

partner prospectus

 ILLINOIS SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY COALITION

FY2027

ABOUT US

TAKING ILLINOIS' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM IDEA TO IMPACT.

Founded in 1989, the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition (ISTC) is Illinois' trusted convener and champion for innovation, data, and STEM education. We are a partner-driven nonprofit that delivers measurable statewide economic impact. ISTC positions Illinois as a national innovation leader through ecosystem programming and support, data insights, and non-partisan advocacy.



Through our innovation programs, ISTC supports technology-based startups, small, and mid-sized businesses. We open seats at the right tables and create intentional connections to resources by forging high-impact relationships between corporations, academic institutions, state programs, and other support systems.



For over a decade, ISTC has collected data on the state of innovation in Illinois. Findings are synthesized in the Illinois Innovation Index, which includes annual reports on STEM talent, university entrepreneurship, and R&D activity. These reports are used to cultivate effective responses to the state's needs, including policy recommendations and strategic adaptations to ISTC's programming.



ISTC paves the way for the next generation of innovators by providing structured programs which connect Illinois students to the real world. Our programs facilitate long term, ongoing mentorship that builds student identity, esteem, and skills in STEM. We aim to develop a stronger, more inclusive talent pipeline in Illinois by empowering students to find their place in STEM.



ISTC drives economic prosperity by advocating for statewide innovation funding, supporting progressive R&D policies, and fostering collaboration among academia and industry. The strategic development of a diverse, future-ready STEM workforce is a focal point of our work, which we pursue through teacher support, student engagement, and data-driven policy informed by the Illinois Innovation Index.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

Our partnership structure prioritizes flexibility. Our goal is to find the right combination of involvement, programming, and recognition for you. All partnership formats come with a suite of benefits.



BENEFITS INCLUDE

- A flexible, mission aligned partner who will expand your capacity to reach your goals
- Brand visibility in recognition of your partnership
- Connection to a network of collaborators including universities, companies, government agencies, and more throughout the state
- Opportunities for thought leadership events and other ecosystem activations

25

Partners in our statewide coalition

20,000+

Students served by our education programs to date

13

Years compiling data in the Illinois Innovation Index

300+

Volunteers that mentor with us

65+

Projects supported by the Illinois Innovation Vouchers program to date

\$4.9M+

Distributed in vouchers to small and medium companies to date

PATHS TO IMPACT

Recognizing that no one partnership fits all, ISTC offers two paths to creating an impact together: Mission Champions and Program Partners. Both structures receive a suite of benefits detailed on page 6 and are further customizable to suit your needs.

MISSION CHAMPIONS

- **This path is ideal for a partner who feels aligned with every area of our work and is interested in creating an all-encompassing impact.**
- Contributions provided within this structure are put toward the highest need across all of ISTC's programs and operations.
- This path is reminiscent of ISTC's original purpose of coalescing around a shared cause, specifically advancing Illinois' innovation economy through effective programming, data, and outreach.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

- **This path is ideal for a partner with interest in specific efforts that contribute directly to their industry's priorities and charitable giving.**
- Contributions within this structure are put towards administering an innovation, data, or education program of the partner's choice.
- This path has a variety of low to high level commitment options, ranging from sponsorship to direct, hands-on engagement.



MISSION CHAMPIONS

ISTC's Mission Champions represent leaders in the state's innovation ecosystem including corporations, universities, community colleges, federal labs, and civic organizations.

Collaboration with cross-sector Mission Champions makes large-scale progress possible by providing thought leadership and support for long-term economic development efforts such as:

- Advancing innovation-focused legislation, including R&D tax credits and SBIR
- Administering state-funded programs to directly invest in Illinois-based businesses
- Producing statewide reports to support data-based decision making and policies
- Leading K-12 education programs to develop a strong, diverse STEM talent pipeline

HOLDING A BOARD SEAT

ISTC welcomes executive guidance through our Board of Directors.

Board members help govern the Coalition and shape our mission through direct input into programming and advocacy initiatives as well as financial and operational oversight.

Board dues are \$5k per year, though Mission Champions and Program Partners who contribute \$50k or more annually will automatically be granted a seat within their benefits package.

JOIN ISTC'S CURRENT MISSION CHAMPIONS



UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
SYSTEM



ILLINOIS
TECH



Northwestern
University



Northern Illinois
University



PROGRAM PARTNERS

Program Partners select one of the following initiatives to fund directly. In addition to program engagement, they will receive the benefits of the tier associated with their contribution amount as outlined on page 6.

