

**Memorandum of Understanding between Heartland Community College and
The Board of Trustees of Illinois State University:
Cooperative Agreement for Early Childhood Education (ECE)**

Purpose:

In order to facilitate the process of student transfer and degree completion, Heartland Community College (HCC) and the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University (ISU) enter into the following Cooperative Agreement.

This agreement is limited to those students pursuing the HCC Associate in Arts or Associate in Science with Early Childhood Level III Certificate and the ISU Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Teacher Education. Furthermore, as a matter of workforce development, this agreement is particularly designed to meet the needs of those already employed in the field of early childhood education, broadly defined, who seek to advance their level of education through the Associate's and Bachelor's levels. HCC and ISU agree that most participants in this cooperative program will not be full-time students.

Joint Responsibilities and Conditions:

The institutions will work together to provide appropriate plans of study to identify the courses to be completed at HCC that will transfer to ISU. ISU and HCC will collaborate to provide advising to students in the ECE programs. Students will meet all degree requirements of HCC's Associate's degree and ISU's Bachelor's degree. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as altering approved degree programs at either institution.

Appropriate administrators and ECE faculty for HCC and ISU will meet annually or more frequently as needed to assess the program and develop additional possible options for this agreement. HCC and ISU will work collaboratively on marketing and community involvement, including possible collaboration with advisory boards.

Neither party to this Agreement shall be liable for any negligent or wrongful acts, either of commission or omission, chargeable to the other, unless such liability is imposed by law. This Agreement shall not be construed as seeking either to enlarge or diminish any obligation or duty owed by one party to the other or to a third party.

ISU Responsibilities and Conditions:

ISU agrees to review transcripts of program applicants beginning at HCC to determine articulation of previously completed college coursework as it may be applicable to ISU graduation requirements and will communicate that information to HCC.

ISU will facilitate reverse transfer of credit when beneficial to individual students to ensure completion of the Associate's degree at HCC.

ISU agrees that program participants will have the right to purchase tickets to fine arts and other selected events on the ISU campus at the student rate. Illinois State University will provide additional opportunities for Heartland Community College students to learn about ISU scholarships and program-specific internships and opportunities.

ISU will afford admitted students Truth in Tuition benefits as of the date of admission to ISU. At the point of transfer to ISU, students must meet all regular ISU admissions requirements.

HCC Responsibilities and Conditions:

HCC agrees to provide space for ISU to teach upper-level ECE courses on the HCC campus in available space when requested.

HCC and ISU agree that when ISU faculty teach courses for ISU credit regardless of venue, students will be charged by ISU at the then prevailing tuition and fee rates.

Effective Dates, Renewal, and Termination:

This MOU shall become effective fall 2014 and shall remain in effect for a period of ten (10) years, or until otherwise terminated by either party as outlined herein. Either party may cancel this MOU for convenience, by giving thirty (30) days' written notice to the other party. However, any student currently enrolled in the program will be allowed to complete his/her program. This MOU may be renewed or revised in writing, upon mutual agreement of both parties.

Heartland Community College

By Richard R. Pearce

Dr. Rick Pearce, Vice President for Learning and Student Success

Date:

The Board of Trustees of Illinois State University

By Sheri Noren Everts

Dr. Sheri Noren Everts, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Date:

**Reviewed and Approved
as to legal form
Office of General Counsel**