IIN Council "All Hands" Meeting Summary
Thursday, November 21, 2019
12:00-3:30 p.m.
University of Illinois iHotel
1900 S. First Street Champaign, Illinois

Welcome & Introductions

- Ed Seidel, Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation from the University of Illinois System (VPEDI)
- Gerald (Jerry) Blazey, Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships from Northern Illinois University

Falling Walls Lab – Illinois Presentation

- Di'Quan Ishman, Northern Illinois University, runner up in the competition presented: Breaking the Wall of Electric Grid Dependence
- Natalie Kerr, University of Illinois at Springfield, winner of Illinois competition was not available to present; however, there was a video of her presentation: Breaking the Wall of Nutrient Pollution

Updates from Three Hubs (presentation materials attached)

1) University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) – Susan Martinis, Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation
   - Hub has 3 main priority areas:
      1) Data Science
         o Research Park – over 130 companies mostly centered around data analytics and data science
         o Center for AI Innovation – center will be at the cutting edge of student training, innovation and economic development
         o NSF's AL Institute – preparing a proposal for submission; if interested in being a collaborator, reach out to your hub liaison
      2) Education
         o Workforce Development – launching a coding bootcamp with community and community college partners
         o Community College Research
         o Computer science education for k-12
         o Transportation – the Illinois Center for Transportation in Rantoul; they are setting up a testing area for autonomous vehicles (Illinois Autonomous and Connected Track)
      3) Ag Tech
         o Develop I72 as a corridor to attract business and have global impact
         o Integrated Bioprocessing Lab
         o Welcome participation from hub partners
         o Recently lunch Center for Digital Ag
         o Ag Tech Summit: March 2020
            ▪ Open to hub partners
            ▪ Working to develop an ag accelerator
            ▪ Open to companies outside of CU

2) Western Illinois University (WIU) – Joe Rives, Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning & Initiatives
   - Received $200,000 to develop a food co-op in Mt. Pulaski – Chris Merritt
   - Quad Cities Innovation Center (QCIC) will serve the manufacturing community….
   - Process to form their hub:
     o Brought together partners
     o Shared their mission
     o The region is coming together like the IIN
     o Created a process map of who does what and clients served
       ▪ Identify duplications and gaps
       ▪ Create an input matrix of what the partners can offer and will follow up with companies and ask what they need
     o Held meeting with individual partners
     o Are developing a playbook
       ▪ Organized by function
       ▪ Identifies assets

3) Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) – Gary Kinsel, Vice Chancellor for Research
   - They have done a lot to prepare for their iFerm Hub which will focus on food, nutrition, agriculture and health…
   - IFerm will includes research facility, distillery and fishery
   - Future projects
     o Production brewery, food teaching, events
     o Teaching kitchen
     o Single vessel distilling/brewing machine, good for barley
   - Produced the following video:

Breakout for Working Committees
- Education and Workforce Development - Beth Cada, Governors State University, Working Committee Chair
- Entrepreneurship and Corporate Engagement – Bruce Sommer, University of Illinois Springfield, Working Committee Chair
- Public Policy – Ryan Spain, Peoria Innovation Hub, OSF, Working Committee Chair
- Research and Collaboration – Ryan Hendrickson, Eastern Illinois University, Working Committee Chair

Summary of Working Committee Breakout Sessions
- Education and Workforce Development
  - The following focus areas were discussed:
    o Community college partnerships
    o Exploring apprenticeships – including youth development
    o Pathways – career endorsements
  - There will be a Zoom meeting before the next council meeting to discuss strategies to address target areas

- Entrepreneurship and Corporate Engagement
  - Discussed prioritizing activities generated at a previous meeting
  - Proof of concept
  - Four different sub committees
    - Corporate Engagement
    - Venture investors
    - Proof of concept grants

- Public Policy
  - Discussed how much policy focus should be toward state vs federal level
  - Advocacy items included Illinois Prosper, Computer Science and Coding, and Post Graduate Scholarships for talent retention
  - Issues that can have an impact include safety, job and economic, and economic prosperity & job creation through tech and innovation
  - Potential goals may include revitalize the economy, arrest state population loss, unify our voice, IIN as a positive message for the state, create more diverse opportunities
  - Strengths include lower power costs, great transportation, high quality healthcare, collective strength of our universities
  - IIN could be an advocate for retention and talent of startups in Illinois

