



# Innovations in Education Pathways During COVID

Plainfield District 202  
Carbondale Community High School



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# SCALING EDUCATION PATHWAYS IN ILLINOIS (SEPI)

Heather Penczak

*Policy & Program Manager, Education Systems Center*

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# College and Career Pathway Endorsement Framework



## INDIVIDUAL PLAN

Each student completing an endorsement must have an individualized plan, which includes college planning linked to early understanding of career goals, financial aid, resume, and personal statement.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Awareness, exploration, and preparation activities that provide opportunities for students to interact with adults in their workplace

9th	10th	11th	12th
At least 2 career exploration activities or 1 intensive experience		60 cumulative hours of paid or credit supervised career development experience with a professional skills assessment	
At least 2 team-based challenges with adult mentoring			

Through these experiences, a student gains essential employability and technical competencies in their identified sector.

## CAREER-FOCUSED INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

Two years of secondary coursework, or equivalent competencies, that articulate to a postsecondary credential with labor market value. Must include at least 6 hours of early college credit.

9th	10th	11th	12th
Orientation / Introduction			
		Skill Development	
		Capstone / Advanced Courses	

## ACADEMIC READINESS

Ready for non-remedial coursework in reading and math by high school graduation through criteria defined by district and local community college



# ENDORSEMENT AREAS

 **FINANCE &  
BUSINESS SERVICES**

**HEALTH SCIENCES  
& TECHNOLOGY**

 **AGRICULTURE  
FOOD & NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

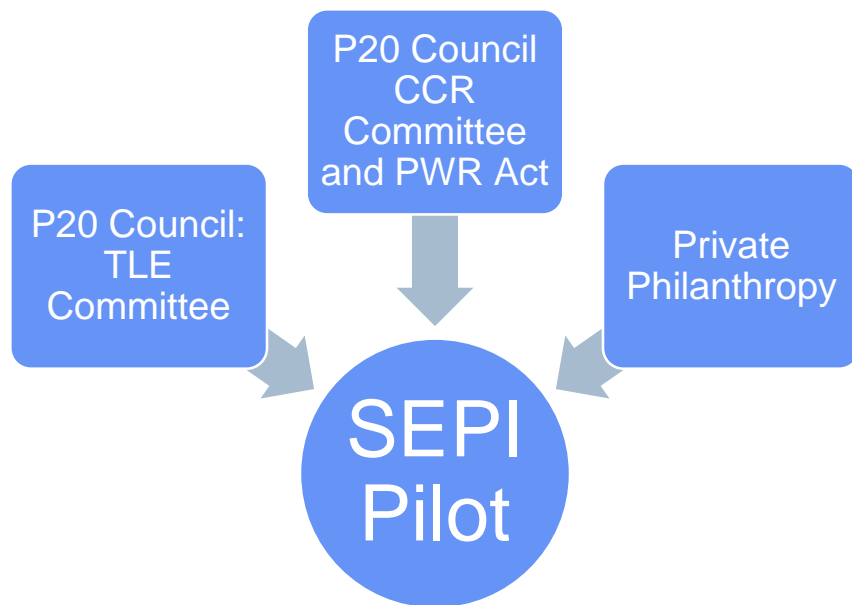
**INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY**

**MANUFACTURING,  
ENGINEERING,  
TECHNOLOGY & TRADES**

**HUMAN & PUBLIC  
SERVICES**

**ARTS &  
COMMUNICATIONS**

# SEPI ORIGINS



## Initial Goals and Beyond

- Addresses teacher shortage by funding community collaborations that will build education pathway systems that begin in high school and continue on through initial teacher placement
- ISBE has expanded on pilot and is funding enhanced CTE Education Programs

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# SEPI COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

SEPI Community Collaboratives include the following partners:

- A school district or collaboration of school districts including at least 2 high schools that will participate in the Education Pathway program
- At least one community college or four-year institution that is offering dual credit/enrollment coursework associated with the Education Pathway program, and
- At least one accredited teacher preparation program where students are likely to continue their preparation and pathway post high school.

