



**Illinois Innovation Network
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 27, 2021
1:00 – 3:00 PM**

Welcome and Introductions

Jerry Blazey, IIN Council Chair called the meeting to order. Chair Blazey informed all that reviewers are finishing up a third round of sustaining Illinois seed grant proposals. Fifteen proposals were received this round and an announcement of who will receive awards will be made within the next couple of weeks. The IIN has funded a total of 12 seed grants prior to this round.

Jay Walsh, Interim Vice President for Economic Development & Innovation, University of Illinois System office welcomed everyone and mentioned the STEAM Expo at the State Fair, August 18-22. IIN is partnering with the state of Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology to stand up this activity. IIN staff will be contacting hubs for activities and a presence at the STEAM Expo.

Roll Call

Lor Pflugmacher conducted roll call. The following Council members answered present: Jerry Blazey, Denise Cobb, Chris Merrett, Beth Cada, Craig MacLauchlan, Bruce Sommer, TJ Augustine, Gary Kinsel, Ryan Hendrickson, Susan Martinis, Pradeep Khanna

Mike Bedell joined at 1:30 PM, Alex Stagnaro-Green joined at 1:28 PM.

Absent: Leslie Roundtree, Ryan Spain

IIN/VPED staff Present: Jay Walsh, Kyle Harfst, Jisu Hong, Ben Taylor, Lori Pflugmacher, Jeannette Tamayo

Approval of March 25 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Craig McLauchlan

Seconded by Gary Kinsel

Aye: Jerry Blazey, TJ Augustine, Denise Cobb, Ryan Hendrickson, Pradeep Khanna, Gary Kinsel, Susan Martinis, Craig McLauchlan, Chris Merrett, Bruce Sommer

Nay: None

Motion carried

Public Comment - no requests for comment received

USDA Presentation - Molly Hammond, the Acting State Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development in Illinois, presented a breakdown of the rural development offices that include the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service.



Hub Updates

Paul Leamon, Executive Director presented an update on the Distillery Labs. Leamon shared with the group the focus areas for their hub and the facility to be remodeled.

TJ Augustine, Vice Chancellor for Innovation at the University of Illinois Chicago, provided an update on the UIC Hub. Focusing on computing, drug discovery, and entrepreneurship.

Approval of Working Committee Charges –Harfst explained that at the March Council meeting, the Education and Workforce Development Working Committee Charge and the Research and Collaboration Working Committee Charge had been updated and approved by the Council.

Corporate Engagement has been a subcommittee of Entrepreneurship & Corporate Engagement. There has been interest to spin this subcommittee out into a separate working committee. The Executive Committee and the Corporate engagement subcommittee recommend this change. Jisu Hong highlighted several reasons for this recommendation. First, the Corporate Engagement subcommittee now has good member participation and has gained the momentum to stand alone as a full-fledged working committee. Second, by moving the Corporate Engagement subcommittee out of the Entrepreneurship working committee, a structure could be created where the Corporate Engagement committee can better support all IIN working committees as it relates to corporate engagement. Third, the separation will also provide better focus for both working committees.

Motion made by Susan Martinis
Seconded by Ryan Hendrickson

Aye: Jerry Blazey, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Beth Cada, Denise Cobb, Ryan Hendrickson, Pradeep Khanna, Gary Kinsel, Susa Martinis, Craig McLauchlan, Chris Merrett, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnaro-Green
Nay: None
Motion Carried

Confirmation of Working Committee Chairpersons – Kyle Harfst explained that in separating appointments from working committee charges this would avoid changing charges prior.

Beth Cada – Education and Workforce Development
Bruce Sommer – Entrepreneurship
John Charles (Interim) – Public Policy



Craig McLauchlan – Research & Collaboration (starts July 1, 2021)
Corporate Engagement – open at this time soliciting names for committee chair

Motion made by Susan Martinis
Seconded by Bruce Sommer

Aye: Jerry Blazey, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Beth Cada, Denise Cobb, Ryan Hendrickson, Pradeep Khanna, Gary Kinsel, Susan Martinis, Craig McLauchlan, Chris Merrett, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnaro-Green

Nay: None

Motion Carried

Advocacy – Jerry Blazey provided highlights from the Altogether Extraordinary presentation from the previous week. He stated that at the upcoming meeting with the Capital Development Board scheduled for June 16, there would be no need in sending an advocacy letter to the CDB director. Chair Blazey indicated that the USDA presentation earlier could be the start of federal agency presentations at future Council meetings. He indicated he would be looking for specific agency interest and will ask hubs for input.

Strategic Planning - Harfst summarized the RFP sent out earlier in May and provided a timeline. The announcement (RFP) was made in early May with a response deadline of June 1. If anyone is interested in being appointed to the ad hoc committee to review submitted proposals, please contact Kyle Harfst.

Election of IIN Officers – September 23, 2021 – Chair Blazey reviewed that at the September 2019 meeting at Governors State University, a governance structure was established for the Council. The structure includes the establishment of an Executive Committee consisting of Council Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and at-large member in addition to Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation at the University of Illinois and the Executive Director of the IIN becoming members. Traditionally, the election of officers takes place every two years.

