Gender Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 2016, 1:00 p.m.  
Illinois State Board of Education Office  
4th floor Webinar Room  
100 N. 1st Street, Springfield, IL 62777

The Chair, Sandy Westlund-Deenihan, welcomed members and guests at 1:00 PM.

Roll call:
Member Webinar attendance: Anna Hui, Matt Kelley, Ruth Sweetser, Sandra Westlund-Deenihan
Guest Webinar Attendance: Aimee Julian, Brenda Pacey - Guest
Member attendance at ISBE: Penny Lauritzen, Wendy Howerter, Brian Houser
Guests attendance at ISBE: Denise Smith, Sally Arnette-Hartwick

The Chair introduced Matthew Kelly, Assistant Principal/Special Populations Coordinator Kankakee Area Career Center, as the newest appointee by the Superintendent to ISBE GEAC. In his work, he promotes career and technical education, and serves as a bridge between academic and vocational sides. He works to combine local and regional businesses into the educational realm, in order advanced certification.

The Chair gave members some time to review the minutes before vote held to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee member, Penny Lauritzen, will be leaving committee as of March 2016. The Chair requested nominations to be Secretary of the GEAC.

With no nominations of committee members to take role on permanently, the Chair tabled the nomination of new Secretary, and asked for volunteer to take minutes for this meeting. Member Anna Hui agreed to take minutes for current meeting.

Brian Houser, Principal Consultant to ISBE for College & Career Readiness, provided updates on ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) and the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE). For ESSA, the NCLB provision would be effective December 17, 2015, affecting state and local autonomy for K-12 education and CTE. In the 2017-2018 school year, plan were to kick-in. The ESEA waivers were to expire on August 1, 2016. The well-rounded education would include CTE in the core education not just core academics with a change in the Perkins Plans as clearly defined in the Act. Brian would provide more updates in the next meeting when more aspects are finalized. The ESSA requirements include accountability for English language learners success and Equity and Access pieces.

For NAPE, Brian pulled up the websites on the Webinar. [http://www.napequity.org/Illinois](http://www.napequity.org/Illinois) is part of NAPE. Brian participated in NAPE webinars about the universal design for student learning. These strategies can be used for all students in the classroom. The NAPE website link and address for webinars is [http://www.napequity.org/](http://www.napequity.org/). The Chair also mentioned opportunity for professional development through NAPE’s National Summit April 11-16, 2016. The deadline for early registration was originally February 29, 2016. The Chair planned to attend the Summit as she serves on the NAPE Foundation Board. She highly recommended the Summit as a good
opportunity to network and share best practices as well as to learn about research tools and strategies.

Brian Houser provided an update on Statewide Leadership Activities, since Debbie Hopper was absent. Brian highlighted the Connections Conference on March 8-9 at the Pheasant Run Resort. [http://connectionsproject.illinoisstate.edu/](http://connectionsproject.illinoisstate.edu/) They expected about 600 attendees at this best practices conference, where a variety of topics and projects would be covered, such as the Curriculum Revitalization Project. The CTE Special Populations Project at ISU would be sharing data and resources at the conference. Brian encouraged people to contact Debbie Hopper with more questions about the conference.

Sally Arnette-Hartwick from ISU provided overview of CTE Special Populations Leadership Project. She described the 5 statewide initiatives of the project and the 6 populations that make up the project. Some of the statistics she highlighted included:

- 46 million people were living below the poverty line (22% were students living at or below poverty line and 13% had blindness or other disabilities)
- Minority vs. majority percentages
- Non-traditional fields

The project now has 3 years of data collected from the participants. Brian and Sally discussed concentrators and how class participation numbers dropped at the secondary level because there are often less programs and more requirements to participate in the programs while also needing to complete core classes for high school graduation requirements. They both indicated that there may be a variety of reasons why participation goes down. Sally concluded presentation by welcoming feedback and ideas. She frequently updates the website and will be at Connections Conference as well as other CTE conferences. [http://www.illinoiscte.org/](http://www.illinoiscte.org/)

Chris and Josh attended training on poverty simulation for role playing with students. The program could come out and run the simulation out in the field.

The Chair asked Brian to give an update on Perkins authorization. There was no update at this time of the Perkins reauthorization.

Brian mentioned Illinois was applying for the New Skills for Youth grant from JP Morgan. Forty-five states were applying for it, and the deadline was very soon.

