



ECACE
EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS
CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY

College Changes Everything
July 13, 2023



Illinois
State Board of
Education



Governor's Office of
Early Childhood Development



Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Act

- Support students to enroll, persist, and complete
- Advance equity
- Provide programs when, where, and how students need the them
- Ensure seamless transfer from 2- to 4-year institutions
- Determine needs with employers



We Can Do More Together

#1 Guiding Principle:
Center Student Success

Cross Sector Advisory

IBHE
ICCB
Illinois State Board of Education
IDHS
Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development
ISAC



ECACE
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1 Consortium

61 Institutions



Benefits

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

Workforce Supports

Scholarships & COA ISAC

Navigators, Mentors

Relief for Financial Holds



Consortium Successes

- **Consortium:** Launched with 61 institutions and agreed upon Guiding Principles
- **CDA:** Agreed on how to provide college credit for the CDA
- **Navigators and Mentors:** 32 navigators and many more mentors at each institution actively supporting students
- **Seamless Transfer of the AAS:** Redesigned programs allow for the seamless transfer of students with no credit loss
- **Programs to Support Working Adults:** Flexible options to meet workforce/employer need – courses and programs at times, locations, and format needed
- **Scholarship:** Launched the scholarship program in less than 6 months Consortium of start up and have provided over 2000 scholarships since it launched in November 2021.
- **ECACE Advisory:** Cross-sector body Launched to provide guidance on Consortium operations
- **Clarification of Administrative Rules:** ICCB and ISBE



ECACE Scholarship

What's Covered: Tuition & fees and funding up to the full cost of attendance* at a [Consortium Institution](#)

Eligibility for AY2024

- Work or have worked in child care, preschool, family child care, Head Start, etc.
- Intend to continue to work with children birth through age five (including kindergarten)
- Seeking credentials and/or degrees in early childhood education, including associate degree, Bachelor's degree, masters leading to licensure, additional endorsements (ESL, Bilingual, Special Education)

Are you working or have you ever worked in early childhood education? Are you interested in getting a degree or credential in the field?
Then don't delay, check out the...

**New This Year:
Expanded Eligibility!**

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship



Apply now for scholarships for the 2023-24 academic year!



*Grant amount at a private institution is capped at the highest public institution rate.



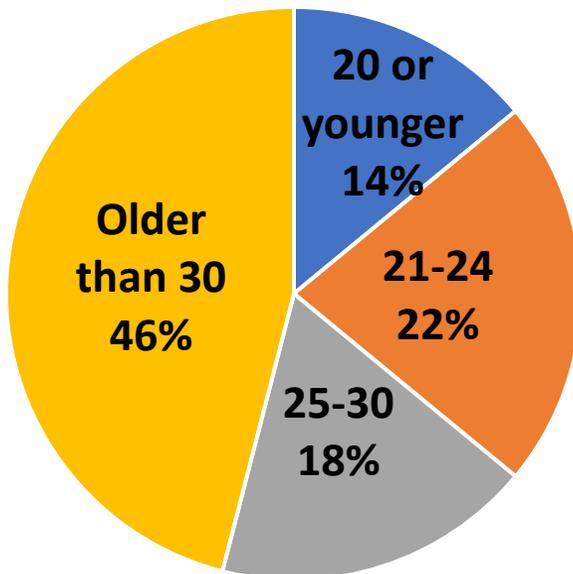
Characteristics of SY 2022-23 Scholarship Recipients through March