Adjourn – Jerry Blazey called for a motion to adjourn

Motion made by Craig McLauchlan
Seconded by Susan Martinis

Aye: Jerry Blazey, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Beth Cada, Denise Cobb, Ryan Hendrickson, Pradeep Khanna, Gary Kinsel, Susan Martinis, Craig McLauchlan, Chris Merrett, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnaro-Green

Nay: None

Motion carried



Next Meeting September 23, 2021



Working together to ignite the Illinois economy

IIIN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 27, 2021 | ZOOM MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

- **Jerry Blazey, Illinois Innovation Network Council Chair will call meeting to order**
- **Attendance roll call**
 - **Jerry Blazey, Northern Illinois University (NIU) (IIN Council Chair)**
 - **TJ Augustine, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)**
 - **Mike Bedell, Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU)**
 - **Beth Cada, Governors State University (GSU)**
 - **Denise Cobb, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)**
 - **Ryan Hendrickson, Eastern Illinois University (EIU)**
 - **Pradeep Khanna, Discovery Partners Institute (DPI)**
 - **Gary Kinsel, Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC)**
 - **Susan Martinis, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)**
 - **Craig McLauchlan, Illinois State University (ISU)**
 - **Chris Merrett, Western Illinois University (WIU)**
 - **Leslie Roundtree, Chicago State University (CSU)**
 - **Bruce Sommer, University of Illinois Springfield (UIS)**
 - **Ryan Spain, Distillery Labs**
 - **Alex Stagnaro-Green, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Health Sciences Campus-Rockford**

MEETING AGENDA

- **Approval of March 25 meeting minutes (ACTION ITEM)**
- **Public comment**
- **USDA presentation**
- **Hub updates**
 - **Distillery Labs**
 - **University of Illinois Chicago**
- **Approval of Working Committee Charges**
 - **Corporate Engagement**
 - **Entrepreneurship**
 - **Public Policy**
- **Confirmation of Working Committee Chairpersons**
- **Advocacy**
- **Strategic Planning**
- **Election of IIN Officers - Sept. 23 Council Meeting**
- **Adjourn**



USDA Rural Development in Illinois

Molly Hammond, Acting State Director

Rural Development's (RD) Mission

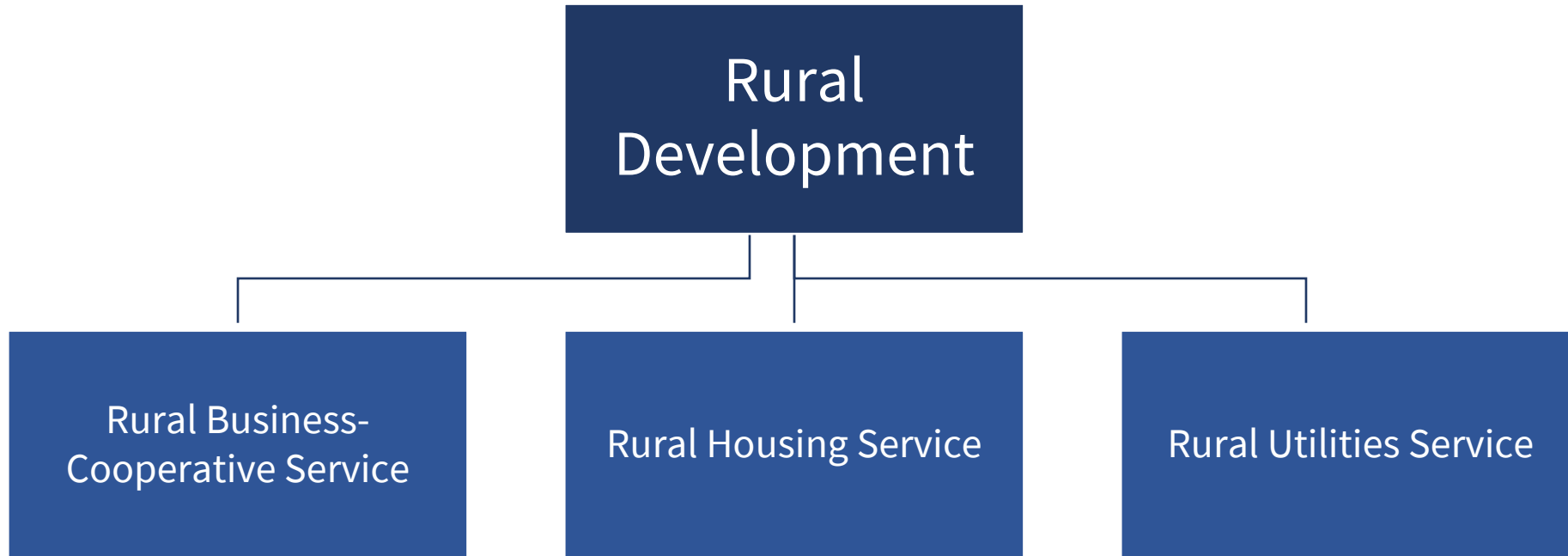
USDA Rural Development

Committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America.

- Provide **loans, grants, and loan guarantees** that support essential services, such as:
 - Housing
 - Economic Development
 - Health Care
 - First Responder Services and Equipment
 - Water, Electric, and Telecommunications Infrastructure



Rural Development Offices



Rural Development Background

Rural Development includes 3 agencies with unique programs and objectives:

- Rural Utilities Service (RUS)
- Rural Housing Service (RHS)
- Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS)

Across the three agencies, Rural Development administers over 40 programs.