Brian provided news about staff changes. Karen Drage form Eastern Illinois University was hired to handle business marketing and computer education. They were also planning to hire up on 21st Century and Core subject areas. Shangte Shen who handled data analysis was going to Colorado Department of Education. Brian thanked him for his help as his duties have been transferred to a number of staff. Shangte helped provide consistency to the data, an improvement over previous practices.

The Chair invited guests attending the meeting to provide updates on partner Initiatives.

Ruth Sweetser provided an update on the IL-American Association of University Women. Their third annual AAUW Tech Savvy Event was scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2016. More information can be found at [http://www.aauw.org/](http://www.aauw.org/). The event would be held at Oakton Community College. Attendees would include middle school girls and adults and the focus was to attract girls to STEM.
Ruth also previewed the research topic to be released in March: Barriers and Bias – Status of leadership

Other topics located on the AAUW.org website:
- Equity of women and girls in preparatory/education
- Background and career choices impacts earning and family
- Tech Trek
- Start Smart / Work Smart

For PLTW, Brian indicated that Brenda Pacey had shared with him that there was nothing new to report at this time about Project Lead the Way. www.pltw.uiuillinois.edu

Penny gave an update on Women Shaping the Face of Agriculture. Next Friday, 3/4/16, they reached their goal of 550 students registered for the program with 100-150 college students. They had 52 tables for the career fair including the agriculture agencies, universities, community colleges, and companies. The meals and transport of the girls were the biggest expense. The keynote speaker was a blogger/educator from Iowa. Next year the conference will be held on March 3, 2017 and the location is still to be determined. http://womenchangingthefaceofagriculture.com/

Penny also highlighted the gender role and equality survey conducted by Missouri on http://www.agcareers.com/newsletters/Gender_Survey_Highlights.pdf. It was a good career opportunity outreach tool and FFA uses it a lot of counsel students. She participated in the survey, which has goal to verify women are a minority of representation in agricultural field and women’s reaction to it. She pointed out that sometimes there was something lost in translation in how a question was presented. The conference was started because mobility appeared to be factor to move where good jobs are. Changes in attitudes and the ability to relocate is needed for women’s job importance and balancing family priorities, not just in cases of men’s jobs. This was an example changing gender roles at the family level.

Dian Albert was not present to provide an update for the Education for Employment System Directors.

Wendy Howarter provided an update on LincolnLand Community College. They received Perkins funds at the end of December 2015. In the next few months, the Pathways to Results grants will focus on Perkins Performance Indicators to help address the fact that there are not enough non-traditional completers of males in nursing and females in criminal justice. In conjunction with ICCB, the implementation of WIOA is being discussed.

Aimee Julian from Illinois State University provided information of upcoming workshops in coordination with ICCB. The Academic Counseling and Academic Advising workshops will be held on March 17 in Springfield and March 30 in Palos Hills. They will be looking at how WIOA affects Perkins. The Pathways to Results Summit will be held on April 5-6.

Brian indicated that Tricia Broughton from ICCB wanted to share information about IDOT and Tollway Authority will provide grants for highway career training program.

Sandy Westlund-Deenihan from the Board of Directors of the Illinois Manufacturers Association (IMA) discussed plans for the International Manufacturing Trade Show (IMTS), September 12-17, 2016 at McCormick Place, Chicago. They expected student attendance to jump from 8,000 to 17,000, and IMA provided support for students to attend. The international programming for girls at the conference will include a project-based challenge for girls at school compete at IMTS. The project will involve real world problem solving as well as product development and improvement.  http://www.ima-net.org/

Lauren Sugerman from Chicago Women in Trades was unable to attend the meeting. The Chair had previously requested a tour for the September 2016 GEAC meeting but it was tabled. http://chicagowomenintrades2.org/

Old Business
The Chair, Julia, Michael, and Sally were members of the working group. The Chair suggested that Matt might replace Julia on the working group.

Brian mentioned Women and STEM Knowledge Center webinars can be found at WSKC.org. Members and guests may be interested in the webinar entitled, “IGNITE – Exciting Opportunities for Girls Who Code”.

The Chair thanked Penny for her many years of service to ISBE and GEAC, and wished her well.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, September 9, 2016 in ISBE Office, Chicago. There were no objections to this date and time, but subject to change, if necessary.

Wendy made motion to adjourn meeting. Anna seconded the motion and meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Hui, Member