1,693 Recipients

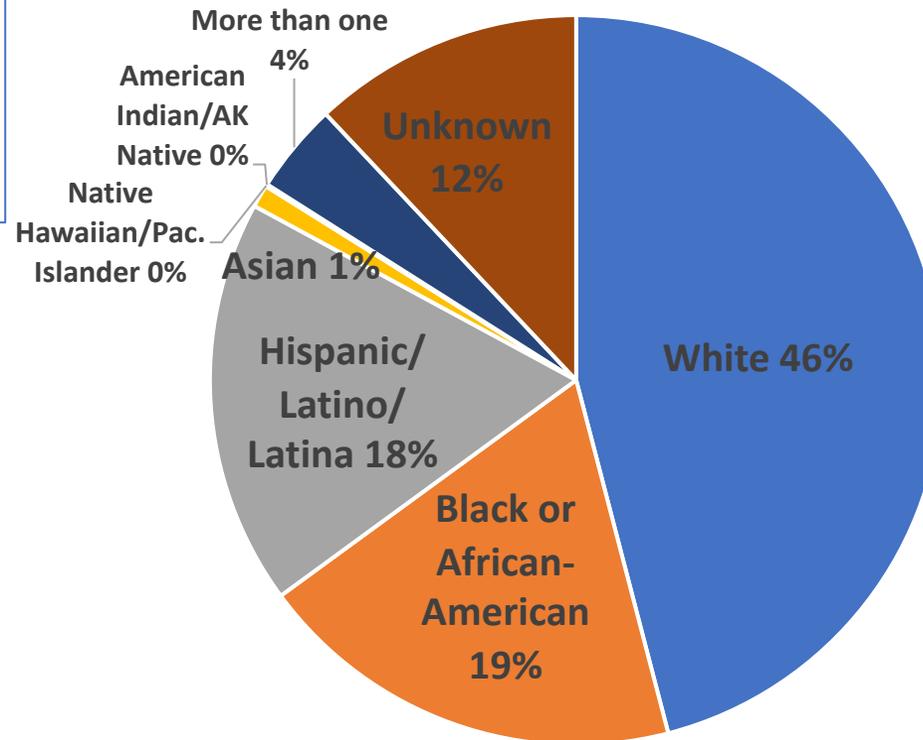
INCOME

76% of recipients had an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of less than \$10,000

