



**Leveraging Cross-Sector
Partnerships to Improve and
Accelerate Access to
Credentials and Degrees for
Working Adults**

ACCELERATING EQUITABLE SUCCESS



ECACE

EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS
CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY



Illinois
State Board of
Education



Governor's Office of
Early Childhood Development

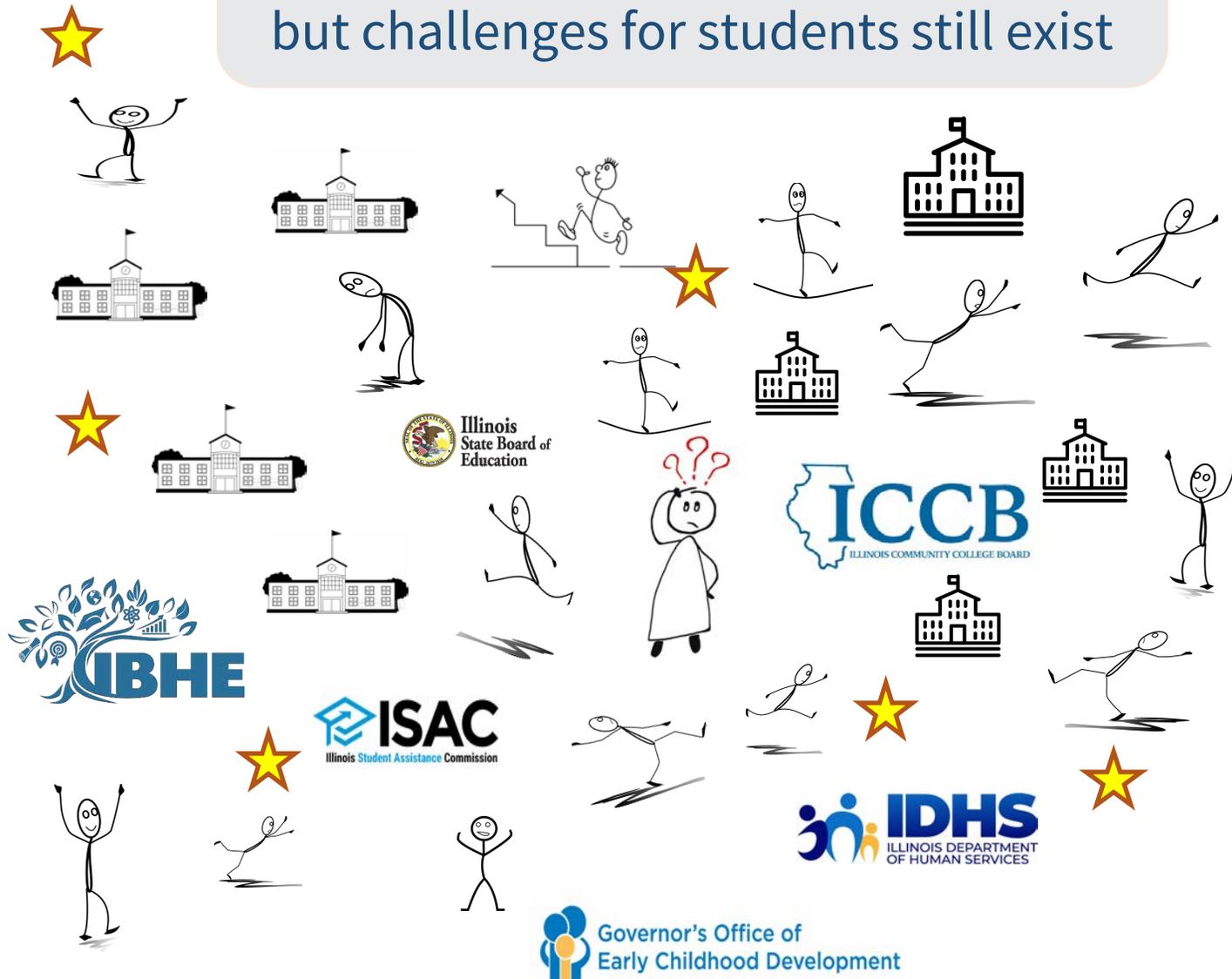


Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Presentation on ECACE
3. Panel Discussion
4. Q&A



Good work by individual entities and bright spots of innovation, but challenges for students still exist



