

PWR News – December 2025

From the Office of Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness (PWR)



FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You and Happy Holidays!

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend one of our PWR Regional Trainings this fall. We look forward to continuing the conversation around the Big Three as the State Board of Education makes implementation decisions in the coming months.

We hope you enjoy a restful holiday break this month!

--The PWR Team

Welcome, New PWR Team Members!

Arlisha Lawson-Watford

Arlisha is a seasoned education leader with over 14 years of experience in school, district, and state-level roles. She currently serves as the **ICAP and Graduation Guidelines Specialist** in the PWR Office where she leads statewide efforts to implement and coordinate ICAP and Graduation Guidelines at local education providers, with a focus on building inclusive systems that support all learners—particularly those historically underserved. Her work bridges leadership development, systems improvement, and culturally responsive practices, with deep expertise in MTSS, special education, literacy, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Arlisha also currently serves as an Associate Professor at the University of Arizona and National Faculty for the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST).

A former Dean of Students and Principal of special education programming, Arlisha brings a grounded understanding of school transformation and a deep commitment to student belonging and success. Her leadership is influenced by *The Leadership Challenge* and *Theory U*, centering relationships, reflection, and collective capacity building. She is passionate about expanding access and opportunity through collaboration, innovation, and justice-driven change.

In her free time, Arlisha enjoys being with her amazing husband, sons, dogs, and family, researching various topics and data, crocheting, watching horror films, true-crime documentaries, and mixed-martial arts (MMA).

Heather Crabtree

Heather will serve as the **Industry-Recognized Credentials (IRCs) Specialist** in the PWR Office by supporting implementation and expansion of IRC attainment at schools across the state. She has been in education officially since 2016; however, she was born to parents who were both teachers, so it is in her blood. Heather received her B.S. in Agricultural Communications from Purdue University and a Masters of Agricultural Education, Teacher Development, from Colorado State University. While in the classroom as a High School Agriculture teacher, Heather assisted many students in receiving IRCs, something she looks forward to continuing in this new position. Outside of the office, she enjoys attending sporting events (and eating hot dogs at them), being outdoors, reading, and trying new foods.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIST OF QUALIFIED CREDENTIALS OR LOQC (Formerly CDIP)

2026-27 LoQC Coming Dec. 16

The new list of qualified credentials (formerly the CDIP List) for 2026-27 will be released December 16 and posted on [the CDIP website](#). Stay tuned for a webinar in early 2026 reviewing list updates.

Questions? Contact [Sami Mooney](#)

SCHOOL COUNSELOR CORPS GRANT

2026-27 RFA Now Open – Due Feb. 26

School Counselor Corps Grant is excited to announce the opening of our application for the 2026-27 awarding of Cohort 16. Here are the important dates; please see [the SCCG website](#) for more information.

- **December 1, 2025:** SCCGP Request for Application (RFA) opens
- **January 21, 2026:** RFA Webinar
- **February 5, 2026:** Intent to Apply closes
- **February 26, 2026:** RFA closes

Questions? Contact [Brooke Morgan](#) or [Jennicca Mabe](#)

CONTACT US

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