

## **Illinois Science & Technology Coalition Announces New Partnership with World Business Chicago**

**April 21, 2021 – (CHICAGO, IL) –** The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC) today announced that World Business Chicago (WBC) has joined ISTC as its newest member in strengthening the region’s innovation economy.

“ISTC and World Business Chicago have a rich history of collaborating on projects that drive the innovation economy of our state,” said Colleen D. Egan, President and CEO of ISTC. “This new relationship and their invaluable support as a member allows us to expand the impact of our new initiatives and strategic journey. We are thrilled to have them as partners in our continuing success.”

ISTC will leverage the deep expertise of World Business Chicago to advance economic research and innovation programming initiatives in the Chicago area.

“The ISTC has a long history of driving technology-based economic development throughout Chicago and the state of Illinois. In this spirit, we are excited to join forces to drive inclusive and equitable economic growth across all our 77 neighborhoods,” said Michael Fassnacht, Interim President & CEO of World Business Chicago and Chief Marketing Officer for the City of Chicago. “We are well positioned for a strong post-pandemic recovery, but it can only happen through strong partnerships with organizations like ISTC that support our local startup community.”

“This is truly a fantastic opportunity to strengthen connectivity between the city’s and state’s thriving innovation ecosystems” said Mark Tebbe, Chair of WBC’s ChicagoNEXT council and WBC Executive Committee Member. “For Chicago and Illinois to continue our collective role as a global tech powerhouse, it’s critical we align our efforts with ISTC and its members.”

“World Business Chicago plays a critical role in supporting the innovation ecosystem of Chicago. This new partnership will allow ISTC to further expand economic opportunity in science and technology throughout the region,” said ISTC director Matthew Bragg.

World Business Chicago is a public-private, non-profit partnership that drives inclusive economic growth and job creation, supports business, and promotes Chicago as a leading global city. WBC’s Board of Directors includes prominent business and civic leaders who actively guide the progression of Chicago’s business climate. Working in partnership with the City of Chicago, WBC strives to ensure that all Chicagoans can prosper and participate in the economic growth of our city. Learn more at [worldbusinesschicago.com](http://worldbusinesschicago.com).

The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition is a member-driven non-profit, nonpartisan organization that expands economic opportunity in the state through support for innovation and entrepreneurship. ISTC serves as convener, catalyst, and champion for Illinois’ innovation economy, delivering measurable impact and positioning the state as a national innovation leader. ISTC’s affiliated Institute (ISTI) focuses on STEM education, connecting companies with classrooms to better prepare the next generation of problem solvers.