



Americas Competitiveness Exchange

April 27 to May 2, 2025

TRIPBOOK



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

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EDA
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PADF
THE AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

INDEX

WELCOME TO ILLINOIS

WELCOME FROM THE ACE COMMITTEE

ILLINOIS OVERVIEW

WHAT SETS ILLINOIS APART
FEATURED INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

ACE ILLINOIS SITES

ACE ILLINOIS DELEGATION

STAY CONNECTED



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

February 28, 2025

Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 20th America's Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) organized by the Organization of American States (OAS), the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. State Department, along with the State of Illinois, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), and the University of Illinois System. We are honored to host this year's event and certain that your experience over the next several days will foster fresh ideas and opportunities for collaborations.

As the 18th largest economy in the world, Illinois offers unparalleled access to global markets with its central location and infrastructure, plus natural advantages such as abundant fresh water and fertile soil. With thriving innovation, a promising economic landscape, and a world-class workforce, Illinois is the best place to live, work, and do business.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for a memorable and productive conference, and for continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker", written in a stylized, cursive script.

Governor JB Pritzker

Welcome from the **ACE Committee**

Dear distinguished leaders from the Americas and beyond,

We are honored to welcome you to the 20th edition of the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) Illinois 2025. ACE is a powerful mechanism that fosters cooperation and creation of new partnerships to strengthen economic development in the Americas.

ACE Illinois is convened by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United States Government, through the Department of Commerce (Economic Development Administration) and the Department of State (Permanent Mission to the OAS). The local organizer and host is the State of Illinois, through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the University of Illinois System.

Throughout your week in Illinois, April 27 to May 2, 2025, you will have the opportunity engage with Illinois' vibrant industries, including Life Science, Quantum Computing, Energy Production, Advanced Manufacturing, Agri-Tech, and vibrant industries, including Life Sciences, Transportation and Logistics. Participants will meet with leaders from the public sector, private sector, and academia in Chicago, Champaign, Urbana, Joliet, Naperville and Peoria.

We want to emphasize the importance of nurturing the connections that you establish over the course of this week to ensure you make the most of your time in ACE. We are excited for what awaits us in Illinois and the connections that will emerge from this week. To facilitate meaningful and strategic engagement throughout the program, we have compiled this Tripbook to share key information about the ACE Illinois agenda and participants. We encourage you to use this resource as a compass to identify potential business partners for trade deals, research and development, new ventures, soft-landing opportunities, technical exchanges, and any other collaboration.

The ACE Committee wishes to express its most sincere gratitude to the State of Illinois, for the exceptional agenda they have prepared for this important exchange in collaboration with other key stakeholders.

We look forward to our work together.

Sincerely,

The ACE Committee



OAS | SEDI



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

ILLINOIS OVERVIEW

What Sets Illinois Apart:

The State of Illinois offers an unparalleled opportunity at the epicenter of North America. Illinois provides companies with a world class business environment, a central location with easy access for any operation, a well-educated and experienced workforce, and an opportunity to be an integral part of the second most economically powerful region in the country.

Illinois is also one of the world's most culturally vibrant states and has become a magnet for the country's brightest minds. Businesses can benefit from low corporate taxes and tax-free personal property that help make Illinois one of the most business-friendly places in the nation.

- **#1** State in the Midwest for business creation
- **#1** Metro for new & expanding companies
- **#1** State for sustainable development
- **#5** Highest GDP in the nation
- **#18** Largest economy in the world



FEATURED INDUSTRY CLUSTERS



Advanced Manufacturing



Life Sciences



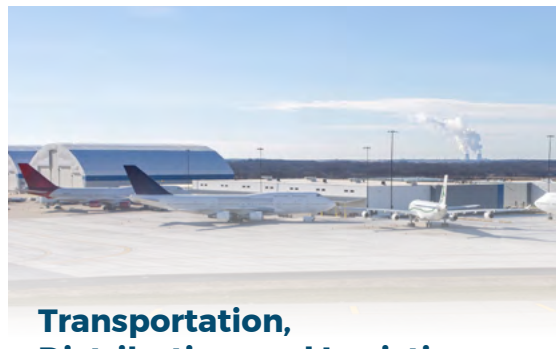
Quantum Computing, AI, and Microelectronics



Next Generation Agriculture, Agriculture Tech and Food Processing



Energy Production and Manufacturing



Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

ACE ILLINOIS SITES



UIC Innovation Center

The UIC Innovation Center is a space for interdisciplinary innovation and education, reflecting its dynamic mission through its frequent changes to meet the needs of projects and classes. The Innovation Center gives students a chance to learn through experience with continuous collaboration, learning, making, and remaking. Corporate and University partners engage with the Center to generate human-centered solutions focused on deep research and exploratory development.



