



For Immediate Release

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Illinois Science & Technology Institute Celebrates High School Student Research at Inaugural Showcase

600 Students from 19 Illinois high schools conducted research alongside mentors from more than 80 of the country's leading universities and companies

CHICAGO, IL – March 19, 2019 -- The Illinois Science and Technology Institute (ISTI), a STEM education focused nonprofit that connects companies and universities with classrooms, will hold its first annual Student Research Showcase on Friday, March 22nd at MxD, formerly UI LABS.

The event will feature presentations from 20 high school students, a subset of the 600 students from 19 Illinois high schools that conducted research projects throughout the 2018-19 school year with the support of more than 200 mentors from across the country.

Presenting students were selected through a nomination process and investigated a range of topics, from engineering and environmental science, to the social sciences, including exploring gender, race and social media issues. Students will have five minutes to present, followed by Q&A from an expert panel, with representatives from AbbVie, Microsoft, Northwestern University and the University of Chicago.

Students from urban, suburban and rural high schools connected with STEM mentors for several months utilizing ISTI's Mentor Matching Engine (MME), a project-based, online collaboration tool that allows students to connect directly with professionals anytime, anywhere, in a safe and secure environment, under the guidance and supervision of teachers.

Students initiated the process by putting forth a research topic or project of interest and then requested mentors with relevant subject matter expertise, who provided ongoing guidance. See below for full list of participating high schools and the more than 80 entities with active mentors, representing the country's most innovative companies and top universities.

"Our first annual Student Research Showcase will celebrate the tremendous talents of Illinois high school students that tackled important and innovative research questions," said Mark Harris, ISTI president and CEO. "These experiences connecting students with STEM researchers and professionals are vital in building essential skills that will lead to success in the workplace."

"MME has been a great asset to my students in building confidence with scientific reasoning, communication with peers and mentors, and conducting independent research," said Alyssa Walser, participating teacher at Illini Bluffs high school in Glasford, Ill. "The students have been



able to reach beyond the walls of the classroom to study topics of interest to them which may not have been possible without the guidance of an expert in the student's topic of choice.”

Research topics for presenting students include:

- Reconstructing a leather dance shoe using polyester
- Biodegradability of bleached versus unbleached paper products
- Factors affecting investment decisions
- Designing an adjustable desk for high school students
- Instagram influencing young girls of color political participation
- Perception of electronic cigarettes
- Women, stereotypes, and analysis of STEM education

Event Details:

Date: Friday, March 22nd, 2019

Time: 8 AM - 12:30 PM, breakfast and lunch served

Location: MxD, formerly UI Labs - 1415 N Cherry Ave, Chicago, IL 60642

What to Expect: 20 students from high schools across Illinois will present their research projects in five-minute presentations. Students, mentors and ISTI staff will be available for broadcast and print interviews.

About the Illinois Science and Technology Institute:

The Illinois Science & Technology Institute (ISTI) is a STEM-focused nonprofit that provides programs and partnerships to connect companies and universities with classrooms. ISTI supports schools and companies who want to impact the next generation of innovators to build a deeper and more inclusive talent pipeline. We are a bridge between the classroom and real world that facilitates collaboration between students and industry mentors. For more information, visit www.istcoalition.org/education-programs/ and follow us on twitter @istcoalition.

2018-19 Participating High Schools*

Back of the Yards College	<i>Glenbard North High School</i>	<i>Libertyville High School</i>
Preparatory High School	Glenbard West High School	Plano High School
Bartlett High School	Gwendolyn Brooks College	Vernon Hills High School
<i>Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences</i>	Preparatory Academy	<i>Washington Community High School</i>
<i>Disney II Magnet High School</i>	Highland Park High School	<i>Wheeling High School</i>
Elk Grove High School	<i>Illini Bluffs High School</i>	Whitney M. Young Magnet High School
<i>Glenbard East High School</i>	<i>Jones College Prep</i>	
	<i>Lane Tech College Prep</i>	

*Italicized schools are represented at the Student Research Showcase.



Mentor Affiliations

AbbVie	Loyola University	Southern Illinois University
ADM	Massachusetts Institute of	Edwardsville
American Society of Civil	Technology	Takeda
Engineers	MATTER	Transeo
American University	McLean Hospital - Psychiatric	TUV SUD America Inc
Argonne National Laboratory	affiliate of Harvard Medical	University of California - Los
Arizona State University	School	Angeles
Arnhold Institute	Michigan State University	University of California,
BASF	Microsoft	Berkeley
Baxter	Mississippi State University	University of Chicago
Biotech	New York University	University of Colorado
Boston University	North Carolina State	University of Florida
Bradley University	University	University of Illinois at
Caterpillar	Northeastern Illinois	Chicago
Chicago Botanic Garden	University	University of Illinois at
Columbus State Community	Northern Illinois University	Urbana-Champaign
College	Northrop Grumman	University of Iowa
Conti Solar	Northwestern University	University of Miami
Dartmouth College	Notre Dame	University of Michigan
DePaul University	Parent Leadership Initiative	University of Minnesota
Duke University	Coordinator	University of Notre Dame
Emory University	Pennsylvania State University	University of Rhode Island
Engis Corp	Prescott Medical	University of Washington
GE Appliances	Communications Group	University of Wisconsin -
Georgetown University	Prominence Advisors	Madison
Gonzaga University	Qral Group	University of Wisconsin -
Harold Washington College	Roosevelt University	Whitewater
Harvard University	Shedd Aquarium	US Geological Survey
Icahn School of Medicine at	Society for Advancement of	Vanderbilt University
Mount Sinai	Chicanos/Hispanics & Native	Wake Forest University
Illinois Institute of Technology	Americans in Science	Willowview Consulting
Illinois Natural History Survey	Society of Exploration	Yale University
Illinois Science and	Geophysicists	Zeno Group
Technology Coalition	Society of Women Engineers	
Illinois State University	Southern Illinois University	
Illinois Tech	Carbondale	
IMC Financial Markets		