



IIN Council Meeting
Thursday, September 28, 2023, 1:00 – 2:30 PM
iHotel and Conference Center
1900 South First Street
Champaign, Illinois

Welcome and Introductions

Leslie Roundtree, IIN Council Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM. Leslie recognized Bruce Sommer, outgoing IIN Council member who was the representative at University of Illinois Springfield. Also recognized was the new Dean of the College of Business at Governors State University – Sonia Dalmia. Leslie also recognized Rob Baren, Senior Advisor, who attended on behalf of Julianna Stratton.

Jay Walsh, Vice President, University of Illinois System, welcomed the group, mentioned the University of Illinois Board of Trustees meeting last week with Governor Pritzker in attendance and the comments regarding the entire state working with one another.

Roll call of IIN Council members and ex-officios:

Leslie Roundtree, Chicago State University
Courtney Breckenridge proxy for Denise Cobb, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Chris Merrett, Western Illinois University
TJ Augustine, University of Illinois Chicago
Mike Bedell, Northeastern Illinois University
Doug Cruitt, Distillery Labs, Peoria
Yvonne Harris, Northern Illinois University
Pradeep Khanna, Discovery Partners Institute
Kim Kidwell, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
Lynn Andersen Lindberg, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Craig McLauchlan, Illinois State University
Beverly Schneller, Governors State University (Zoom)
Rob Kerr, University of Illinois Springfield
Teresa Johnston proxy for Alex Stagnero-Green, UIC Health Sciences, Rockford (Zoom)

Ex-Officio:

Rob Baren proxy for Lt Governor Julianna Stratton, Ex-Officio
Shelly Nickols Richardson, University of Illinois Extension Ex-Officio
Jennifer Foster, Illinois Community College Board, Ex-Officio

List of other attendees: Sonia Dalmia, Matt Schmit, Becca Husar, Rob Patino, Sarah O'Brien, Sloan Smith, Allison Sivers, Jessica Mueller, Lori Pflugmacher, Kathleen

Townsley-Samuel, Erik Olson, Brian Rogers, Jisu Hong, Kyle Harfst, Ben Taylor, Aneta Lee, Jeannette Tamayo, Gary Kinsel, Curt Rendall, Tazio Grivetti

Falling Walls Lab Winner Presentation

Kyle Harfst introduced the winner of the Falling Walls Lab competition, Bhargavee Gnanasambandam and encouraged questions from the Council after Bhargavee showed her three-minute presentation.

Election of IIN Officers

Kyle Harfst reviewed bylaws related to this election.

Article 4 – Organizational Structure of the Network, Section 6. Executive Committee: The IIN Council shall constitute an Executive Committee to function in its stead in between Council Meetings as further delineated in Section IV. The IIN Council shall elect the Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and one At-Large Council Member) to serve on the Executive Committee in addition to the VPEDI and IIN Executive Director, who shall serve as permanent members. The Officers shall be elected from among the Council Members. The At Large Member shall be elected from among the Council Members not already serving in an Officer Role.

Article 5, Section 3 Election and Terms. The terms of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be for two years, with the Chair rotating in odd years and the Vice-Chair in even years, subject to re-election by the Council. The terms of the Secretary and Member at Large shall be for two years, with the Secretary rotating in odd years and the Member at Large in even years, subject to re-election by the Council. Each officer may only hold one position. All officers shall be members of the Council.

At the August Executive Committee meeting, members recommended to have the following slate of candidates be recommended for approval by the council.

- Chair (Leslie Roundtree)
- Vice Chair (Denise Cobb)
- Secretary (Chris Merrett)
- At Large (Craig McLaughlan)

Motion to approve officers by Mike Bedell.

Seconded by Lynn Andersen Lindberg.

Yay: All

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Laretta Henderson, Eastern Illinois University joined at 1:23 PM.

Jobs in Agriculture

Rob Baren proxy for Lt Governor Julianna Stratton summarized the jobs in agriculture initiative. The Governor's office is needing assistance with this initiative from the IIN to

help make this happen. The hope is to bring in reps from the ag tech industry to create opportunities for young people to learn about career paths in agriculture. The concept is currently being finalized and almost ready to hit the ground.

Working Committees

Entrepreneurship Committee Presentation – Kyle provided a broad overview of this committee and discussed the changes to the Working Committee charge.

Approval of Entrepreneurship Committee Charge

Motion to approve charge by Lynn Andersen Lindberg.

Seconded by Beverly Schneller.

Yay: All

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Approval of Thomas Skuzinski as Chair of Research & Collaboration Committee

Motion to approve chair by Craig McLauchlan.

Seconded by Mike Bedell.

