This Week:
- **Reaching Out to Our K-12 Partners**
- **Working with the General Assembly**
- **Phishing and Hacking on the Rise**

Reaching Out to Our K-12 Partners

DoIT's divisions that serve the K-12 education sectors have been active this Spring! In the early part of the month, the DoIT STEAM education team hosted K-12 educators who showcased how they have integrated virtual reality technology into the classroom (remote for many) and gave us a sneak peek into the 2021 Tech Prairie STEAM Expo that will be a new feature of this year's Illinois State Fair. And this week, the ICN team hosted an event for K-12 educators to discuss the e-Rate consortium, which offered a glimpse into the benefits of consortium membership and secure internet access via the ICN.
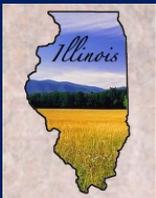
Working with the General Assembly

DoIT Acting Secretary Jennifer Ricker testified recently before the Illinois Senate Appropriations committee to explain and defend our budget request for FY22. She praised our DoIT team on the exemplary efforts in response to the pandemic and the rapid transition to remote work for state employees, as well as efforts around information security, improving customer service, and diversifying our supplier partners through work with BEP vendors. Secretary Ricker will testify before the House Appropriation committee next month.

Phishing and Hacking on the Rise

We are not talking about a rod and reel or a "hacking" cough, but rather the type of tactics that cyber criminals employ when trying to talk you out of important personal information. These nefarious characters have been working overtime during tax season and in the past year of the pandemic. Remember that phishing is when you receive an email attempting to obtain personal information, account credentials, or money, etc. Spear phishing is a more direct approach where an email may appear to be sent from a trusted sender and many times, someone in a position of authority. Pay particular attention to requests that come out of the blue, with no context. It never hurts to ask before taking action and remember to report suspicions to the DoIT Security team via DoIT.Security@illinois.gov or via the *Phish Alert* tool found for many right below the "sender" in your inbox. When in doubt, always verify.

DoIT FYIs and Reminders

Touring Our Home State

Put on your walking or hiking shoes or jump on your bike . . . there is much to see and do right in our own backyards! Take advantage of the nice weather, get some exercise and learn about Illinois history at the same time. For more information on attractions, you can visit the DNR website.