



# ILLINOIS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COALITION

from idea to impact

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## **ISTC Board Chair Laura Appenzeller Announces Board Leadership Transition, Dr. Bill Payne to Succeed as New Board Chair**

**AUGUST 22, 2023** - (CHICAGO, IL) - The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition today announced the transition of leadership of their Board of Directors. Laura Appenzeller, Executive Director of the University of Illinois Research Park and Assistant Vice Chancellor of Innovation at UIUC, finished her term as chair and Bill Payne, Executive Director of Science and Technology at the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago, will succeed her as Board Chair.

“The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition has been incredibly fortunate to have Laura lead our board of directors over the past two years and serve as a member for the last decade. Laura is a nationally recognized leader in innovation and economic development and has been a dedicated supporter and a fierce advocate for ISTC as we continue our work growing Illinois’ innovation economy,” said Colleen D. Egan, President and CEO of ISTC. “On both a personal and professional level, Laura is an incredible friend and I am grateful for the work we have done and will continue to do together as we pave the way forward for innovation to flourish here in Illinois.”

“It has been an honor to champion the Illinois research and technology community through the leadership of ISTC in organizing the collective strengths of industry, higher education, startups, and students in Illinois,” said Appenzeller. “I’m excited to transition to Dr. Bill Payne, a respected technology leader I admire at the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago.”

Bill Payne is a seasoned business and technology executive from the telecommunications industry. He is the Executive Director of Science and Technology at

the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago, where he leads the technology commercialization team that works with faculty to bring groundbreaking research to the market.

“It is an honor for me to be named Board Chair of ISTC,” said Payne. “I look forward to working with Colleen, the ISTC team, and my fellow board members to further its mission of advocacy for growth of innovation in Illinois. I also want to thank Laura for her past leadership and impact.”

“Throughout his career, Bill has been a champion of innovation and research. In both his corporate and non-profit positions, he has worked to move the needle forward for entrepreneurs, expanding opportunities and access for startups.” said Kate Calabra, Director of Strategic Partnership and Programs at ISTC. “We are looking forward to building on the momentum that Laura established and taking advantage of the unique insights, ideas and perspectives that Bill brings to the table as the new Chair.”

***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 [www.istcoalition.org](http://www.istcoalition.org).