



**Illinois Innovation Network  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 25, 2021  
1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Jerry Blazey, IIN Council Chair called the meeting to order and reminded all that the meeting will be recorded.

**Roll Call**

Lori Pflugmacher conducted roll call. The following Council members answered present: Jerry Blazey, Leslie Roundtree, Denise Cobb, Chris Merrett, Beth Cada, Craig McLauchlan, Mike Bedell, Bruce Sommer, Kristy Kuzmuk for TJ Augustine, Gary Kinsel, Ryan Hendrickson, Alex Stagnero-Green, Susan Martinis, Pradeep Khanna  
Absent: Ryan Spain

**Approval of January 28, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve by Ryan Hendrickson  
Seconded by Susan Martinis

AYE: Jerry Blazey, Leslie Roundtree, Denise Cobb, Chris Merrett, Beth Cada, Craig McLauchlan, Mike Bedell, Bruce Sommer, Kristy Kuzmuk for TJ Augustine, Gary Kinsel, Ryan Hendrickson, Alex Stagnero-Green, Susan Martinis, Pradeep Khanna

NAY: None

Motion Carried

**Public Comment**

Bruce Sommer – Spoke on the Social Innovation Initiative through the Entrepreneurship and Corporate Engagement Committee. He has requested one representative from each institution to be a part of forming in its early inception.

No other public comments had been submitted.

**Open Meetings Act**

Jeannette Tamayo updated the council with providing some training materials. Any questions or comments, please reach out to Jeannette. She plans to organize a training within the next 30 days.



## **Hub Updates**

Kyle Harfst thanked Mike Wilson and Angela Jacobs from Capital Programs at the University of Illinois for their helpfulness as intermediaries with the Capital Development Board.

**Chicago State University** – as presented from slides, Leslie Roundtree updated the Council on the Institute for Solutions of Urban Populations. They are focused in on transformational change within the neighborhood in which Chicago State University sits. As presented from slides. As presented from slides, the ISUP will serve as a hub on the south side for investment, research and education, and community engagement. Its mission is to pioneer ideas and champion transformative solutions in neighborhoods challenged by health, social, and economic inequities, and lack of investment.

**Eastern Illinois University** - Ryan Hendrickson presented slides to the Council on the East-Central Illinois Hub. Partnering with Lakeland College they have four themes, Environment, Economic Development and Entrepreneurship, Visualization of Community Assets and Needs, and Rural Social System Support Services.

**Governors State University** – as presented from slides, Jun Zhao, Dean of Business, gave an overview on the Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator. This will serve as an accelerator for innovation, economic and workforce development in the region, through its services to business and startups in supply chain/logistics and related sectors.

**Sustainable Solutions for Rural, Small and Medium Sized Illinois Communities Facing a Climate Change** - Carolee Riggsby, Assistant Professor, College of Business and Management at UIC, presented slides on a proposal for a workshop on sustainable solutions. By connecting the research, outreach, and education segments of Illinois universities to agencies, research laboratories, NGOs, businesses, community leaders, foundations, and policy makers, we seek to help rural, small, and medium sized Illinois communities explore sustainability challenges and solutions around water, energy, and climate resilience in a way that generates funded projects that help these communities achieve and sustain their economic, social, and environmental goals, as stated from the 2021 Workshop Mission Statement.



**Approval of Working Committee Charges** - Kyle Harfst introduced the two revised working committee charges presented for approval.

Education and Workforce Development Working Committee Charge as presented

Motion to approve by Beth Cada

Seconded by Leslie Roundtree

AYE: Jerry Blazey, Leslie Roundtree, Chris Merrett, Beth Cada, Craig McLauchlan, Bruce Sommer, TJ Augustine, Ryan Hendrickson, Alex Stagniero-Green, Melanie Loots for Susan Martinis, Pradeep Khanna

NAY: None

Motion Carried

Research and Collaboration Working Committee Charge as presented

Motion made by Jerry Blazey

Seconded by Chris Merrett

AYE: Jerry Blazey, Leslie Roundtree, Chris Merrett, Beth Cada, Craig McLauchlan, Bruce Sommer, TJ Augustine, Ryan Hendrickson, Alex Stagniero-Green, Melanie Loots for Susan Martinis, Pradeep Khanna

NAY: None

Motion Carried

**STEAM Expo August 18 – 22 at State Fair** – Kyle Harfst briefed the Council on a meeting with Mary Reynolds from DoIT and the interest in having IIN be part of the STEAM Expo at the State Fair.

**Government College Relations Council** - Jeannette Tamayo introduced the three interrelated partnerships and explained the potential collaboration with IIN.

**Advocacy** – Jerry Blazey reviewed and brought the council up to date on current advocacy actions from the IIN. Katie Davison was introduced as newly hired to Northern Illinois University as she will be assisting with pushing forward the IIN advocacy program.

**Strategic Planning Follow-up** – Jerry Blazey presented a follow-up to the initial strategic planning discussion from the January IIN Council meeting. The IIN Executive Committee discussion took place regarding engaging a facilitator/consultant. The IIN staff is currently preparing an RFP to engage a consultant. It was recommended to table the discussion until the May 2021 IIN Council meeting to appoint an ad-hoc group as an action item.



**Adjournment** – Jerry called for a motion to adjourn

Motion made by Ryan Hendrickson

Seconded by TJ Augustine

AYE: Jerry Blazey, Leslie Roundtree, Chris Merrett, Beth Cada, Craig McLauchlan, TJ Augustine, Ryan Hendrickson, Alex Stagnaro-Green, Melanie Loots for Susan Martinis, Pradeep Khanna

NAY: None

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 2:58 pm

**Next Meeting May 27, 2021**



Working together to ignite the Illinois economy

IIN COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 25, 2021 | ZOOM MEETING

