



**Illinois Innovation Network  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 24, 2022  
1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Jerry Blazey, IIN Council Chair called the meeting to order welcoming the participants and noted the meeting was being recorded.

Jay Walsh, Vice President for Economic Development & Innovation, University of Illinois System welcomed everyone and called attention to IIN's recent activity. IIN submitted a proposal with mHub as lead and a number of hubs being involved in the Build Back Better Regional Challenge. The IIN has played a major role in the state's broadband area as well as the Hydrogen initiative through the U.S. Department of Energy.

**Roll Call**

Lori Pflugmacher conducted roll call.

The following members answered present: Jerry Blazey Northern Illinois University; Mary Daniels proxy for Leslie Roundtree, Chicago State University; Denise Cobb, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; TJ Augustine, University of Illinois Chicago; Ryan Hendrickson, Eastern Illinois University; Gary Kinsel, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; Kim Kidwell, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Kip McCoy proxy for Paul Leamon, Distillery Labs; Craig McLauchlan, Illinois State University; Bruce Sommer, University of Illinois Springfield; Beverly Schneller, Governors State University; Alex Stagnaro-Green, University of Illinois Chicago Health Sciences, Rockford

Members absent: Chris Merrett, Western Illinois University; Mike Bedell, Northeastern Illinois University; Pradeep Khanna, Discovery Partners Institute

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

**Approval of January 27 Minutes**

Motion to approve by Craig McLauchlan

Seconded by Alex Stagnaro-Green

Aye: Jerry Blazey, Denise Cobb, TJ Augustine, Ryan Hendrickson, Gary Kinsel, Kim Kidwell, Kip McCoy, Craig McLauchlan, Bruce Sommer, Beverly Schneller, Alex Stagnaro-Green

Nay: None

Abstain: Mary Daniels proxy for Leslie Roundtree

Motion carried



### **IIN Working Committee Updates**

Bruce Sommer, Entrepreneurship Committee Chair, presented an overview of the committee's charge, subcommittees and focus areas, actions and activities, and opportunities to participate. (see attached PowerPoint)

Manu Edakara, Director of the iVenture Accelerator from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign presented several activities available through iVentures and the possibility of extending the program to top student ventures in all IIN institutions. (see attached PowerPoint).

### **Approval to change the name of the Public Policy Committee to the Advocacy and Policy Committee.**

Motion to approve made by Gary Kinsel

Seconded by Bruce Sommer

Aye: Jerry Blazey, Mary Daniels, Denise Cobb, TJ Augustine, Ryan Hendrickson, Gary Kinsel, Kim Kidwell, Kip McCoy, Craig McLaughlan, Bruce Sommer, Beverly Schneller, Alex Stagnaro-Green

Nay: None

Motion carried

### **Approval to revise the bylaws of the Illinois Innovation Network**

Motion to approve made by Craig McLaughlin

Seconded by Kim Kidwell

Aye: Jerry Blazey, Mary Daniels, Denise Cobb, TJ Augustine, Ryan Hendrickson, Gary Kinsel, Kim Kidwell, Kip McCoy, Craig McLaughlan, Bruce Sommer, Beverly Schneller, Alex Stagnaro-Green

Nay: None

Motion carried

### **Approval of Illinois Lt. Governor, Juliana Stratton as Ex-officio Member.**

### **Approval of University of Illinois Extension, as Ex-officio Member, represented by Director Shelly Nickols-Richardson**

### **Approval of Julianna Stratton as Chair of Advisory Council**

Motion to approve made by Ryan Hendrickson

Seconded by Gary Kinsel

Aye: Jerry Blazey, Mary Daniels, Denise Cobb, TJ Augustine, Ryan Hendrickson, Gary Kinsel, Kim Kidwell, Kip McCoy, Craig McLaughlan, Bruce Sommer, Beverly Schneller, Alex Stagnaro-Green

Nay: None

Motion carried



### **Legislative Caucus Updates**

Jeannette Tamayo summarized briefings to Black Caucus, Latino Caucus and Women's caucus.

### **Director of Research and Program Development**

Jay Walsh summarized a new position being created in OVPEDI to support IIN external funding proposals in addition to serving as a resource to the IIN Sustaining Illinois Seed Grant Program. Goal is to work on proposals that serve multiple Hubs. Helping to continue to build the IIN to reach the impact that we desire.

