

Illini Science Policy Program 2022-2023 Host Agency
Snapshot & Project Overview

Legislative Host Placement

Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation
Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus and the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation
Illinois Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Juliana Stratton
Congressional appointment – potential position (*pending*)

State Agency Host Placement

Illinois Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health and Welfare (*pending*)
Illinois Department of Agriculture, Division of Natural Resources (*pending*)
Illinois Board of Higher Education | College Readiness
Illinois Board of Higher Education | Early Childhood
Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology, Education Group
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Broadband

Illini Science Policy Program Host Information: State Agencies

Host: Illinois Department of Agriculture, Animal Health and Welfare

Location:

Scholar Supervisor

Start Date

Preferred Qualifications

Background in animal sciences

Scope of Work / Project Description: Please check back for update after 2/25/2022.

Host: Illinois Department of Agriculture, Division of Natural Resources

Location:

Scholar Supervisor

Start Date

Preferred Qualifications

Scope of Work / Project Description: Please check back for update after 2/25/2022.

Host: Illinois Board of Higher Education | Early Childhood Consortium

Location: Remote office, occasional travel may be required to meetings or events

Scholar Supervisor: Christi Chadwick, Project Director, *Early Childhood Consortium*

Start Date: June 1, 2022

Preferred Qualifications

Master's or Ph.D. level are both acceptable. Desire to learn about higher education, public policy, state agency processes and state level research projects is a must. Experience in data, education, or early childhood is optional.

Scope of Work / Project Description

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Reporting and Research Scholar

The Scholar will be involved in groundbreaking work in Illinois and nationally that will impact key equity and workforce development issues in the field and with working adults engaging in higher education. The Scholar will work with the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE or Consortium) team at the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), in partnership with the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to develop and implement data collection, analyses, and primary and secondary research initiatives to better understand the landscape and supply of and demand for the early childhood workforce in Illinois, and to lay the groundwork for understanding the impact of the Consortium on Illinois early childhood workforce, employers, and children and families.

About the IBHE: The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is responsible for overseeing the state's systems of colleges and universities that educate nearly 775,000 students a year, employ approximately 165,000 people across the state, and represent more than \$50 billion annual impact on the state's economy. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), whose mission is to create and sustain a world-class educational system in Illinois that allows students from all communities and backgrounds to reach their full potential, recently released its [Strategic Plan – A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth](#).

About ECACE: The IBHE Strategic Plan includes an Early Childhood Consortium of Higher Education Institutions, which was codified through [PA 102-0174](#) and is now known as the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE). The ECACE is a multi-faceted, innovative, cross-agency initiative (directed by IBHE and ICCB) to address the early childhood workforce shortage, advance equity, and increase access to seamless educational pathways, while removing economic and geographical barriers in partnership with over 60 colleges and universities. Through components such as a robust scholarship program, supports from mentors and navigators, and redesigned higher education pathways, the Consortium seeks to significantly increase enrollment, persistence, and completion in programs over three years, while laying the foundation for a transformative higher education partnership.

About the Position: Key to the success of the initiative is better understanding the early childhood workforce landscape and the impact of the initiative on Illinois' workforce, employers, and families. The Scholar will work closely with the Project Director to develop a plan to achieve these goals. The Scholar will work on a subset of the work listed below, decided in partnership with the ECACE team.

Workforce Landscape, Supply and Demand: One component of the work will be to support the Illinois Board of Higher Education to conduct a supply and demand study on the early childhood workforce. To do this, we need to first lay the groundwork through a landscape analysis of current data (which exists across multiple state agencies) on the early childhood workforce and develop a high-level conceptualization of the study that's to be conducted and skills needed.

ECACE Reports: A second component of the work will be to work with the team to develop reports for the ECACE and its Advisory Committee, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and the Illinois General Assembly on the work of the Consortium and its member institutions. This will require analyzing reports quantitative and qualitative information from participating institutions of higher education and aggregating and reporting on key trends, work, and challenges.

