



MIDWESTERN
HIGHER EDUCATION
— **COMPACT** —

Advancing Workforce Pell: Strategies for State and System Implementation

May 14, 2026



MHEC Host:
Carrie Wandler
Sr. Director of
Policy Initiatives



Any resources
available will be
posted on the
MHEC website.



Engage with
colleagues in the
chat. Questions in
the Q&A, please!



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Meet Your Moderator:



Cheryl Dowd

Senior Director

*State Authorization Network
(SAN) & WCET Policy
Innovations (Moderator)*

Meet Your Presenters:



Lynette Kuhn

*Deputy Secretary for
Postsecondary and
Higher Education and
Commissioner for
Postsecondary and
Higher Education*

*Pennsylvania Department
of Education*



Cynthia Proctor

*Assistant Vice Chancellor
for Credential
Innovation*

*State University of New
York (SUNY) System*



Leroy Wade

*Deputy Commissioner
Operations*

*Missouri Department of
Higher Education &
Workforce
Development*



Amy Shaffer

*Senior Director of
Legal Services
and Program
Implementation*

*Ohio Department of
Higher
Education*

Pennsylvania

- **Lead Agency:** Governor Shapiro designated the Pennsylvania Department of Education as the lead agency, and we work in collaboration with the Pennsylvania State Workforce Development Board (SWDB)
- **Implementation Status:** Data collection launched March 9, 2026, and proposed approved programs will be presented to SWDB on May 19, 2026
- **Challenges:** Inclusion of apprenticeship programs; stackability requirements for sole-recognized credentials
- **Insights:** How a decentralized state has implemented Workforce Pell while still awaiting final rules





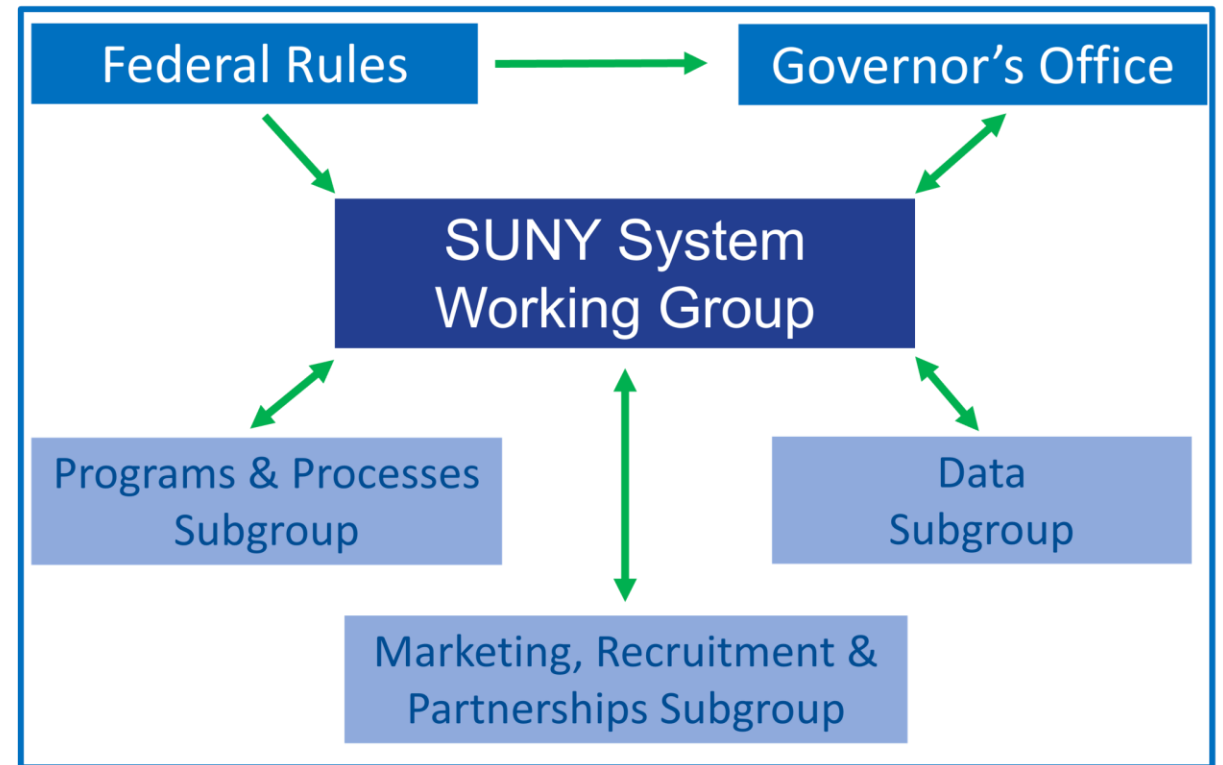
SUNY & Workforce Pell

One Executive Committee, Three Working Groups

500+ Credit-Bearing Microcredentials
1000s Non-Credit Programs

Charge:

- **Prepare** SUNY to identify and scale Workforce Pell eligible credentials; mix of high-value, high-demand credentials.
- Proactively **collaborate** with all stakeholders.
- **Leverage** Workforce Pell, (NYS Aid) Part-time TAP Non-Degree and other funding sources in service to more New Yorkers.
- **Leverage** improvements in data collection and reporting for program improvement.



Multiple State Partners Including: CUNY, NYS Department of Labor, State Workforce Board, Workforce/Economic Development



SUNY Key Considerations

- **A proactive approach, a voice in state-wide planning**
- **Define industries**
 - WIOA Plan; Perkins V Plan
- **Define process**
 - Who approves?; How often do they meet?; What documentation to require?
 - Employer letters to verify credential meets hiring needs/expected competencies?
 - CAOs attest credentials stackable and portable?
 - CAOs attest revocation process established (student notification, teach-out)?
 - Monitoring of student persistence/completion?
- **Data collection/reporting**
 - So much work to do...Leverage the spot-light on short-term credential outcomes
- **Unknowns**
 - Final regulations
 - Steps post state approval
 - PPA submission and review

Missouri

- **Lead Agency**

- Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development
- Integrated higher education and state workforce development agency
- Coordinating Board for Higher Education and State Workforce Development Board
- Includes Missouri labor market research/data unit

- **Implementation Status**

- Occupational (SOC) and instructional program (CIP) areas identified
- Drafts of policies and procedures out for review
- Updating SWDB on May 15; CBHE on June 9
- Projecting program application available by June 1



Missouri

- **Challenges**

- Need for more robust data, particularly for, but not exclusively related to, non-credit courses/programs
- Integration of apprenticeship RTI (Required Technical Instruction)
 - Not subject to occupational/instructional program list
 - Non-consecutive nature of some RTI
- Establishing a program structure in the absence of final rules

- **Insights**

- Broad communication is essential due to the different nature of the process
- Managing expectations (final program does not match initial expectations)



Ohio

- Ohio approached Workforce Pell with a practical, implementation-first mindset, and ODHE was tasked as the lead agency.
- My Role: Understanding the law and regulations, drafting policy, coordinating operational steps, and supporting institutions.
- Goal: Balancing federal compliance with flexibility, when appropriate.
- Strategy / Perspective - A pragmatic, operations-focused approach:
 - Build on the strong work already done in Ohio
 - e.g., Ohio's existing Top Jobs List aligned with high-skill, high-wage, in-demand fields; existing articulation and transfer pathways for credit assurance; ODHE's third-party credential list, etc...
 - Prioritize immediate implementation needs and institutional readiness.
 - Focus on communication with stakeholders to create buy-in



Panel Discussion

