Economic Development Week
Driving economic recovery, inspiring innovation, and igniting impact!  May 2022
Dear State of Illinois Partner,

This year’s Economic Development Week comes as Illinois is among the nation’s leaders in key industries such as manufacturing, technology, agriculture, energy, transportation and life sciences, as well as in innovation across multiple sectors. Our progress is powered by our highly talented workforce, and we in state government continue to collaborate with industry leaders, businesses, and organizations to prepare our workforce and state for the jobs and industries of today and tomorrow.

This guide represents just a small portion of the many ways in which the State of Illinois, and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in particular, offers opportunities to support small businesses, expand workforce development opportunities, and help local governments fuel the success of their communities. It honors the work of our partners and demonstrates how collaboration leads to economic empowerment.

As we celebrate Illinois Economic Development Week in 2022, we are reminded of the importance of our partnerships and how collaborating with industry leaders has made Illinois the global powerhouse we know today. Illinois is home to one of the most highly educated and skilled workforces anywhere in the nation. Our world class universities, and strategic geographic location continues to make us a global hub for diverse industries across the board. CNBC named Illinois as the best in the nation for infrastructure, with transportation, distribution and logistics that provide unmatched access to the global supply chain – making this state a competitive and highly convenient option for any company looking to expand or relocate. We are making historic investments in workforce development, infrastructure, and incentives to promote inclusive growth for companies and communities alike.

Illinois is experiencing a strong economic recovery from the pandemic recession. Companies are moving to Illinois, people are returning to work, industries are increasing capacity, and we saw an all time record of nearly 200,000 new business created in Illinois in 2021. With over $2 billion in economic relief deployed by DCEO in the last two years and new tax incentives in industries like electric vehicle production, data centers, and semiconductor chip manufacturing – we are committed to support businesses small and large as they recover from the pandemic and grow our Illinois economy.

Our success is not happening by accident – and we cannot do this work alone. As we celebrate National Economic Development Week in Illinois, we give special thanks to our partners in economic development who contribute to the success of our great state.

Sincerely,

JB Pritzker  
Governor  
State of Illinois

Sylvia Garcia  
Director  
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Dear Colleagues,

As we all know, economic development has a tremendous impact on the villages, towns, cities, counties, and the state where we live and work. Economic development brings jobs and growth to the region, boosting its quality of life and bringing opportunities for people and companies to thrive. We are fortunate to be economic development practitioners in Illinois, a state with tremendous assets that we can highlight to new and growing companies.

We are proud to partner together with DCEO and organizations throughout the state to celebrate the work our community is doing to bring investment to Illinois. This year, Site Selection Magazine ranked Illinois third in the nation for corporate relocations and expansions, a testament to the tremendous work coming out of our communities and economic development organizations.

We’ve seen companies from key sectors including advanced manufacturing, agribusiness, electric vehicles, energy, life sciences, technology and transportation & logistics locating and growing throughout Illinois. We’ve also seen unique collaborations formed between the State, community organizations, utilities and the private sector in order to advance these industries and the companies that encompass them.

During this year’s Economic Development Week, we would like to thank all of our partners and collaborators throughout the state for your continued dedication to Illinois. Illinois is poised for continued economic growth and we are excited to see what the year ahead brings, as we showcase the state’s position as a premier global business destination. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us for support.

Sincerely,

Bryan Gay
Illinois Economic Development Association Chairman
President & CEO, Invest Aurora

Dan Seals
CEO
Intersect Illinois
The Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED) provides free and confidential services to companies seeking to locate in communities statewide and connects businesses to the programs and resources the State and its partners have to offer. Team RED is divided into 10 economic development regions supported by a field team of 15 regional economic development managers.
Gillespie is located in Macoupin County. The city has seen its share of boom-and-bust economic cycles driven in large part by the coal industry. As the mines closed, the downtown area began a downward spiral. In 2018, Grow Gillespie adopted a strategic action plan that identified streetscape improvements as a top priority to support a livable and economically healthy downtown. Their vision supports transforming the downtown public realm into a cohesive, inviting and thriving environment that benefits the community. The state of Illinois, through a $1 million Rebuild Illinois program grant, is partnering with the City of Gillespie to invest in the streetscape project, which will make a series of significant infrastructure updates and reinvent the aesthetic of downtown Gillespie's Macoupin Street as a regional destination for shopping, dining, and other commerce. The project will also improve pedestrian safety and make downtown more accessible for residents with mobility challenges. Construction of the improvements is expected to begin in 2022.

