



JB Pritzker, Governor  
Sanjay Gupta, Acting Secretary and State CIO

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## **DoIT Recognizes April as Innovation and Technology Month**

*Governor JB Pritzker declares the month of April as Innovation and Technology Month*

**SPRINGFIELD** – Governor JB Pritzker has proclaimed the month of April as Innovation and Technology Month in Illinois, underscoring the significance of IT and the dedicated efforts to establish the state as a thriving innovation and technology hub, delivering statewide services to agencies, boards, commissions, and residents.

“Illinois has long been on the forefront of innovation, and we continue that legacy with our focus on investing in STEM education, equity in technology, and building a tech-forward economy that will continue to provide skilled, well-paying jobs for decades to come,” **said Governor JB Pritzker**. “I’m pleased to designate a month to celebrate these accomplishments and look ahead to what our next steps may be as the innovation and technology fields continue to grow and evolve.”

Illinois is a leader in promoting diversity and inclusion in STEM fields. This year, the proclamation highlights Illinois’ strong representation of women in STEM roles, surpassing the national average. Illinois is also at the forefront of quantum science education, with four national quantum centers and a focus on developing a highly skilled workforce for future quantum-based industries.

The proclamation also emphasizes Illinois’ commitment to expanding STEM initiatives, supporting broadband access in K-12 public schools, and promoting career and technical education programs that prepare students for IT-related careers.

Additionally, the proclamation recognizes Illinois’ selection to be a part of the Expanding Computing Education Pathways Alliance, aiming to increase the number and diversity of students pursuing computing degrees. The proclamation also includes recognition of the new [FY24 Computer Science Equity Grant](#) administered by the Illinois State Board of Education. Applications for that grant will close at 5:00 PM on April 4, 2024.

“Illinois is embracing the spirit of innovation and technology with open arms, and we are committed to supporting initiatives that drive progress in these areas,” **said Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology Acting Secretary & State CIO Sanjay Gupta**. “By dedicating a month to celebrating these fields, we are not only showcasing the incredible work being done in our state, but also inspiring future generations to pursue careers in STEM.”

In recognition of Innovation and Technology Month in Illinois, DoIT is hosting the first CareerSpark STEAM Expo, a hands-on, interactive work and career readiness experience aimed at inspiring 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to explore the exciting careers in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) fields.

The in-person event will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 11:40 AM to 1:40 PM at the Orr Building, located at 66 4 H Road in Springfield. For additional information, registration and other IT Month events, visit DoIT’s STEAM page at <https://doit.illinois.gov/initiatives/doit-steam.html>.

*Governor JB Pritzker's Proclamation is attached and more information can also be found at [doit.illinois.gov](http://doit.illinois.gov).*

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