Yay: All

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Illinois Broadband Lab Update

Matt Schmit, Director of the Illinois Office of Broadband and Aneta Lee, Assistant Director at Illinois Broadband Lab, discussed the Affordable Connectivity Program. IBL and Office of Broadband are hiring. There is also a plan to venture into public facing planning and preparation for over \$1 billion of federal broadband equity access and deployment funding.

Approval of May 25, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Lynn Andersen Lindberg.

Seconded by TJ Augustine.

Yay: All

Nay: None

Abstain: Leslie Roundtree, Mike Bedell, Laretta Henderson, Doug Cruitt, Rob Kerr

Public Comment

No public comment.

New Business

NSF GRANTED Award – Brian Rogers summarized the NSF Granted Award, a new IIN award led by Northern Illinois University. This project is focused specifically on Research Administration. There are too few institutions adequately staffed to support their future research endeavors. In order to overcome this challenge, institutions need to work together to identify specific problems and potential solutions to provide sustainable support for growing research portfolios. Innovation Network To Enhance and Grow Research Infrastructure and Links (INTEGRIL), is the name of the project.

Pending Grant Updates – Jeannette Tamayo summarized the grants in process with IIN members. Included were proposals involving Quantum and the EV initiative. A Type II application for \$160 million over 10 years was submitted for Quantum.

Social Innovation Seed Grants – Jeannette summarized the pilot project announced this summer and the next notice of funding opportunity. There was a soft roll out in June 2023, where 19 applications were received. There is preparation of another seed competition. The NOFO should be issued the week of October 9th, and proposals due week of November 17th.

Sustaining Illinois Seed Grants – Brian summarized the Spring round that was awarded and the next notice of funding opportunity.

Open Discussion – Jay Walsh commented that, as institutions, we all have faculty that have an interest in impact in the world and IIN is a good source for the faculty to get the resources to make that impact.

Leslie Roundtree adjourned the meeting at 2:12 PM.

Next Meeting - November 9, 2023 via Zoom

***Zoom Access**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/88080133728?pwd=Q0dXTVVLRjhkTk9Xb200NzlyTzF3UT09>

Meeting ID: 880 8013 3728

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Please note that the starting times for agenda items are estimates only. If an agenda item ends earlier than expected, the next agenda item will convene immediately. Conversely, if an agenda item ends later than expected, the remaining agenda items may be abbreviated in length.

****Public Comment**

Comments may be provided via chat or verbally at the meeting or, by September 27, 2023 at noon, by email to vpedi@uillinois.edu

Entrepreneurship Committee

This committee is charged to provide input to and participate in developing a vision and agenda for engaging entrepreneurship to advance IIN initiatives. The committee will continue to research and collaborate on innovative ways to achieve objectives and grow the IIN in the respective area.

Background

The 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 collaborative research, public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship, and workforce training programs to spur economic growth in their region and throughout the state.

IIN partners operate with these guiding principles in mind:

- Drive innovation, workforce development and economic growth throughout the state of Illinois
- Assess and meet the needs of your region through a combination of collaborative research, public-private partnerships, and entrepreneurship and training programs
- Collaborate with hubs across the state and share best practices
- Advocate for the value of higher education at the state and national levels

Committee 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. Entrepreneurs create businesses and new businesses create jobs, strengthen market competition, and increase productivity. By creating an inclusive environment where opportunities are available to entrepreneurs across the state, the IIN can help increase participation, create more innovative solutions, and drive economic growth. Engaging corporate partners will maximize private-sector partner opportunities and further accelerate the growth rate of entrepreneurial activities that drive innovation.

To do that, the committee aims to achieve the following **objectives**:

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

The working committee will:

Research and collect a list of activities and/or entrepreneurship resources taking place on the campuses and/or business landscapes of IIN hubs that relate to entrepreneurship

1. Create at least one pilot program that may be offered to all hubs throughout the state that targets entrepreneurship. For example, the Falling Walls Lab – Illinois innovation competition to be held in September
2. 
3. Survey of what resources hubs are most lacking Access to financing, access to management resources (EIR), scarcity of resources, experts. An IIN list of EIRs in which hubs can draw from 
Celebrate entrepreneurs and innovators

Annually prepare a presentation and accompanying progress report that incorporates information as it relates to Items 1-4 for the IIN Council.

The working committee will have the following subcommittees:

1. Early Stage Investor Network
 - Establish network of seed stage (angel investor) individuals throughout Illinois
2. Best Practices
 - Share best practices in entrepreneurship-academia collaboration through presentations by IIN members on their externally facing programs, such as: working with pre-venture clients and training events