5 Year Plan: Downstate Revitalization (Downtown Redevelopment)

Economic Developer Spotlight

Established in 2018, Grow Gillespie is a community-based group working together, with businesses and individuals, to create an inviting downtown that will foster pride and assist in developing a flourishing business environment for the future. The group has diverse allies assisting with their mission including the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, SIU-E’s Successful Communities Collaborative, and the University of Illinois Extension offices. Grow Gillespie is also developing a pop-up shop in the downtown for entrepreneurs to take that next step in their business. They group also maintains the Colonial Giving Garden. Produce from this garden goes to local groups to provide fresh vegetables to those in need.

Grow Gillespie
www.growgillespie.org
Economic Developer Spotlight

Darryl Thomas, Program Manager of the Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center, was awarded the prestigious ‘Betty McDonald Outstanding Member Achievement Award’ from the Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (APTAC). The annual award recognizes outstanding leadership and service among the nation’s leading procurement specialists. Join us in congratulating Darryl on this prestigious honor!

Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Centers are a portal for small businesses looking to enter the world of government contracting. The centers provide one-on-one counseling, technical information, marketing assistance and training to existing businesses interested in selling their goods and services to local, state, and/or federal government agencies.

Darryl Thomas  
Program Manager Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Centers

Economic Developer Spotlight

Illinois Works recently celebrated a historic milestone with the graduation of the first Pre-Apprenticeship Program cohort. The cohort, from Chicago Women in Trades, embody the spirit of Illinois Works and its mission to bring equity and inclusion to the construction industry and the trades. The first graduating cohort was 100 percent women!

The Illinois Works Jobs Program Act was created as a result of Governor Pritzker’s historic $45 billion capital plan and his commitment to expanding equity in Illinois’ construction workforce. Unfortunately, diverse communities have not been adequately represented in the construction industry and the trades and less than 10% of the apprentices of the best paid trades are women or people of color. With this new capital funding set to pave the way for tens of thousands of jobs over the next decade, Illinois Works was intentionally designed to increase equity and opportunity in capital construction jobs.

Norman Ruano  
Deputy Director, Illinois Works
The Illinois Office of Tourism, which is a part of DCEO, will be the title sponsor of the 1.25-mile oval’s inaugural World Wide Technology Raceway (WWTR) NASCAR Cup Series Race. The “Enjoy Illinois 300” will take place on Sunday, June 5, 2022, and will showcase the raceway in Madison which is located in the Southwestern Madison County Enterprise Zone. This will be WWTR’s first race in NASCAR’s top division. During the summer of 2021, DCEO and IDOT leadership played a key role in pitching and attracting NASCAR to commit to a NASCAR Cup Race at WWTR. The race is expected to attract more than 83,000 fans over the three-day weekend. The fans will generate an estimated 34,000 room-nights in the more than 5,700 hotel/motel rooms in the Illinois Metro East region. In addition to the big race on Sunday, the World of Outlaws Late Model Series will be held at nearby Tri-City Speedway in Pontoon Beach on Friday and the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Toyota 200 will be held on Saturday at WWTR. Live entertainment from local, regional, and national musicians will be offered all weekend at WWTR.

Southwest Region

Enjoy Illinois 300 NASCAR Race

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5 Year Plan: A Thriving Tourism Economy

Economic Developer Spotlight

Walter Williams joined Madison County in April 2021 after serving as the Economic Development Director for the City of Edwardsville. Walter has over 30 years of experience leading community and redevelopment projects. He has been responsible for attracting more than $2.1 billion in new investments, resulting in more than 8,900 jobs. He holds a bachelor’s of science in economics and African-American studies from Denison University and a master’s in business administration from the John Carroll University. He is certified by the National Development Council as an economic development finance professional and by Business Retention and Expansion International as a master consultant. Walter also serves as the president of the NAACP Edwardsville Branch, is a board member of the Edwardsville Community Foundation, and holds the position of ambassador for the Ed/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce.

