



## **JOINT RESOLUTION**

**June 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015**

Whereas, it is recognized that a local, state, and nationwide shortage exists for skilled workers and college ready high school graduates, and

Whereas, it is recognized that eight of every ten Illinois jobs require more than a high school diploma, fewer than three-fourths of Illinois students who begin high school will graduate and fewer than one-third will go on to earn a two- or four-year degree, and

Whereas, it is recognized that in response to the above, a broader vision of school reform must be developed that will incorporate multiple career pathways for students, provide a much expanded role for employers in supporting such pathways, and promote a new social compact between society and its young people, and

Whereas, the Illinois P-20 Council has established a goal to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025, and Illinois Pathways has established nine Sample Pathways, funded through Race to the Top, as a new and innovative State of Illinois-led STEM education initiative designed to support college and career readiness for all students, and

Whereas, Peoria Public Schools is a Race to the Top District and has identified health careers and research and development as two STEM areas to develop, and

Whereas, the partnership between the State of Illinois' education, workforce, and economic development agencies has provided the capacity for the Illinois Pathways Initiative to support local programs that empower students to explore their academic and career interests while also supporting new statewide, public-private partnerships known as Learning Exchanges that better coordinate investments, resources and planning for those programs, and with Illinois being a member of the national Pathways to Prosperity Network with Jobs for the Future and Harvard Graduate School of Education, and

Whereas, through asset mapping, the Central Illinois Workforce Alliance, has made it a priority to create regional STEM Learning Exchanges focusing on manufacturing, health sciences, agribusiness, and information technology,

Be it therefore resolved that Stakeholders agree to join together to leverage all available local, state, and national resources within the community to develop career pathways for the students in all partner school districts in the areas of Health Sciences, Information Technologies, Business/Retail, and Manufacturing by the 2015-16 school year and continue to grow additional Pathways for its students in the years beyond.

It is the interest of all participating entities to collaborate as Stakeholders, while achieving the goals established throughout this Joint Resolution. All entities recognize that collaborative work will be required for many years to accomplish lasting results for these shared goals. This Joint Resolution however, will be in effect between all designated Stakeholders for the period of May 2014 through June 2015.

## **Peoria Pathways to Prosperity – Leading Students to Success**

The Peoria Pathways to Prosperity (PP<sub>2</sub>P) Initiative seeks to ensure that many more youth complete high school and more high school graduates are college and career ready. Before the City of Peoria can reach its community and economic development goals it needs high school graduates to place into college-level courses and/or attain a postsecondary credential that is recognized by local employers. To maintain regional and global competitiveness, businesses need the Peoria talent pipeline to supply employers with talented and credentialed individuals. To respond to the demands from the City, area businesses, and higher education, the Peoria Public School system requires communities who value education. The community includes parents and guardians who are accountable for getting their children to school every day and prepared for the day's lessons, transportation systems which deliver children to and from school and secure systems that maintain their safety throughout the day; and employers who are ready to provide work-based learning and on-the-job training experiences to teachers and students. The teachers implementing improvements in their day require the support of the District 150 administration, business partners, and higher education colleagues. Students attending Peoria Public Schools need to understand that the coursework they take will prepare them to achieve their personal career goals either immediately upon high school graduation or after completing a postsecondary program of study. To these ends, Peoria Public School District 150 (PPS), City of Peoria, Peoria Federation of Teachers (PFT), Local 780, Illinois Central College (ICC), Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC), CEO Council (CEOC), Central Illinois Workforce Alliance (CIWA), and Jobs for the Future (JFF) are developing a six-year, grade 9-14, career pathways for students from high school through community college, and into the workforce.

### **STATEMENTS OF AGREEMENT AND COLLABORATION**

#### **Expectations of all Stakeholders:**

- ✚ Facilitate the creation of action teams, ongoing strategic planning, program development, partnership enhancement, and program implementation of Peoria Pathways to Prosperity initiatives.
- ✚ Identify and empower a dedicated PP<sub>2</sub>P network liaison to represent the stakeholder on action teams, as well as allow limited access to other appropriate staff members with subject matter expertise to provide just-in-time consultation to PP<sub>2</sub>P action teams.

- ✚ The Chief Executive Officer, or designee, will meet with all PP<sub>2</sub>P Stakeholders at least quarterly—by phone or in person—with action team leads to discuss progress on the work plan and to identify any areas needing their attention to resolve.
- ✚ Work collaboratively to succinctly communicate the mission, goals, activities, populations, and expected outcomes of PP<sub>2</sub>P as well as the common interests between the Stakeholders.
- ✚ Approve the PP<sub>2</sub>P work plan, submitted by the action teams and are aligned to the PP<sub>2</sub>P goals and informed by asset mapping and relevant education and labor market data.
- ✚ Communicate and coordinate local work with the region, the state, and other regions in the state, as appropriate.
- ✚ Identify funding opportunities that will allow the pathways program to implement creative, educationally sound programming and activities that will enrich the pathways experience for participating students.