Manufacturing x Digital (MxD)

MxD is where innovative manufacturers go to forge their futures. In partnership with the Department of Defense, the 22,000 square-foot future factory is used to test and demonstrate new technology, train workforces, and demonstrate the need for cybersecurity in manufacturing.

Its 22,000-square-foot factory floor in this state-of-the-art innovation center features some of the most advanced manufacturing equipment in the world. MxD is also the National Center for Cybersecurity in Manufacturing as designated by the US Department of Defense.



1871

1871 is a private collective of trailblazing founders, visionary leaders, resilient innovators, and steadfast supporters in tech. Immerse in our programs, resources, and community uniquely designed for growing a vibrant tech ecosystem.

Offering programs for early stage startups, growth & late stage startups, and corporate innovators, 1871 inspires, equips, and support extraordinary tech businesses. Since its launch in 2012, this has raise \$3.5B in venture capital and created over 14,500 jobs.





Matter

MATTER is a global healthcare startup incubator, community nexus and corporate innovation accelerator headquartered in Chicago. Since its inception in 2015, MATTER has supported over 1,000 healthcare and life sciences startups, fostering a community of 60,000 entrepreneurs, executives, investors, and experts dedicated to improving health and healthcare. Collaborating with dozens of hospitals, health systems, universities, and industry-leading companies, MATTER accelerates innovation, advances care, and transforms lives.

University of IL Research Park

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign: Research Park is an innovation hub for technology commercialization with a unique environment that cultivates startups and increases capabilities for established companies. Located on campus, Research Park has more than 120 companies and growing, employing over 2,100 people in high-technology careers.

Featuring EnterpriseWorks, the Park's incubator for early-stage tech firms, the Research Park also employs more than 800 student interns contributing to internal corporate R&D and product development programs.



Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory

IBRL and its sister facility, the Food Science Human Nutrition Pilot Processing Plant, are pilot-scale facilities designed to help technologies in biomanufacturing, bioprocessing, and food processing de-risk at a commercially-relevant scale. Since opening in 2018, the facilities have worked with over 130 companies on their biomanufacturing technologies and successfully operate as a self-supporting model on the University of Illinois campus.

Holonyak Micro and Nanotechnology Lab

HMNTL is one of the country's largest and most sophisticated university facilities for conducting photonics, microelectronics, biotechnology, and nanotechnology research. Their 15 class 100 and 1000 cleanrooms, 46 general purpose labs, and 2,500 square foot biosafety level-2 bionanotechnology complex contain all the tools researchers need to conduct their work.





National Petascale Computing Facility

This 88,000-square-foot facility houses computing, networking, and data systems that benefit researchers at Illinois and across the country. Offers top-flight physical and cybersecurity, including monitoring of all exit bandwidth, deep packet inspection and tracking of network flows. All equipment in the facility must comply with cybersecurity and operational standards.

Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation

The Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation (CABBI), a U.S. Department of Energy-funded Bioenergy Research Center, is a collaboration between the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and 20 partner institutions. At the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, CABBI is housed within the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (ISEE) and the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB). CABBI integrates recent advances in agronomics, genomics, and synthetic and computational biology to increase the value of energy crops – using a “plants as factories” approach to grow fuels and chemicals.



EnterpriseWorks

Located in Research Park, EnterpriseWorks is a technology business incubator on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus that supports and provides resources to deep-tech entrepreneurs and startups. The 43,000 sq ft business incubator specializing in early stage tech firms provides a multitude of assistance, including research commercialization, entrepreneurship support, seed funding opportunities, networking opportunities with potential partners and investors, and workshops.

Electrical and Computer Engineering Building

The Electrical and Computer Engineering department at the University of Illinois is world-renowned for its excellence in both teaching and research. The building gives students and faculty members access to many collaborative spaces, including a grand lobby filled with seating and multiple conference rooms. Graduate students are also sharing large, open workspaces, which allow for communication among those in different research areas.





The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning - CMAP

The CMAP is a regional government agency that works on behalf of the seven counties, 284 municipalities, and 8.6 million residents of Northeastern Illinois. CMAP is now housed in the Old Chicago Post Office.

Through the CMAP and its Data Hub, communities access data snapshots on a variety of demographic, housing, employment, land use, freight, traffic, climate, and quality of life studies that inform its comprehensive planning to advance the regional transportation system for today and tomorrow.

Richard J. Daley College

Located on the southwest side of Chicago, Daley College serves approximately 12,000 students annually across our two campuses through credit, Adult Education, and Continuing Education programming.

The 52,000 sq. ft. Manufacturing Technology & Engineering Center (MTEC) trains with over 1,000 students annually. A Center of Excellence, MTEC was designed with insight from City industry partners and four-year colleges and universities to ensure a quality curriculum in high demands fields, such as advanced manufacturing.