Walter Williams, EDFP
Community Development Coordinator / Enterprise Zone Administrator
Madison County
DCEO awarded a $2.6 million grant to The Workforce Connection (TWC), a DCEO Apprenticeship Navigator. TWC will work with AAR at the Rockford Airport to provide curriculum enhancements to Rock Valley Community College’s Airframe and Powerplant Program. In launching the new program, AAR will leverage existing partnerships with Rock Valley’s Aviation Career Education Center, TWC and other stakeholders to establish pipelines of new aviation mechanics, and to recruit diverse local residents for training opportunities. AAR currently has 15 apprentices in training and is expected to add 50 more as a result of the state funds and will also support short-term credentialing programs and incentives for experienced technicians to relocate to the Rockford area. AAR plans to hire 15 new on-the-job training instructors and invest in training and capital improvements at the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) training center to prepare trainees on the latest aircraft and equipment used by airlines and the industry today. AAR is poised for a significant expansion of its workforce in Northern Illinois, including plans to hire as many as 250 aviation mechanics over the next year as part of a recent agreement with United Airlines.

5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Transportation & Logistics); Building the Workforce

Economic Developer Spotlight

Courtney Geiger is the Director of Career Services and Operations at The Workforce Connection. The Workforce Connection manages the public workforce system through Workforce Opportunity and Innovation Act (WIOA) funding as well as other grants and contracts. Courtney has been involved in workforce development for over 15 years. Her systems approach to workforce development has successfully ensured diverse partners, organizations, and businesses work together to ensure the entire region benefits.

Courtney Geiger in
Director of Workforce / Mission Services Director
The Workforce Connection / Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois
The State of Illinois is committed to fostering a strong and supportive business climate. To offer current and prospective Illinois companies a line of support – the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) works hand in hand with economic development organizations, local governments, and its partners at Intersect Illinois. Working with Intersect, the State is focused on efforts to attract new investment throughout the state while ensuring existing companies have the resources they need to continue to grow and thrive.

**Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)**

DCEO's mission is to support and maintain a strong economic environment for taxpayers, employers, workers, and communities by actively recruiting and growing businesses, maintaining a 21st-century workforce, enhancing innovation, and bringing jobs and investment to underserved communities throughout Illinois.

To accomplish this mission, DCEO includes the following bureaus that provide specialized assistance to businesses and communities:

- **The Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED)** serves as the regional business development liaisons for communities throughout the state. Team Red coordinates workforce development efforts, shares information on DCEO programs, provides regional site selection services, and connection to keystakeholders, civic, and business partners.

- **The Office of Business Development** manages Illinois’ incentive programs for companies seeking to locate or expand in Illinois. Its mission is to retain and create jobs by marketing to existing businesses, encouraging them to reinvest and inviting new businesses to relocate and invest in Illinois.

- **The Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)** is committed to providing minority-, women-, persons with disabilities and veteran-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state with equitable access to opportunities and resources. Through dynamic partnerships, targeted outreach, and tailored programs and initiatives, OMEE aims to create an inclusive business ecosystem for communities that have traditionally faced systemic barriers to entry and growth.

- **The Office of Employment and Training** provides resources, policy, oversight, and technical assistance to support the workforce system in developing qualified workers that fulfill the needs of businesses. The office oversees and administers the statewide workforce system, which consists of 22 Local Workforce Innovation Areas, coordinating and promoting initiatives to bridge the skills gap.

- **The Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology** supports entrepreneurs, innovators, and small businesses with programs including:
  - First Stop Business Information Center offers technical support to businesses
  - Illinois Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) provide small business owners and entrepreneurs with no-cost confidential business guidance and resources
  - Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) assist companies seeking to expand into government contracting

- **The Office for Trade and Investment (OTI)** connects Illinois businesses to global opportunities and provides export assistance to companies interested in growing their global footprint through a network of trade specialists located in Chicago and seven well established regional foreign offices.

- **The Office of Community Assistance** helps low-income households maintain utility services and reduce energy costs, assisting individuals and families to move toward stabilization

- **The Office of Community Development** supports economic and community development and infrastructure improvements in communities with substantial low-to-moderate-income populations
Illinois offers tax-based incentives to help businesses create jobs and make investments in Illinois.

