



# EQUITY & DIVERSITY

## EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADS THE WAY

### Agenda • Thursday, April 20, 2023

8:45 AM

**Welcome** Joni Scritchlow  
*INCCRRA, Senior Director*

Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Executive Director  
Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board, Executive Director

#### State Panel Presentations

Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit  
*Illinois Board of Higher Education, Executive Deputy Director*

Dr. Jason Helfer  
*Illinois State Board of Education, Deputy Officer for Instructional Education*  
Karen Yarbrough  
*Illinois Department of Human Services, Senior Early Childhood Policy Advisor*

#### Break

#### Question and Answer

#### State Panel Continues

Dr. Marcus Brown  
*Illinois Community College Board, Senior Director for Academic Affairs and Student Services*

Dr. Jamilah R. Jor'dan  
*Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, Executive Director*

Joni Scritchlow  
*INCCRRA, Senior Director*

#### Question and Answer

#### Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity and Early Childhood Faculty Preparation

Christi Chadwick  
*Illinois Board of Higher Education, Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity, Project Director*

#### Lunch

#### Faculty Colleagues Sharing Resources

#### Interest Sessions

**What a Difference a Year Makes: The Gateways ECE Level 2 Credential Virtual Reality-Based PLA Project**  
Dr. Marie Donovan, *DePaul University* and Anne Brennan, *Oakton College*

**Breaking Down the Language Barrier-Creating a Spanish Language Associates Degree for Early Childhood Educators**

Dr. Diane Schael, Marcela Calderon Duran and Stephanie Gray, *College of Lake County*

**Innovative Competency-Based and Credit for Prior Learning Program Models, National Louis University**  
Kamilah Wilson and Dr. Alicia Meno, *National Louis University*

2:30 PM

Adjourn



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8:30 AM

**Welcome Back**

Joni Scritchlow, *INCCRRA*

**Presentation on Data and Trends in Illinois**

Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, *Deputy Director for Information Management and Research, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

Dr. Jennifer Kirmes, *Deputy Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, Illinois State Board of Education*

**Interest Sessions**

**Building Equitable Pathways Through Braided ECE and English PLA**

Dr. Johnna Darragh Ernst and Zach Petrea, *Heartland Community College*

**Panel on How to Intentionally Implement the Competency Modules:**

**A Discussion With Faculty From Three Institutions**

Dr. Toni Potenza, *Roosevelt University* and Dr. Anni Reinking, *Reinking Education Consulting*,  
Kamilah Wilson, *National Louis University*, Carolyn Beal, *Southwestern Illinois College*  
and Dr. Melissa Clucas Walter, *Northern Illinois University*

**Bilingual and ESL Approval Considerations: Creating Awareness and Encouraging New Approaches to Elevate High Impact ESL/Bilingual Services Across the Early Care and Education Landscape**

Dr. Lindsay Meeker, *Western Illinois University*, Dr. Rebecca Vonderlack-Navarro, *Latino Policy Forum*,  
Catherine Main, *University of Illinois Chicago*, and Dr. Jennifer Kirmes, *Illinois Board of Higher Education*

**Break**

**Looking Ahead as Early Childhood Continues to Lead the Way in Equity and Diversity**

Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, *Illinois Board of Higher Education, Deputy Executive Director*

1:00 PM

**Adjourn**