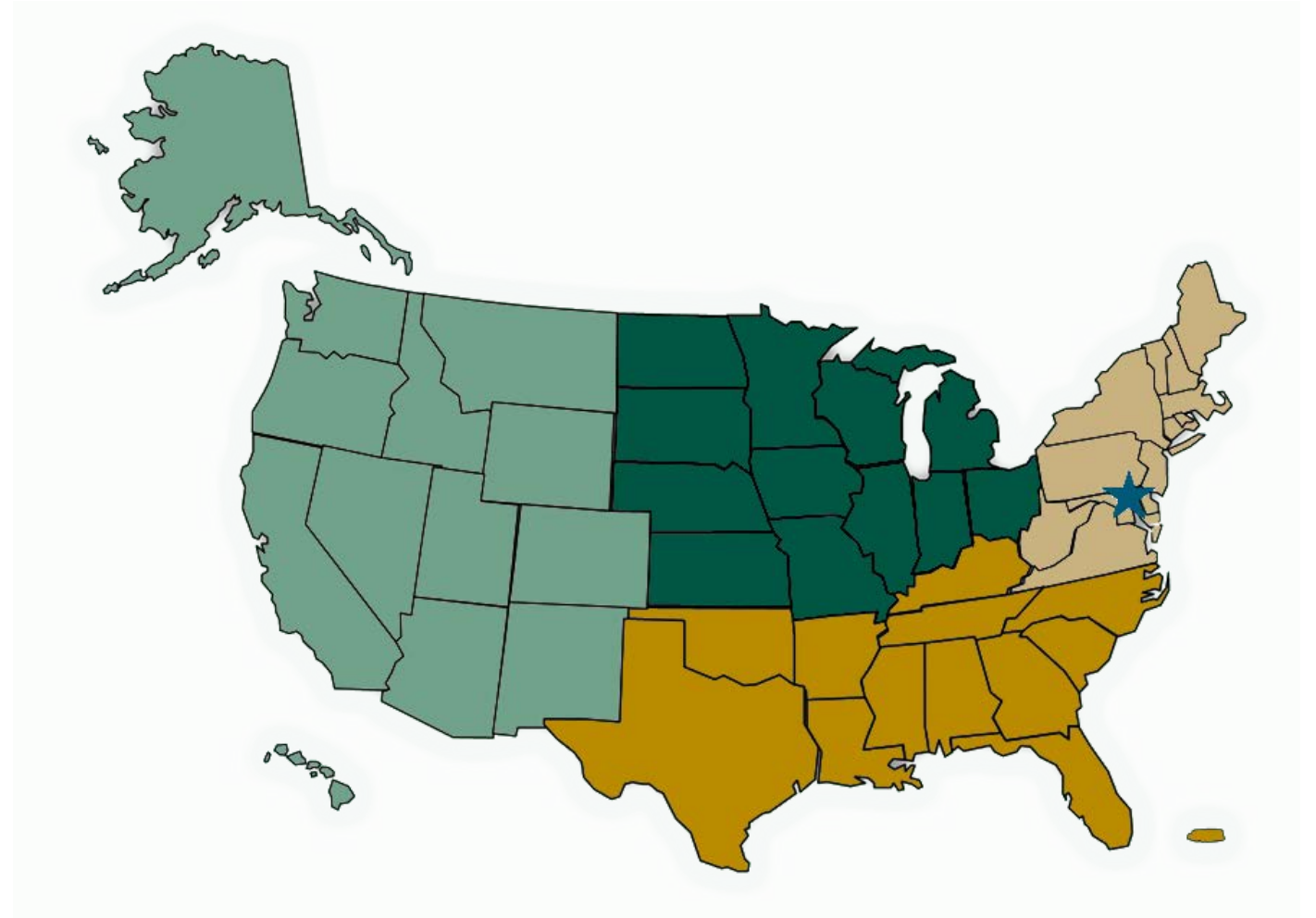
Rural Development Offices

4 Regions

47 State Offices

400 Area Offices

1 National Office in DC



Illinois Rural Development Offices

State Office – Champaign

Area 1 Offices: Oregon, Princeton, Ottawa

Area 2 Offices: Pontiac, Champaign, Effingham

Area 3 Offices: Mt. Vernon, Marion

Area 4 Offices: Galesburg, Jacksonville, Quincy



Rural Development's Programs

Business Programs



Business & Industry Loan Guarantees

Convert, enlarge, repair, modernize, or develop business

Purchase and develop land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, or facilities

Purchase equipment, machinery, supplies, or inventory

Refinance when new jobs will be created and other conditions are met





REAP

- Install energy efficient lighting
 - Upgrade refrigeration systems
 - Improve insulation, duct work, windows, and other building upgrades
 - Lower heating and cooling costs with heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrades
- Install solar panels or wind turbines
- Purchase anaerobic digesters



Single-Family Housing

No Down Payment

100 Percent Affordable
Fixed Rate Financing

- Closing Costs and Repairs may be included
- No Prepayment Penalties

Single-Family Home Repair Loans and Grants

Access for persons with disabilities

Roofs and septic tanks

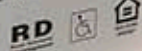
Energy-saving upgrades, and more.