# CALL TO ORDER

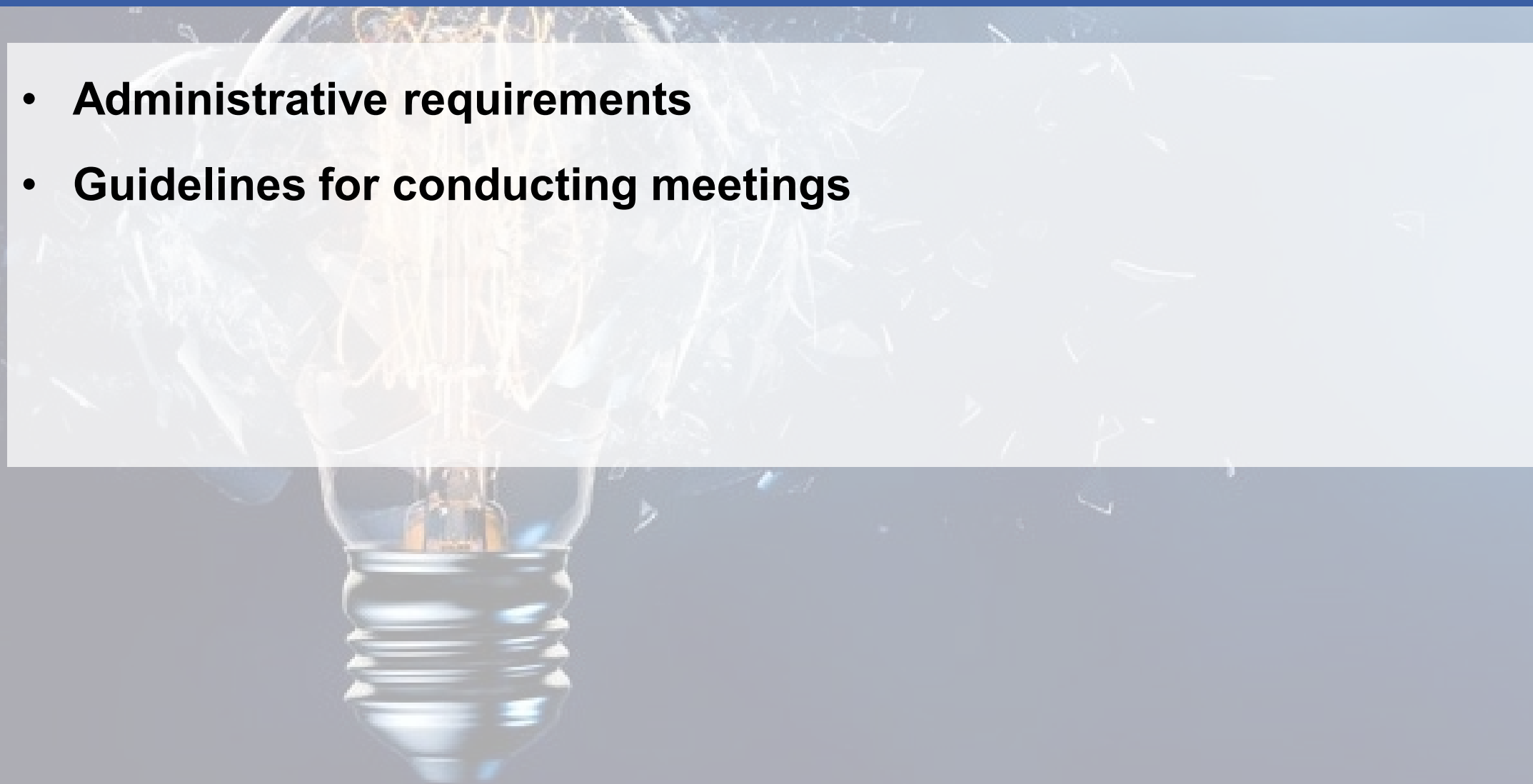
- **Jerry Blazey, Illinois Innovation Network Council Chair will call meeting to order**
- **Attendance roll call**
  - Jerry Blazey, Northern Illinois University (NIU) (IIN Council Chair)
  - TJ Augustine, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)
  - Mike Bedell, Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU)
  - Pradeep Khanna, Discovery Partners Institute (DPI)
  - Beth Cada, Governors State University (GSU)
  - Denise Cobb, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)
  - Ryan Hendrickson, Eastern Illinois University (EIU)
  - 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)
  - Paul Leamon, Distillery Labs
  - Alex Stagnaro-Green, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Health Sciences Campus-Rockford

# MEETING AGENDA

- **Approval of Jan. 28 meeting minutes (ACTION ITEM)**
- **Public comment**
- **Open Meetings Act discussion**
- **Hub updates**
  - **Chicago State**
  - **Eastern Illinois**
  - **Governors State**
- **Sustainable Solutions for Rural, Small, and Medium-Sized Illinois Communities Facing Climate Change**
- **Approval of Working Committee Charges**
- **Illinois State Fair STEAM Expo**
- **Update on FEB Government College Relations Council**
- **Advocacy**
- **Strategic Planning Follow-Up**
- **Adjourn**

# OPEN MEETINGS ACT DISCUSSION

- **Administrative requirements**
- **Guidelines for conducting meetings**





# Chicago State University Institute for Solutions of Urban Populations

Illinois Innovation Network Hub

March 25, 2021



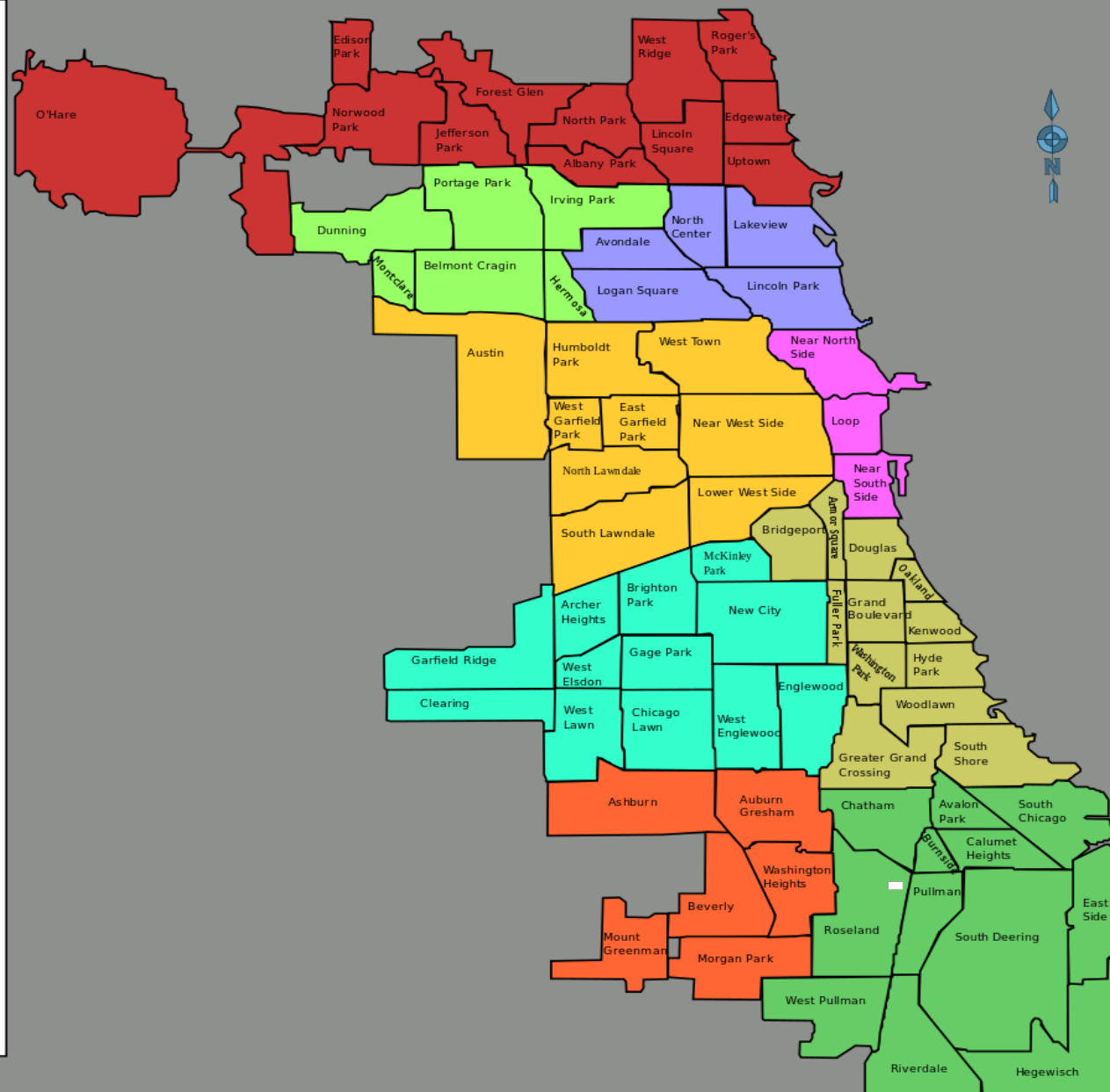
# The Institute for Solutions of Urban Populations