Navigator Roles: A third component of the work will be developing a research study and accompanying metrics to explore the success, effectiveness, and challenges of the state level navigators. Thirty-six "navigators" across sixteen organizations are being hired to assist the incumbent early childhood workforce to connect with and enroll in institutions of higher education. These navigators will perform such duties as outreach and engagement, mentoring and advising potential students, helping students find an appropriate college or university, and complete appropriate paperwork for admissions and financial aid. These new positions are envisioned as an innovative way to facilitate enrollment. However, the program and positions are new and untested. The state would like to better understand: 1) the effectiveness of the navigators, 2) challenges related to the positions, 3) things that would make the navigators more effective, and 4) the degree to which the positions will be useful and sustainable in the future.

Student Experiences: A fourth component of the work will be to outline (and potentially implement) a plan to understand students' experiences and responses to the myriad of supports put in place to increase enrollment, persistence, and completion. The State would like to understand which aspects of the Consortium they find the most valuable, where challenges still exist, and which and how supports have helped them to be successful in enrolling, persisting, and completing credentials and degrees.

Researching Other Initiatives: Lastly, the scholar will assist the ECACE team with day-to-day research to advance the work of the consortium, which may include research of other consortia, talking to other states about articulation issues and solutions, exploring models for providing credit for prior learning, etc.

Host: Illinois Board of Higher Education | *Expanding Equitable Access, Support, and Success in Rigorous and Strategic Early College Coursework*

Location: Remote

Scholar Supervisor: Eric Lichtenburger, CIO/Deputy Director for Information Management and Research

Start Date: July 1, 2022

Preferred Qualifications

Master's or Ph.D. level are both acceptable. Desire to learn about higher education, policy, and quantitative approaches to applied and scholarly research are a must.

Scope of Work / Project Description

Expanding Equitable Access, Support, and Success in Rigorous and Strategic Early College Coursework

What is the Illinois Board of Higher Education? The Illinois Board of Higher Education is responsible for overseeing the state's systems of colleges and universities that educate nearly 775,000 students a year, employ approximately 165,000 people across the state, and represent more than \$50 billion annual impact on the state's economy.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), whose mission is to create and sustain a world-class educational system in Illinois that allows students from all communities and backgrounds to reach their full potential, recently released its [Strategic Plan – A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth](#).

What is Early College? Early college refers to high school students enrolling in or being provided access to college-level courses while they are still enrolled in a secondary school. Common early college types include: dual credit, dual enrollment, advanced placement, and international baccalaureate programs.

Why is Early College Important? One of the equity strategies identified in IBHE's *Thriving Illinois* centered on increasing equitable access to early college opportunities. As noted in IBHE's Strategic Plan, access to high-quality early college opportunities, gives students the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school and strengthen their path to degree completion with structured student support. However, students of color have inequitable access to early college programs.

Illinois-focused research has consistently demonstrated the positive effects associated with participation in early college programs--namely dual credit and dual enrollment--on the likelihood of enrolling in college and completing a college degree. Recent IBHE descriptive research has shown a strong relationship between dual credit/dual enrollment participation and retention and progress towards a college degree. However, only a handful of studies have examined early college credit opportunities with an equity lens.

Why does IBHE want an ISP scholar? IBHE is seeking an Illini Science Policy Scholar to fully engage in both applied policy and academic research focusing on the effects of early college access, such as dual credit and dual enrollment, and to determine how equitable that access is. The scholar will be provided the opportunity to work with published experts in the field.

What other sort of work will I be doing? The candidate will also engage in consumer protection- and quality assurance-oriented work, as IBHE is responsible for ensuring the rigor of early college

coursework through the [Dual Credit Quality Act](#). One of the main areas of emphasis identified in the Dual Credit Quality Act is to provide opportunities for *improving degree attainment of underserved student populations*. We envision the candidate working with IBHE staff to create better reporting and auditing mechanisms for all the dual credit information it currently collects. We also envision the scholar developing interactive tools focusing on high schools offering early college credit opportunities to their students with a focus on equity and quality.

What technical and applied skills will I learn? Because early college programs, such as dual credit and dual enrollment, span across both high schools and colleges, the scholar will be provided the opportunity to learn how to use longitudinal data on students, while integrating contextual information on high schools and colleges. The scholar will also be provided with the chance to learn how to use technical tools to convey information and tell stories with large data sets.