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<tr>
<th>Reimaginging Electric Vehicles (REV)</th>
<th>Data Centers</th>
<th>Advantage Illinois</th>
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<td>REV Illinois offers competitive incentives to expand in or relocate to Illinois for companies that manufacture EVs and EV parts (batteries, cathodes, anodes) as well as EV charging stations. The program defines EVs as vehicles exclusively powered by electricity and permitted to operate on public roadways – including cars and motorcycles.</td>
<td>The data centers investment program provides owners and operators with exemptions from a variety of state and local taxes for qualifying Illinois data centers. The program also provides data center owners and operators with a tax credit of 20% of wages paid for construction workers for projects located in underserved areas.</td>
<td>Advantage Illinois is a participating loan program that provides businesses access to financing at lower rates and assists lenders and financial institutions with more loan volume at less risk while providing economic growth and job creation to the State of Illinois.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE)</th>
<th>Blue Collar Jobs Act</th>
<th>Prime Sites</th>
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<td>Illinois’ EDGE program provides annual corporate tax credits to qualifying businesses which support job creation, capital investment and improve the standard of living for all Illinois residents.</td>
<td>The Blue Collar Jobs Act provides $20 million annually in credits to companies already approved for other programs. Approved companies may receive credit of the withholding taxes attributable to wages paid to construction workers.</td>
<td>The Business Attraction Prime Sites Capital Grant Program assists companies with large-scale capital investment projects that commit to significant job creation for Illinois residents as they relocate or expand operations within Illinois. Prime Sites grants can encompass a wide range of economic development projects that will result in job creation in the state of Illinois.</td>
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<th>Enterprise Zone</th>
<th>Apprenticeship Tax Credit</th>
<th>Angel Investment Tax Credit</th>
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<td>The Illinois Enterprise Zone Program stimulates economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in economically depressed areas of Illinois through state and local tax incentives, regulatory relief and improved governmental services.</td>
<td>Employers may receive a credit of up to $3,500 per apprentice and an additional credit of up to $1,500 for each apprentice if (1) the apprentice resides in an underserved area or (2) the employer’s principal place of business is located in an underserved area.</td>
<td>The Illinois Angel Investment Tax Credit Program encourages investment in innovative, early-stage companies to help obtain the working capital needed to further the growth of their company in Illinois. Investors in companies that are certified as Qualified New Business Ventures (QNBVs) can receive a state tax credit equal to 25% of their investment (up to $2 million).</td>
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<th>High Impact Business</th>
<th>Employer Training Investment Program</th>
<th>Manufacturing Illinois Chips for Real Opportunity Act</th>
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<td>High Impact Business Zone (HIB) supports large-scale economic development activities by providing tax incentives to companies that make substantial capital investments in operations and create or retain an above-average number of jobs. Businesses may qualify for: investment tax credits, a state sales tax exemption on building materials and/or utilities, a state sales tax exemption on purchases of personal property used or consumed in the manufacturing process or in the operation of a pollution control facility.</td>
<td>The Illinois Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP) provides training grants to incentivize businesses operating or locating in Illinois in conjunction with planned permanent expansion, location or retention activities. The purpose of ETIP is to enhance employment opportunities for Illinois citizens by assisting employers in the training of their workforce.</td>
<td>The purpose of the Manufacturing Illinois Chips for Real Opportunity Act (MICRO) in Illinois Act is to help attract manufacturers of microchips and semiconductors to Illinois as they become more prevalent in products used in everyday life. Through investments in semiconductors and microchips, Illinois will be on the forefront of reshoring semiconductors and microchip manufacturing.</td>
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Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM) opened in Chicago in September 2021. AIM, based in Virginia Beach, VA, is the largest trainer of FAA-certified aviation maintenance technicians in the country. AIM serves the workforce needs of Southwest Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Bombardier, Lockheed Martin, and many others. Located in a former warehouse five miles northeast of Midway Airport in the McKinley Park neighborhood, the 137,000-square-foot facility includes a hangar, 17 classrooms, administrative offices and a lab for learning about avionics (electronics as applied to the aviation industry). AIM is investing $10 million in the facility and creating 75 jobs supported by DCEO’s EDGE incentive program. The return on investment for AIM students is high: the average starting earnings for a certificated mechanic is $45,000 a year, while the median annual earnings of aviation mechanics in the Chicago area is $70,930. AIM is building a talent pipeline for an industry expected to create 4,300 jobs in Illinois over the next decade.