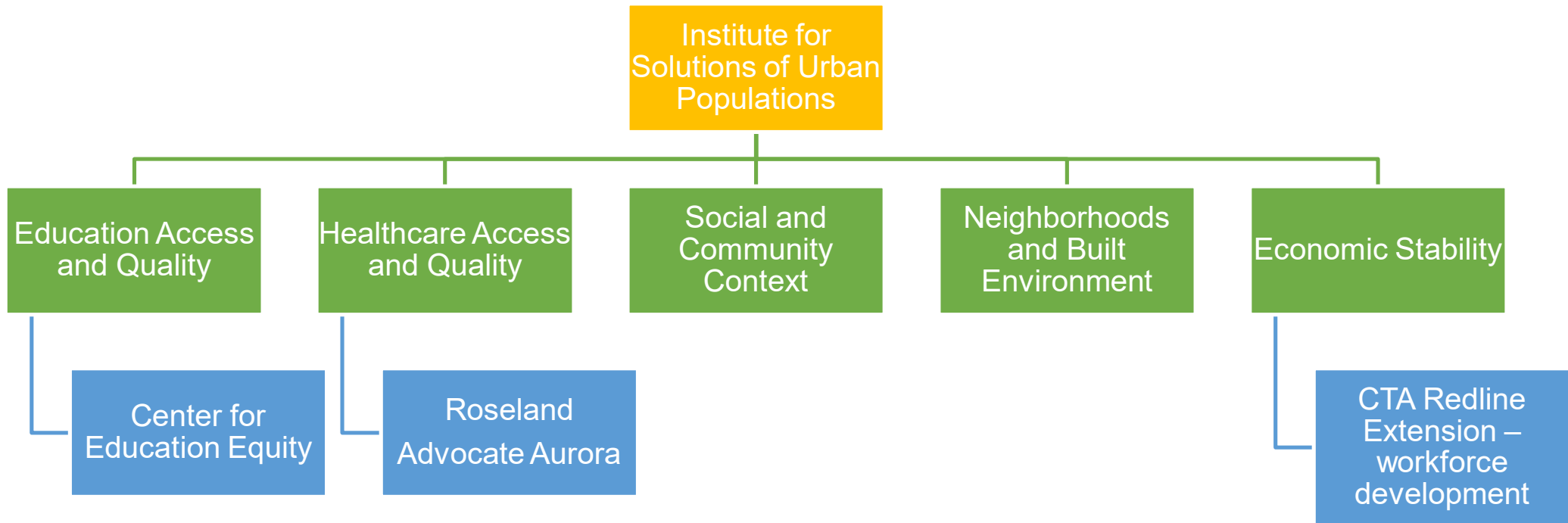
- The ISUP will serve as a hub on the south side for investment, research and education, and community engagement. Its mission is to pioneer ideas and champion transformative solutions in neighborhoods challenged by health, social, and economic inequities, and lack of investment.
- Industry partnerships
- Interdisciplinary research
- Workforce development
- Promote innovation for social and economic impact
- Generate economic stability in local communities



# Chicago

- Far North Side
- Northwest Side
- North Side
- Central Chicago
- West Side
- Southwest Side
- South Side
- Far Southwest Side
- Far Southeast Side





# Project Development

- Approximately 18,000 sq ft in Douglas Hall
- Adjacent to new Health Sciences Inter-professional Simulation Lab
- Accessible, center-of-campus location
- Flexible spaces designed for collaboration
- Multi-use event space for community and industry partners
- IT bar for tech support and shared equipment



## Collaborative space

- shared resources
- networking
- technology

## Community investment

- participatory research
- business development & acceleration
- public-private partnerships

## Mentors

- peer
- industry
- alumni
- researchers

## Learning platforms

- online tools
- virtual library
- knowledge & information exchange

Dr. Leslie Roundtree, Interim Provost and Senior Vice  
President for Academic and Student Affairs  
[lroundtr@csu.edu](mailto:lroundtr@csu.edu)

Dr. Mary Daniels, Associate Provost for Academic Innovation  
and Strategic Initiatives  
[mdanie30@csu.edu](mailto:mdanie30@csu.edu)

# East-Central Illinois Hub

Hub Goal = Community Sustainability



LAKE LAND  
COLLEGE

Environment

Economic Development and Entrepreneurship

Visualization of Community Assets and Needs

Rural Social System Support Services





# East-Central Illinois Hub Governance Board

## Corporate/Business Partners

- Rural King
- Sturdi-Built
- Coles Together
- The Equity
- Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital



Lake Land College

Eastern Illinois University



# East-Central Illinois Hub Mission Statement

**Mission Statement:** The East Central Illinois Hub exists to promote regional economic growth, community sustainability and new learning opportunities, utilizing the faculties, students and staffs at Eastern Illinois University, Lake Land College and community partners. Focusing on community wellness, entrepreneurship, environmentalism and new collaborations with regional school districts, the Hub will work to advance these themes through enhanced regional engagement and new community partnerships.