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# SEPI COLLABORATIVE STUDENT SUPPORTS

Beyond implementing the Education College and Career Pathway Endorsement, SEPI Collaboratives support the following:

- **Transition** students to Postsecondary institution with College of Education
- Provide **placement and initial career supports** for students seeking the education pathway upon completion of their post-secondary degrees;
- **Promote the educator profession** and include strategies to ensure equity and the utilization of data

# EDUCATION PATHWAY – OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS IN ILLINOIS



[Announcement](#)

[Student Factsheet](#)



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**College of Education**

[Announcement](#)

[Student Factsheet](#)

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THE ILLINOIS 60 BY 25 NETWORK CONFERENCE PRESENTS



Plenary

# Building Currency in Education Pathways to Address the Teacher Shortage

Thursday, February 25 | 12:00 - 1:00pm



**Pam Witmer**  
Chief of Staff,  
Golden Apple Foundation



**Alan Mather**  
President,  
Golden Apple Foundation



**Juan Jose Gonzalez**  
Pathways Director,  
Education Systems Center at NIU

# Resources

- [College and Career Pathway Endorsement Framework](#)
- [Recommended Technical and Essential Employability Competencies](#) for College and Career Pathway Endorsements
- [Model Programs of Study Guides](#)
- [Career Pathways Dictionary](#)
- [SEPI Background EdSystems Post and Podcast](#)



# Plainfield District 202 Schools Education Pathway – Growing Teachers

Dr. Phil Pakowski, Mr. Steve  
Lamberti, Mrs. Kate Morris



*@ppakowsk*  
*@katemorris54*  
*@CoachLamberti*



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# PLAINFIELD DISTRICT 202 PRESENTERS



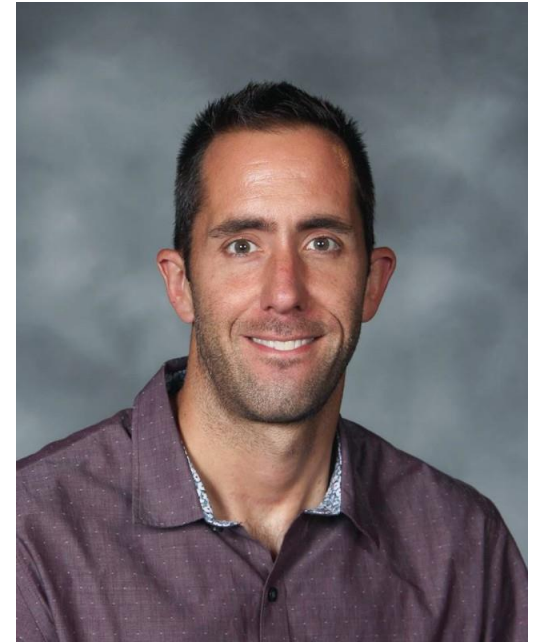
**Dr. Phil Pakowski**  
*Associate Principal*

Plainfield South  
High School



**Kate Morris**  
*Associate Principal,  
Curriculum & Instruction*

Plainfield East High  
School



**Steve Lamberti**  
*Humanities  
Division Chair*

Plainfield Central  
High School

# WHO IS DISTRICT 202?

## We Prepare Learners for the Future!

Plainfield School District 202

Large Suburban School District 40 miles SW of Chicago

Over 26,000 Students

53% White, 24% Hispanic, 11% Black

28% Low Income

29 Schools - Pre K - 12th Grade (30th School opens Fall 2021)

4 High Schools - 2,000-2,400 Students each

1,624 Teachers, 92% White, 80% Female, 63% Master's or higher



@ppakowsk 

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# Education Pathway PSD202

Received SEPI Grant to begin Education Pathway  
Partnership with University of St. Francis, Joliet  
Partnership with Joliet Area YMCA

Develop pathway for future educators

Identify

Support

Mentor

Opportunities

Hire





# Adjustment due to Covid

## “IN-CLASS”

### **Focused Observations**

- More frequent, directly related to current curriculum, ‘shorter,’ consistent
- More LIVE viewing

### **“Student-centered” engulfed the curriculum**

- Committed to current student applications
- Activities to “think like a teacher”

### **Macro Focus**

- ‘WHY’ over the specifics

## “OUT OF CLASS”

### **Removal of Barriers**

- Travel, schedules, technology, diverse learners, etc

### **Quick, Instantaneous Feedback**

- More interactions b/n student & cooperating teacher
- Documented, fluid, consistent
- Connections provided

### **“Peer Support Group” Mentality**

- Efficient out of class work
- Club?
- Recruitment!

