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Colleen D. Egan Named Chief Executive Officer at Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC)

The accomplished entrepreneur, innovator, and technology expert will lead ISTC and its affiliated 501c3, the Illinois Science & Technology Institute (ISTI)

Chicago, IL – July 13, 2020 – ISTC today announced that its Board of Directors has selected Colleen D. Egan to serve as Chief Executive Officer for both ISTC and ISTI. Most recently, Colleen served as Director of People, Culture, & Endless Possibilities at Clarity Partners LLC for over two years. Colleen brings a unique skill set and extensive experience in healthcare, education, technology, startups, and entrepreneurship to ISTC and ISTI, where she will continue the mission of building a stronger, more inclusive talent pipeline in Illinois, and strengthening the State's innovation economy.

Colleen has served in executive-level roles with tech companies in the health, media, marketing, education, and data sectors including Otherwise, Inc., Akoo International, and Zula USA. Colleen also co-founded and served as CEO of Tiger Puppet Studios, Inc., a tech consulting company serving clients such as Built In, ThinkCERCA, Catalytic, and Zebra Technologies.

"I am thrilled to be joining the exceptional teams at the Coalition and the Institute who've collectively had such a deep and lasting impact on strengthening the innovation economy of the great state of Illinois," said Colleen. "I'm also excited that I have a board and team that supports my unique voice and vision for the organization. As a woman in STEM, a LGBTQ woman in STEM, and a lifelong DEI warrior, I understand the challenges we continually face. Our organization, our work, and our state is committed to being catalysts of change and equity for all."

Colleen is the recipient of the 2018 Illinois Technology Association CityLIGHTS Prominent Woman in Tech award, the 2018 Connected World Woman of IoT award, and Crain's Chicago Business Notable LGBTQ Executive in 2018 and in 2019.

"On behalf of the ISTC and ISTI board of directors, I am pleased to welcome Colleen as chief executive officer," said Geoffrey Curtis, executive vice president, corporate affairs and chief communications officer, Horizon Therapeutics and board chair, ISTC and ISTI. "Her passion for innovation, social impact, and amplifying diverse voices in the technology sector has been recognized throughout her career. Colleen is a natural leader and I am confident that she will further strengthen the Coalition and Institute as well as continue to help both organizations grow the State's innovation economy."

Colleen began her career as an oncology nurse after graduating from Lewis University-affiliated

LCMH School of Nursing. Discouraged by the slow adoption of technology in the healthcare field, Colleen pivoted to becoming the founder of her own healthcare startup. She later served as the Director of Operations for a public digital agency, LEAP, where she worked on building large scale websites and digital campaigns for companies like American Airlines, Hyatt, Cathay Pacific, and United Airlines, solidifying her entrepreneurial spirit and expertise in the technology sector.

“Colleen Egan brings decades of knowledge, relationships, and passion to this important work. Her expertise in tech, leadership, operations, and advocacy will serve the organization well as it expands its reach and facilitates access for the diverse citizens of Illinois,” said Eileen Murphy, Founder of ThinkCERCA. “If ever there was a time to leverage the networks of tech leaders, researchers, advocates for historically marginalized communities, and education, now is the time. Colleen is exactly the right leader to amplify those assets for Illinois!”

Colleen also co-founded and served as the Chief Operating Officer for 212°, an award-winning design, and technology company with offices in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles. 212°’s diverse client list included Orbitz, McDonald’s, Siemens, Walmart, Nike, and P&G. In 2013, Colleen was selected to participate in StartupBus North America, where her team created a healthcare app called MyBestRx. She became CEO of MyBestRx, which was later recognized as a Tech Cocktail hottest startup.

Colleen serves on several boards and committees, including as a founding member of The Women In Entrepreneurship Institute at DePaul University, U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly’s LGBTQ task force, Chicago Tech Academy’s Board of Directors, Illinois Technology Association’s Talent Advisory Board, National Louis University’s Advisory Board - M.S. Design Thinking and Entrepreneurship Program, The Women’s Sports Foundation, and the Chicago Innovation Women’s Mentoring Co-Op.

About Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC): ISTC is a member-driven non-profit that strengthens the state’s innovation economy through data collection, policy advocacy, and impactful programs. For more information, visit istcoalition.org.

About Illinois Science & Technology Institute (ISTI): ISTI is a STEM-focused nonprofit 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. For more information, visit istcoalition.org/education.

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