# East-Central Illinois Hub Activities

Digital Literacy Grant and community engagements

EIU, Rural King, Lake Land College Partnership

EIU's School of Extended Learning: Professional Development Institute

IIN Graduate Seminar on **Sustainability** (Fall Semester 2019)

EIU Faculty Member, Dr. Nichole Hugo

IIN Virtual Research Conference on **Sustainability**

- IIN Research and Collaboration Work Group
- October 29, 2020
- 140 faculty and student attendees across 10 Hubs



# East-Central Illinois Funding

- \$1m: Governor Pritzker's announcement on November 18, 2020
- 2,000 square foot add-on to Center for Clean Energy and Research Education (CENCERE)
- Conference/seminar room, 15 work stations
- Capital Development Board will vote to approve an architectural firm at its April 13 meeting



The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic feel. The shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central text.

# Driving Innovation and Economic Development in Chicago's Southland: GSU's new Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator

Dr. Jun Zhao

Dean

College of Business

# GSU's IIN Hub to Focus on Supply Chain and Logistics Sector

- ▶ With the supply chain and logistics sector emerging as an economic growth engine in Chicago's southland region, GSU chose to establish a Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator as its IIN hub
- ▶ GSU's SCICBI will serve as an accelerator for innovation, economic and workforce development in the region, through its services to businesses and startups in supply chain/logistics and related sectors
  - ▶ Faculty consulting for technology and business solutions
  - ▶ Employee training and management development programs
  - ▶ Various professional certificate training programs in supply chain management
    - ▶ CSCMP's SCPro Level 1, APICS/ASCM's CLTD, and Six Sigma Training
  - ▶ Collaborative spaces for entrepreneurs to develop their innovative ideas with support of mentors and consultants through GSU's network
  - ▶ Also providing internship and experiential/project-based learning opportunities for GSU students

# Governance and Management Structure

- ▶ Formed a small advisory board in Q4 2019
  - ▶ Autumn Bizon, Analyst and Business Process Specialist, Freight Management Inc.
  - ▶ Mollie Dowling, Executive Director, OAI
  - ▶ John Greuling, President and CEO, Will County Center for Economic Development
  - ▶ Edward Hobson, Senior Manager, Production Planning, Amazon (Board Chair)
  - ▶ Hannah Fernandez, Chicago Chapter Chair, SCORE; President and Founder, ROI Business
  - ▶ Kimberly King, Director, Global Sourcing and Procurement, Elkay Manufacturing
  - ▶ Philip Resendiz, Former VP, Midwest Region, XPO Logistics
  - ▶ Dr. Olumide Ijose, Professor of Management and Division Chair
  - ▶ Dr. Tricia Kerns, Lecturer of Management, SCICBI Associate Director
  - ▶ Dr. Jun Zhao, Dean, College of Business
- ▶ Hired a full time director in August 2020: Reggie Greenwood
- ▶ Hired a Graduate Assistant to support center daily operations

# SCICBI Funding

- ▶ \$400,000 capital funds released by the Governor in November 2020 (included in the \$142M released for IIN/DPI)
  - ▶ Basement water treatment, furnace/HVAC replacement, air quality assessment, etc.
  - ▶ Parking lot pavement, lighting, signage, security camera, gutters, downspout, etc.
  - ▶ Meeting with CDB on 3/16 to start the bidding/procurement process; Projects could be completed early fall 2021 to allow full service
- ▶ Hired a new full-time director in August 2020 with newly allocated budget through GSU's annual budgeting process
- ▶ Awarded \$578,884 in in Build to Scale grant funds, by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), to support SCICBI operations over three years (2020-2023)
  - ▶ Databases, equipment, 50% expert-in-residence, etc.
- ▶ Awarded \$50K in Southland Economic Transformation (SET) grant, by South Suburban Economic Growth Initiatives (SSEGI), to support certificate training programs



## The Hantack House (Exterior)





# Building on Our Partnerships...

- ▶ GSU's new Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator will build on our partnerships with the following partners, and more...
  - ▶ [Will County Center for Economic Development](#) (CED)
  - ▶ [Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation](#) (CSEDC)
  - ▶ [South Suburb Economic Growth Initiative](#) (SSEGI)
  - ▶ Community College Partners (PSC, SSC, OHC)
  - ▶ [SCORE](#)
  - ▶ [OAI](#) (Workforce Development Agency)
  - ▶ [Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals](#) (CSCMP)
  - ▶ [Association for Supply Chain Management](#) (formerly APICS)
  - ▶ Indiana University Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER)
  - ▶ Businesses in the supply chain/logistics sector in the region
    - ▶ Amazon
    - ▶ JB Hunt
    - ▶ Canadian Rail
    - ▶ DOT Foods
    - ▶ And more

# SCICBI/GSU's Work with Amazon in the Region

- ▶ Amazon is opening three distribution centers in the south suburbs in 2021: University Park (May 2021); Matteson and Markham (October 2021)
- ▶ Together these three sites will hire about 3000 employees
- ▶ Great opportunity for entry level training in warehouse management and supply chain (SCPro Fundamentals, ASCM Principles in Supply Chain); Currently working with University Park and OAI to set up SCPro Fundamental training for new hires and covering training cost with SET grant
- ▶ SCICBI director has met with Amazon's economic development director (responsible for site selection) and Community Engagement Director (responsible for local hiring) to discuss ways SCICBI/GSU can be part of their planning/preparation process
- ▶ COB has hosted a virtual info session for Amazon's Midwest University Recruitment Team in August 2020, who then participated in GSU's Business Week 2020 career fair in October 2020
- ▶ Recently Amazon donated \$500K to Will County to promote workforce development; President Green is a member of the advisory board

# About Illinois Innovation Network (IIN)

- ▶ Illinois Innovation Network (IIN) is a system of connected university -community-industry-based hubs throughout the state that will work together to drive innovation, economic development and workforce development across Illinois.
- ▶ Hubs will utilize a combination of research, public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship, and workforce training programs to spur economic growth in their region and throughout the state. The work will also be tied to the academic strengths at the host university
- ▶ \$500 million was appropriated from the Build Illinois Bond Fund to the Capital Development Board to fund the IIN system and their initiatives in 2020
- ▶ There are currently 15 hubs throughout the state, led by 12 state university campuses
  - ▶ UI's Discovery Partners Institute (DPI) in Chicago downtown
  - ▶ UIC's focus on drug discovery, data science, and entrepreneurship
- ▶ An IIN Council is serving as governing body, with representatives from each hub. Provost Beth Cada is GSU's representative on the IIN Council, and also chair of the Education and Workforce Development Committee





# 2021 DPI CURES Connection Workshop: Sustainable Solutions for Rural, Small and Medium Sized Illinois Communities Facing a Changing Climate

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Presentation to the Illinois Innovation  
Network Council

March 25th, 2021

by Carolee Rigsbee

University of Illinois Springfield



Northern Illinois  
University



Western Illinois  
University

UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
SPRINGFIELD



UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS CHICAGO



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
URBANA - CHAMPAIGN





## Agenda

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- Background
- “Workshop” Mission
- Current Planning Partners
- Workshop Goals
- Planned Activities
- Welcoming Partners & Support