LONG-TERM EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Included Options:

- STEM Challenge
- Mentor Matching Engine
- Team Based Challenge

Engagement Level: High

Audience Served: Illinois high school students

Impact Size: 20 - 100 students served on average

Activities: Skills based mentorship, weekly virtual/hybrid connection with students, input on challenge design (for STC & TBC only), field trips, school visits, showcase

SHORT-TERM EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Included Options:

- Teacher Externships
- Student Internships

Engagement Level: High

Audience Served: Illinois high school students or teachers

Impact Size: 2 - 20 students or teachers served on average

Activities: Host students or teachers in an in-person or hybrid format for 4-8 weeks, skills based mentorship, tours, demonstration of modern workplace practices, employee engagement

EVENT CREATION

Included Options:

- Webinar (one or a series)
- Dinner (one or a series)
- Happy hour
- Panel event

Engagement Level: Medium-High

Audience Served: Flexible, partner can help decide the audience of the event

Impact Size: Flexible depending on goals and audience of the event

Activities: Have a direct hand in strategizing the event—help decide audience, goals, scale, and more

ILLINOIS INNOVATION INDEX

Included Options:

- Illinois Innovation Index
- Researchers to Know

Engagement Level: Low-Medium

Audience Served: Data work benefits IL as a whole

Impact Size: Both the Index and the RTK campaign reach wide audiences

Activities: Sit on committee that shapes and delivers feedback on the Index report, attend report launch, participate in review of nominated researchers

STUDENT RESOURCES

Included Options:

- Student scholarships
- School scholarships
- MME virtual platform
- Field trip sponsor

Engagement Level: Low

Audience Served: Illinois high school students or teachers

Impact Size: 20 - 50 students served on average (with the exception of the MME platform, which serves 1,000+ students each year)

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Included Options:

- ISTConversations
- Student Showcase
- Annual fundraisers (All-In, School Spirits, etc.)
- Innovation Day
- Index Report Launch

Engagement Level: Low

Audience Served: Flexible depending on the event, some of our events serve Illinois high school students and some serve our innovation ecosystem members

Impact Size: Flexible depending on goals and audience of the event

BENEFITS SUMMARY

The benefits of partnering with ISTC have been curated to maximize the coalition’s reach, events, and position in the ecosystem. Both Mission Champions and Program Partners receive benefits based on their contribution amount. Partners of either structure must contribute at least the identified base value of a tier to receive all the correlating benefits outlined in the diagram below.

TIER BASE VALUES	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$50,000
MEMBER RECOGNITION						
Logo: ISTC Website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logo: Annual Report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Media: Welcome Post	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SPARK: Welcome Spotlight ¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logo: Innovation Index		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Media: Partner Highlight ²			1	1	2	3
SPARK: Advertorial/Highlight				1	2	3
Catalyst Feature ³					✓	✓
Annual Report Feature ⁴						✓
THOUGHT LEADERSHIP						
Eligibility for Index Review Committee		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
First Right of Refusal for Grant Opportunities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Branded Fireside Chat			✓	✓	✓	✓
Co-Authored Thought Leadership Article				✓	✓	✓
Podcast Episode					✓	✓
Board Seat						✓
EXCLUSIVE CONTENT						
Members-Only Quarterly Executive Summary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Early Access to Index Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EVENTS						
Access to Annual Partner Event	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Early Access Event Registration		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comped ISTC Event Tickets				2	4	10
Keynote Speaking Opportunity						✓

• 1. SPARK is ISTC’s biweekly opportunity newsletter with a reach of over 600 regular recipients. Its audience includes Illinois innovation ecosystem members and universities.
 • 2. Social media highlights will be published via ISTC’s [LinkedIn](#) profile (6,500+ followers) and [Instagram](#) profile (265+ followers). The highlight can be used to promote content of the partner’s choosing; the partner must provide a graphic and copy.

• 3. [Catalyst](#) is a quarterly publication that spotlights individuals in the state’s innovation ecosystem. It is made available to everyone in the coalition’s network and distributed via our website, social media, and SPARK newsletter.
 • 4. ISTC’s Annual Report is published in the early months of each year. A feature includes an interview with the partner that is incorporated into a thought leadership article.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your consideration to join ISTC's network. Whether as a Mission Champion or a Program Partner, we look forward to collaborating on this effort to measure, connect, and enrich the Illinois economy for all that call it home.

If you are interested in further pursuit of partnership and have not yet done so, please reach out to our Director of Strategic Partners, Helen Abad at helen@istcoalition.org.

We are excited to create an impact with you!
Sincerely,





from idea to impact

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