### **State and Federal Funding Proposals**

Courtney Breckenridge and Jeannette Tamayo summarized funding proposals to the state and federal government that have been submitted.

### **Public Comment**

Kyle Harfst reported no public comments were received. Kyle reported that comments may be provided via chat or verbally at the meeting or, by March 24, 2022 at noon, by email to [vpedi@uillinois.edu](mailto:vpedi@uillinois.edu). Further, interpretation is that for future IIN Council meetings as potentially subject to Open Meetings Act, the Chief Administrative Officer will be present at VPEDI office address at HAB during this meeting.

### **New Business**

- 2022 STEAM Expo – Kyle Harfst provided dates of the Illinois State Fair and STEAM Expo August 17-21.
- NSF Visit - Jerry Blazey announced the upcoming visit of the Director of the National Science Foundation, Sethuraman Panchanathan (Panch), to UIUC in April with a focus on ag tech.

### **Approval of the FY 2023 Council Meeting Schedule as presented**

September 22, 2022; November 17, 2022; January 26, 2023; March 23, 2023; and May 25, 2023, all meetings start at 1:00 PM.

Motion to approve made by Craig McLauchlin

Seconded by TJ Augustine

Aye: Jerry Blazey, Mary Daniels, Denise Cobb, Chris Merrett, TJ Augustine, Ryan Hendrickson, Gary Kinsel, Kim Kidwell, Kip McCoy, Craig McLauchlin, Tricia Kerns proxy for Beverly Schneller, Alex Stagnaro-Green

Nay: None

Motion carried

**Adjourn** – Chair Blazey adjourned the meeting at 2:26 pm



Entrepreneurship Committee

## Outline

- Charge
- Subcommittees & Focus Areas
- Actions & Activities
- Opportunities to Participate
- Questions

## Charge

The IIN aims to ensure that entrepreneurs in Illinois have opportunities to bring their ideas to life and foster economic growth in their communities.

## Objectives

1. Identify current courses and/or activities and/or develop the appropriate educational curriculum for entrepreneurs that can be shared across the IIN network
2. Determine how to effectively disperse entrepreneurial opportunities socio-economically, geographically, and demographically to increase access and participation
3. Recommend the proper support programming that benefits entrepreneurs

## Charge

The IIN aims to ensure that entrepreneurs in Illinois have opportunities to bring their ideas to life and foster economic growth in their communities.

## Actions

1. Research and collect a list of activities and/or courses taking place on the campuses and/or business landscapes of IIN hubs that relate to entrepreneurship
2. Identify partners in each of the IIN hub that are interested in working with the IIN in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation, and technology
3. Create at least one pilot program that may be offered to all hubs throughout the state that targets entrepreneurship
4. Research and define a social entrepreneurship model for the state of Illinois

## Committee Structure & Focus Areas

1. Originally called “Entrepreneurship & Corporate Engagement”
  - Corporate Engagement spin out
2. Best Practices in Entrepreneurship Education
3. Social Innovation
4. High School Entrepreneurship Education
5. Early-stage Venture Investor Network



## Best Practice in Entrepreneurship Education

- Dean Michael Bedell, Northeastern Illinois University

### **Goal:**

- Identify and share best practices in Entrepreneurship Education across the hubs

### **Action:**

- Inventory of Innovation Courses and Programs Across IIN Institutions
  - Professor Christopher Merritt, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs @ WIU

## Inventory of Innovation & Entrepreneurship Courses Offered by IIN Member Universities – 2020/2021 Academic Year

Chris Merrett, IIRA @ WIU

- IIN Hubs collectively offered **875 courses and 137 programs related to *innovation***, broadly defined.
- **Entrepreneurship** is a challenging term to define. Inventory includes courses using both broad and narrow definitions of the term.
  - Broad definition might include terms like microenterprise, social enterprise, or cooperatives, among other terms.
  - Narrow definition only included courses that mentioned entrepreneurship or business development.
  - 209 / 24% (broad definition) or 167 / 19% (narrow definition) of the 875 innovation courses inventoried are focused on ***entrepreneurship***.
- Entrepreneurship as a concept extends well beyond Business Schools to include social work, music, healthcare, history, agriculture, and much more.
- **Questions:** [cd-merrett@wiu.edu](mailto:cd-merrett@wiu.edu)

| IIN Hub      | Entrepreneurship Courses<br>(Broadly Defined) | Entrepreneurship Courses<br>(Narrowly Defined) |
|--------------|---|--|
| CSU          | 13  | 12   |
| EIU          | 4   | 4  |
| GSU          | 13  | 13   |
| ISU          | 13  | 13   |
| NEIU         | 8   | 5  |
| NIU          | 22  | 17   |
| SIUC         | 9   | 5  |
| SIUE         | 7   | 5  |
| UIC          | 55  | 43   |
| UIS          | 6   | 4  |
| UIUC         | 55  | 42   |
| WIU          | 4   | 4  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>209</b>                                    | <b>167</b>                                     |

