The GEAC Chair welcomed everyone and introduced the guest presenters: Shayna Adelman (James B. Conant High School) and Cindy Curtis (Evanston Township High School), both Project Lead The Way/Technology and Engineering Education instructors.

Shayna provided a presentation on Gender Equity in STEM. District 211 hosts an annual GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science) conference for 5th and 6th grade girls which encourages girls to pursue STEM educational and career opportunities. This year was the 7th year of hosting this event. Results have shown an increase of 92% in female PLTW enrollment from 2010-2011 to 2014-2015. Additionally, Shayna discussed and shared pictures/video of the all-girls robotics team competition.

Cindy Curtis presented to the committee on the Women in Engineering (WiE) Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) course and Women in STEM (WiSTEM) club. Evanston Township High School offers a female only section of IED class for the 2016-2017 school year. In addition to the course, the WiSTEM club provides support to the female students. As a result of this pilot program at the high school, female students felt freer to ask questions and participate more in the class as well as provide more opportunities to interact with other females to build stronger peer relationships. This pilot program started in response to the major drop in female retention in advanced level of science classes junior year.

The Chair thanked the teachers for sharing their gender equity efforts in the classroom and also Brenda Pacey for coordinating the presentations today.

The Chair called the official meeting to order at 2:38 PM.

Roll call resulted in a quorum with the following members and guests present via video teleconference:

- Springfield: Brian Houser (ISBE), and Sally Arnett-Hartwick (ISU – Special Populations in CTE Project), Matt Kelley (Special Pops Coordinator), Wendy Howerter (LLCC), Casey Anderson (ISU – ICPS)
- Chicago: Sandra Westlund-Deenihan (Chair), Ruth Sweetser (AAUW), Reginald Patterson (ISBE), Brenda Pacey (PLTW), Shayna Adelman, Cindy Curtis
- Absent: Dian Keil, Anna Hui, Tricia Broughton, and Denise Smith

After roll call, Brian Houser informed participants of the V-Tel meeting protocol. Discussions and questions would be in order of Chicago, Springfield, and then Phone participants.
Similarly, Brian requested that the Secretary elections be postponed until February. Term limits will expire at the end of this year, as elections take place every two years in odd years. Sally Arnett-Hartwick agreed to take the Minutes for this meeting.

The Chair gave members time to review the minutes from the September 16, 2016 meeting. Minor corrections were requested by members.

Wendy Howerter made a motion to approve the Minutes, as amended. The minutes were seconded and were unanimously approved. Minutes were placed on file and to be posted after meeting on the ISBE website.

**ISBE Update (Brian Houser)**

Brian Houser informed members of the retirement of the Division Administrator Dora Welker for the College and Career Readiness Division, as well as vacancies at ISBE in Career Counseling, Business Marketing and Computer Education, and Family and Consumer Science.

**NAPE**

The 2017 National Summit for Educational Equity is scheduled for April 24-27, 2017 in Arlington, VA. Early bird registration is March 18th. There are many webinars and resources to utilize through the NAPE website.

**Statewide Leadership Activities:**

**Connections Grant (Brian Houser)**

Brian is the grant consultant of the Connections Grant. The grant is now awarded to Illinois State University to continue offering professional development and the Connections Conference. The conference is scheduled later this year due to the roll out of the grant. The conference is April 24-25 at Tinley Park, IL. Presentation proposals will be accepted until February 24th.

**CTE Special Populations Leadership Project (Sally Arnett-Hartwick (ISU))**

Sally shared that the grant was awarded in October. She handed out a project report with activities and CTE special populations data. At Connections and IACTE, the project will present on data driven strategies for special populations. Resources can be found on [www.illinoiscte.org](http://www.illinoiscte.org). Examples of resources created are the cultural awareness test, 2x4 articles, non-traditional flipcharts, poster sets, lesson plan adaptations, and non-traditional data.

**School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) (Reggie Patterson)**

Reggie is the new ISBE member on the GEAC committee. He wanted to give everyone a brief overview of his job responsibilities at ISBE and how it relates to the committee. Reggie provided handouts with an overview of SHAC. Each district has a SHAC that makes recommendations to the school board. Each school also has a wellness committee. The ISBE SHAC assists local districts in making recommendations to the Superintendent to support policies for sexual health, safe supportive environments and services, anti-bullying, and anti-discrimination. There are grants for schools to insure that there are SHAC advisory committees for all schools.
Other

Brian mentioned the ESSA draft #3 is on the ISBE website.

**Partner Updates and Initiatives:**

**Project Lead the Way** (Brenda Pacey (Director of PLTW))

The Chair thanked Brenda for inviting the presenters for today’s meeting. Brenda mentioned that the presenters plan to present at the Connections Conference this year. No additional reporting for PLTW.

**IL American Association of University Women** (Ruth Sweetser)

Ruth discussed the AAUW resources for the public and businesses in Illinois. The AAUW has been continuing for 6-7 years the TechSavvy program geared toward middle school girls to provide hands-on experiences with the realities of STEM. Dare to Dream (geared towards Latino middle school students and their parents) has also been supported by the AAUW. Ruth stated that research on “conscious bias” is ongoing.

**EFE System Director Leadership** (Matt Kelley)

Matt Kelley will be transitioning roles from a Special Populations Coordinator/Asst. Principal to the new EFE System Director of the Kankakee Area Regional Vocational Education System. Matt will continue to provide assistance to the committee focusing on equity in the classroom and special population students.

**Illinois Community College Board** (Tricia Broughton)

- **No Report**

**LincolnLand Community College** (Wendy Howerton)

Wendy discussed budget impacts affecting professional development opportunities. LincolnLand accomplishes program reviews with new guidelines evaluating and analyzing equity. Enrollments and graduation rates are reviewed. Wendy discussed competency based courses such as cybersecurity and developing coding classes (AAS) next fall. Wendy plans to attend the NAPE conference and utilize ideas as she works with student orientation, placement, and advising for the community college. There is a new pilot four hour class at the community college working on developmental reading and writing. This year LincolnLand Community College is celebrating 50 years on February 18th. An art gallery of 50 years will be on display.

**Illinois Department of Labor** (Anna Hui)

- **No Report**

**Women Changing the Face of Agriculture** (Denise Smith)

- **No Report**
Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support (Casey Anderson)

Casey Anderson from ICSPS at Illinois State University shared upcoming professional development opportunities from March through May of 2017. He highlighted the following:

Perkins Administrator Meeting – March 23rd
Bridging the Gap – tentative March 28th
Perkins Online Data System Webinar – April 18th and 25th
Special Populations Summit – May 23

Casey noted that the Summit will discuss outcomes from innovative initiatives and activities through the FY17 Special Populations Support Grant. The Special Populations Summit will be a results-driven conference with plenty of resources. A national speaker is scheduled and registration can be found at www.icsps.illinoisstate.edu.

Old Business

Data Workgroup

Due to the Special Populations in CTE grant being approved late, the group did not have any new data to provide the committee. The Chair discussed the workgroup members and recommended Michael Cermack’s assistance. Sally stated that Michael would be in a support role for the data collection and review.

Other

Brian Houser reminded GEAC members to submit their 2016 Ethics Form by October 1st. Brian Houser and Sandra Westlund-Deenihan requested speaker idea/contacts for February’s meeting via email due by Thanksgiving.

The next meeting is tentatively set for September 15, 2017, time and location TAB.

Adjournment

The Chair made a motion to adjourn, Wendy seconded. Vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully compiled and submitted by Brian Houser

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