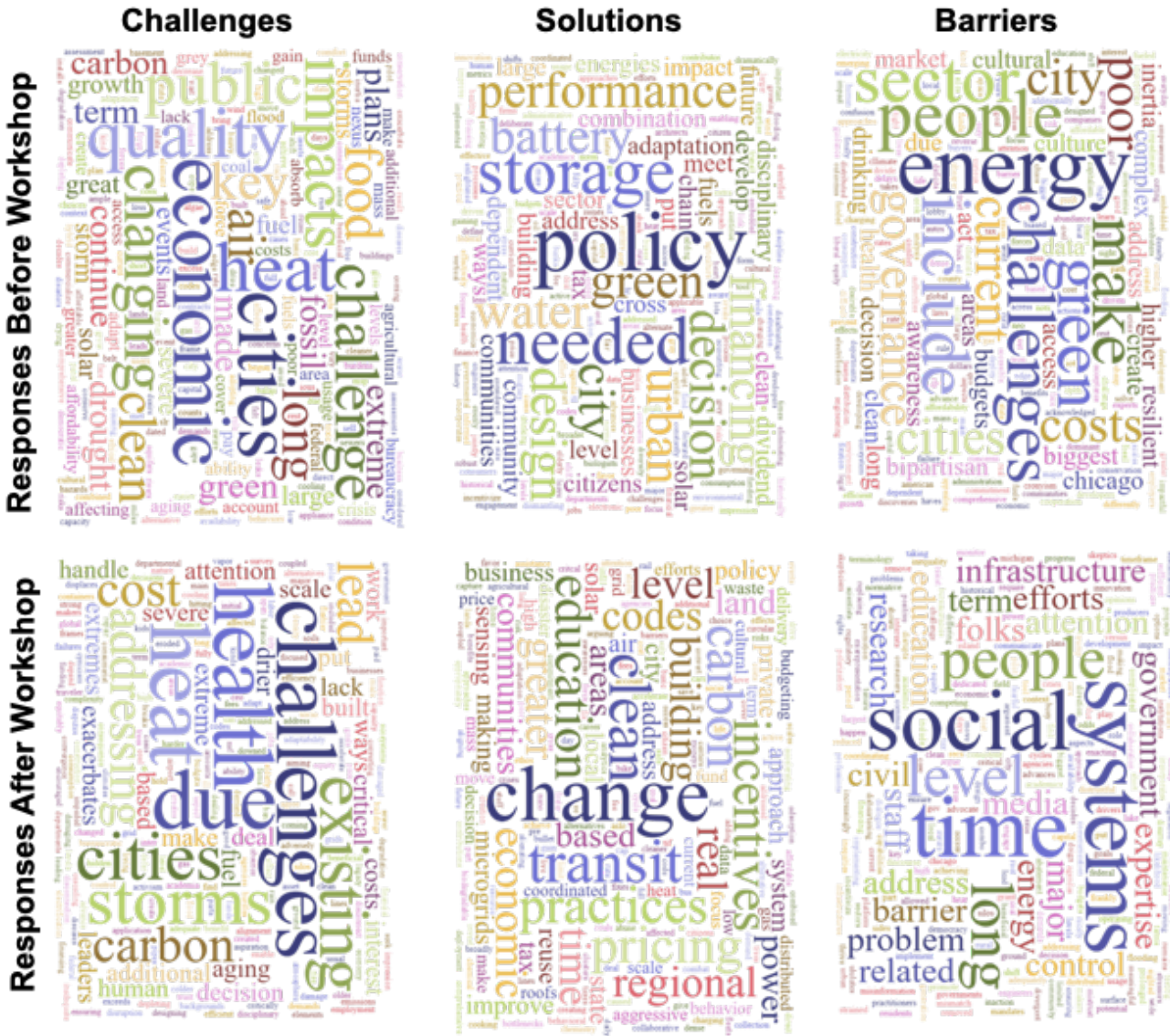
Photo credit: Randy von Liski. West Side of Square, Waverly, Illinois.  
Photo cropped/modified (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)





## Background

- About CURES
- 2019 NSF Sustainable Urban Systems (SUS) Conference





# 2021 Workshop Mission Statement

*By connecting the research, outreach, and education segments of Illinois universities to agencies, research laboratories, NGOs, businesses, community leaders, foundations, and policy makers, we seek to help rural, small, and medium sized Illinois communities explore sustainability challenges and solutions around water, energy, and climate resilience in a way that generates funded projects that help these communities achieve and sustain their economic, social, and environmental goals*