## Social Innovation

- Jill Bowers, Eastern Illinois University
- Molly Lamb, University of Illinois Springfield

### **Goals:**

1. Research and Define Social Innovation and a Social Entrepreneurship Model
2. Identify areas of collaboration across hubs to advance social innovation efforts across the state

### **Action:**

1. Social Innovation Workshop – April 11, 2022 (1 – 3 PM)



# SAVE THE DATE **SOCIAL INNOVATION WORKSHOP**

LEARN FROM LEADERS IN THE SOCIAL INNOVATION SPACE  
AND IDENTIFY COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM

**APRIL 11, 2022 | 1-3 PM**

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

## Early-stage Investor Network

### **Goals:**

1. Increase proof-of-concept and later funding opportunities across hubs
2. Increase early-stage investor activities across Illinois

### **Actions:**

1. Inventory of investors across the state
2. Identify and expand affiliations to hubs
3. Connect individuals to groups and groups to each other
4. Expose hub entrepreneurs and research/tech commercialization opportunities across the network

## High School Entrepreneurship Education

### **Goals:**

1. Increase interest in Entrepreneurship and STEAM in Illinois high school students
2. Engage students with regional hubs
3. Launch a model high school entrepreneurship program across hubs

### **Actions:**

1. Inventory of programs across state
2. Share practices
3. Identify challenges of a common model/program
4. Work with Education and Workforce Development Committee

## Other Committee Actions

### Past

1. Falling Walls Lab Competition
2. Innovation Awards – (STEAM Expo August 2021 & 2022)

### Upcoming

1. Startup Bootcamp – Fall 2022; 8 weeks
  - Founders (UIUC)
2. iVentures Accelerator – Summer 2022
3. Demo Days – Chicago July 2022







# What is iVenture Accelerator?



## EXPERTISE

- Workshops led by faculty, leaders, and entrepreneurs who have built or managed billion-dollar organizations across multiple sectors.
- NSF Innovation Corps acceptance and support for all ventures.



## RESOURCES

- \$2,500 per team member to enable full-time work over summer.
- Up to \$10,000 per venture in capacity funding to achieve milestones throughout the year.



## COMMUNITY

- The campus-wide ecosystem provides space, connections, labs, and expertise.
- Advisors and speakers provide world-class counsel and connections, including drawing from our accomplished alumni.



## A YEARLONG PROGRAM

### SUMMER SPRINT

- Teams work full-time in gorgeous Temple Hoyne Buell Hall
- Lunches, workshops, office hours with leaders, 3 trips to Chicago
- Demo events to link ventures with advisors and investors

### FULL ACADEMIC YEAR

- Teams work together in TE498 / BADM 395: iVenture Seminar - 3 credit hour course in fall and spring
- Workshops, office hours
- Exclusive access to networking events
- Access to co-working spaces

# EXTENDING PILOT

1. Two successful UIC teams piloted with DPI/IIN support.
2. Extending to top student ventures in all IIN institutions.
3. Setting expectations: small n, competitive application (<20%).
4. Remote summer, in-person demo days 7/25 -7-29

# WHO WE SUPPORT

1. 51%+ student-owned
2. 2-4 core team members join accelerator
3. Current students (and just-grad)
4. All welcome: non-profit, cultural, tech, etc.
5. Venture stage: evidence of customer discovery, product development, work within entrepreneurial ecosystem

# IIN LOGISTICS

1. Students from all IIN universities are encouraged to apply.
2. We can provide all marketing materials ([iventure.illinois.edu](http://iventure.illinois.edu))
3. **Application deadline is May 1.**
4. We run admissions; provide feedback to all applicants (cross-campus UIUC committee).
5. IIN teams are full and equal members with access to all resources.
6. We coordinate with home MarComm to celebrate.

Questions?