



Americas Competitiveness Exchange

April 27 to May 2, 2025

TRIPBOOK



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

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



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



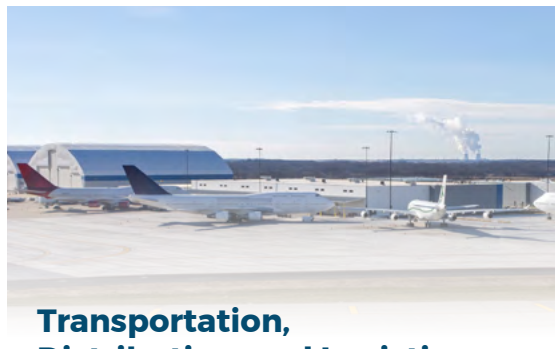
Quantum Computing, AI, and Microelectronics



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
JB Pritzker**
Governor
State of Illinois



Juliana Stratton
Lieutenant Governor
State of Illinois



Kristin Richards
Director
Illinois Department of
Commerce and Economic
Opportunity



**Timothy L.
Killeen**
President
University of Illinois System

Special Guests



Eric Salzman
Domestic and Private Sector
Outreach Team Lead
Office of Commercial and Business
Affairs (CBA), Bureau of Economic
and Business Affairs,
U.S. Department of State



Kim Osborne
Executive Secretary for Integral
Development
Organization of American States



Grenada

**Ambassador H.E.
Tarlie Merick
Francis**
Permanent Representative of
Grenada to the OAS
Permanent Mission of Grenada
to the OAS



Costa Rica

**Ambassador H.E.
Alejandra Solano
Cabalceta**
Permanent Representative of
Costa Rica to the OAS
Permanent Mission of Costa Rica
to the OAS



Armenia

Anushik Avetyan
Deputy Minister of Economy
Ministry of Economy of the
Republic of Armenia



Argentina

Guillermo Acosta
Minister of Economy and
Public Management
Government of the Province of
Cordoba

Participants



Argentina

Virginia Avila

Secretary of State of Foreign
and Business Affairs
Government of the Province
of Tucuman



Belize

Ishmael Lucien Quiroz

Executive Director
Belize Trade and Investment
Development Service



Brazil

Carlos Edilson de Almeida Maneschky

President
PRODEPA



Brazil

Marcus Paulo Lisboa Barbosa

Diplomatic Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Brazil



Brazil

Danielle Moraes

Chief Scientific Officer
NXT7



Canada

Syeda Alia Abbas

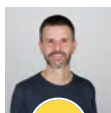
CEO
Alia Consulting



Colombia

María Alejandra Henríquez Suarez

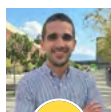
Head of Foreign Direct
Investment
ProBarranquilla



Colombia

Alejandro Echeverri

Foreign Direct Investment
Director
ProColombia



Colombia

Nicolás Rodríguez Aristizabal

Investment Director
Medellín and Metropolitan Areas
Cooperation and Investment
Agency - ACI Medellín



Dominican
Republic

Yarisol López

Deputy Executive Director
National Free Zones Council of the
Dominican Republic



Dominican
Republic

Pedro Pablo Castro García

Vice President of Academic
Affairs
Las Americas Institute of
Technology



Ecuador

Roberto Carlos García Vacacela

Innovation Director
Catholic University of Santiago
de Guayaquil



Ecuador

María de la Paz Jervis Pastor

President
Chamber of Industries and
Production



Guatemala

Wendy Rebeca Mena Monzón

Investment Promotion Manager
Invest Guatemala



Guatemala

Evelyn Lisseth Córdova López

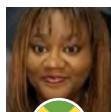
Foreign Direct Investment
Advisor
Ministry of Economy Guatemala



Guatemala

Luis Carlos Orellana Morales

Economic Advisor
Ministry of Economy (National
Competitiveness Program)



Jamaica

Andrea Livingston

Incubator Director and Lead
Facilitator
Business Works Limited and
Jamaica Chamber of Commerce



Mexico

Jorge Andres Cervantes Aguirre

Secretary of Economy and Tourism
of The Municipality Of Santa
Catarina, Nuevo León, Mexico
Municipality of Santa Catarina,
Nuevo León, Mexico



Mexico

Edith Yolanda Martínez López

Technical Secretariat, Foreign
Affairs Commission
Mexican Senate



Mexico

José Alonso Huerta Cruz

CEO
ARACNIA



Mexico

María De Los Angeles Vela Del Río

General Director
Csoftmty: IT Cluster in
Nuevo León



Mexico

Octavio Rodrigo Arzate Juárez

CEO
Luhulaa Tradiciones de México



Mexico

Mariana Campos Villaseñor

Executive Director
México Evalúa



Panama

Susana Lau Hou

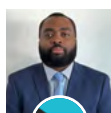
Founder And CEO- Etyalab |
IEEE Entrepreneurship VP
Etyalab | IEEE
Entrepreneurship