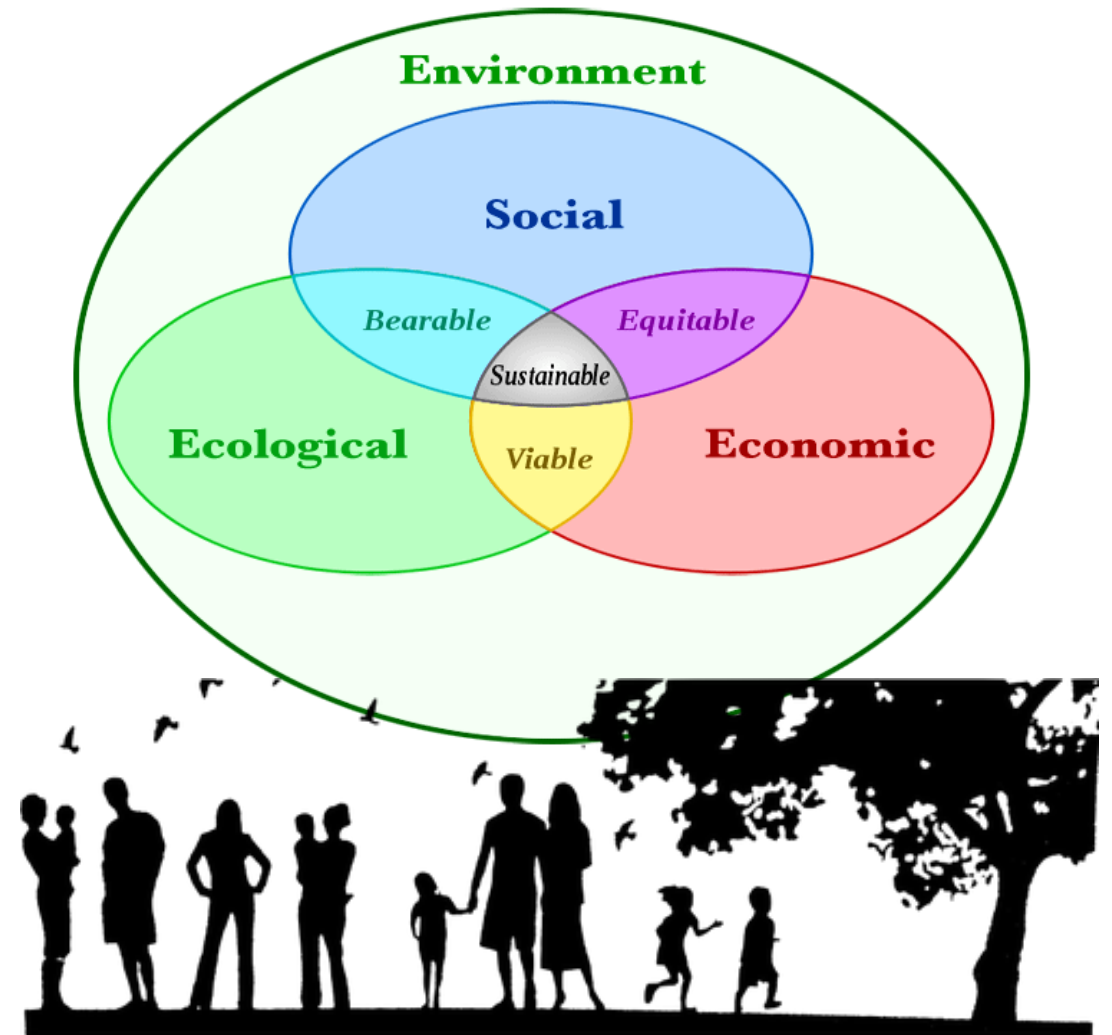


Photo credits:

- Andrew, Sunray, based on "File:Sustainable development.svg" by Johann Dréo. licensed under the [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) Attribution-Share Alike [4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/), [3.0 Unported](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/), [2.5 Generic](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/), [2.0 Generic](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) and [1.0 Generic](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/1.0/) license available at <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b9/Sustainability-diagram-v4.gif>
- Community group Banner Image available at <https://freesvg.org/community-group-banner-image>

# Current Partners

- University of Illinois Extension Office
- WIU Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs
- UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership
- Northern Illinois University Center for Community Sustainability
- University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Energy Initiative
- UIC Institute for Environmental Science and Policy
- UI Prairie Research Institute
- Illinois Water Resources Center
- UIS Confluence Lab



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
URBANA - CHAMPAIGN



**Western Illinois  
University**

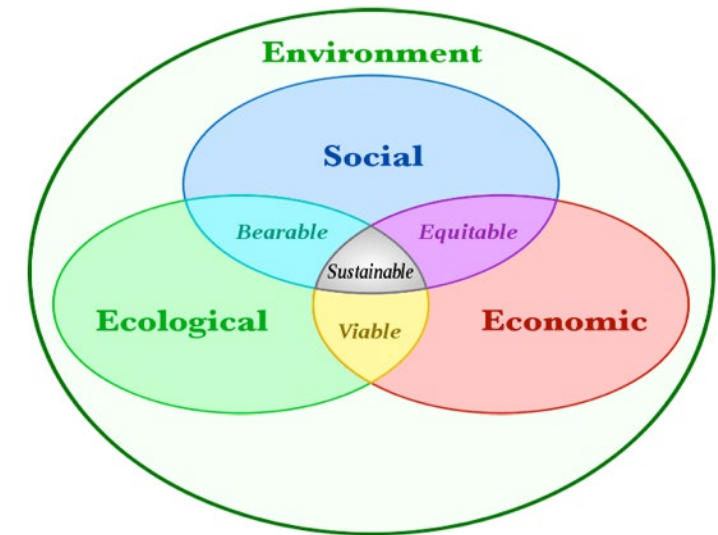


**Northern Illinois  
University**



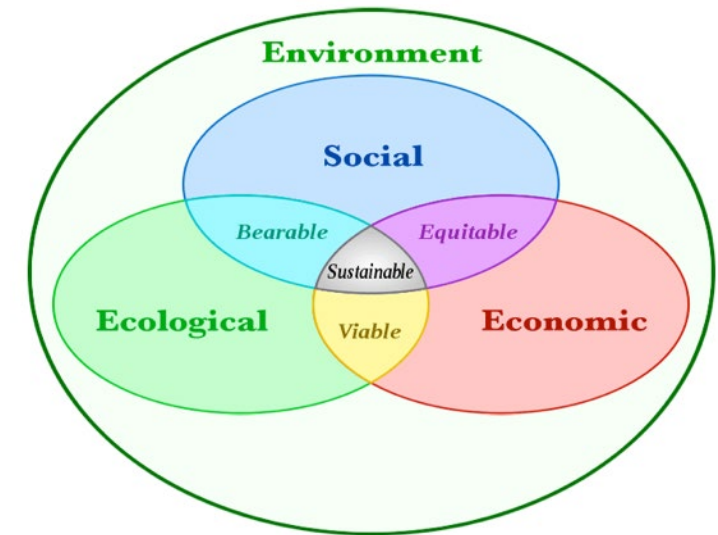
# Workshop Goals

- **Goal 1.** Gain insight into rural, small, and medium sized IL community social, environmental, and economic priorities and how projects related to water, energy, and climate change (WECC) resilience social, economic, and environmental goals
  - Elucidate current and expected economic, health, and wellness impacts of climate change on these communities, while taking into account diversity, equity, and inclusion.
  - Identify important dimensions along which water, energy, and climate change related solutions for these communities can be expected to vary or be similar.
  - Measure: Participation from 75% of IIRA/Extension identified target communities; Survey response from 1/3 of remaining communities



# Workshop Goals

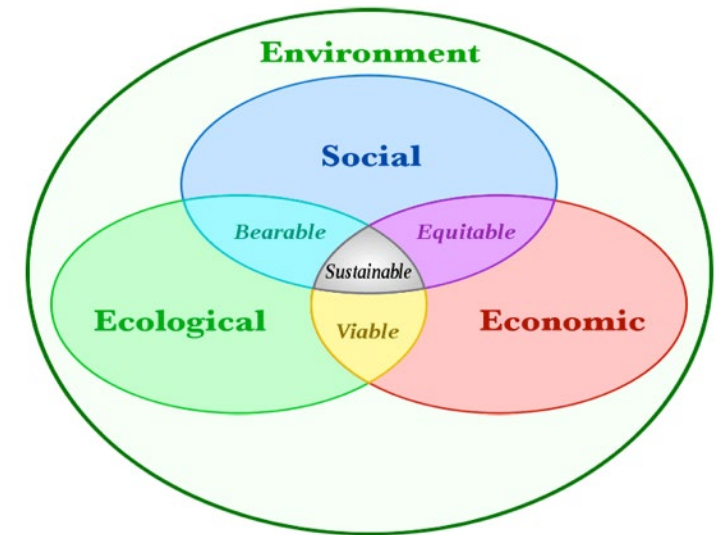
- **Goal 2.** Develop implementable WECC strategies that address overlapping identified community priorities.
- **Goal 3.** Extend and sustain community resource network that can help communities tackle the identified issues by connecting the research, outreach, and education segments of Illinois universities to agencies, research laboratories, NGOs, businesses, community leaders, foundations, and policy makers
- **Goal 4.** Integrate and share the findings around the needs, obstacles, and solutions to address water, energy, and climate related issues of small and medium cities with those already established for large urban centers to better understand and create regional sustainability.



