



For Immediate Release

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Illinois Science & Technology Institute Celebrates Record High School-Industry Partnerships

More than 2,100 high school students will innovate and conduct research alongside mentors at Illinois' leading companies and universities

Chicago – October 16, 2018 -- The Illinois Science & Technology Institute (ISTI), a STEM education focused nonprofit that connects companies with classrooms, today announced its highest level of participating high schools and industry and academic partners. Throughout the 2018-19 school year, ISTI will reach more than 2,100 students at 44 Illinois high schools - more than half from Chicago Public Schools - who will be paired with professionals working at some of the state's most innovative corporations and universities.

High school students will participate in one of two programs. Through the **STEM Challenge Program**, high schools are matched up with companies - including AbbVie, Allstate, Caterpillar and Uptake - to work on authentic business problems identified by the company. Working alongside company mentors virtually and in-person, students will brainstorm ideas, engage in research and design, and develop solutions that address pressing issues in IT, energy, manufacturing and healthcare. In 2018-19, ISTI will pair 26 high schools with one of 17 companies (see full list below). One team of students from each school will present their innovations at a showcase in April 2019.

Additional high schools will connect with industry and academic mentors using our **Mentor Matching Engine (MME)**. MME is 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 initiate the process by putting forth a research topic or project of interest and then request mentors with relevant subject matter expertise, who provide ongoing guidance. In 2018-19, ISTI will be working with approximately 750 students at 25 high schools across Illinois to support independent research projects.

"There is a disconnect between what students are learning in the classroom and what's happening in the real world, especially within STEM fields," says Mark Harris, ISTI president and CEO. "ISTI programs give students a direct line of sight to careers in high-demand fields through problem-based learning, independent research and 1:1 interaction with some of the state's leading innovators. We are thrilled by the growing number of partners across the state as we collectively work to develop the next generation of problem solvers and innovators in Illinois."

To date, ISTI has reached more than 5,500 students at more than 65 high schools across the state. Last year, more than 40 percent of our students were female and half were students of color. ISTI programs build critical thinking, teamwork and communications skills. Additional outcome data from ISTI's programs include: 75 percent of students reported the first time working with a professional mentor; 86 percent of students reported improved confidence in STEM skills; 93 percent of teachers



reported that their students improved their overall STEM skills; and 86 percent of students reported their intent to major in a STEM field in college increased or stayed the same.

Industry partners for 2018-2019: AbbVie, Archer Daniels Midland Company, Allstate/Arity, Astellas USA Foundation, Baxter International, Caterpillar Inc., Cisco Systems, CME Group, Dell, Horizon Pharma, IBM, ComEd, Illinois State University, Microsoft, Motorola Mobility, Motorola Solutions Foundation, Northrop Grumman, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Uptake.

ISTI partner high schools for 2018-2019: Back of the Yards College Preparatory High School, Bartlett High School, Buffalo Grove High School, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Chicago Tech Academy, Chicago Vocational Career Academy, Corliss Early STEM Academy High School, Richard T. Crane Medical Prep High School, Disney II Magnet High School, Downers Grove North High School, Elk Grove High School, Evanston Township High School, Foreman College and Career Academy, Friedrich Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center, Glenbard East High School, Glenbard North High School, Glenbard West High School, Gurdon S. Hubbard High School, Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy, Highland Park High School, Illini Bluffs High School, Infinity Math Science & Technology High School, Instituto Health Science Career Academy, John Hersey High School, Jones College Prep, Lake View High School, Lake Zurich High School, Lane Tech College Prep High School, Libertyville High School, Lindblom Math and Science Academy, Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet High School, Muchin College Prep, North Chicago Community High School, Palatine High School, Perspectives/IIT Math and Science Academy, Plano High School, Richwoods High School, Rolling Meadows High School, Sarah E. Goode STEM Academy, Solorio Academy High School, Vernon Hills High School, Washington Community High School, Wheeling High School, Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, Williamsfield High School.

