



**Illinois Innovation Network
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 2024, 1:00-2:30 PM
Zoom Meeting**

Welcome and Introductions

Leslie Roundtree, IIN Council Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Leslie welcomed council members, staff, and guests to the winter meeting. Roundtree also gave a special welcome to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the office of the Lt. Governor who made presentations at today's meeting.

Roll Call of IIN Council members and ex-officios:

Leslie Roundtree, Chicago State University
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
Laretta Henderson, Eastern Illinois University
Rob Kerr, University of Illinois Springfield
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
Teresa Johnston, proxy for Alex Stagnero-Green, UIC Health Sciences, Rockford

Ex-Officio:

Rob Baren, Proxy for Lt. Governor Julianna Stratton, Ex-Officio
Shelly Nickols Richardson, University of Illinois Extension, Ex-Officio
Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board, Ex-Officio
Kristin Richards, Director of DCEO, Ex-Officio

Guests in attendance:

Kyle Harfst, Ginger Ostro, Tom Skuzinski, Jessica Mueller, Alison Sivers, Cynthia Faullin, Hailey Waugh-Hettinger, Lori Pflugmacher, Kathleen Townsley-Samuel, Brian Rogers, Paul Kwiat, Jisu Hong, Jeannette Tamayo, Ben Taylor, Nikki Yagoda, Curt Rendall, Sandy Wittig, David Girzadas, Mustafa Odeh, Virginia Lorenz, Sarah O'Brien, Harriett Steinbach

Denis Cobb, IIN Council Vice-Chair, attended the meeting at 1:10pm.

Presentation by Illinois Board of Higher Education

Ginger Ostro, Executive Director made a presentation on the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) strategic plan, 'A Thriving Illinois' that is inclusive to economy and broad prosperity with equity, sustainability, and growth and what the IBHE's role may be to help the state thrive. Brian Durham of the Illinois Community College Board, Ex officio briefly provided overview of the economic development initiatives that are within the community college system as it relates to 'A Thriving Illinois.' Ostro then discussed interest in deepening collaboration between IBHE and the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN).

Lt. Governor Ag Tech Summit

Rob Baren, Senior Advisor to Lt. Governor Julianna Stratton, followed up on his discussion at the September IIN Council meeting on the Ag Tech Summit. The Lt Governor's office plans to hold an Ag Tech Summit in July or September targeting an audience of employers and educators to highlight careers in 'non-farm' agriculture jobs in technology and science. The summits' purpose will inform and educate young adolescents to create career interest within the Ag field. The Lt Governor's office would like to utilize the IIN and higher education as strategic partners in this event.

IIN Hub Updates

Leslie Roundtree confirmed that future Council meetings will renew the activity of highlighting several IIN member hubs and their current updates.

Chicago State University

Leslie Roundtree, IIN hub lead for Chicago State University provided a brief overview of current updates for Chicago State University. The hub titled "The Institute for Solutions of Urban Populations." It is based on the social determinants of health, wellness, and wellbeing of community framework that the IIN had proposed. The social determinants look at education access and quality, healthcare access and quality, social and community context, as well as built environments, economic stability, and workforce. With the Institute for Solutions of Urban Populations and collaborations with the IIN hubs, Chicago State University has been able to build projects that fall within these determinant areas that support the southside of Chicago and the Chicagoland area. These include a grant for digital literacy, promoting Broadband and Digital Equity across the region, as well as climate, healthcare, and education initiatives within the Chicagoland area. Chicago State University is using the IIN hub as framework to build research in the areas that support these initiatives.

University of Illinois Springfield

Rob Kerr, IIN hub lead for University of Illinois Springfield (UIS), provided a brief overview of current updates in the development of Springfields new downtown 'Innovation Center' which will open in 2025. The UIS Innovation Center Initiatives include 'TechX Lab' a new space that will support programs in entrepreneurship, technology, and workforce prep. 'Expanded Angel Investor Network' training local investors in partnership with Illini Ventures and Illini Angels and 'Peoria Partnership' by working with Distillery Labs to develop entrepreneurial programming that will attract private capital. Larger projects in the works in Applied AI Exploration after receiving funding from the University

that include Researching AI Implementation in the region, AI studio and AI Applied Research Conference.