Wentzville SENIOR APARTMENTS



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Office Manager: 636-778-7119 - TTY#711



Multi-Family
Housing



Community Facilities

- Hospitals, health clinics
- Schools
- Daycares
- Fire houses, first responder vehicles and equipment
- Community centers and more



Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants

- Improve infrastructure
- Support public health and safety
- Promote economic development

RUS Telecommunications Program History

From electricity to broadband...

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1935 | Rural Electrification Administration (REA) created and began providing financing to promote rural electrification |
| 1949 | REA received authority to finance telephone service in rural communities |
| 1995 | Evolving from the REA, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) required all financed telecommunications networks have the capacity to deliver broadband |
| 2010 to present | RUS has approved over \$8 billion in loans and grants to build out broadband infrastructure and expand distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas |

The need for Broadband Access:

Economic Development:

- Business Retention
- Tourism – Parks & Recreation
- Safety
- Municipal WiFi
- Real Estate
- Healthcare



The need for Broadband Access:

Smart Ag: BB to the Acre

- Tractor Guidance Systems
- Soil and Yield Mapping
- Variable-Rate input application Technologies (VRT)
- Farm Management
- Equipment Control & Monitoring
- Livestock Management



The need for Broadband Access:

Workforce Development:

- Growing Technical Workforce
- Agriculture – Technical Training
- Skilled Labor Growth
- School Collaborations – Dual Credits
- E-Libraries/E-Textbooks
- Home Based Businesses



The need for Broadband Access:

Disconnected/Seven Lessons on fixing the digital divide:

- 1) Awareness
- 2) Change
- 3) Rural Broadband
- 4) Adoption
- 5) Digital Skills
- 6) Affordable Equipment
- 7) Evaluation and Collaboration

[Digital_Divide_Final.pdf \(kansascityfed.org\)](#)

Rural Broadband Programs

- Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
- Community Connect Grant Program
- ReConnect Program



Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program

Funding Type	Rural Focus	Funding Thresholds	How to Apply	When Applications are Accepted
Loans/Loan Guarantees	Primarily benefits communities ≤5K	N/A	Submit through the RD Apply online application system	Year-round
Available Funding		Program Updates		
<u>FY2019</u> \$690 million available <u>FY2020</u> \$690 million available <u>FY2021</u> \$690 million available		<u>FY2019</u> 12 loans approved: \$181.5 million/10 states impacted <u>FY2020</u> 8 loans approved: \$98.6 million/10 states impacted <u>FY2021</u> 2 loans approved: \$57.5 million/1 state impacted 5 loans in process: \$58.9 million		

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees>

Community Connect Grant Program

Funding Type	Rural Focus	Funding Thresholds	Matching Requirement	Broadband Service Speeds	How to Apply	When Applications are Accepted
Grants	Areas with populations ≤ 20K	\$100,000 - \$3,000,000	15% of requested grant amount	Broadband Service: <10/1 Mbps Broadband Grant Speed: ≥25/3 Mbps	Submit through the Community Connect Portal	Applications are not accepted at this time

Available Funding

FY2019

\$33 million available

FY2020

\$29 million available in FY2020 after awarding 8 grants from FY2019 application cycle

FY2021

\$35 million available

Program Updates

FY2019

12 grants approved: **\$24.3 million**/9 states impacted

FY2020

8 grants approved: **\$15.7 million** (from the FY2019 Application window)/7 states impacted

- No FY2020 application window due to regulation update

FY2021

Application window closed on December 23, 2020

73 Applications received: **\$146.4 million**

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>

Community Connect Grant Program

New

Applications can only be submitted electronically through the new online application system.

Resources are available on the website at:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>

Contact Information

Loan Origination and Approval Division

Email: community.connect@usda.gov

Call: 202-720-0800

Home

Welcome, Toby

Central Internet Company

[Switch Entity View](#)

Community Connect

Thank you for your interest in the Community Connect Grant Program. The purpose of the Community Connect Grant Program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide, on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis, broadband service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety benefits.

You can create your Proposed Funded Service Area and upload your Community Connect Grant application by clicking the button below.

Funding Window Open: July 01, 2020 - August 15, 2020

[Get Started](#)



ReConnect Program

Funding Type	Rural Focus	Funding Thresholds	Matching Requirement	Broadband Service Speeds	How to Apply	When Applications are Accepted
Loan/Grants/ Loan-Grant Combinations	Areas with populations ≤ 20K	≤\$50 million for loans & loan-grant combinations ≤\$25 for grants	For grant-only: 25% of requested grant amount	Broadband Service: <10/1 Mbps Broadband Buildout Speed: ≥25/3 Mbps	Submit through the ReConnect online application system	Applications are not accepted at this time

Available Funding

FY2019

\$550 million available

FY2020

\$655 million available in FY2020 (includes CARES funding)

FY2021

\$635 million available

Program Updates

FY2019 – “Round One”

146 Applications processed: **\$1.4 billion**

- **78** 100% Grant applications
- **53** 50/50 Loan/Grant applications
- **15** 100% Loan applications
 - **77** awards approved: **\$663 million**/33 States impacted

FY2020 – “Round Two”