# Engaging Students

Interviews with teachers, building administrators, and district administrators.

Classroom observations

Creating and participating in interactive lessons.

Creating sample bell-ringer activities.

Utilizing real-life resources and documents related to teaching, such as teacher contracts, salary schedules, and curriculum guides..





# RECRUITMENT

The Teen Achievers Program was a component that we were using to provide information about the teaching profession to our students.

We are developing our Future Teachers Club/Activity student group.

We have created a pathway sequence and provided them to counselors and the community. |

Our students create promotional videos to show students prior to Course Request Season. PEHS video:

[Exploring the Teaching Profession - Recruitment Video](#)

# MOVING FORWARD/ REFLECTION

- Continue to use virtual platforms for focused observations (physical arrangement of classrooms, projects, ice breakers, transitions). These would be quick, 5-minute, observations that would lead to class discussions.
- Students can also view recorded segments of lessons shared with them by current teachers.
- Continue to use virtual platforms for Q/A sessions or informal interviews with teachers, building administrators, district administrators, district stakeholders.

# Picking Up Where We Left Off

- Educators Rising
- Mentoring Program
- Future Teachers of America Club
- Expand the Teen Achievers program to all high schools. Currently PSHS and PHS-CC.
- Growing our relationship with local colleges/universities to grow our pathway program.
- Continue seeking out scholarship opportunities for students in the pathway.



# Carbondale Community High School & Educators Rising



Rasheeda Love  
Amira Ruperto



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# RASHEEDA LOVE



Rasheeda Love is in her 10<sup>th</sup> year of teaching Family and Consumer Sciences, Secondary Education and in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as club sponsor for Educators Rising.

She and her husband Joe resides in Carbondale, IL where she currently teaches at Carbondale Community High School. Rasheeda earned her Masters of Science degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Teacher Leadership from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in May of 2017. She earned her Bachelors of Science degree in Family and Consumer Sciences, Secondary Education from Bradley University in May 2004. Before becoming a high school teacher, Rasheeda coached Division I Women's Basketball for 8 years at both Southern Illinois University- Carbondale and Tennessee State University.

# Teaching In a Pandemic





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## The Old “Normal” Way of Teaching

- Paper and Pencils
- Classroom of 12 – 24 students
  - Seeing Faces
- 8 am – 3 pm Teaching Schedule
- Discipline Issues
- “Some” Participation
- Hands-On Projects



# The “new” way of teaching

- Computers (Chrome Books)
  - Technology Issues
- Classroom of 0 – 8 students
  - Seeing BLACK SCREENS, Initials or Names
- Teaching Platforms
  - Microsoft Teams
  - Google
- 8 am – 12:45 pm Teaching Schedules
- “Little to NO Participation







## Educators rising in the “old”

- Bi-Monthly Visits to Local Schools
- Fundraisers
  - Concessions Stands
- Community Out-Reach
  - PTO
  - Head Start Reading Program
  - Fall Festival
  - Trunk or Treat
  - Multicultural Festival





## Educators rising in the “new”

- Monthly Newsletters
- Teacher Appreciation Notes
  - Note Cards
  - Bracelets
  - Token of Appreciation
- Words of Encouragement & Gifts for Fellow classmates
  - Note Card
  - Sticker
  - Pencil
  - Bracelets



# AMIRA RUPERTO



- Founding Member of Educators Rising
- Class of 2022 Carbondale Community High School Graduate
- Pursuing Teaching Degree in Elementary Spanish



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**THANK YOU**

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