9-034
100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL 60602

Chair, Sandy Westlund-Deenihan, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM and welcomed members and guests. Roll call: Present in conference room included Sandy Westlund-Deenihan, Deborah Hopper, Ruth Sweetser, Brian Houser, Sally Arnett-Hartwick (guest), and those by conference call connection, Julia Ann Oglesby, Penny Lauritzen, Wendy Howerter, Tricia Broughton.

February 14, 2014 minutes sent prior to the meeting. Chair asked for corrections and Ruth Sweetser noted that "National" needed to be deleted from page 2, AAUW report referring to Equity Library. She made the motion to approve the minutes as corrected, Julia Ann Oglesby seconded. Motion carried.

ISBE Update

Deborah Hopper reported the Common Core Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, PARCC, and Teacher Evaluation continue to be a key focus at ISBE. Illinois continues to be a member state of NAPE. The national professional development institute proves valuable each year, especially with the close connections to the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education. The College and Career Readiness Division continues to monitor actions on the reauthorization of the Carl Perkins.

Deborah Hopper reminded the committee that this meeting completes the second year of everyone's appointment to the GEAC. She thanked everyone for their service to the committee and encouraged members who desire to continue service to the GEAC to please let her know so she can notify the Superintendent of Education. Per the legislation, committee appointments are for two years and commence on January 1, 2015. The GEAC legislation was amended on July 16, 2014 to include an appointee of the Department of Labor, as the prior position of displaced homemaker program manager is no longer a funded position. Debbie also noted Wanda Andrews, with the Illinois Department of Labor has fulfilled the displaced homemaker position on the board for several years and is appreciative of her dedication and the support of the Illinois Department of Labor to the GEAC.

Brian Houser reported on his attendance at National Alliance for Partners in Equity (NAPE) 35th Annual Professional Development Institute in Washington, DC in April. Sandy Westlund-Deenihan also attended. Both expressed their appreciation NAPE's emphasis to improve education for Special Populations. Brian thought the Public Policy Day was very informative. Sandy Westlund-Deenihan added a quote from Mimi Lufkin, CEO of NAPE stated "We have to look more carefully at the student side of the equation if we are to improve student access, classroom equity, and workforce diversity. By providing tools and resources to educators to better meet the needs of diverse students based on race, gender, ethnicity, income, and disability, we are able to realize the improved student outcomes we

want and need.” The Save the Date for the NAPE PDI is April 21-23, 2015 Westin Alexandria, VA.

Brian introduced Sally Arnett-Hartwick, who has replaced Michael Cermak with Special Populations Project (www.illinoiscte.org). Sally’s role along with Chris Merrill and Josh Brown is to provide support and resources for CTE administrators and teachers. She shared posters with those at the meeting that are provided to educational institutions to promote nontraditional participation. Nontraditional participation and course completion data are tracked by gender, ethnicity, economically disadvantaged and special populations with CTE. Sally presented Illinois statistics compared to National levels. The document she shared at the meeting has been provided to all members of the committee. She also indicated there is a developing discussion to determine what STEM really means.

Partner Updates and Initiatives

NAPE Education Foundation:

Sandy Westlund-Deenihan also reported that the NAPE Education Foundation has received certificates of registration with the US Copyright Office for the Micro-messaging To Reach and Teach Every Student™ and the Program Improvement Process for Equity™ curriculums in an effort to strengthen the protection of their intellectual property. First grant application has been submitted to U.S. Dept. of Education through IES program. Support came from John Hopkins University of Education and Baltimore County Public Schools. The proposal, if funded, adapts the Micro-messaging program to a whole school model building the pipeline of students into rigorous college and career ready programs by working with teachers, counselors, principals and business professionals.