172 Applications submitted: **\$1.57 billion** requested

- **88** awards approved: **\$675 million**/35 States impacted

<https://www.usda.gov/reconnect>

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program – The Basics

Funding Type	Rural Focus	Funding Thresholds	Matching Requirement	DLT System	How to Apply	When Applications are Accepted
Grants	Primarily benefits rural areas	\$50,000 - \$1,000,000	15% of requested grant amount	Must include hub and end-user sites	Submit through the Grants.gov	Applications are not accepted at this time

Available Funding

FY2019

\$64 million available

FY2020

\$95 million available

FY2021

\$57 million available

Program Updates

FY2019

181 applications received for **\$58.1 million**

- **145** grants approved for **\$45.4 million**/38 states & 2 territories impacted

FY2020

FOA #1: 276 applications received for **\$155.9 million**

- **117** grants approved for **\$72.4 million**

FOA #2: 534 applications totaling **\$252.1 million (85 awards - \$41.4 million)**

FY2021

- **Accepting applications (April 5 – June 4, 2021)**

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

Distance Learning means the real-time, interactive delivery of curriculum via telecommunications and promotes the connection of students and teachers at remote sites.

- Provide educational programs, instruction, or information originating in one area, whether rural or not, to students and teachers who are located in rural areas; or
- Connect teachers and students, located in one rural area with teachers and students who are located in a different rural area.

Telemedicine is a real-time, interactive, telecommunications link to an end user from medical professionals at separate sites in order to exchange health care information for the purpose of providing improved health care services to residents of rural areas.

- Benefits rural residents both in reduced travel and improved access to service

Telecommunications Programs – ILLINOIS Investments

Since 2010, RUS has approved over \$262 million in projects serving ILLINOIS residents:

Program	Funds Approved
Telecommunications Infrastructure Program	\$153.7 Million
ReConnect Program	\$88.6 Million
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	\$8.6 Million
Community Connect Grant Program	\$2.1 Million
Broadband Initiatives Program	\$9.9 Million
Grand Total	\$262.9 Million

USDA Rural Development Funding in IL

FY 2020 Total RD Investment in rural Illinois: \$614,811,017

- Business Programs: \$75,506,750
- Community Programs: \$79,086,858
- Housing Programs: \$355,978,909
- RUS Electric & Telecom: \$104,238,500

Molly Hammond
Acting State Director
molly.hammond@usda.gov
Office: 217.403.6203



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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

HUB UPDATES

- **Distillery Labs - Paul Leamon**
- **University of Illinois Chicago - TJ Augustine**



INTRODUCING DISTILLERY LABS

ILLINOIS INNOVATION NETWORK
MAY 27, 2021



INTRODUCTION

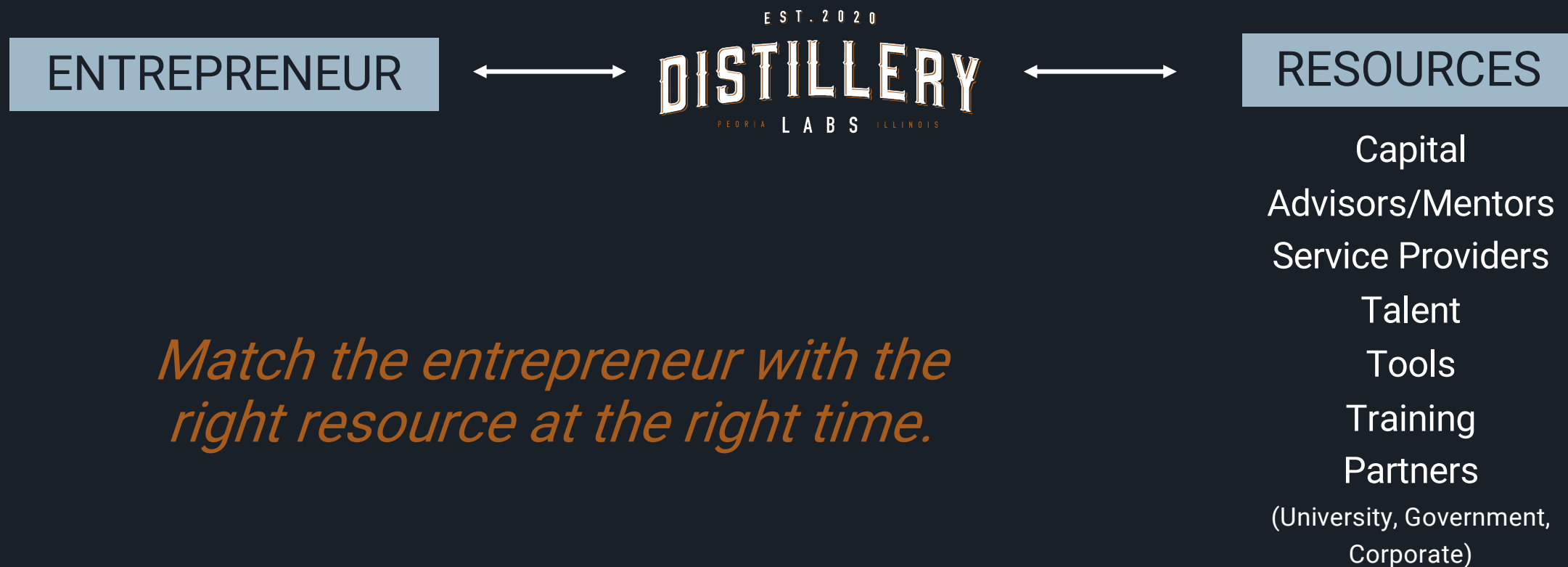


WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE, OUR MISSION

Uniting
people, ideas and resources
to launch and grow
new businesses
in the Greater Peoria community.



HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH THIS – MARKETPLACE FRAMEWORK





HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH THIS - PROGRAMMATIC ELEMENTS

EDUCATE

training programs
workshops
guest presenters

CONNECT

mentors
capital
services
workforce

INCUBATE

co-working
office space
design/prototyping

ACCELERATE

accelerator
capital fund
corporate

INCLUDE

program scholarships

sponsored memberships

community accessibility





WHY ARE WE CREATING DISTILLERY LABS

To be a nationally recognized entrepreneurial hub for startups and innovation.

THAT WILL

- Launch 100s of new **companies** that hire 1000s of new **employees**
- Attract new **talent** to Peoria and retain current talent
- Help **finance** dozens of companies with angel and VC funding
- Engage founders representing every corner of the community, reflecting our **diverse** demographics.



THE BRAND “DISTILLERY LABS”

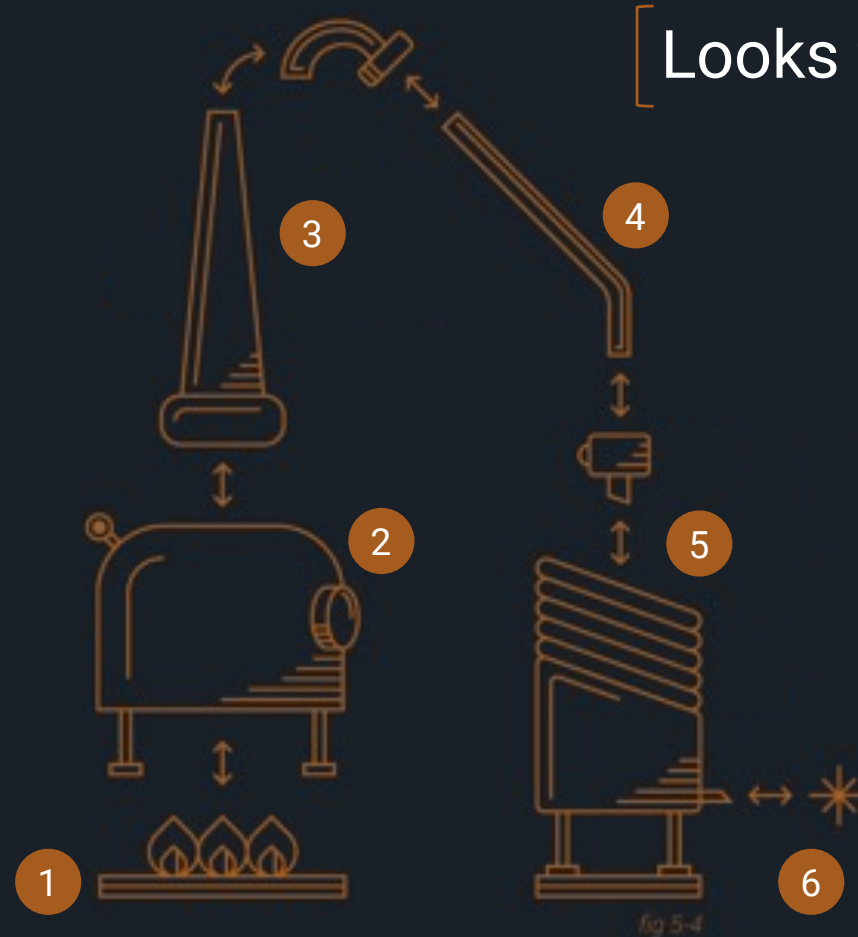
Celebrates our history in
distilling entrepreneurship

Illustrates our
resilience and
adaptability to
change

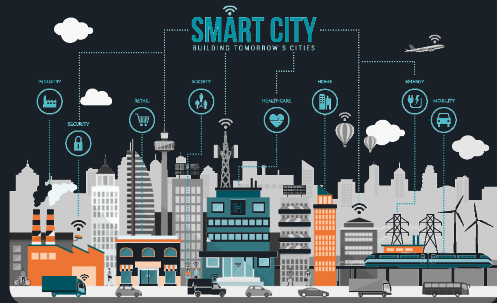
Looks forward to our future of:

