



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Chicago Selected to Host Premiere National Science and Technology Economic Development Conference in 2014**

*Illinois Science & Technology Coalition, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity secure SSTI conference*

**CHICAGO—November 13, 2013**—The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC) and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced today that SSTI (State Science and Technology Institute)—the leading national organization dedicated to improving the economy through science, technology and innovation—has selected Chicago as the location for its 18<sup>th</sup> annual conference. The conference, which has grown to become the nation’s premiere event for sharing ideas on the best practices in technology-based economic development and fostering regional prosperity in a global economy, will be held at the Westin Chicago River North Hotel on September 14-16, 2014.

“Chicago provides an excellent backdrop for SSTI’s 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference,” said Dan Berglund, president and CEO of SSTI. “Illinois has a vibrant technology community that is using innovative approaches to bring together state and local partnerships to positively impact the economy.”

The annual SSTI conference attracts more than 300 policymakers, entrepreneurs and practitioners from across the world to learn from the nation’s leading practitioners in technology-based economic development. Conference topics typically addressed include university technology commercialization, manufacturing excellence, angel and venture capital needs, business incubators, globalization, and public-private sector collaboration.

“We’re excited to join with DCEO to host this prestigious event in Chicago,” said Mark Harris, president & CEO of ISTC. “SSTI’s decision to hold its annual conference here is an honor and a testament to Illinois’ efforts to connect the business sector with universities and government, allowing them to tap our world-class research and talent pipelines to strengthen the state’s economy. The conference will provide the Illinois science and technology community a unique opportunity to showcase the breadth and depth of innovation occurring here to industry leaders from across the country.”

“Under Governor Pat Quinn, Illinois has become a preferred home for employers in science and technology. Those who attend this flagship event will experience not only the excitement of downtown Chicago, but also the region’s commitment to business growth and innovation,” said Adam Pollet, DCEO director.

Previous SSTI conference locations have included Portland, OR, Atlanta, GA, Seattle, WA, Pittsburgh, PA, and Baltimore, MD.

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**About the State Science and Technology Institute (SSTI)**

SSTI is a national nonprofit organization that leads, supports and strengthens efforts to improve state and regional economies through science, technology and innovation. SSTI has over 150 member organizations, including Argonne National Laboratory, DCEO, ISTC, Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, Southern Illinois University and the University of Illinois.

[www.ssti.org](http://www.ssti.org)

**About Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC)**

The ISTC is a member-driven, non-profit organization that harnesses the power of research and innovation to grow the state's economy. As the state's statutory recognized technology advisor and economic development partner, the ISTC drives public-private partnerships between industry, research universities, federal labs and government to increase research and technology-based investment, talent, awareness and job growth in Illinois. For more information, visit [www.istcoalition.org](http://www.istcoalition.org).

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

DCEO is an agency of the state of Illinois. Its mission is to raise Illinois' profile as a global business destination and nexus of innovation and to provide a foundation for its economic prosperity. DCEO's principal activities include coordination of business recruitment and retention, provision of essential capital to small businesses, investment in infrastructure and job training for a 21st century economy and administration of state and federal grant programs.

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