- Research and Collaboration
  - Unifying theme with the umbrella concept of "Sustaining Illinois".
  - Several components:
    - Education and Workforce Development: developing and sustaining the education of its citizens and developing a productive workforce for the 21st century;
    - Economic Development: sustaining and developing the economy of the state, including understanding how best to support growth of entrepreneurship and new company creation in Illinois;
    - Health and Wellness: sustaining and improving the general health and social wellness and sustainability of the citizenry;
    - Water, Food, and Agriculture: sustaining the water supply, with the 20% of the world's fresh water supply in the shores of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin, the largest in the US and 2nd largest in the world, and enhancing the home to a national leader in food and agriculture.
    - Computing and Data: under the umbrella of Sustaining Illinois, we also have a foundation of computing, big data, and artificial intelligence. This is an important area in its own right as Illinois develops its high-tech industry, but in this context, it is seen as an enabler for all other aspects of sustainability as articulated above.

Boston Consulting Group Economic Impact Study
- Summarized by Bill Sanders, Discovery Partners Institute Interim Director
- Report is in draft stage and confidential otherwise indicated

Capital Funding Update
- Governor Pritzker requested for the Hubs to match funds of $500,000,000 and that has been going very well.
- As recently reported in the newspaper, $410,000,000 has already be committed by private funds with another $55,000,000 in process.
- Bill Sanders stated that he believes we will reach our goal before end of fiscal year.

Open Discussion
- Statewide Make-A-Thon Competition (flyer attached)
  - Carle College of Medicine, Ruby Mendenhall and Irfan Ahmad, presented.
  - This competition invites everyone to submit an innovative idea to improve healthcare. A prize of $10,000 will be invested in each idea with the most potential, providing the expertise and Maker Lab technology needed to make those ideas a reality.
  - Competition is for citizen scientists
  - Please share with your communities

- Activities for IIN Council to facilitate
  - Jerry Blazey suggested the following:
    - IIN Workshops
      - Faculty workshops organized to start in the spring
      - VPEDI is willing to provide seed funding to get workshops going
      - Could have 4 or 5 next year
      - Will have plan at the January meeting
      - Workshops should result in plans that can go back to the hubs to ask for seed funding for a pilot project that could lead to proposals to funding agencies
    - Online colloquia
    - Publicize the IIN through listening sessions
    - There is an interest in healthcare and water resources across the hubs (education, workforce development, diversity) – for anyone interested in hosting a workshop
  - Most important thing for OVPEDI to energize activities is subsidize the costs of workshops, travel and lodging and we are happy to do that
  - More information on Research Day
    - May 6, 2020 at the State Capital with 2-3 sessions
    - 10 undergraduates per hub
    - Plan to provide legislators with more information in March/April
  - Illinois Innovation Day in Springfield
    - IIN will be a sponsor this year
  - IIN Computing Environment
    - Ed Seidel has talked with the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) about building a computing and data environment that could be used by all of the hubs
      - Computing
      - Advanced AI
      - Student and faculty use (possibly include high school students)
      - Advanced R&D
      - What would it mean for the state to have a system like this?
      - Questions:

- o What would be the role of the hubs?
- o How would it be managed?
- o What courses could utilize these services?
- o What partnerships could be formed?
  - If interested, contact Ed Seidel before the January meeting
- o Apprenticeships
  - Kandace Turner provided an update from a recent visit to DC
  - Meet with the Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeships
    - Excited about the IIN
    - We would want to expand existing or create new programs
  - In the Education and Workforce Development Working Committee, they discussed apprentices and how they are no longer only for trades and now include areas like banking, finance, and insurance
- Upcoming IIN Meetings
  - o IIN Council Meeting, January 23, 2020 hosted by Peoria Illinois Innovation Hub
  - o March 26 meeting hosted by Eastern Illinois University
  - o Need hosts for May and July meetings
    - Please contact Kyle Harfst if willing to host
- Introduction to Sustainability Course
  - o Being offered by EIU
  - o There is room for more students
  - o If interested, contact Ryan Hendrickson

- Laura Frerichs offered tours at Research Park beginning at 3:30 p.m. today, 11/21/19.

Adjourn
- Meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.