5 Year Plan: Building the Workforce of the Future

Economic Developer Spotlight

Manny Lopez joined DCEO’s Regional Economic Development (RED) team in 2020 serving the Northeast Region. Manny assists businesses and local governments in obtaining state grants and in navigating state economic development programs. Manny has led multiple business development projects in the Chicagoland area, securing hundreds of millions in investment and creating thousands of jobs with the support of EDGE tax credits, the Advantage Illinois participation loan program, and Illinois’ Angel Investment Credit program. Manny is a proud United States Navy veteran, having served in Hawaii, the Persian Gulf, and in South Korea.

Manny Lopez
Northeast Region Manager
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Saline River Farms plans to establish a full-service meat processing plant in Williamson County in a vacant building that was damaged by a derecho wind event in 2009. The facility will be a full-service USDA inspected protein processing plant situated on 79 acres east of Marion. The company plans to invest $21 million in the project and create 116 jobs with support from DCEO’s EDGE incentive program. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the lack of meat processing capability in the southern half of Illinois impacting the local food supply chain. The 83,000-square-foot facility will process beef and pork on two lines running two shifts. Saline River Farms plans to source all animals from the surrounding region, possibly extending into Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Arkansas. The plant initially will process about 5,600 hogs and 2,800 cattle weekly, but that is expected to grow. Saline River Farms plans to open a 5,000- to 6,000-square-foot retail store on the site and service on-demand meat orders through shipping and distribution channels with the use of dry ice, similar to Omaha Steaks.

5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Agribusiness)

Celeste Sollers recently retired from the position of Director for the Williamson County Department of Community and Economic Development after 24 years of service. Under Celeste’s leadership, her department worked to increase the standard of living for residents of Williamson County by leading the rehabilitation of existing housing, promotion of home ownership, job creation through increased economic development activities, municipal infrastructure improvements, capital improvement and technology acquisitions and the provision of a variety of direct services to the residents of Williamson County. Celeste worked closely with federal and state agencies and other public interest groups to obtain funding opportunities.

Celeste Sollers
Economic Development Director (Retired)
Williamson County
DCEO administers business incentives and tax assistance programs that encourage business growth and job creation. In addition, DCEO supports programs such as those listed below, including our new tourism campaign, “Middle of Everything.”

**Rebuild Illinois** - Governor Pritzker’s historic $45 billion capital plan aims to modernize and repair Illinois’ hard and soft infrastructure alike – directing improvements for roads, bridges, education and training facilities, tech/broadband, and other community assets.

**Illinois Film Office** - Works with communities across Illinois to bolster Illinois’ thriving film industry by leveraging tax credits and assisting with site selection.

**Illinois Office of Tourism** - Markets tourism for the state and manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for all Illinois residents. The “Middle of Everything” highlights Illinois as the center of culture, food, history, architecture, nightlife, and natural wonders. The campaign is aimed at spurring tourism and driving economic impact to small businesses across Illinois.

**American Rescue Plan Act Non-Entitlements Units** - DCEO is partnering with municipalities across Illinois with populations under 50,000 to distribute $742 million in ARPA funds from the U.S. Treasury.

Follow DCEO
Ferrero purchased the plant on the southwest edge of Bloomington in 2018, after an expansion of the McLean County Enterprise Zone expansion through the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council and DCEO. Crunch, 100 Grand, Raisinets, and other production lines have been installed there to supply the North American market. In October 2021, the Company broke ground on a new Chocolate Processing Facility at the site, its first outside of Europe. The $75 million project will produce the chocolate for the most iconic Ferrero product like Rocher and Crunch, adding a 70,000 square foot facility and bring up to 50 new jobs to Bloomington. Ferrero’s apprenticeship program with Heartland Community College helps maintenance workers build skills and earn certifications. The incentives offered through the Enterprise Zone, as well as the great community, have made it attractive for Ferrero to keep growing in Bloomington.

