



Date: May 1, 2023  
To: Dr. Laurie Borowicz  
From: Barbara Leach  
Re: SP23 Advisory Committee Minutes

## Early Childhood Education

Meeting Date: March 31, 2022. 9:01-10:16am

### External Participants: 5

Tina Holtz – Family & Consumer Sciences – DeKalb High School  
Kim Lamz – CCR&R Acting Director – 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care  
Samantha McDavid – Family & Community Engagement Team Lead - DeKalb County  
Regional Office of Education  
Jami Nguyen – Executive Director - Land of Learning Child Care  
Kristin Schulz – Interim Director of Campus Child Care – NIU

### Internal Participants: 6

Jud Curry – Dean, ACSS  
Terry Lyn Funston – Director of Curriculum & Program Development  
Anna Harvey – ADJ Instructor, ECE  
Kim Jordal – Administrative Specialist II  
Jessica Santillan-Reyes – Associate Dean, ACSS  
Maria (Lombard) Trotter – Director, Early Learning Center

## Minutes

### I. Welcome (5 minutes)

- a. Purpose of Advisory Committee – Jud Curry
- b. Member Introductions (Name – Organization – Position)

### II. Program Update (10 minutes)

- a. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (October 1, 2021)
  - Minutes approved
- b. Program Enrollment, Completions, Revenue/Expenditures
  - College and program enrollment and historical financial data shared
  - Discussion of need for continued flexibility in course offerings due to student employment

- College's participation in the new Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) will bring increased attention and enrollment to ECE statewide
- c. Equipment, Supply, and Staff Needs
  - Presented need for additional ECE adjunct faculty.
  - Brief discussion of ECE course offering modalities.

### **III. Curriculum & Instruction Updates**

- a. Curriculum Update
  - Competency Based Education (CBE) update
    - Competency-Based Education revision of ECE is temporarily on hold due to ECACE curricular work for statewide transferability.
    - ECACE will help facilitate statewide focus on Gateways competencies as core curricular components.
- b. Early Childhood Access Consortium and Equity (ECACE)
  - ECACE is intended to increase education and credentialing of incumbent workers, to expand ECE workforce, and to bridge 2-year and 4-year ECE programs/degrees through curricular alignment.
  - Scholarship and workforce development tasked with higher education navigators to work across counties with staff to help navigate and get started on program applications, scholarships, and pathways.
  - As part of ECACE, 4-C has hired 2 Navigators to facilitate the educational process for incumbent workers.
  - Kish has received grant funding to facilitate education of incumbent workforce, to expand course offerings through Illinois Community Colleges Online, and to provide Coach/Mentor position for ECE student support.
  - ECACE scholarship funding supports 1st- and 2nd-year students in community colleges, and 3rd- and 4th-year students at 4-year institutions.
  - If successful in ECE, then this could expand to other professional areas across state. Transform higher ed in IL.
- c. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Workforce Development
  - Regional office of Education is leading a community-based planning process focusing on helping DeKalb County.
  - The demand for childcare and early childhood education is high, but shortage of qualified teachers leaves centers with decreased hours or classroom space.

- 4-C, NIU and Kishwaukee College have been instrumental in these discussions.
  - Received attention from larger businesses in the area and could be opportunities to help community.
- d. Discussion
- *What is the need for Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education?*
    - For the last few years, the college has not offered an AAS in ECE, but only the Level 2 and Level 3 Gateways certifications. Is there employer demand for students with AAS degree?
    - High level of need for AAS-prepared graduates to fill teaching positions.
    - Employers previously hired many Kish AAS graduates.
    - Strategies for reaching potential ECE students, if the AAS is offered again: community outreach and build community connections, Spanish-language materials, outreach to DHS high school students.
    - HS student interest in ECE is present, but parents do not see clear degree path or viable future earnings—need to provide clear degree path through AAS to BA, scholarships, outreach.

#### **IV. Industry Update & Labor Market Discussion**

- a. Discussion
- *What challenges is your industry and organization facing?*
    - Overarching issue of better compensation for early childhood workers is a universal issue—limits ability of employers to hire and retain and limits ability of college to recruit students for ECE.
    - State and federal support is needed to increase early childhood worker compensation and for investment into early childhood education.

#### **Upcoming Items**

- April 2-8 Week of the Young Child
- Tina Holtz is looking to bring back interview piece for portfolio. Need interviewers for 7 students about 10 minutes a piece, if interested reach out to her at [tina.holtz@d428.org](mailto:tina.holtz@d428.org)