#### **City of Peoria Agrees to the Following:**

- ✚ Serve as the convener of ongoing PP<sub>2</sub>P Stakeholder meetings to review and approve appropriate strategic plans, program development projects, partnership enhancement activities, and program implementation strategies for Peoria Pathways to Prosperity.
- ✚ Advise the PP<sub>2</sub>P action team of specific City initiatives that may impact the development of PP<sub>2</sub>P work plan.

#### **Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) Agrees to the Following:**

- ✚ Serve in a consultant role for ongoing PP<sub>2</sub>P Stakeholder meetings to review and approve appropriate strategic plans, program development projects, partnership enhancement activities, and program implementation strategies for Peoria Pathways to Prosperity.
- ✚ Serve as the liaison with Jobs for the Future (JFF), Lumina Foundation, and similar organizations to coordinate any consulting and technical assistance services to the Peoria Pathways to Prosperity Project and its collaborating team members.

#### **FFCI Workforce Alliance Agrees to the Following:**

- ✚ Serve in a consultant role for ongoing PP<sub>2</sub>P Stakeholder meetings to review, coordinate and align appropriate Workforce Alliance activities to PP<sub>2</sub>P strategic plans, program development projects, partnership enhancement activities, and program implementation strategies.
- ✚ Follow Stakeholder recommendations and support PP<sub>2</sub>P action teams by providing relevant education and labor market data, and recommend action team membership to the PP<sub>2</sub>P.

#### **The CEO Council (CEOC) and Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) Agrees to the Following:**

- ✚ Communicate employer expectations of positive behaviors as demonstrated by successful employees and recommend activities to be included in middle school and high school career readiness preparedness activities.
- ✚ Identify employers to partner with the PP<sub>2</sub>P Initiative to ensure appropriate work based experiences for participating students and promote and market the PP<sub>2</sub>P to other organizations to strengthen and broaden industry engagement along the Grade 9-14 pathways.
- ✚ Work collaboratively with participating Peoria Public School faculty members to create integrated educational activities focused on work-based experiences and provide opportunities for students

and teachers to visit partnering employers and other related companies to obtain information and resources on work-based learning that can be embedded into the PP<sub>2</sub>P Program.

### **Peoria Public Schools (PPS) Agrees to the Following:**

- ✚ Work with the PP<sub>2</sub>P Stakeholders to develop educational goals, a scope of work, and strategies to implement strategies during this year and plans to implement in future years.
- ✚ Maintain an instructional approach or framework focused on rigorous instruction that is aligned with college and career readiness standards, and includes the acquisition of job readiness skills and attitudes for the healthcare, manufacturing, research & development, information technology, retail, and other industry sectors.
- ✚ Support ongoing faculty collaboration between PPS middle school, high school, and postsecondary faculty members to devise creative solutions which incorporate Pathways activities into existing courses and will result in a rigorous, integrated academic pathways program for participating students.
- ✚ Work collaboratively with PP<sub>2</sub>P Stakeholders to create integrated classroom activities focused on work-based experiences and provide opportunities for students and teachers to visit partnering employers and other related companies to obtain information and resources on work-based learning that can be embedded into the Pathways to Prosperity Program.
- ✚ Involve employers in school sponsored activities and events that encourage and support parental engagement in the education of their children, increase student learning, and improve graduation rates.

### **Peoria Federation of Teachers, Local 780**

- ✚ Work with the Peoria Public School District and other PP<sub>2</sub>P Stakeholders on innovative solutions that support appropriate educational activities recommended by PP<sub>2</sub>P action teams and approved by the PP<sub>2</sub>P Stakeholders program.
- ✚ Support ongoing faculty collaboration among PPS high school instructors, ICC faculty, and representatives from the business community; support the implementation of PP<sub>2</sub>P activities; support the development of practicum initiatives for faculty.

### **Illinois Central College (ICC) Agrees to the Following:**

- ✚ Work with the Peoria Public School District to identify a process which will assist high school students interested in transitioning to postsecondary education by providing them information about the processes, provide opportunities for college placement testing prior to students' junior year, tutoring, intensive, sustained advising on college and career, and student centered support structures.
- ✚ Support faculty collaboration between PPS and ICC faculty which will encourage the alignment of student's academic outcomes to college readiness standards as well as the addition of dual enrollment academic/technical programs when it is appropriate as well as the effective implementation of pathways activities that will increase the percentage the students who are ready for college upon graduation.
- ✚ Explore opportunities to share faculty, equipment, and facilities which will provide students within the PP<sub>2</sub>P talent pipeline to maximize participant's exposure to advanced career building experiences as well as opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials.

This document covers the period from May 19, 2014-June 30, 2015. All parties agree to review this Joint Resolution by March 1, 2015, make modifications to its terms, if necessary, and execute a new Joint Resolution.

**SIGNATURES:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grenita Lathan, Superintendent  
Peoria Public Schools

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Ardis, Mayor  
City of Peoria

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Adkins-Dutro, President  
Peoria Federation of Teachers

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Erwin, President  
Illinois Central College

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Lynch, Chair  
Peoria CEO Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Griffin, President  
Greater Peoria Chamber of Commerce

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diana Hall, Chair  
Focus Forward CI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date