IIN Conference 2026 Schedule (as of Oct. 8, 2026)

Thursday October 22, 2026

Noon – 4 pm	Registration	
1 – 4pm	Exhibit Tables	
1:30-4:30	EarthDance Farms	
1:30-3pm	SIUE Clean and Solar Energy Tour	
1:30pm & 2:30 pm	Health Science Complex Tour	
3:30 – 4:45	Concurrent Panels	
	Panel 1	"2026 ISA SpringBoard Challenge Awardee Presentations" – HS 1340
	Panel 2	"IIN Social Innovation Insights, 2027 Funding Opportunities and Recipient Showcase" – HS 1131
	Panel 3	"Accelerating Clean Energy Innovation through Digital Engineering, AI, and Cybersecurity" - HS 1330
	Panel 4	Dell AI in Action: From Experimentation to Real-World Impact – HS 1135
5 – 7 pm	IIN Networking Reception – HS Atrium	
	Announcements of IIN Seed Funding Awardees and IIN Fellows	

Friday, October 23:

8 – 8:45 am	Registration, Breakfast, Connections – Atrium and HS 1330/1340
9 – 9:15 am	Welcome Remarks – HS 1330 & 1340
	IIN Conference Co-Chairs Welcome
	SIUE Welcome - Provost Denise Cobb
	IIN Director Welcome - Jeannette Tamayo
9:20 – 10:15 am	Keynote Discussion – "Art and Storytelling from Frontline Nuclear Communities - HS 1330 & 1340

	Myrriah Gómez, Director, Southwest Hispanic Research Institute and Associate Professor, Honors College, the University of New Mexico
	Abbey Hepner, Associate Professor, Department of Art & Design, SIUE
	Moderated by Sean J. Patrick Carney, Assistant Professor of Visual & Critical Studies, Portland State University
10:15 – 10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:30 – 11:45 am	Session 1 – Concurrent Panels
	Panel 1 (Roundtable) "Responsible uses of AI: Considerations for workforce development, ethical decision making, environmental consciousness, and social justice" – HS 1340
	Panel 2 (Roundtable)"Innovative Bio and Feedstock Solutions for Non-Food Products and Future Research and Development" - HS 1135
	Panel 3 (Panel) "Surprising Opportunities in Partnership, A Case Study in Impact" – HS 2161
	Panel 4 (Roundtable)"What is Social Innovation, Why Should We Care, and How Does it Get Funded?" – HS 2131
	Panel 5 (Roundtable)"Community centered AI: Identifying Solutions for Accessibility, Grid Reliability, Career Development, and Workforce Access" – HS 2141
Noon – 1:15 pm	Lunch, Networking breakouts, Student Posters
1:30 – 2:45 pm	Session 2 – Concurrent Panels,
	Panel 6 (Workshop) "Building Sustainable Pathways Across Illinois: A Cross-Institutional Model for Circular Economy Innovation and AI-Enhanced Learning, and Student Entrepreneurship" – HS 1340
	Panel 7 (Roundtable)" Clean energy production through transformative land-use and environmentally conscious protective land practices" – HS1135
1:30 – 2:05	Panel 8a (Roundtable)"Open By Design: Rethinking Cost, Access, and Collaboration with Open Educational Resources" – HS 2161

2:10 – 2:45	Panel 8b (Demonstration?) "Hands on Approaches to Industrial Processes and Manufacturing Operations in Support of Workforce Development and Sustainable Communities" - HS 2161
1:30 – 2:05	Panel 9a (Panel)"AI as a source of connection, healthy aging, and support" – HS 2131
2:10 – 2:45	Panel 9b (Panel)"Trustworthy AI in Practice: Emerging Threats and Privacy-Preserving Solutions for Illinois Healthcare and High-Stakes Systems" – HS 2131
	Panel 10 (Workshop) "Powering Illinois' Future Through Community Anchors: A University-Community Infrastructure Model for Equitable Innovation" HS 2141
3 – 3:30 pm	Closing Remarks and Connections – HS 1330 & HS 1340
4 pm – onward:	Extended opportunities for networking, working groups, and engagement