About the Illinois Science and Technology Institute

The Illinois Science & Technology Institute (ISTI) is a 501(c)(3) public charity and an affiliated, complementary effort to the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition. ISTI is a STEM-focused entity that provides programs and partnerships to connect companies with classrooms. ISTI supports schools and companies who want to impact the next generation of innovators, to build a stronger, more inclusive talent pipeline in Illinois. We are a bridge between the classroom and real world that facilitates collaboration between students and industry mentors.



2018-2019 Challenges and Partnerships

Abbvie Foundation: Design an innovation that would improve health literacy throughout North Chicago. *North Chicago Community High School*

Archer Daniels Midland Company: Mentors from ADM will engage with students on independent research projects, both in person and over the Mentor Matching Engine. The projects will culminate in presentation at the National FFA Agriscience Fair *Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences*

Allstate/Arity: Consider the way students, parents, faculty, and staff get to and from the school each day, move within the school during passing periods, and create traffic around the building each morning and afternoon. Develop a solution that improves upon safety and efficiency. *Lane Tech College Prep High School*

Astellas USA Foundation: Understand the biology behind one of the following diseases: allergies, ophthalmology, and muscle disease to develop an innovation that has the ability to support patient/caregiver education. *Buffalo Grove High School*

Baxter: Innovate the way Third World countries receive Baxter products or train clinicians. Redesign a Baxter product to make it more accessible for home use. Create a campaign that engages a chosen community with prevention or treatment of kidney disease. *Lindblom Math and Science Academy, Muchin College Prep, Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy*

Caterpillar: Design the construction site of the future by either expanding and improving upon current Caterpillar technology or developing something new in order to create a safer, more efficient work space. *Solorio Academy High School, Richwoods High School, Williamsfield High School*

Cisco: Design the future of public transportation, making it smarter, safer, more integrated and more efficient. Research current technologies such as the Internet of Things and sensor technology and develop a solution. *Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet High School*

CME Group: Create a mobile app, game or software that explains futures and options, trading and risk management, or blockchain in a digestible and engaging manner to help promote an understanding of futures markets. *Friedrich Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center*

ComEd/Illinois State University: This energy focused challenge, hosted by Illinois State University and carried out by ComEd, focuses on designing the Community of the Future using renewable energy solutions. ComEd is working on a similar real-world initiative in Bronzeville, prioritizing renewable energy. *Downers Grove North High School*

Dell: *Chicago Vocational Career Academy*

Horizon Pharma: Examine the patient journey and treatment process for those suffering from rare diseases. Create a solution for difficult drug administration, connecting patients within often isolating



communities, or streamline the process of patient diagnosis and treatment. *Perspectives/IIT Math and Science Academy, Highland Park High School*

IBM: Gather and analyze data to develop an innovative solution to improve your community. Utilize Watson and other IBM technology to research and make decisions throughout the Challenge process. *Sarah E. Goode STEM Academy*

The Lenovo Foundation: Design the next generation of smartphones. Either construct an innovation through MotoMods, create an app, or completely reimagine the current technology. *Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy*

Microsoft: Identify an issue in your community and develop an AI solution. *Lake View High School, Foreman College and Career Academy, Corliss Early College STEM High School, Infinity Math, Science, and Technology High School, Gurdon S. Hubbard High School*

Motorola Solutions Foundation: Develop an innovation to help EMTs gather information when encountering patients who have suffered from car accidents, heart attacks, allergic reactions, or are generally unresponsive. *Chicago Tech Academy High School*

Northrop Grumman: Students are challenged to design and engineer functional prototypes for a regional competition. *Palatine High School, Wheeling High School*

Takeda Pharmaceutical: Identify a key challenge faced by a patient population in one of Takeda's three therapeutic areas, oncology, gastrointestinal diseases, and neuroscience, develop an innovation that will better the patient experience. *Evanston Township High School, Richard T. Crane Medical Preparatory High School*

Uptake: Student Union, powered by Uptake AI, helps connect first-generation college applicants with a portfolio of schools that provide them with the best chances of admission, persistence, and graduation. The challenge will be to pitch a set of new features as a solution from a student perspective on the factors that contribute to predicting future student success. *Evanston Township High School*