5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing); Building the Workforce

Economic Developer Spotlight

Patrick Hoban joined the BNEDC in 2019. The BNEDC proactively drives growth Bloomington-Normal, Illinois’ economy through local business expansion and new business attraction. He previously served as the economic development manager for the Village of Tinley Park, Illinois. Prior to his time there, he was Vice President of Business Development for the Economic Development Corporation of Decatur and Macon County and later served in the economic development office for the City of Decatur, Illinois. Patrick has more than 12 years’ experience in various economic development positions.
In December 2021, FedEx Ground announced plans to locate a new 217,000 square-foot distribution center in the Mervis Innovation Business Park on Danville’s southeast side adjacent to the Illinois / Indiana border. Upon completion in late 2022, the facility will create 150 to 180 new full-time jobs with many additional part-time jobs. The business park, developed by the late Lou Mervis, a champion for economic development in Vermilion County, is located in Danville’s Enterprise Zone. The park already hosts Arconic, a heat treating and aluminum auto body sheet finishing facility, SYGMA Network, a foodservice distribution center, and Fiberteq, a manufacturer of wet-formed fiberglass mat used in the roofing industry. DCEO, IDOT, and Vermilion Advantage have partnered with the city to expand road access and utilities in the park and promote development opportunities. The 400 acre industrial park, with access to I-74 via Southgate Drive, has around 100 acres of shovel ready land primed for development.

5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Transportation & Logistics)

Economic Developer Spotlight

Rickey Williams Jr. is the first African-American to serve as mayor of Danville. Mayor Williams was elected to the City Council in 2009 and was named acting mayor in 2018. He was elected mayor in 2019. Prior to his election as Mayor, Williams was CEO of Project Success of Vermilion County, a grant funded non-profit organization that empowers Vermilion County children and families to achieve their highest potential by offering academic support and enrichment programs for school-age children at 15 sites throughout the county. Mayor Williams is a member of the executive board for Vermilion Advantage, the countywide chamber of commerce and economic development organization.
Intersect Illinois

Intersect Illinois brings new jobs, investment and economic prosperity to the state of Illinois through dynamic partnerships and collaborations with companies, universities, not-for-profit organizations and the government, delivering a unified approach to economic development. A resource for doing business in Illinois, Intersect Illinois promotes the state’s diverse economy, abundant talent, unparalleled infrastructure and transportation network and superior quality of life. Intersect Illinois works closely with DCEO on business attraction and expansion efforts, providing services including:

- Site selection assistance
- Distribution and management of state-wide or geography-specific RFPs
- Regional and local collaboration
- Connection to key stakeholders and civic & business partners
- Coordination of site visits
- Project-specific data analyses
- Market and competitive analyses
- Workforce, labor, and wage analyses

Intersect Illinois' real estate database and proposal management system presents properties available throughout the state to site selection consultants and companies decision makers.

Follow Intersect Illinois

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[Intersect Illinois Real Estate Database and Proposal Management System]

[Follow Intersect Illinois on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter]
In September 2021, the YWCA of the Quad Cities broke ground on its new Rock Island Center, a $15.4 million 54,250 square-foot facility that will include a state-of-the-art Childcare Center (expanding capacity from 130 youth to 350), an Empowerment Center offering job placement services including the Google IT Support Certificate Program, a collaborative STEAM lab, an Activity Center (including a gymnasium and full-service kitchen with community access availability), an Aquatic Center to ensure the continued promotion of health and wellness and learn to swim programming, a high-tech cardio room, a modern second story outdoor play yard, and an administrative suite. The new facility is being built in downtown Rock Island, on the site of a former car dealership. DCEO provided $597,500 in grant funding for demolition and site preparation, part of a $13 million allocation from the Rebuild Illinois Shovel Ready Infrastructure Capital program. The program fuels essential community development projects, ranging from those that will repurpose vacant land in blighted areas into valuable community spaces; to investments in public works projects, and those that will pave the way to creating more affordable housing and historic preservation.

