



Institutional Outreach Leadership Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 16, 2026, 9:00-12:00 PM @ LTC Student Services Conf. Room

- Members present: Curtis Miller, Erin Volk, Chris Forde, Angel Maguire, Carrie Halbert, Megan Black, Tiffany Cowger, and Tona Ambrose.
- Ex-officio members present: Amber Malone, Carrie Hallam, Libby McVicker, Cassandra Goldman, Brandon Weger

WELCOME - Tona Ambrose

- IECC Division Meeting Minutes Review:
 - [Institutional Outreach](#)
 - [Student Affairs](#) WVC Council (Lunch) Meeting: First Thursday/mo.
 - [Business Ops](#)
 - [Academic Affairs](#)
- Welcome Libby M., newest Ex-Officio member
- Welcome Ryan Hawkins - CFO updates - credit cards/other
- VC Town Halls - all upcoming dates [here](#)
- **IECC Operational Plan Workshop, 1:00-3:00PM, after lunch TODAY**

TRIO UPWARD BOUND - Tiffany Cowger

- OCC STEM Lab Open House – 2/27/26, was a huge success!
- Recruitment:
 - LTC - 67/67 (100%)
 - OCC - 76/77 (99%)
 - One app expected from SPIN
 - One app to process from Freshman Orientation
 - Attending ECHS – Champ support (4/1/26, 1PM-6PM)
 - WVC - 65/65 (100%)
- Senior Updates: 52 Seniors
 - FAFSA: Total = 46/52 (90%)
 - College applications: Total = 50/52 (96%)
 - Applied to IECC: Total = 34/52 (65%) (was 41?)
- April 11th - Millikin University Campus Tour Trip - 1 bus full
- April 18th Workshop – TRIO Day:
 - 68 participants (so far)
 - Parent sessions:
 - Summer Program (STEM Exposure/University of TN)
 - College Admissions Process
- Tiffany is going to collaborate with EM/Carrie Halbert to have a TRIO UB table at all of our SPIN events.
- Summer program at OCC:
 - 96 total participants: 66 in college classes/23 interns

- Graduating seniors - 3 credits + Running Start 3 credits - promo
- Policy Seminar in D.D.:
 - Christy Morley attended and it was an excellent experience
 - Networked with state and national TRIO UB leaders
- Alumni tracking update - met with TRIO \$\$\$ to strategize closing gaps, reaching out monthly to former students for qualitative feedback
- Budget: Automated/streamlined Excel - update?
- 2025-2026 Goals/Process Updates - TRIO UB Communication

MARKETING - Chris Forde

- [Guided Pathways Website](#) Update - meeting on Thursday with IT.
- Marketing Mixer - March 6 - Accessibility 101 Part 2 - good turnout.
 - Presented this same “mixer” at March SEPC meeting
 - Save the date: April 10 - (Fun) Mixer 2025-2026 Recap
 - Virtual Marketing Mixers [WEBSITE](#)
- Day of Giving Promo - March 31 - partnership with Foundations - will start to promote this event today, March 16. Marketing toolkits available.
- Champion Laboratories response and communications updates/[website](#)
- Newsletter coordination across campuses - reworking due dates
- IECC MarCom Team quarterly workshop 03/13/26
- Divisional Letterhead/meeting minutes template going to May SEPC
- 2025-2026 Goals/Process Updates
 - Athletics Academic Awards Process (Collab Process with J. Ellis)

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT - Carrie Halbert & Curtis Miller

- LTC Volleyball Coach/*Enrollment Management Specialist*
- [Community Education:](#) Summer camps schedule
- Event Brite update - using this for current events.
- Student Ambassador update - accepting applications for 2026-2027
- Running Start Waivers update - 762 eligible students will be receiving a letter in the mail with a “golden ticket” for a 3-credit course to be used this summer, fall or spring 2027.
- IECC online programs update - working with marketing on a promo piece.
- Transfer/CTE Plan document will be revised when pathways are complete
- Campus Based Recruiting (CBR) Meetings update - added new members
- IN Schools update: IN schools are included in all event notifications.
- 2025/26 Goals/Process Update

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HS Visits/High Fives - ongoing ● Mar 17-WVC SPIN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 20 - 8th grade IN school visit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 16: Newton HS - Curtis
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 19-LTC Ag Event • Mar 19-LTC SPIN • Mar 20 - Effingham Career Day • Mar 20-Wayne County Scholastic Bowl • Mar 20-WVC Tour for IN 8th graders • Mar 24: Flying S Aerospace Open House • Mar 25- OCC CTE Day • Mar 26-Mattoon Futures Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 31: FCC FAFSA Night • April 1: ECHS RR Table • April 8- LTC Senior Blitz April 9 - Lincoln (IN) HS Career Day • Apr 10-FCC Kindergarten Day • Apr 14 - Dietrich Career Fair • Apr 14: WVC FAFSA Night • Apr 15 - Flora 9th graders tour OCC/FCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 17: FCC Health fest/Wayne Co. 7th graders • April 18 FCC Lineman Rodeo • April 21: Homeschool NUC Visit • April 24: LTC Martinsville Visit - 32 Jr/Srs • Apr/May-HS Awards Ceremonies
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DUAL CREDIT - Erin Volk and Megan Black