Women Changing the Face of Agriculture:

Penny Lauritzen reported the IL Agri-Women and professional women of agri-businesses will host the 6th annual Women Changing the Face of Agriculture career discovery event on March 6, 2015 at the Bone Student Center, IL State University and anticipate 800 students and 150 – 200 businesswomen will participate. Last spring’s event at John Wood Community College was a success on March 7 with 700 students and 175 businesswomen participating.

System Directors Leadership Council:

Deborah Hopper shared a report from Dian Albert, System Directors Leadership Council. The SDLC publishes a series of newsletters that have items regarding Gender Equity, such as: New National Girls Collaborative Project Directory Affiliations, Micro-messaging to Reach and Teach Every Student, Million Women Mentors, Minnesota webinar series to Improve Non-Trad, and Women in Technology Outreach Kits. Dian is planning to attend the Training to Recruit and Retain Females/Improve Nontraditional training offered by the National Institute for Women in Trades. Several Education for Employment system directors attended Illinois CTE Special Populations grant and NAPE program on Micro-messaging. Her experience was excellent.

Illinois Community College Board:

Tricia Broughton reported for the Illinois Community College Board which will host the Forum for Excellence in Springfield on September 23 – 24. This conference is geared

towards Career & Technical Education administrators, primarily at the postsecondary level, but also for secondary administrators. ICCB Perkins Grants have been awarded in the areas of Dual Credit Enhancement, Programs of Study Implementation, and Special Populations. These grants are available for amounts between \$5000-\$10,000 to encourage access to Career and Technical Education programs and to enhance collaboration between secondary and postsecondary institutions. The Teaching & Learning Conference is also being held in Springfield on October 23-24th. This conference is sponsored by the Illinois Community College Faculty Association and is geared towards improving instructional methods & student performance. Several speakers/sessions focus on reaching special populations.

Illinois Manufacturers Association:

Sandy Westlund-Deenihan reported for the Illinois Manufacturers Association. The "Open Doors" Project (Manufacturing Day) will be held October 3rd to encourage students to visit various manufacturing sites. On the annual Manufacturing Day manufacturers open their door to their communities by hosting tours. We expose students, parents, teachers, guidance counselors, policy makers, media and the general public to opportunities and the realities of today's manufacturing industry. This day improves the perception of manufacturing careers and expands the value to the U.S. economy. Insights in to various careers in manufacturing: H.R., OP Mgr, Engineers, Designers, Assemblers, Electricians, Computer Programmers, Fabricators and Welders. Manufacturers open their doors to allow the public to see jobs and understand the salaries these jobs command. Last year there were 832 business participants and it is hoped that there will be over 1000 this year. The Association has established a website (www.manufacturing.org) in an effort to improve the image of manufacturing and notify the public of scholarships that are available. Sandy Westlund-Deenihan reported on her recent testimony on The Hill. Further questions were submitted to her. She talked about GEAC- who we are/ what our committee is charged with. She also shared information about our recommendation of "Why So Few?"

ILAVESNP:

Julia Ann Oglesby reported for ILAVESNP. Since there are few functioning Special Populations Coordinators in the IL school system, this group is not as strong as in the past but there is still a \$1000 scholarship available for any student with Special Population designation. The IACTE Annual Conference will be held in East Peoria on February 12 – 13 at the PAR-A-DICE Hotel. The "Call for Presenters is available and GEAC is encouraged to present and attend.

PLTW:

Brian Houser presented information from Brenda Pacey on Project Lead the Way that has been provided in Illinois for 10 years. There are 80 new programs being offered this year in high, middle and elementary schools. This brings the total Project Lead the Way programs to 300 in K – 12 grades.

AAUW-Illinois

Ruth Sweetser reported for American Association of University Women (AAUW) - IL that a recent report on Community Colleges is now available. All past reports are available at www.aauw.org. The \$tart \$mart program to encourage wage equity for recent female

college graduates is available for presentation on college campuses. Tech Savvy program designed for middle school aged females will be held Saturday, November 15 at Rice Campus, Wheaton. Pay Equity continues to be the major issue that AAUW focuses on. The Dare to Dream Project provided by AAUW at College of DuPage is designed to focus on 7th & 8th Grade Latino female students and their parents to encourage STEM participation.