What will my core job responsibilities be at the Illinois Board of Higher Education? IBHE envisions the Illinois Science Policy Scholar engaging in the following core activities; however, this can be customized to the scholar's career interests and education/work background:

- 25% Applied policy research: developing information that colleges and universities could use to ensure that access to early college is more equitable and responding to requests for information on access to early college opportunities
- 25% Scholarly research including: conducting literature reviews, manipulating data, analyzing data, and preparing research results; developing presentations; and report writing
- 25% Consumer protection/Quality Assurance: working with IBHE staff to make better use of the dual credit information it collects, ensure approved institutions are complying with the Dual Credit Quality Act, and engaging with institutions on Dual Credit Quality Act compliance
- 15% Learning and using technical tools to tell stories and make sense of early college information from a variety of sources
- 10% Gaining an understanding of IBHE and its body of work within the educational landscape

What sort of exposure will I gain at IBHE? This unique opportunity will provide an early career scholar the chance to serve the state of Illinois while developing their skills in research, policy, analysis, and quality assurance. The scholar will also have the chance to present their work to and interact with a wide variety of audiences, such as the IBHE Board, leaders of colleges and universities, other educational agencies, the Governor's office, and potentially higher education organizations from other states.

Host: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Broadband

Location: Remote, with some travel required to offices in Springfield and Chicago, this should be discussed during your interview.

Scholar Supervisor: Matt Schmit, Director Office of Broadband

Start Date: Between June 1-July 1, 2022

Preferred Qualifications - none

Scope of Work / Project Description *(may hire up to 2 Scholars)*

As a primary charge, the Illinois Office of Broadband is responsible for administering the \$400 million Connect Illinois broadband infrastructure grant program – the country's largest state-based competitive matching grant fund. In addition, the Office is developing related programming – such as in the areas of community planning and capacity building and digital literacy, adoption, and inclusion. A Scholar would be invited to participate in each of these areas, particularly with regard to grant administration, community engagement, and program planning and execution.

The Office serves as a resource to the Illinois Broadband Advisory Council, which has contributed to development of a state broadband strategic plan articulating the Connect Illinois vision, strategy, and approach. This council has formed several working groups focused on broadband access, technology and infrastructure, economic development, education, and telehealth – and future work may expand to such areas as precision agriculture, smart city deployment, and business incubator development. A Scholar would be invited to contribute to the work of the Broadband Advisory Council, including the opportunity to develop some degree of policy expertise in one or more of the subject areas listed above per the Scholar's academic interests and/or professional goals. This work could include contribution to the council's annual report to the General Assembly or related intermediate deliverables, as well as direct interface with various state agencies, private businesses, and/or nonprofit public policy organizations. Beyond the administration of grants and programming, the Office is working with private vendors to develop state-specific mapping of broadband assets, including available technology and levels of service. This effort will leverage otherwise proprietary broadband provider data – and direct consumer crowd sourced data – to generate interactive mapping detailing the technology and levels of service available to communities and consumers throughout Illinois. A Scholar would be invited to work with the mapping vendor(s) to facilitate incorporation of the related maps and data sets into the Connect Illinois website, related programming, and community engagement. This work could include innovative work merging broadband provider data with crowd-sourced user data to create a standard for accurate state-based broadband mapping.

Finally, the Office of Broadband will serve as a one-stop shop for all things broadband. From infrastructure to utilization, public funding to private deployment, the Office will strive to be a useful resource to individual consumers, local communities, various state agencies, and broadband providers alike. Just as broadband connects seemingly distinct aspects of our lives or otherwise siloed areas of government, the Office of broadband seeks to make meaningful connections – including through thoughtful public-private partnership, innovative cross-sector collaboration, and increased efficiency within state agency and across all levels of government. A Scholar would be invited to play a critical,

versatile, and flexible role in a relatively new Office that aspires to set the standard for state-based broadband investment and programming. The sheer magnitude of the \$400 million Connect Illinois grant program combined with the opportunity for progressive policy and programming positions the Illinois Office of Broadband to realize this vision – but first we need to round out our team with one or more curious and hardworking Illini Science Policy Scholars. The Illinois Office of Broadband has staff in Chicago and Springfield; a Scholar would have the choice of working from either location or splitting time between the two; remote location could be considered as well and discussed during the interview.