5 Year Plan: Downstate Revitalization (Downtown Redevelopment)

Economic Developer Spotlight

Julie Larson initially served as Vice President and then President of the YWCA Quad Cities Board of Directors, becoming Co-Executive Director in 1999. Julie has embodied the mission of the YWCA for over 25 years, working to improve the lives of women, girls, and communities of color through advocacy, local programming, and services. She is deeply committed to offering programming and services that support social change, help families, and strengthen communities. She has been instrumental in growing and expanding the organization through strategic planning, budgeting, forecasting, and grant writing. Julie's forward-thinking led to the creation of Theplace2b for homeless & at-risk youth, the YWCA Empowerment Center, and multiple special events to promote the YWCA's mission. During Julie's tenure, she has grown the organization's annual operating budget from $300K to $2.3 million, by expanding childcare services and creating new mission-driven programming.

Julie Larson
President and Chief Executive Officer
YWCA Quad Cities
Founded in 1887, John Boos & Company is not only the oldest continuously operating manufacturer in Effingham, it is also one of the oldest manufacturers of quality foodservice equipment and butcher blocks in the USA. John Boos manufacturers numerous products including stainless steel foodservice equipment used in professional sports stadiums to butcher blocks as seen on television food networks. John Boos has experienced significant growth over the last 135 years and currently has nearly 200 employees. In 2021, the state of Illinois partnered with John Boos on its 90,000 square foot expansion project with a $1,050,773 Rebuild Illinois Economic Development Grant and through $330,785 of Economic Development Program funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The grant funds will be utilized for a street extension and water and sewer construction to service the company’s expanding manufacturing campus on the south side of the city along Route 45.

5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing)

Economic Developer Spotlight

The State of Illinois stepped up and made sure that another expansion of John Boos & Company would happen in Illinois and in Effingham. Through working as a team with the City and the Company, DCEO and IDOT put together a grant package that helped provide the needed infrastructure to make the project move forward. Enterprise Zone benefits will also assist John Boos with the building expansion making the project even more favorable at the Effingham location. In all my years working with the State of Illinois and DCEO, both entities have always looked to go above and beyond to make a project happen and they did it again with John Boos.

Todd Hull
Economic Development Director
City of Effingham
Governor Pritzker’s Plan to Revitalize the Illinois Economy

In October of 2019, Governor Pritzker released the State’s economic plan, outlining a vision to reinvigorate the economy and spur equitable growth. The plan is intended to:

- Lay the foundation for long-term growth by investing in and fostering research, entrepreneurship and innovation
- Reduce the equity gap by investing in, providing support to, and taking down barriers for economically disadvantaged populations
- Attract more workers and businesses to Illinois by aggressively marketing the state and providing a solid foundation for business growth

The plan focuses on goals including (outcomes of these goals are highlighted in the examples on the following pages):

- Providing world-class customer service
- Building the workforce of the future
- Winning in key industries
  - Agribusiness and Ag Tech
  - Energy
  - Information Technology
  - Life Sciences and Healthcare
  - Manufacturing
  - Transportation and Logistics
In February 2022, the Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District was awarded a $13.2 million grant that will help improve Quincy’s Mississippi River municipal dock and develop an intermodal facility adjacent to it. The grant was awarded from the Illinois Port Facilities Capital Grant Program, with $600,000 coming from local matching funds. In addition to raising the dock and access road to protect against flooding, the project will upgrade an existing site to a multimodal facility that can be used by barge, rail and truck shippers. Work is expected to begin this year. The port district is part of a three-state commission that includes 26 counties in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. The commission has worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify potential new ports and has identified the Quincy site as the first to develop. The Mid-America Intermodal Port is the largest on the upper Mississippi River and the northernmost port that is navigable year-round. It covers 11 counties, including Brown, Cass, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler, and Scott counties in Illinois.

Economic Developer Spotlight

Kyle Moore is a long-time small business owner in Quincy. In 2009, Kyle was elected to the Quincy City Council and then elected Mayor in 2013 and again in 2017. During his tenure as Mayor, Kyle developed programs to enhance the economic climate of the region, including the “45×30 Plan,” a comprehensive approach to grow Quincy’s population by investing in talent attraction and retention programs, increasing tourism and modernizing the city’s retail incentives. Kyle was named President GREDF in 2021, he is only the third person to lead the organization.