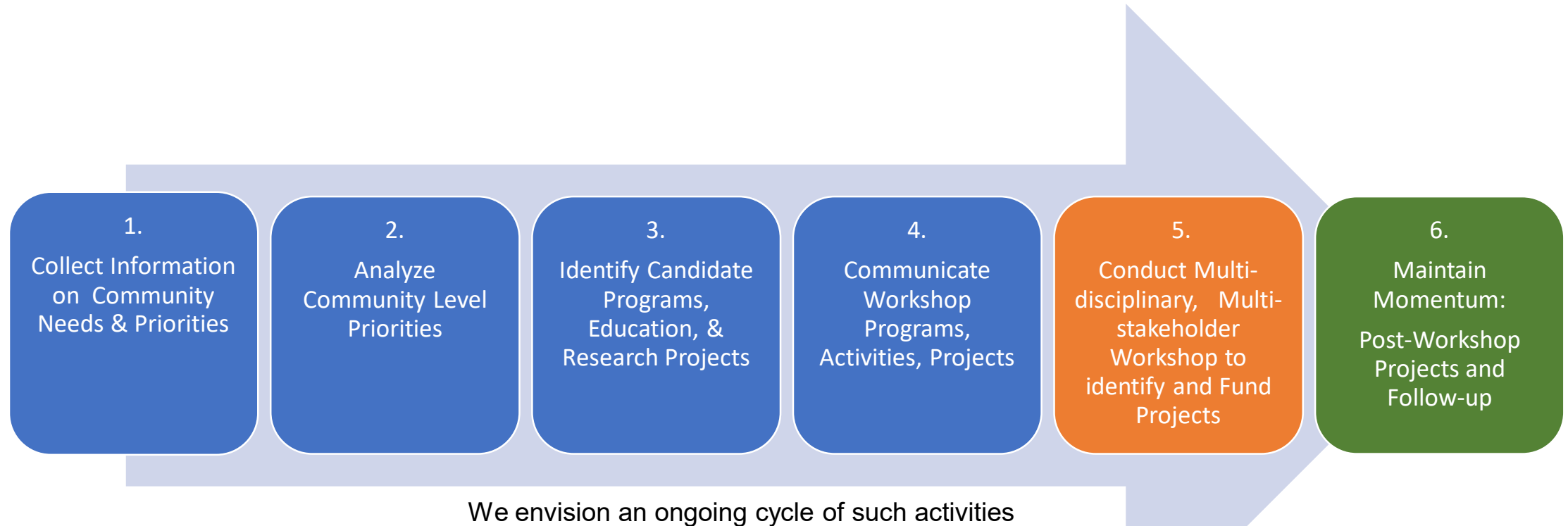


# Workshop Goals

- **Goal 5.** Launch actionable/funded WECC related projects embraced by communities. Measure: (a) 3 research focused; 3 community projects at the workshop, to which multiple communities can sign up; (b) projects to address 30% of identified overlapping community priorities within 1 year.
- **Goal 6.** Develop guidance for policy targeted at supporting small communities with their water, energy, and climate change related needs
- **Goal 7.** Establish and implement mechanisms/processes for supporting and monitoring initiated projects



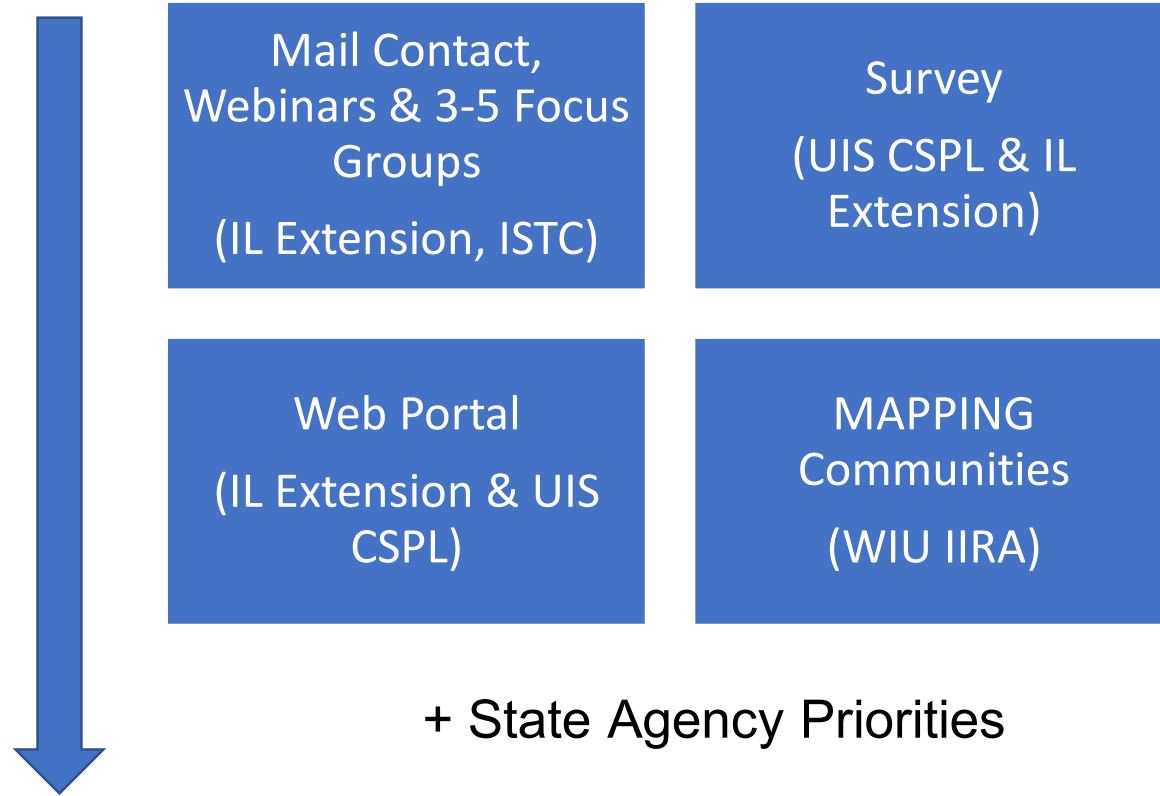
# Community Engagement Process and Solution Selection Activities for 2021



- At each step, key stakeholder input will be sought, and appropriate engagement resources will be utilized.
- State and/or federal government agencies, legislators, NGOs, university centers and researchers, research labs, grassroots organizations, insurance representatives, financing institutions, private sector companies, and public polling agencies to be involved, depending on the stage of the overall initiative.