Old Business

Sandy Westlund-Deenihan and Julia Ann Oglesby will continue to work with Sally Arnett-Hartwick as the Data Working Group. Sally reported that Data related to special population inequities in various career tracks has now been tracked consistently for 3 years (2011 – 2013) and improvements to required levels have been achieved in many areas. Numbers in 6S1 and 6S2 categories are consistent without fluctuation. Non Traditional female participation is up as well as Non Traditional female completion. Females are catching up to Males in both categories. Career clusters of CIPS have been maintained for the past 3 years. Example Nutrition and Culinary Arts have been segregated. We have good data. The exceptions are with Black and Hispanics. Additional research is needed. The Work Group will review 2013 data and have report for GEAC meeting in February 2015. Discussion was held regarding impact and/or use of data. We may want to look at Post Sec 5P1 and 5P2 Non Traditional Participants and Completers, per Debbie's recommendation to allow us to draw conclusions on how girls are transitioning.

New Business

Ruth Sweetser inquired if she could bring one or two of the women, who have been involved, to make a presentation on the Dare To Dream Conference at the February meeting. Committee members agreed that would be good opportunity to share information. She will ask and confirm their availability.

Sandy Westlund-Deenihan reported that the President had signed the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) on July 22nd. This legislation replaces the Workforce Investment Act and makes the Federal workforce system more responsive to the employer needs. She raised the question of whether or not we wanted a presentation on WIOA. It is thought that Perkins reauthorization will be easier since the passage of WIOA. Committee members agreed that it would be good to understand and know more about WIOA.

Deborah Hopper presented the amended GEAC Legislation (see excerpt below) and reported that a letter was sent to the Director of Labor requesting an appointee to serve on the GEAC. GEAC member terms begin January 1st and are appointed by the Superintendent of Education.

Dates to remember:

March 25 – 26 Connections Conference
April 21 – 23 NAPE Professional Development Institute

Next GEAC Meeting will be February 20, 2015 at 11:00 AM at the ISBE, Springfield, IL.

Legislation Excerpt:

Public Act 98-0739 on July 16, 2014.

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/98/PDF/098-0739.pdf>.

GEAC Excerpt:

Section 10. The Vocational Education Act is amended by changing Section 2.1 as follows: (105 ILCS 435/2.1) (from Ch. 122, par. 697.1)

Sec. 2.1. Gender Equity Advisory Committee. (a) The Superintendent of the State Board of Education shall appoint a Gender Equity Advisory Committee of at least 9 members to advise and consult with the State Board of Education and the gender equity coordinator in all aspects relating to ensuring that all students have equal educational opportunities to pursue high wage, high skill occupations leading to economic self-sufficiency. (b)

Membership shall include without limitation one regional gender equity coordinator, 2 State Board of Education employees, an appointee of the Director of Labor , and 5 citizen appointees who have expertise in one or more of the following areas: nontraditional training and placement, service delivery to single parents, service delivery to displaced homemakers, service delivery to female teens, business and industry experience, and Education-to-Careers experience. Membership also may include employees from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Human Services, and the Illinois Community College Board who have expertise in one or more of the areas listed in this subsection (b) for the citizen appointees. Appointments shall be made taking into consideration expertise of services provided in secondary, postsecondary and community based programs.

(c) Members shall initially be appointed to one year terms commencing in January 1, 1990, and thereafter to two year terms commencing on January 1 of each odd numbered year.

Vacancies shall be filled as prescribed in subsection (b) for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(d) Each newly appointed committee shall elect a Chair and Secretary from its members. Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The Committee shall meet at least bi-annually and at other times at the call of the Chair or at the request of the gender equity coordinator.

(Source: P.A. 94-793, eff. 5-19-06.)