Kyle Moore
President
Great River Economic Development Foundation (GREDF)
Lion Electric announced in May 2021 that it would locate its first US electric commercial vehicle production factory in Joliet, investing $70M and creating over 1,400 jobs with support from DCEO’s EDGE incentive program and the High Impact Business (HIB) program. The new facility is the largest dedicated production site for zero-emission medium and heavy-duty vehicles in the US. The impact of Lion’s decision to locate in Illinois is expected to be widespread and well beyond the company’s initial investment and job projections. The project is anticipated to generate additional economic growth from investment in equipment, supply chain impacts and induced consumption. Illinois’ growing EV ecosystem, along with the state’s central location, access to talent and commitment to a sustainable future are all reasons Lion Electric chose Illinois. DCEO collaborated with partners including Intersect Illinois, Will County Center for Economic Development, and the City of Joliet to provide information and resources for Lion Electric during its site selection process.

**Northeast Region**

**Lion Electric**

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**5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing)**

**Economic Developer Spotlight**

Doug Pryor leads the Will County Center For Economic Development. In his time at the CED, Doug has helped deliver projects totaling more than $4 billion in investment in a wide range of industries including energy, corporate headquarters, manufacturing, and retail. Doug has also been an Adjunct Instructor of Economics and Statistics at Dominican University in River Forest. He currently serves on the State of Illinois Enterprise Zone Board. Previously he was the County Administrator for Grundy County and Vice President of Grundy Economic Development Council. He is a proud alum of Joliet Junior College, graduate of the University of Illinois with a bachelor’s degree in economics and holds an MBA from Dominican University.

Doug Pryor
President & CEO
Will County Center For Economic Development
Contact Us

CENTRAL REGION
Alyson Grady
Acting Deputy Director
217.836.4513
Alyson.Grady2@illinois.gov

EAST CENTRAL REGION
Austin Grammer
217.836.8353
Austin.Grammer@illinois.gov

NORTH CENTRAL REGION
Lauren Gibson
217.886.0062
Lauren.Gibson@illinois.gov

NORTHEAST REGION
Sacella M. Smith
312.639.4029
Sacella.Smith@illinois.gov
Agnes Masnik
312.882.6840
Agnes.Masnik@illinois.gov
Joe McKeown
312.814.1457
Joseph.McKeown@illinois.gov
Manuel (Manny) Lopez
773.502.7506
Manuel.Lopez@Illinois.gov

NORTHERN STATELINE
Tiana McCall
312.533.6970
Tiana.McCall@illinois.gov

NORTHWEST REGION
Adrian Madunic
217.299.5532
Adrian.Madunic@illinois.gov

SOUTHEAST REGION
Kala Lambert
217.836.8376
Kala.Lambert@illinois.gov

SOUTHERN REGION
Kim Watson
618.889.6731
Kim.Watson@illinois.gov

SOUTHWEST
Tracey Glenn
217.622.3242
Tracey.Glenn@illinois.gov

WEST CENTRAL
Sal Garza
309.343.1243
Salvador.Garza@illinois.gov

OFFICE OF MINORITY ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (OMEE)
Vanessa Uribe
Deputy Director, Office of Minority Economic Empowerment
312-270-3046
Vanessa.Uribe@illinois.gov

Diana Alfarro
Latinx Business Development Manager
312.919.3620
Diana.Alfarro@illinois.gov

Matthew J. Simpson
African American Business Development Manager
312.520.0434
Matthew.Simpson@illinois.gov

Tiffany T. Hawkins
Cannabis Loan and Grant Program Manager
312.793.9702
Tiffany.Hawkins@illinois.gov

Michelle Lura White
Women’s Business Development Manager
872.272.0094
Michelle.White@Illinois.gov

OFFICE OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT (OTI)
Margo Markopoulos
Deputy Director
312.636.9456
Margo.Markopoulos@illinois.gov

OFFICE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY
Kristi Dula
Deputy Director
312.833.7483
Kristi.Dula@Illinois.gov

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC)
Kristi Dula
Acting State Director
312.833.7483
Kristi.Dula@Illinois.gov
Ericka White
Assistant SBDC Director
217.782.5349
Ericka.White@illinois.gov

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