- FA26 Synchronous Schedule and other DC class updates
- DC Ag Certificate 1+1 with WVC/start at LTC in Fall 2026
- Home School updates - working on a proposal for Fall 2026 fee structure
 - Meeting with Roxanne (homeschool leader) update
- DC Course Review Updates - going well
- High School Senior pieces:
 - Degreeworks flyer - update
 - Senior graduation applications - sent out letters to dual credit students in certificate programs who can walk in graduation
- Placement Testing updates - Megan, Erin and Lori Noe going to schools to do accuplacer testing as needed.
- New score cutoffs updates - will share at all fall orientation meetings
- 2025-2026 Goals/Process Updates

ADULT EDUCATION - Angel Maquire

- 54 completers and 307 currently enrolled.
- Daisi data system being phased out - will move to a different system in fall
- Individuals have shown interest in AE through [GED.com](https://www.ged.com)
- 59 AMOC students working toward completion – most in the state
- ICCB wants to begin charging \$30 per semester to take AE courses, Angel will follow up with more details and reach out to Ryan Hawkins

- HB5503 - Angel gave an update on this Bill and discussed the risks and potential negative effects, (see pgs. 7, 8)
- AE Info One-Sheet & FAQs Flyer (pg. 6) - circulation plan
 - Plan for making an Adult Ed webpage that has FAQs
- Learning Commons has been helping with pre-post testing - thank you!
- Workplace Literacy ECE - Level 1: new program, working with Dean Boyce
- Rapid Response update - attended the RR events - good participation
- Upcoming Employment Workshops - March 31 at LTC, Apr 14 at FCC
- AE Graduation date - July 17, will begin marketing soon
- 2025-2026 Goals/Process Updates

EX-OFFICIO UPDATES:

- Dean Cassandra Goldman:
 - Offering Accessibility Guideline workshops, together with CETL, in the Learning Commons on, FCC: March 26, 1-3PM, LTC: March 24, 1-3PM, OCC: March 18, 1-3PM, and WVC: March 20, 1-3PM
 - Grad Fest - May 6/7, Graduation May 15 - district wide
 - Student Trustee update - Samantha Comer - FCC
- Brandon:
 - April is Community College Month
 - Number of Apps: 841 last year, 852 today
 - 25-Day data update
 - Will begin to track registration data this week
- Amber:
 - Pathways Exploratory "undecided" update - will direct students to Career Coach and to make appointments with advisors for direction
 - Running Start details for registering - add transcript request
 - Amber attended the ROE State Scholars event last night with 74 area students and 15 are coming to IECC!

Next IO Leadership Meeting:

- **Monday, April 20, 2026, at FCC, 9-12 & 1-3 PM**
 - **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - Wed May 13, 2026, at LTC, 9-12PM
 - Wed June 10, 2026, at OCC, 9-12PM
 - Wed July 8, 2026, at WVC, 9-12PM
 - August 14/26? (Aug 12 Workshop, 13 F/S, 17 NSO, 19 1st Day Classes)
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Adult Ed FAQ Info Sheet:



So... I'm interested in signing up for

ADULT EDUCATION THE QUESTIONS I MAY ASK:

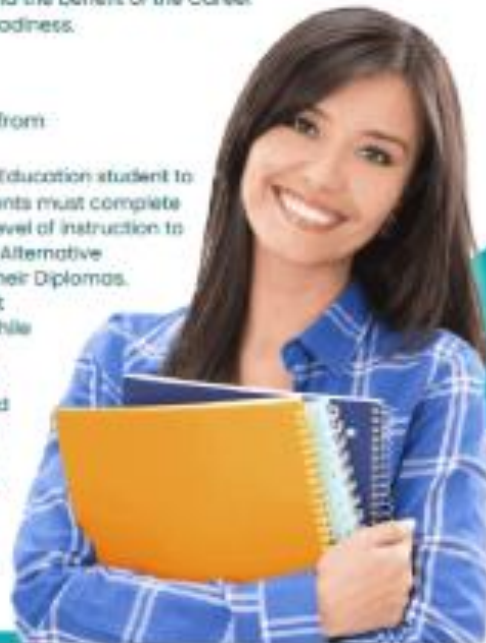
Here are the facts you will need to know when signing me up for AE classes at IECC:

- 1. When and where can I register?** - Each campus has a Learning Commons that works with Adult Education to help register students for AE classes. The students can visit the classroom for registration if an active class is in session. When in doubt, reach out! (618) 847-9157.
- 2. What will I need in order to register?** Each AE student will need to either provide their previous high school transcript(s) or provide information about their previous high school(s) attended for AMOC purposes. If the student is 16 or 17 years old, that student will need a Letter of Separation from the last high school attended or the area high school in the community.
- 3. Can I register anytime throughout the semester?** The IECC Adult Education program provides Flexible Enrollment opportunities. Students can enroll throughout the semester up to the last four weeks of the term. When in doubt, reach out! (618) 847-9157.
- 4. Can I enroll in college classes without already having a high school diploma?** Yes, IECC Adult Education students can enroll in ICAPS (Integrated Career and Academic Preparation Systems) classes. These classes offer dual enrollment opportunities.
- 5. Can I complete a FAFSA before I receive my high school diploma?** Yes, IECC Adult Education students can and should complete a FAFSA as a requirement of ICAPS classes, and the benefit of the Career Bridge Courses help learners prepare for college and career readiness.

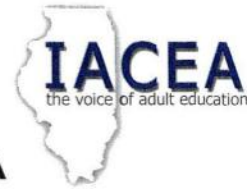
Be Prepared for the FAQs:

Here are some frequently asked questions you may hear from adult education inquirers:

- Do I have to take this test in order to register?** Yes, for an Adult Education student to be officially enrolled in the IECC Adult Education program, students must complete a CASAS Placement Test. This helps our instructors know what level of instruction to provide the learner, and is required for students enrolling in the Alternative Methods of Credentialing, a new process for students to earn their Diplomas.
- **How much will these classes cost?** They are FREE! We do not charge for the Adult Education classes or resources provided while the student is enrolled in the program.
 - **Can I take these classes online?** Yes, we offer face-to-face classes in the morning and in the evening on each campus, and we offer synchronous online classes that provide flexibility with many adult learners' schedules.
 - **When can I get started?** Students can start classes the day they register or the immediate class day post-registration. All registration paperwork and student CASAS placement testing will need to be sent to the Adult Education main office through encrypted email and/or through inter-office campus mail.



HB5503: ADULT WORKFORCE DIPLOMA



What is HB5503?

HB5503 creates a new state-funded program that would allow approved "third-party entities" to offer high school diploma completion and workforce credential programs in Illinois.

Under the bill:

- Eligible providers could include accredited third-party organizations, including for-profit education companies.
- Funding would be tied to outcomes such as graduation rates and credentials earned.
- Payments would be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.
- The program would sunset in 2030 unless it is renewed.

Opens the door to for-profit providers

HB5503 allows for-profit companies to access public funds without the same public accountability requirements.

Incentives to cherry-pick students

Outcome-based funding may encourage enrolling students who are easiest to graduate.

Payments for short-term credentials

The bill funds short credentials without ensuring they lead to living-wage jobs.

Limited quality oversight

The bill tracks completion numbers but sets few standards for instructional quality.

How a Bill Becomes Law in IL

This is an overly simplified view of the process, but it will help you track the progress of HB3305. There are additional ways that bills can fail and can pass. IACEA is tracking HB5503 closely.



Where HB5503 is Now

As of March 10, 2026, HB3305 has been assigned to the Higher Education Committee.

Take Action

We need all IACEA members and partners to let the Illinois General Assembly know that this bill threatens established adult education programs. *Flip the page for talking points and actions to take.*

requirements.

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HB5503: ADULT WORKFORCE DIPLOMA



Talking Points

Talking Point #1

HB5503 allows out-of-state, for-profit companies to receive Illinois taxpayer dollars—even if they do not employ Illinois-based staff or reinvest in our communities.



Talking Point #2

Illinois adult education programs are community-based institutions that employ Illinois educators and strengthen local economies.

Talking Point #3

HB5503 permits up to \$7,500 per student in spending, while Illinois adult education currently serves students at roughly \$850 per year.



Talking Point #4

Outcome-based funding structures may incentivize serving students who are easiest to graduate rather than those with the greatest barriers.

Talking Point #5

The bill does not require new providers to meet the same instructional quality, contact hour, and equity standards as Illinois adult education programs.



Take Action

You can contact your legislators using the QR code below.

**Remember to use your personal email address to advocate!*



You can read the bill text and track bill updates below.



Need Support?

Whether you plan to send an email, meet with a legislator, or join awareness campaign as a organizational partner, IACEA is here to support you.

We can help guide you through the advocacy process, help draft wording when you get a response from a legislator, or join you in a legislative meeting.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

IACEALegislative@gmail.com