DISTILLING IDEAS

- 1 inspire
- 2 brainstorm
- 3 refine
- 4 prototype
- 5 test
- 6 release



FOCUS INDUSTRIES



Smart City
Smart Mobility

Agriculture, Food & Farming Systems

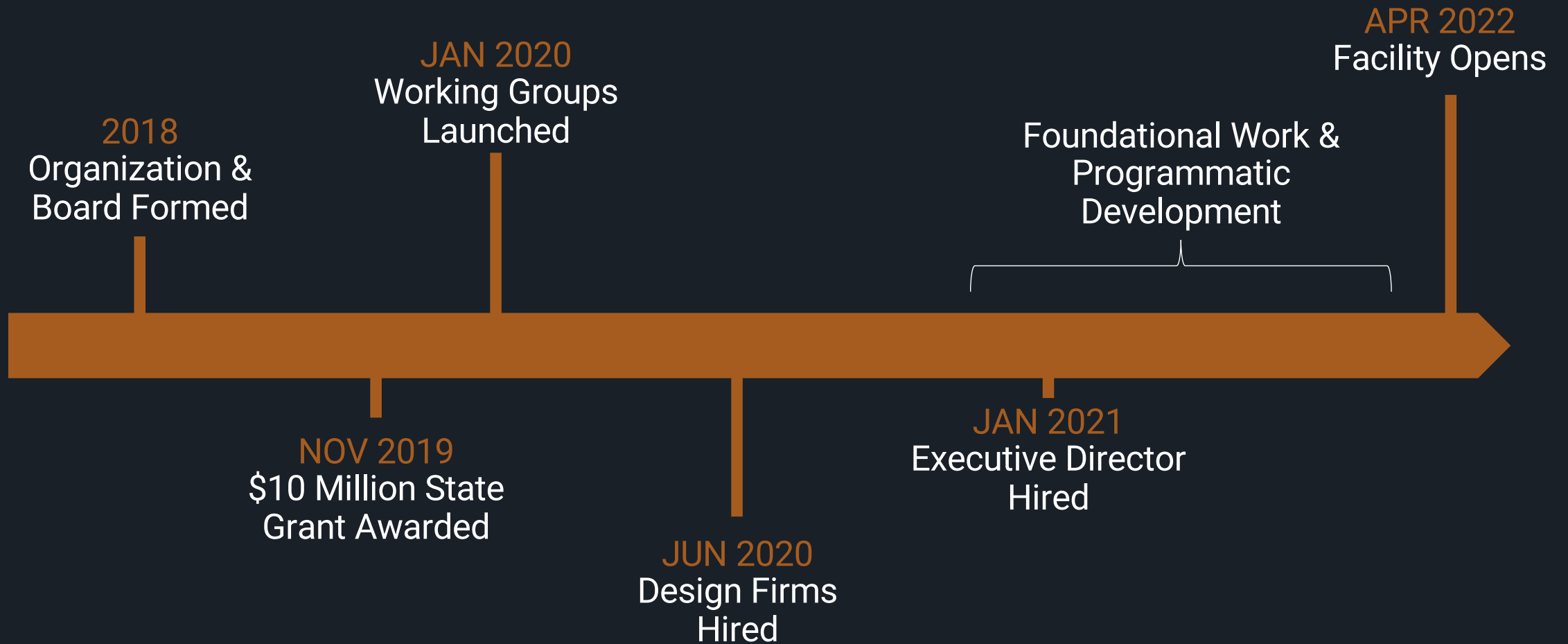


Your Idea



Health and Wellness Innovation

WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS



LOCATION



PRELIMINARY RENDERINGS



PRELIMINARY RENDERINGS





INNOVATION

University of Illinois at Chicago

IIN Hub Update

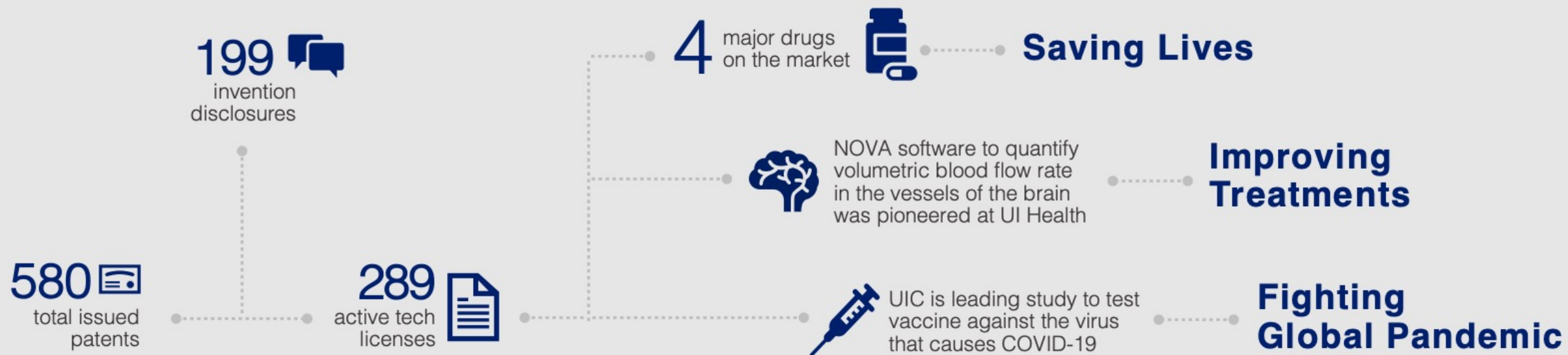
TJ Augustine, Vice Chancellor for Innovation

IIN Council Meeting
May 27, 2021



Located in one of the world's most vibrant cities, UIC is a vital part of the educational, technological and cultural fabric of the region. With more than 33,000 students, 16 colleges, a hospital and a health sciences system, UIC is Chicago's only public research university. We are proud to be recognized as one of the top five most diverse campuses in the nation and as a national leader in providing access to underrepresented students.