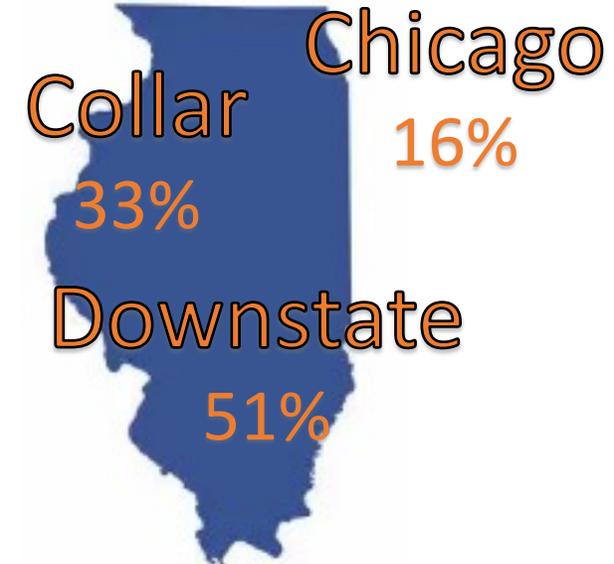
AGE



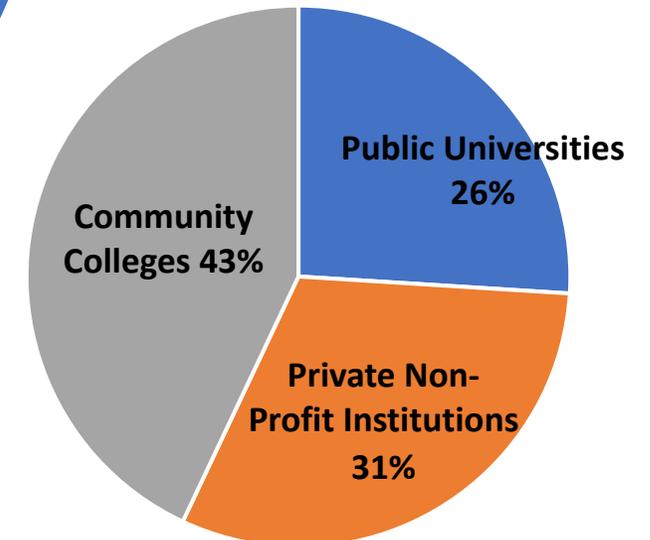
RACE/ETHNICITY



REGION



SECTOR



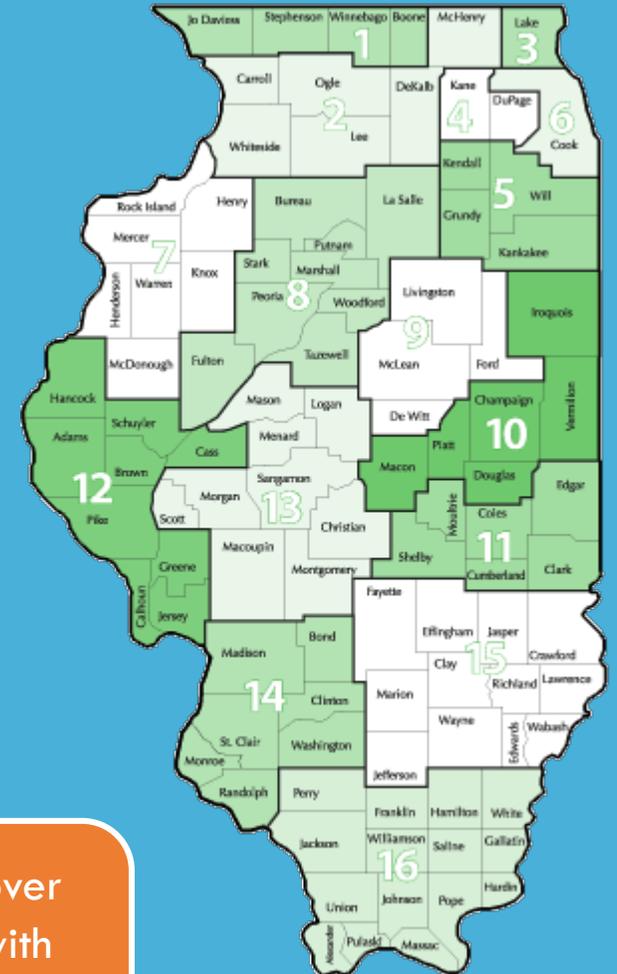
GENDER

About 98% of recipients identified as female

Higher Education Navigators

32 regionally-based navigators at 16 CCR&Rs:

- Have backgrounds in higher education, early childhood, community organizations, financial aid
- Engage in outreach and form relationships with employers and institutions
- Provide personalized assistance to students to access higher education and provide a warm handoff to institutions
- Example supports:
 - Scholarship application and FAFSA
 - Finding and applying to an institution
 - Attaining transcripts



Navigators held over
1,200 meetings with
workforce members in
July – December 2022



Academic and Holistic Supports

Mentors/Coaches:

- Intentionally and intensively supporting students to persist.
 - Regular outreach
 - Monitoring academic progress
 - Intervening when students are struggling with responsive supports
- Working with students when and where they need it
- Focusing on enrollment (warm welcome) to supports for completion
- Developing close relations inside the institution (student supports, registrars, financial aid, etc.) and outside the institution (navigators, employers, other institutions)

Hearing from institutions that mentors are making “all the difference” in supporting students



Early Childhood Education Online Workforce Program

Student Centered Strategies to Pivot the Workforce

Presented By:

Melissa Ramirez

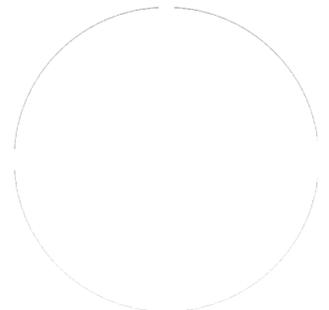
Academic Advisor, Recruiter, & Success Coach

Yadira Ramirez

Recruitment Coordinator & Success Coach



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Illinois State University



Today's Presentation



ECE Online Workforce Program Foundations



Student Data



Holistic Student Support Strategies



Lessons Learned



Q&A

Program Foundations

July 7, 2021



Spring 2022

Illinois Governor Pritzker Signs
[Public Act 102-0174](#)
Early Childhood Access
Consortium for Equity Act

Illinois State University is
named a participating
institution, program
development begins.

Earn Your Degree and Early
Childhood License with the
Leader in Education!



This online program is built for professionals working in settings with children birth through five years of age. Participants can earn a bachelor's degree and Professional Educator License in Early Childhood (Birth - Grade 2) and have the possibility of full funding from the State of Illinois' Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity. Non-licensure options are also available.



- 100% Online, 2-year program
- Possibility for FREE education
- Anyone with Gateway 4 Credential is eligible to apply
- Non-licensure option available

Education.IllinoisState.edu/ECE-Workforce



Program Foundations

Spring
2022

Specialized supports and roles developed for the program.