Host: Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology,

Location: Hybrid – negotiable days for working onsite (120 W. Jefferson Springfield, IL

Scholar Supervisor: Mary Reynolds, CIO Education Group

Start Date: June 1, 2022

Preferred Qualification

- Familiarity and experience with Microsoft suite tools.
- Familiarity with K-12 education and post-secondary education systems in Illinois
- Understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education programs
- Familiarity with [DoIT STEAM website](#) and resources

Scope of Work / Project Description

Background on DoIT

DoIT's mission is to empower the State of Illinois through high-value, customer-centric technology by delivering best-in-class innovation to client agencies fostering collaboration and empowering employees to provide better services to residents, businesses, and visitors. The Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) became an agency by statute on July 20, 2018 and is charged with responsibility for the information technology functions of agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor.

DoIT is leading a digital transformation toward an enterprise approach to technology at the State of Illinois to gain efficiencies and improve service delivery for customer agencies who in turn, serve the residents of Illinois. This transformation is resulting in improved security and data protection, fewer redundant systems, more efficient technology spending, and greater interagency collaboration.

DoIT delivers statewide technology, innovation and telecommunication services to state government agencies, boards and commissions as well as policy and standards development, lifecycle investment planning, enterprise solutions, and privacy and security management.

DoIT manages the [Illinois Century Network \(ICN\)](#), a service that creates and maintains high speed telecommunications networks providing reliable communication links to and among Illinois schools, institutions of higher education, libraries, museums, research institutions, state agencies, units of local government and other entities that provide service to Illinois residents.

Goals and objectives for DoIT Illini Science Policy Scholar

- Provide professional contributions to inform research, policy, and management of issues within DoIT related to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) initiatives.
- Help guide development of STEAM policies for the State of Illinois.
- Collaborate with other state agencies and organizations to promote STEAM activities statewide and coordinate opportunities, including support for the [DoIT STEAM Newsletter](#).
- Assist in development and maintenance of web resources on the [DoIT STEAM website](#).

- Assist in gathering resources and developing model STEAM curriculum and activities for K-12 educators as well as connections with postsecondary education. Audience will also include students, parents, and youth organizations such as 4-H.
- Share employment opportunities in STEAM fields through potential development of improved pathways into government.
- Assist communications for DoIT through social media, website support, and outreach activities.
- Assist in the development and operations of the STEAM Expo at the 2022 Illinois State Fair.
- Assist DoIT's State Data Practice in developing and communicating data visualization standards.
- Assist DoIT's State Data Practice with documentation standards and development of training materials.

Mentorship and Engagement @ DoIT

DoIT intends to help guide the development and awareness of STEAM educational opportunities throughout Illinois through collaborative work with state agencies, K-12 schools, advocacy organizations, colleges and universities, business, and industry. This engagement work aligns closely with the Illinois Extension projects related to STEM 4-H youth development and will require coordination with Extension STEM Specialists. Development of expanded STEAM resources will cultivate opportunities through the U of I's public outreach and engagement network to expand educational programs throughout the state.

The Illini Science Policy Scholar at DoIT will be engaged directly with projects related to education technology coordination efforts and those initiatives specifically related to STEAM fields that integrate all five Extension critical issue areas. Active engagement with anticipated initiatives includes organization of a STEAM Expo event at the Illinois State Fair, coordination of online STEAM resources and activities for multiple audiences, and expansion of STEAM opportunities for youth throughout Illinois. Professional growth opportunities will enable the fellow to actively engage in public policy development, collaborate with a variety of advocacy organizations, focus on creative resource development, and explore innovative ways to communicate activities.

Illini Science Policy Program Host Information: Legislative Offices

Host: Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation

Location

Scholar Supervisor: Tiffany Hightower, Executive Director, ILBCF

Start Date:

Preferred Qualifications:

Scope of Work / Project Description

The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus / Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation Scholar will:

- Help promote, organize, and staff legislative events, such as annual meetings, government events, letter-writing campaigns, in-district meetings and ILLCF events.
- Attend committee hearings held by the state legislature, help with press conferences, take video and photo at events.
- Research legislative issues for members of the General Assembly or for upcoming articles including but limited to critical issues such as food, economy, environment, community, and/or health.
- Create and upload content for social media networking sites and websites.
- Help develop and oversee the relationships with members and advocacy groups.
- Help create a plan to effectively engage constituents.
- Administrative duties such as answering phones, filing and assisting with mailings.
- Assist with various committee assignments, for example: Environment; Elem Sec Ed School Curricula Policies; Economic Development & Housing; Renewable Energy & Sustainability; Restorative Justice, Healthcare and Human Services.
- Help create a plan to effectively engage constituents.
- Administrative duties such as answering phones, filing and assisting with mailings.
- Assist with various committee assignments, for example: Environment; Elem Sec Ed School Curricula Policies; Economic Development & Housing; Renewable Energy & Sustainability; Restorative Justice.

