Recommendations for Action by Work Groups
September 9, 2015

Student Support Services

- Strengthen data sharing and use across institutions
  - Convene SSS work group to identify strategies for enhancing data sharing across institutions
  - Investigate feasibility in a data-sharing meeting to facilitate dialogue amongst institutions
  - Develop a strategy to identify data sources and needs
  - Use identified data to inform programs and processes

- Establish a peer mentoring initiative
  - Augment survey data obtained to date and create clearinghouse/online resource center of best practice mentoring programs across the region
  - Commission meta-analysis research study on the efficacy of peer mentoring programs at all levels; use results to guide future regional peer mentoring initiative(s)
  - Identify training needs for peer mentors and program coordinators and determine which can be fulfilled by the Regional P-20 Network

Alignment of Standards for Advancing Student Opportunities

- Work with partners to develop a tracking system for high school students who (1) graduate with college credit, (2) graduate with professional certificates, and (3) enroll in developmental courses
- Convene a meeting of NIU, community colleges, and leading employers in each district to review jobs reports and discuss the implications
- Present proposal for course creation teams to state agencies and the HR 477 committee for scaling of 12th grade developmental education courses
- Assess highest priority needs for dual credit courses

Articulation

- Share IAI subgroup recommendations with the work group, IBHE, and ICCB for feedback; report results in February 2016
- Create five additional pathways documents and circulate widely
- Conduct regional work sessions to analyze PARCC results and their use in postsecondary placements; report results in February, 2016
- Join forces with the Adult Learners work group, which is dealing with similar issues

Adult Learners

- Launch the IPLAA to implement PLA individually but permit transfer of credits across the alliance
- Collaborate with the regional ePortfolio consortium (IREP) to develop a consistent, regional process for eportfolios for adult learners
- Research and provide recommendations on effective course scheduling options for adult learners
- Develop regional communications strategies for conveying the importance of a high quality degree or professional certificate to adult learners
- Combine with the Articulation group in order to provide support for improving the IAI and implementing better alignment of pathways

P-3 Initiative

Form a P-3 work group to focus energy and attention on collaborative projects that improve preparation of children from birth to grade 3 for success in school, family, and community life.