# 1. Collect Information on Community Needs & Priorities



## 2. Analyze Community Priorities & Send for Comment (Idiosyncratic & Overlapping)



### 3. Identify Candidate Programs, Education, & Research Projects (Overlapping)



(1) Implementation, (2) Education, (3) Research, (4) Policy

IWRC Geothermal

CURES Smart water meter  
data analysis

IL Extension Rainscaping

ISTC

- Illinois EPA Energy Efficiency Assessments
- End of life renewable energy equipment – policy & actions
- Zero waste characterization (inventory of community waste materials & analysis) & planning

Illinois State Water Survey  
– Private well testing

UIS Field Station Activities  
(e.g., Small-scale floating  
treatment wetlands and  
residential buffer plants  
near urban waterways;  
beehive; rain harvesting)

Possible Examples

IIRC Wind Power &  
Brownfield Remediation

### 4. Communicate Workshop Programs, Activities, Projects



## 5. Conduct Multi-disciplinary, Multi-stakeholder Workshop to identify and Fund Projects\*

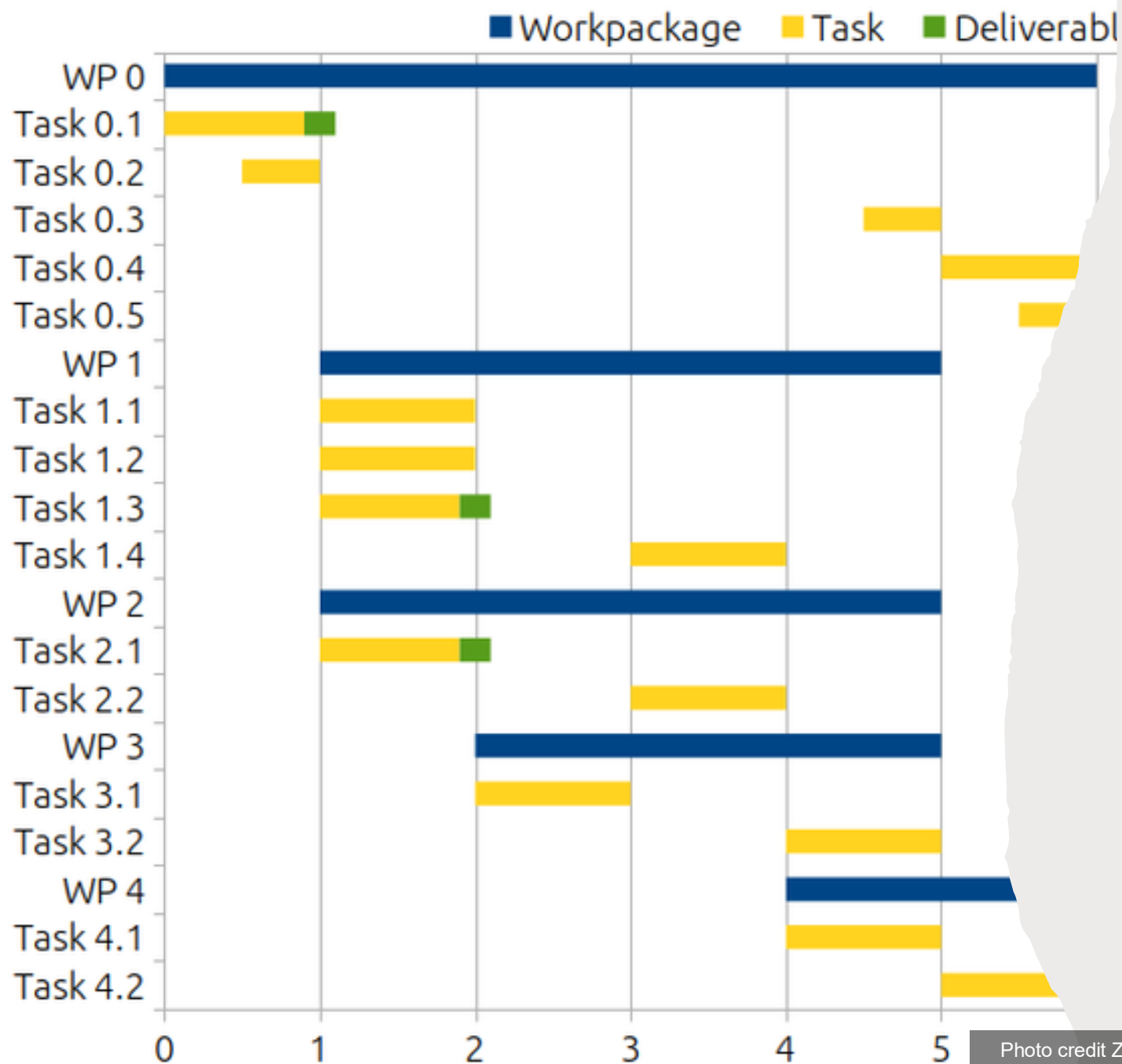
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### Agenda Planning:

1. Education component
2. Poster presentations
3. On-site and offsite - demos
4. Speakers & Panel
5. “Pick your Projects” (sign-up), and
6. Assign project management leads – commitments

Stakeholders + Media/Communications

\* Target end November 2021 - pending COVID-19/scheduling



## 6. Maintain Momentum: Post-Workshop Projects & Follow-up

- Project Managers
- Progress Reporting
- Best Practices Documentation
- Research Publications
- Quantification of Costs & Benefits
- Cycle into next round of projects



# Welcoming Partners & Sponsors



## Funding Examples:

- 2021 Workshop Project Management & Administrative Support
- Community outreach activity funding
- Survey costs
- Website design & maintenance
- Communications/marketing
- Workshop costs
  - Rental/cleaning
  - Food
  - Travel & hotel for community stakeholders
- Project Follow-up

# Questions or Suggestions?



Carolee  
Rigsbee



[crigs2@uis.edu](mailto:crigs2@uis.edu)



# APPROVAL OF WORKING COMMITTEE CHARGES

- **Education and Workforce Development**
- **Research and Collaboration**

# ILLINOIS STATE FAIR STEAM EXPO

- **August 18-22**
- **Illinois State Fairgrounds**
- **In-person & virtual event**
- **Opportunity to showcase innovative programs/companies connected to IIN hubs**

# GOVERNMENT COLLEGE RELATIONS COUNCIL



Federal Executive Board  
To Be Catalysts for Better Government



# AGENDA

- **Advocacy**
- **Strategic planning follow-up**
- **Adjourn (ACTION ITEM)**
- **Next meeting: May 27, 2021**