The Hatchery

The Hatchery Chicago is a non-profit food and beverage incubator dedicated to helping local entrepreneurs build and grow successful businesses. Through cutting edge commercial kitchen facilities, robust entrepreneurship curriculums, and partnership with generous corporate sponsors and foundations, The Hatchery supports local food and beverage entrepreneurs, cultivates local job opportunities, and accelerates local economic growth.

Ecolab

Ecolab is a global sustainability leader offering water, hygiene, and infection prevention solutions and services that protect people and resources. Customers in more than 40 industries choose Ecolab's comprehensive science-based solutions, data-driven insights, and world-class service to advance food safety, maintain clean and safe environments, and optimize water conservation and energy use.





mHUB

mHUB is an innovation center for all things HardTech. Through prototyping labs, industry partnerships, and a commitment to U.S. manufacturing, the mHUB ecosystem is designed to remove barriers and increase the probability of building a sustainable business to commercialize new physical products.

This leading innovation center is embedded within the most comprehensive manufacturing economy in the U.S. with 12,000+ local manufacturers that generate annually \$10 billion and employ over 565,000 people and surrounded by an ecosystem of over 2,000 HardTech and digital startups.

Discovery Partners Institute

Led by the University of Illinois System in partnership with top research universities, DPI does three things: train people for high-demand tech jobs, conduct applied R&D, and business building to grow Chicago's tech ecosystem. With state investment and a new innovation district in development, DPI has the resources to attract, develop and leverage the most ambitious people and companies the region has to offer – and keep them here.



Distillery Labs

Distillery Labs includes a makerspace, office space, commercial teaching kitchen, podcast studio, co-working space, conference rooms, event space and a coffee bar. Partner organizations including the Greater Peoria Economic Development Corporation and Minority Business Development Center also are located in Distillery Labs, providing critical resources for entrepreneurs and small businesses.

This first Innovis the first completed project for the Illinois Innovation Network. By opening doors and minds, this IIN hub, is connecting people, ideas and resources to launch and grow new businesses in the Greater Peoria community.

CenterPoint Intermodal Center

America's largest master-planned inland port. Located 40 miles southwest of Chicago, and is strategically positioned at the epicenter of the region's transportation infrastructure. This massive facility stretches over 6,400 acres and is home to over 50 tenants.

The campus has available warehouse and distribution center solutions, with rail access, interline service, and carload service for international and domestic intermodal capacity, including Free Trade Zone savings.





Naper Settlement

Naper Settlement is an award-winning, outdoor history museum offering visitors 13 acres of educational programs, exhibits, guided tours, and special events. Whether watching the blacksmith at the forge or sitting down for a lesson in our one-room schoolhouse, visitors are immersed in history as they learn about the past and how it relates to the present.

Willis Tower

Located in the heart of downtown Chicago, Willis Tower is an iconic urban destination and state-of-the-art, human-centered workplace. Standing 1,450 feet and 110 stories tall, Willis Tower is one of the world's tallest buildings and recently underwent a restorative street-to-sky transformation.



ACE ILLINOIS DELEGATION



Illinois Hosts



**The Honorable
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Juliana Stratton
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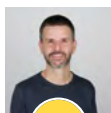
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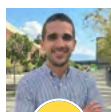
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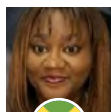
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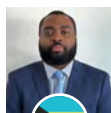
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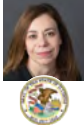


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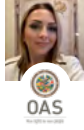


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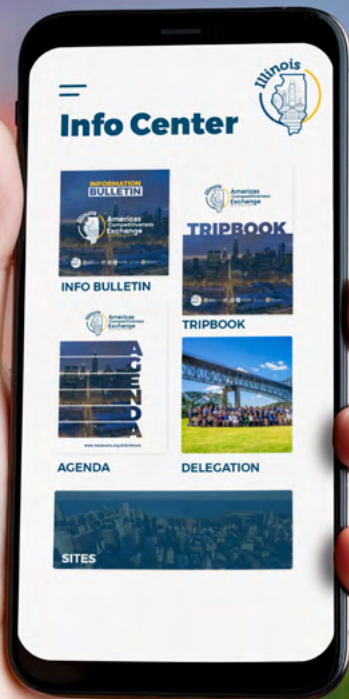
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SCAN ME!



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ACE ILLINOIS
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We will take your changes into consideration as the online version is updated.



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J.B. Pritzker, Governor



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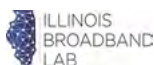
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WINSTON
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The Premier Economic Development, Innovation
and Entrepreneurial Network of the Americas