



**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 Rigsby, 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 sides 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 Stagnero-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 Stagnero-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 Stagnero-Green, Melanie Loots for Susan Martinis, Pradeep Khanna

NAY: None

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 2:58 pm

Next Meeting May 27, 2021