



Kishwaukee College
Early Childhood Education
Fall 2021 Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 1st, 2021
Time: 8:05am-9:09am

External Participants: 2

Tina Holtz – Family & Consumer Sciences – DeKalb High School

Maria (Lombardo) Trotter – Director, Early Learning Center – Kishwaukee College

Internal Participants: 6

Jud Curry – Dean – Kishwaukee College

Terry Lyn Funston – Director of Curriculum & Program Development – Kishwaukee College

Anna Harvey – ADJ Instructor, ECE – Kishwaukee College

Kim Jordal – Administrative Specialist II – Kishwaukee College

Joanne Kantner – Chief Academic Officer - Kishwaukee College

Jessica Santillan-Reyes – Associate Dean – Kishwaukee College

Minutes

I. Introductions

- a. Purpose of Advisory Committee
 - To build, maintain, and expand connections with employers and professional organizations in these fields in our area. What is Kishwaukee College doing and what needs to be done to meet needs for these partners.
- b. Member Introductions (Name – Organization – Position)
 - See attendee list above.
- c. Review member list for updates and corrections

II. Program Update

- a. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (April 20, 2021)
 - Approved – no additions to minutes
- b. Program Enrollment, Completions, Revenue/Expenditures
 - Data was reviewed and discussed. Overall college enrollment FA20 vs FA21 6.4% decrease.

- c. Outcome Data and Pass Rates
- d. Equipment, Supply, and Staff Needs
- III. **Curriculum & Instruction Updates**
 - a. Curriculum Update
 - i. Competency Based Education (CBE) update
 - Competency Based Education is starting with ECE 112 Guiding Young Children. Consultants were brought in from CBEN to discuss how to set this up to work in our system.
 - ii. Open Education Resources (OER) update
 - Open Education Resources has different options such as Openstax, free published materials, library curated materials, and original faculty materials which provides students course content with no textbook expensive. The foundation grant was received to help with this for two ECE courses.
 - b. Clinical and Community Partnerships
 - ECE centers not allowing students in for observation because non-essential visitors currently not allowed to centers. Kishwaukee College wants to expand these partnerships in future.
 - c. Adjunct Faculty Recruitment
 - Kishwaukee College is not actively recruiting new faculty at this time, but as we move forward into competency based will need more personalized coaching with students to help students keep self-motivated down line.
 - d. Discussion
 - i. *How is aligned is KC's curriculum with industry needs?*
 - ii. *Suggestions for keeping the program "state of the art," to ensure ensuring that the program is poised to meet future skill needs.*
 - Maria, Director Early Learning Center, stated ECE program is meeting needs, but governing bodies are increasing education requirements to be in the classroom, with center teachers needing a minimum associates degree. State requirements also increasing for directors to include AAS ECE and classes in management and business. Other topics to cover in classes or programs the increase in behavior issues, community, family relations, and building social skills.
 - Tina, Family & Consumer Sciences, stated DeKalb school

district has lowered requirements such as paraprofessionals now do not need an Associate degree as long as working on 2-year degree or taking some college courses. Other important skills are staying up to date with technology and building kids social skills.

- Anna, adjunct Instructor and employee for YMCA, and has noticed the behavior and social needs for kids and teachers as greatly changed. They don't feel equipped to manage these behaviors. The state pushing mental health, so it may be worth increase focus on social and emotional child development.

IV. Industry Update & Labor Market Discussion

a. Illinois Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity

b. Discussion

- i. *What are the future employment opportunities for graduates?*
- ii. *What are your current or projected employment needs of your organization over the next 2-3 years?*
- iii. *What challenges is your industry and organization facing?*
 - The Illinois Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity is focused on transfer education to college and university for students. There are scholarship opportunities for ECE students with an associate's degree. This bring to question would bringing back the AAS benefit Kish students. And how does that overlap with competency-based gateways.

V. Work-Based Learning

a. Apprenticeships, Internships, Clinical, and On-the-job Training

b. Discussion

- i. *Are there any opportunities for current students to engage in work-based learning?*
- ii. *How can we prepare students more effectively for clinical training?*
 - a. Access to early learning and daycare centers remains a challenge during COVID restrictions. State initiatives for Prior Learning Assessment of ECE competencies will help current childcare workers to earn college credit for workplace learning.

VI. Facilities & Maintenance of Program (if time permits)

a. Current Facilities

b. Discussion

- i. *Does KC have the necessary facilities, equipment, and tools to prepare students to work in their field?*