Intergovernmental Agreement with DCEO to provide support for Five Year Economic Plan

Kyle Harfst provided a brief overview of the Intergovernmental Agreement with DCEO. The Illinois Innovation Network is working with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide support for the next five years for the state's economic plan by working with DCEO to help set up workshops throughout the state. The three focus areas of the workshops consist of Regional Economic Development, Statewide Economic Development Issues and Priority Industries and Sectors. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign system office will function as the administrative agent and will execute the agreement.

Motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with DCEO to provide support for Five Year Economic Plan

Motion by: Mike Bedell

Seconded by: Rob Kerr

Yay: All

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

Intergovernmental Agreement with DCEO to provide support in developing a regional pipeline of skilled talent in manufacturing.

Curt Rendall from Heartland Community College and David Girzadas from Richard J. Daley College provided an overview of developing a regional pipeline of skilled talent in manufacturing as part of the intergovernmental agreement with DCEO. The project includes two principal strategies composed of a statewide marketing campaign and a grassroots campaign across seven regions of the state. These will increase attraction to manufacturing jobs throughout Illinois and market manufacturing as a family-supporting lifelong multi-employment / advancement journey.

Motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with DCEO to provide support in developing a regional pipeline to skilled talent in manufacturing.

Motion by: Lynn Andersen Lindberg

Seconded by: Mike Bedell

Yay: All

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

Approval of November 9, 2023, Minutes

Motion to approve November 9, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Beverly Schneller
Seconded by: TJ Augustine
Yay: All
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Motion passed.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

New Business

Innovators to Know- Cynthia Faullin, Chair of the IIN Entrepreneurship Committee discussed 'Innovators to Know' a program developed asking the IIN hubs to recommend an up-and-coming innovator from the state or their respective institutions to be recognized in April in part of Innovation Month. This year the ceremony will be held at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Illinois Broadband Lab Conference – Jeannette Tamayo summarized the upcoming Illinois Broadband Lab Conference. The Illinois Broadband Lab will be joining the National Digital Inclusion Alliance to host the first ever regional convening in Illinois at the conference. The conference will be held in April or May to provide an opportunity for the practitioners, stakeholders, and newcomers to learn all things broadband and digital equity to be able to participate in external events.

EDA Tech Hubs – Virginia Lorenz and Paul Kwiat provided an overview on Quantum Education and Workforce development as part of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA). Illinois has become a global leader in quantum technology. Last year the Chicago MSA was designated as an EDA tech hub which opens the door to new federal funding. Moving into phase two 'Notice of Funding Opportunity,' \$70M across three focus areas (Industry, Infrastructure, Workforce Development) the IIN facilitated gathering partners for Workforce Development, with proposal lead by City Colleges of Chicago, Harper College, and strong involvement with University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

ACE 2025 – Jeannette Tamayo summarized the plan for ACE 2025. The ACE is the Premier Economic Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Network of the Americas. The Ace is convened every year with one session in the US and one session overseas and are hosting 'Americas Competitiveness Exchange Panama the last week of January. Key sectors focused on in Panama include Transportation and logistics and clean energy, among others. Nikki Yagoda provided an overview of 'Americas Competitiveness Exchange' proposal for ACE 2025 that will be held in Illinois.

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 2:31PM
Next Meeting- April 8, 2024, in Carbondale

**IIN Council Meeting – Zoom Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

Locations

Chicago State University
9501 S King Drive
Chicago, Illinois

Discovery Partners Institute
1901 South First Street, Suite C
Champaign Illinois

Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Avenue, 1420 Buzzard Hall
Charleston, Illinois

Illinois State University
201 S School Street, Hovey Hall 401D
Normal, Illinois

Northeastern Illinois University
5500 North St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center
1740 Innovation Drive, Room 136
Carbondale, Illinois

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Rendleman Hall, Room 3102
Edwardsville, Illinois

University of Illinois Chicago
601 S Morgan Street, Conference Room 2750
Chicago, Illinois

University of Illinois Springfield
15 S Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois

University of Illinois College of Medicine
1601 Parkview Avenue
Rockford, Illinois

*Zoom Access

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82670170898?pwd=VHNWYnZvOEpPYXBuQlhvUUZaTIUvdz09>

Meeting ID: 826 7017 0898

Password: 857349

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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 January 24, 2023, at noon, by email to vpedi@uillinois.edu