Dean, College of Education	Director, ECE Online Workforce Project
Director, School of Teaching and Learning	Two Faculty Leads
Undergraduate Program Coordinator, School of Teaching and Learning	Instructional Designer
	Academic Advisor
Director, Recruitment, Retention, and Student Services	Student Success Coach
Budget Manager	Student Teaching and Clinical Coordinator

Early Childhood Education Online Workforce Program

Fall 2023 Cohort

Class Sections: 094, 095

Synchronous Class Meetings: Tuesday, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Plan of Study				
Enter as juniors having met all prerequisites (Associates Degree and Gateway 4 credential)				
63 total credit hours (9 credit hours for TCH 271, 278, and 292 given based on Gateway 4 credential and work experience)				
Fall 2023		Spring 2024		Summer 2024
Fall Cohort Block 1 8/21/23- 10/14/23	Fall Cohort Block 2 10/16/23 - 12/9/23	Fall Cohort Block 3 1/16/24 - 3/9/24	Fall Cohort Block 4 3/18/24 - 5/4/24	Fall Cohort Block 5 5/20/24 – 7/12/24
TCH 314: Planning & Assessment	SED 374: PreK Special Education Assessment SED 386: Special Education Curriculum	TCH 268: Math Methods I TCH 273: Literacy I	TCH 267: Language Arts Methods TCH 275: Math Methods II	EAF 228: Foundations of Education TCH 248: ESL Strategies
TCH 293: Clinical (asynchronous online) - 16 weeks				
Fall 2024		Spring 2025 (graduation)		
Fall Cohort Block 6 8/19/24 – 10/12/24	Fall Cohort Block 7 10/14/24 – 12/7/24	Fall Cohort Block 8 1/13/25 – 3/8/25	Fall Cohort Block 9 3/17/25 – 5/3/25	
TCH 274: Literacy II TCH 277: Social Science Methods	TCH 276: Science Methods	STT 399.54: Student Teaching (completed at work site or in PreK setting)	STT 399.54: Student Teaching (completed in K-2 classroom)	
TCH 294: Clinical (flexible online tutoring) - 16 weeks				

Program Highlights:

All courses are 100% online, except for student teaching experiences
 Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education from Illinois State University
 Professional Educator’s License (PEL) from Illinois State Board of Education

- Early Childhood Education endorsement (Birth - Grade 2)
- Early Childhood Special Education Letter of Approval

Gateways to Opportunity Credential Level-5

Available for Eligible Candidates:

[Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity \(ECACE\) Scholarship](#)

Program Foundations

August 22, 2022

First cohort of students began courses.



January 17, 2023

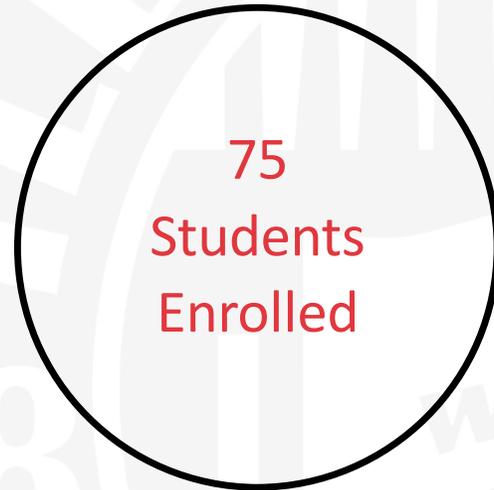
Second cohort of students began courses.



August 21, 2023

Third cohort of students will begin courses.

Student Data (2022-2023)