WE DISCOVER

UIC is a hub of innovation and cutting-edge research with a strong commitment to discovery and solving real-world problems. Our approach to innovation is strongly rooted in scientific research, discovery, and creating impact. We push the boundaries of traditional research to find new ways that innovation and discovery can be transformed to make a global impact.





UIC is one of the largest hubs in the IIN and is focused on computing, drug discovery, and entrepreneurship. The UIC hub is utilizing a combination of applied research, public-private partnerships, and innovative education programs to spur technology commercialization and economic growth. We are expanding to serve students and support faculty with state-of-the art facilities for learning and research and working collaboratively across the campus to foster a culture of entrepreneurship.





UIC Innovation Center

The UIC Innovation Center makes innovation accessible. The Center teaches and delivers innovation through corporate sponsored classes, labs, and programs. It offers new tools, methods and additional ways of thinking to generate actionable innovation. For corporate sponsors, the Center provides problem solvers. For UIC faculty and students, it offers alternate ways of identifying and solving complex problems across disciplines.



Innovation Model

CLASSES

The UIC Innovation Center teaches interdisciplinary problem solving and innovation in sponsored classes.



4 sponsored
classes

123 students
from **20** disciplines

SPONSORED LABS

Interdisciplinary labs drive exploratory development with small teams of dedicated students and faculty. Projects range from a semester long to multiple years. The timeline of a project depends on the desired outcome, complexity, and project evolution.



5 sponsored
labs

44 students

8 alumni

13 faculty

CONSULTING

The Innovation Center's project lab is staffed by UIC alumni and runs projects for corporate sponsors as well as university partners.



Expansion

UIC Innovation Center expansion will provide an additional 15,000 SF to support collaborative work with new and existing partners.

It will feature collaborative spaces, a maker space, meeting areas, and corporate sponsored labs.



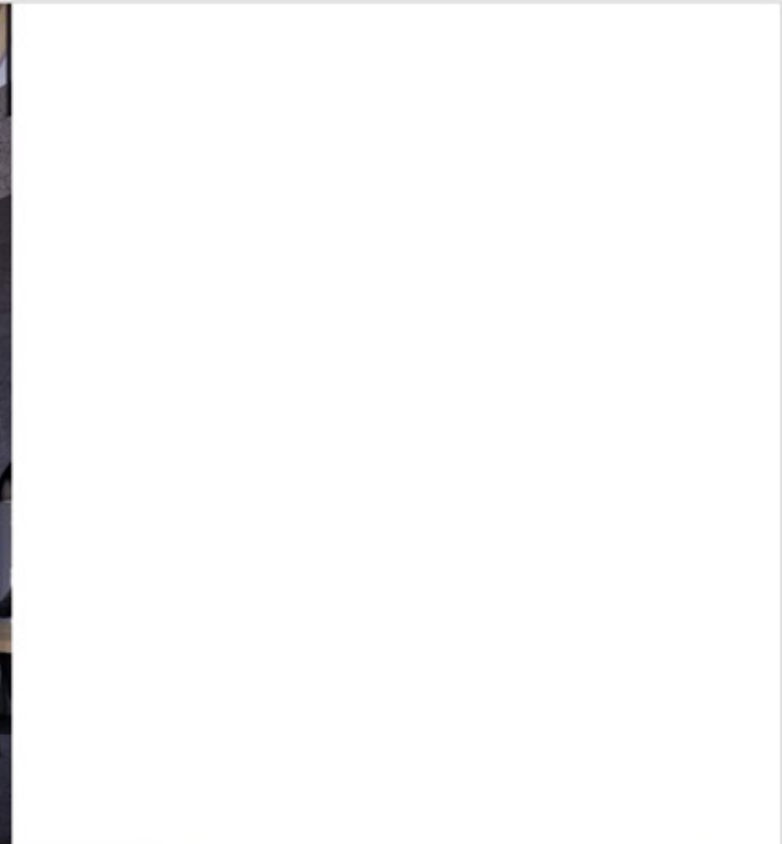
TODAY	13,250 SF
PROPOSED	21,300 SF

INNOVATION EDUCATION teaches students to solve complex problems in interdisciplinary teams.





Innovation solves problems and develops talent for **CORPORATE PARTNERS.**



Innovation is an essential aspect of **ENTREPRENEURSHIP.**

Innovation can elevate the **VISIBILITY** of our accomplishments.





CHA Partnership

Community Health Advocacy (CHA) is a partnership between UIC and the Jump Simulation & Education Center at OSF HealthCare that brings together faculty researchers and health care professionals to develop innovative solutions to health-related problems in an urban community. The teams work together to hypothesize, test and redesign tools used by caregivers every day to find new solutions aimed at improving access and quality of care.







Office of the Vice Chancellor for Innovation

innovation.uic.edu | innovation@uic.edu

APPROVAL OF WORKING COMMITTEE CHARGES

- **Corporate Engagement**
- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Public Policy**



CONFIRMATION OF WORKING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- **Corporate Engagement - future confirmation**
- **Education and Workforce Development - Beth Cada**
- **Entrepreneurship - Bruce Sommer**
- **Public Policy - John Charles**
- **Research and Collaboration - Craig McLauchlan**

AGENDA

- **Advocacy**
- **Strategic planning**
- **Election of IIN Officers - September 23 meeting**
- **Adjourn (ACTION ITEM)**
- **Next meeting: September 23, 2021**