In addition, the Scholar will work with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation (ILBCF) with a focus on the following:

- empower the Illinois black community and increase access to federal, state and community programs in critical issue areas; and,
- college access for black youth who need assistance to further their education.

Since its inception in 2002, the ILBCF has been dedicated to protecting, developing and advancing black communities around Illinois. To ensure our community is aware of legislative changes, the ILBCF regularly holds legislative forums where we inform residents about changes in state government, the ISP scholar will assist with events such as legislative forums.

In addition, the Scholar will work directly with joint chair of the ILBC and the executive director of the

ILBCF. The scholar will benefit tremendously by their expertise and mentorship. The Scholar will also lead our Brain Trust on Health work with our Institute arm.

Host: Illinois Latino Caucus Foundation

Location: Hybrid – relocation is preferred to Chicago, but flexibility will be considered, especially contingent on COVID-16 guidelines. This should be discussed during your interview.

Scholar Supervisor: Layla Suleiman-Gonzalez, Interim Executive Director ILLCF

Start Date: August 1, 2022

Preferred Qualifications

Policy analysis, project management, and/or data analysis skills preferred.

Scope of Work / Project Description

The ISP Scholar will be an integral part of the work of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus (ILLC) and its Foundation (ILLCF). Major goals for the 2022-2023 year include, but are not limited to 1) Analyze policy data related to Latino equity in health, economy, community, education, and housing; 2) Assist in coordinating ILLCF's policy initiatives, including consultation with advisory groups; 3) Assist in planning and executing ILLCF's 20th annual legislative conference; and 4) Coordinate special projects, e.g., Urban Farming/Community Health Project, Leadership Pipeline Project, etc.

One of the major ILLCF projects where ISP scholars have been engaged is the Chicago Rooftop Urban Farming/Community Health Initiative. This project is a community-based, community-led, and community-oriented project that seeks to impact Latino communities by addressing food insecurity from a cultural identity, food sovereignty, and community empowerment lens. The goal is to engage the community and other institutional partners in utilizing vacant rooftops across the urban landscape to grow culturally rooted crops that are a mainstay in the community's gastronomy. The project's priority areas currently include food production, well-being/community health, environmental sustainability, local and family economy, workforce development, activism and advocacy, intergenerational cultural transmission, community/youth engagement, education, and leadership. The community health education component of the project is a culturally based "train the trainer" model preparing community health workers to promote health, nutrition, and healthy behaviors.

Host: Illinois Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Juliana Stratton

Location hybrid with offices located at 100 W. Randolph in Chicago and 214 State House, Springfield, it is recommended location is discussed during your interview to determine if relocation is needed to a specific city or if remote work with travel is an option.

Scholar Supervisor: Bobby Mannis, Policy Director

Start Date: *prior to July 20 or after August 10*

Preferred Qualifications

- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Commitment to public service
- Strong written communication skills

Scope of Work / Project Description

Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton serves Illinois as the state's 48th Lieutenant Governor. Her portfolio includes leading the Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative (JEO), chairing the Illinois Council on Women and Girls, the Governor's Rural Affairs Council, the Military Economic Development Committee, the Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council, and the Governor's Opioids Prevention and Recovery Steering Committee.

Working under the guidance of the Policy Director, the Scholar will collaborate across teams with colleagues in the Office of the Illinois Lt. Governor, state agencies, local governmental, community organizations, and educational institutions. The scholar will assist in research and development of strategies and policies to address food insecurity and agricultural inequity in Illinois, as well as support execution of strategies housed within the office.

The Scholar will support community outreach and engagement, event planning, development of policy briefs, development of talking points, and other work related to the mission of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Host: Congressional TBD

Location: Illinois office

Scholar Supervisor

Start Date

Preferred Qualifications

Scope of Work / Project Description: Application pending with project description. Please check back for update after 2/25/2022.