Historical Challenges

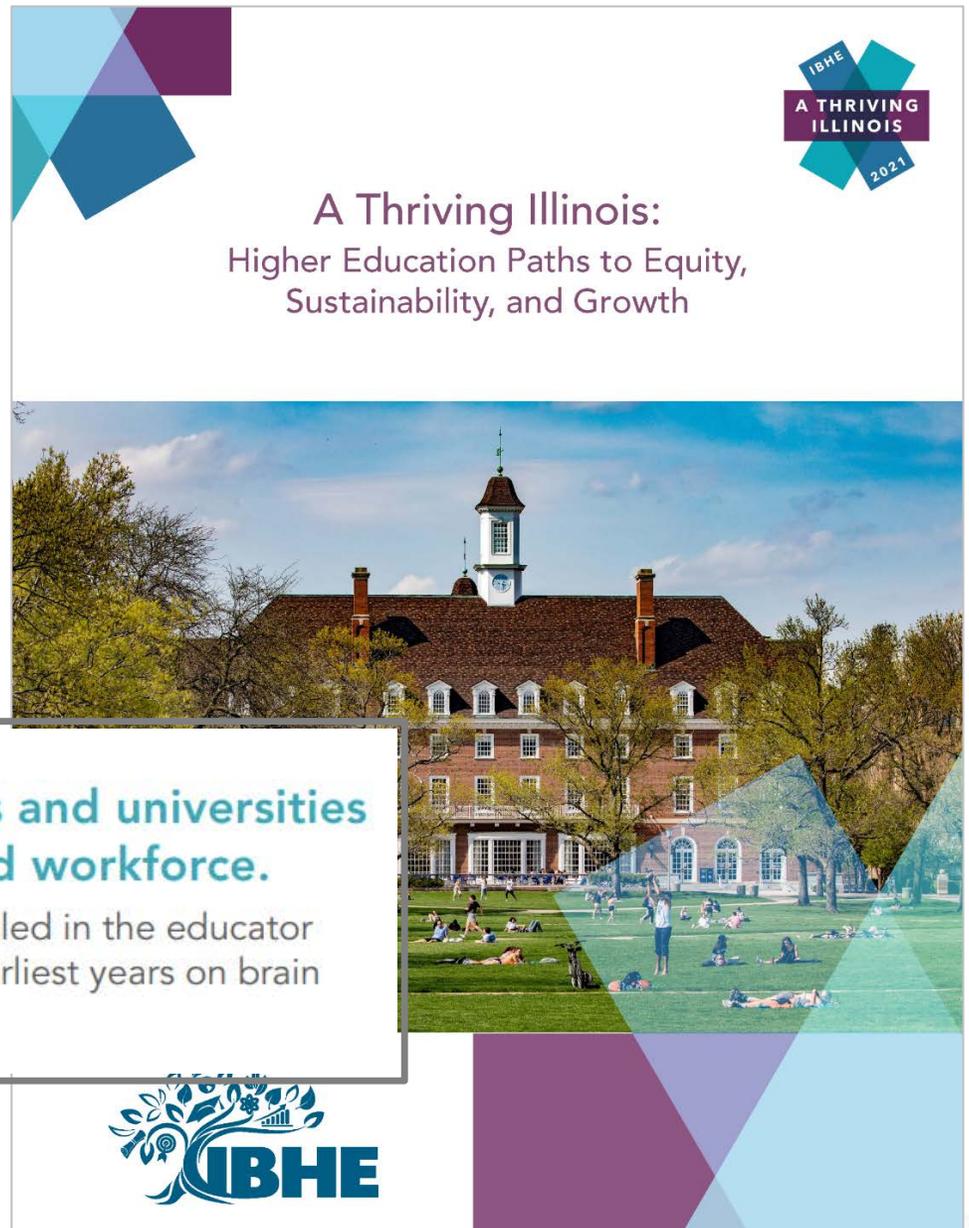
- Challenges navigating complex higher education systems
- Bumpy and curvy pathways
- Courses at times, formats, locations that the EC workforce can't access
- Course loss, extended time to completion
- Insufficient funding and supports for students

The 2021 Illinois Higher Education Strategic Plan

The plan includes strategies to close equity gaps, support working adults, and advance the education and credentialing of the early childhood workforce.

5 Establish a consortium of community colleges and universities to better serve the incumbent early childhood workforce.

Often the educators of our youngest children are the least credentialed in the educator workforce, despite the research that shows the importance of the earliest years on brain development.



We Can Do More Together

**#1 Guiding Principle:
Center Student Success**

IBHE
ICCB
ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD
Illinois State Board of Education
IDHS
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development
ISAC
ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Cross-Sector Advisory



ECACE
EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS
CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY

1 Consortium

61 Institutions



Benefits

- EC Workforce
- Employers
- Children & Families
- Higher Ed
- Broader Workforce

Workforce Supports

Scholarships
& COA **ISAC**
ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Navigators,
Mentors

Relief for
Financial Holds

Recognizing and Honoring Prior Learning

Full Transfer of the AAS Degree

- A pathway from the AAS – a historically “terminal” degree – to a bachelor’s degree.
- Students with an AAS from a Gateways Entitled Institution and Level 4 and GPA of at least 2.0/4.0:
 - Come in with junior-level status.
 - Take no more credit hours than students who began at the institution as freshmen.

Credit for the CDA

- The Consortium unanimously adopted recommendations to provide **college credit for the CDA** – a nationally recognized credential earned through assessment, training, and experience.
 - 6 credit hours, early childhood or related, no contingencies.
 - Preschool no later than Jan 31, 2023.
 - Infant/Toddler no later than Jan 31, 2024.



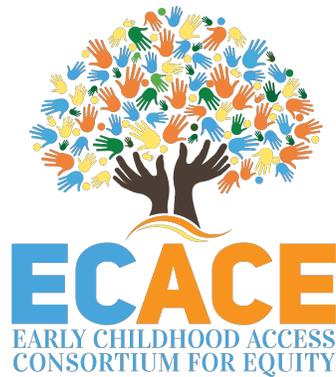
Programs and Pathways Designed for Working Adults

- Programs and courses when, where, and how students need them
 - Evening/weekend
 - Online/hybrid
 - Synchronous + asynchronous engagement
- Proactive advising and support and tracking student progress
- Supports for students who need them
 - Writing tutors
 - Technology workshops
 - Test prep





ILLINOIS EDUCATION AND CAREER
SUCCESS NETWORK



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