Paraguay

Rosa Mabel Florentin Gonzalez

Directora
SAMIMBI Consulting



The Bahamas

Mikhail Bullard

Minister Counselor
Permanent Mission of
The Bahamas to the OAS



United States

Meghan Norden

Senior Business Development
Manager
Arlington Economic
Development



United States

Maria Berg-Stark

Sr. Director of Membership
International Economic
Development Council



John Vasken Achoukian
Executive In Residence
MATTER



Aaron David Van Alstine
Senior Program Manager
Pan American Development
Foundation (PADF)



Katherine Rowena Taylor
Executive Director
Pan American Development
Foundation (PADF)



Corinne Michelle Vargas
CEO
SMARTCharts



Andre Keenan Fowlkes
President
Start Co.



Elizabeth Tikoyan
Founder and CEO
Healp



Venkatesh Varma Mandapati
Co-Founder
Upsquad



Theresa L. Cordova
Director
UIC Great Cities Institute



Radin Rahimzadeh
CEO
Fore Transit



Sandra Marín Ruiz
Assistant Vice President for
Innovation and Business
Development
Florida Atlantic University



George Henry Wilson III
Assistant Director, New Venture
Programs
Vanderbilt University



Angel Saltos
Executive Director
Moonlight International



Luis A. Nieves De Jesus
Director of Facilities and
Program Management
Puerto Rico Science &
Technology Trust



Julia Proto Curi Hallal
Founder & CEO
Manuar



Ignacio Eduardo Munyo Estefan

CEO
CERES

Uruguay

Permanent Observers



Alik Sargsyan

Head of the EU Programmes
Administration Office
Ministry of Economy of the
Republic of Armenia

Armenia



Jana Liebe

Managing Director
ThEEN Association - Thuringian
Renewable Energy Network

Germany



Sergio Rodríguez

Director
Invest Qatar

Qatar

ACE Committee Members

Government of the United States



Mitchell Harrison

ACE Program Coordinator
Economic Development
Administration (EDA)
U.S. Department of Commerce



Julianna Aynes-Neville

Development Counselor
Permanent Mission of the
United States to the OAS
U.S. Department of State



Daniel J. DiLeo

Foreign Affairs Officer
Permanent Mission of the United
States to the OAS
U.S. Department of State

Organization of American States (OAS)



Cesar Parga

Section Chief
Section of Competitiveness,
Innovation and Technology
Department of Economic
Development
Executive Secretariat for Integral
Development

Organizers

➤ Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity



Margo Markopoulos
Deputy Director for
Trade and Investment



Dan McManus
Deputy Director for
External Relations



Lauro Arias
Assistant Deputy
Director

➤ University of Illinois System



Joseph T. Walsh
Vice President for
Economic Development
and Innovation



Jeannette P. Tamayo
Associate Vice
President/VPEDI and
Executive Director,
Illinois Innovation
Network



Nikki Yagoda
Associate Director,
Community Engagement

➤ Organization of American States (OAS)



Cristina Solís
Coordinator, Americas
Competitiveness
Exchange (ACE)
Section of Competitiveness,
Innovation and Technology
Department of Economic
Development



Effy Gómez
Research, Design and
Content Development
Assistant, ACE Program
Section of Competitiveness,
Innovation and Technology
Department of Economic
Development



Mona Swoboda
Program Manager
Inter-American Committee
on Ports (CIP)



Juan Sebastián Fonseca
Multimedia Designer,
Web & Video Production,
ACE Program
Section of Competitiveness,
Innovation and Technology
Department of Economic
Development

➤ Innovation Exchange Coalition (IEC)



Natasha Main
Co-Founder
Innovation Exchange
Coalition (IEC)



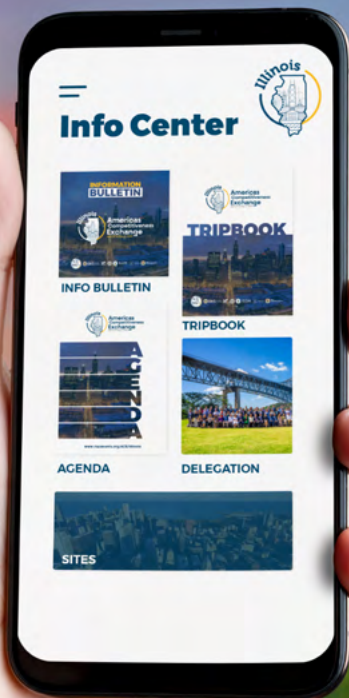
Ryan Ramkhelawan
Co-Founder
Innovation Exchange Coalition (IEC)



SCAN ME!



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

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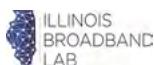
INTERSECT **Illinois**



WINSTON
& STRAWN
LLP



RICHARD J. DALEY
CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO



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