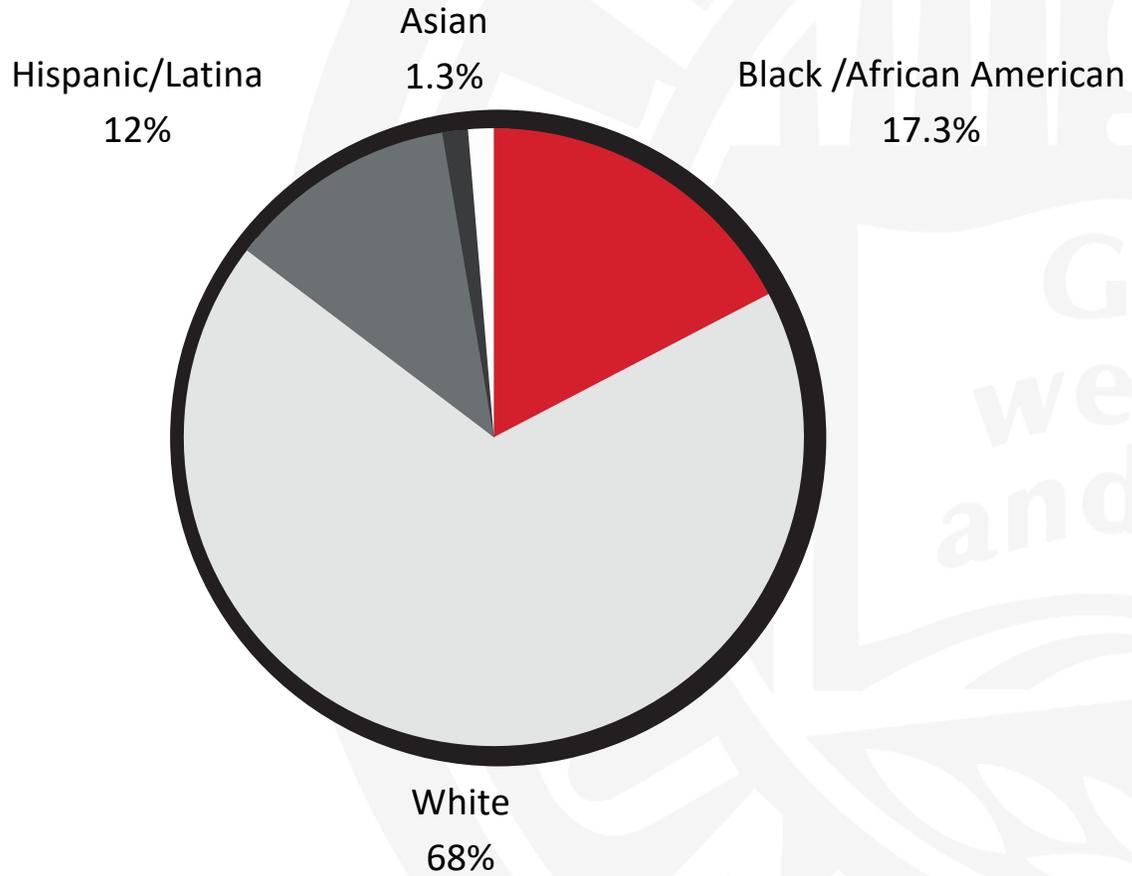


Students Retained



ECACE Scholarship Recipients

Student Data

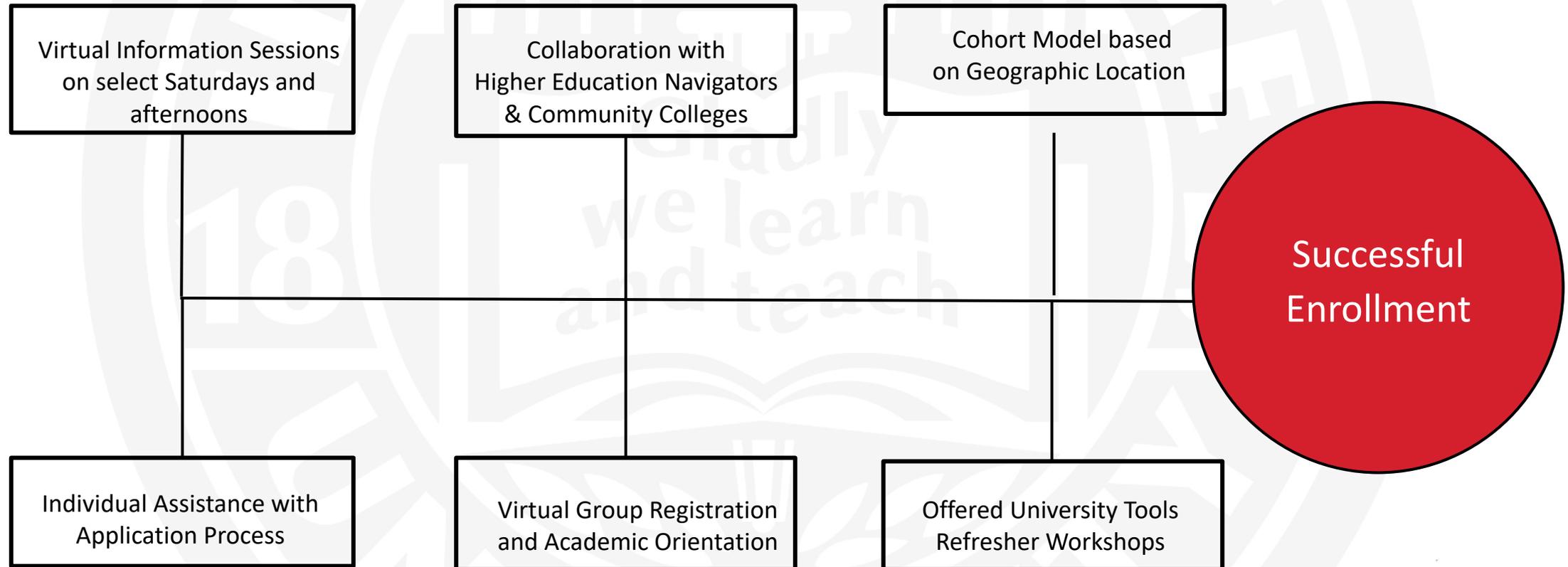


SPRING 2024 STUDENT TEACHING LOCATIONS

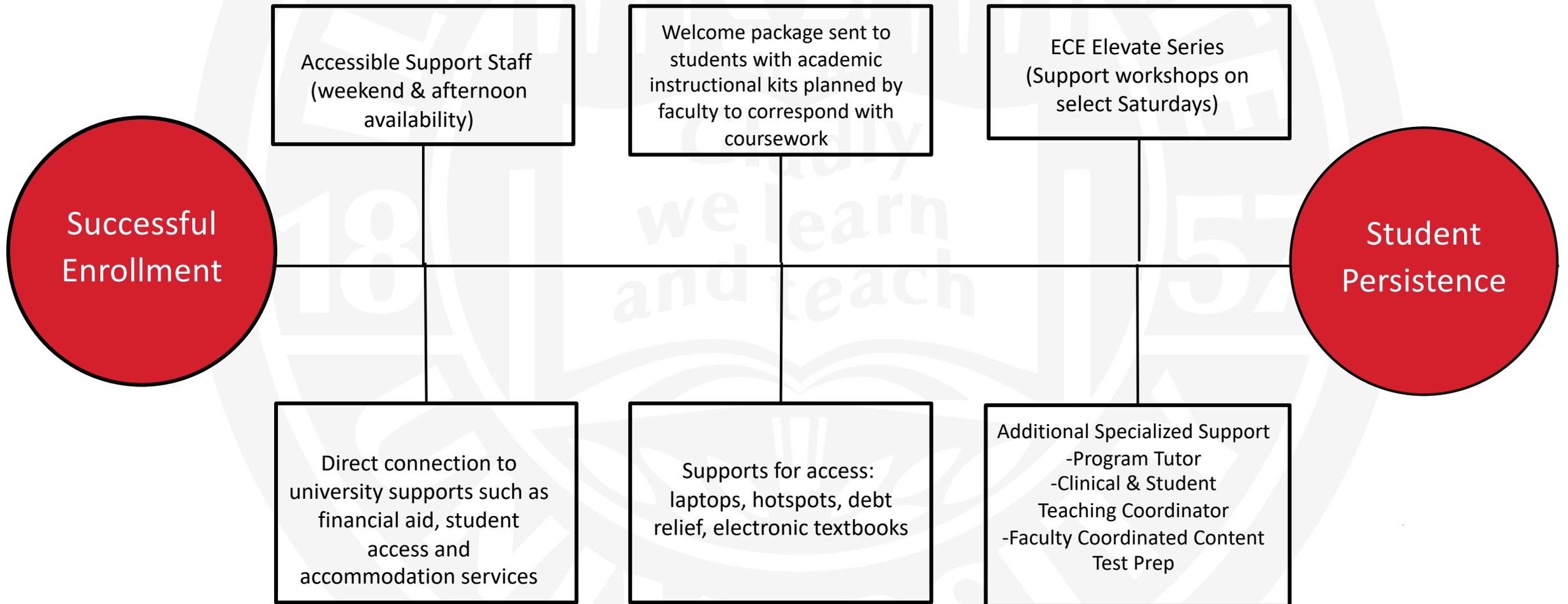
Early Childhood Education Online Workforce Program
Illinois State University



Holistic Student Supports Strategies



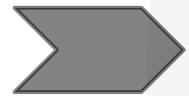
Holistic Student Supports Strategies



Lessons Learned



Student centered availability



Asset based framework and approach



Meeting student needs (financial assistance, childcare)



Positive model for future programs in the College of Education and beyond

Thank you!

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