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ISTC/I Announces Two New Board Members

October 28, 2020 – (CHICAGO, IL) – The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition and Institute (ISTC/I) today announced the appointment of two new members to its Board of Directors, **Kumar Natesaiyer**, Vice President, Corporate Innovation at USG and **Dr. James Gillespie, PhD, JD, MPA**, Director of Scientific Strategies at Sterling Bay.

Colleen Egan, ISTC/I's CEO states, "Our Board of Directors is a dedicated group of leaders that have worked diligently to further the Coalition and Institute's mission. The innovation economy of Illinois is important to our state's Covid recovery and future growth and ISTC/I is accelerating its work and reach throughout the state. We are excited to welcome Kumar Natesaiyer and Dr. James Gillespie who bring their expertise and unique perspectives."

Kumar Natesaiyer joins the board of directors with over 30 years of R&D and industry experience. As Vice President of Corporate Innovation at USG, construction materials company, Kumar Natesaiyer is dedicated to investing in innovation and accelerating commercialization of advanced building materials. "I am honored to serve on the Board of ISTC/I and will bring my industry and academia partnership experience to the table and help guide the organization in fulfilling its mission."

Dr. James Gillespie is an experienced entrepreneur, executive and scholar. He is director of scientific strategies at Sterling Bay, a Chicago-based real estate investment and development firm that is leading the charge in building the city's reputation as an emerging hub for life sciences. He is also a Senior Advisor at the Stanford University School of Medicine and Research Affiliate at the Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Gillespie is also active in the community, having co-founded Women in Healthcare & Life Sciences and the Black Healthcare & Medical Association, as well as being on the board of Healthcare Businesswomen's Association. "I am excited and honored to be joining the distinguished ISTC Board. Under CEO Egan's energetic, effective new leadership, the Coalition has an exceptionally bright future and will continue to play a central role driving innovation in Illinois" said Dr. Gillespie.

About the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC):

The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition is a member-driven non-profit that strengthens the state's innovation economy through data collection, policy advocacy, and impactful programs. Our affiliated Institute provides STEM-education programs that connect classrooms with companies to better prepare the next generation of problem-solvers. For more information, visit ISTCoalition.org.

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