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**Illinois Science & Technology Coalition Announces  
2021 List of Researchers to Know**

21 Researchers From Across Illinois Named to the Annual Honor

**August 3, 2021 – (CHICAGO, IL) –** The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC) today announced its fourth annual list of *Researchers to Know* from universities across Illinois. The annual list highlights the groundbreaking research being done on Illinois' campuses, and provides a detailed look at some of the researchers that are driving innovation in the state.

"Each of the researchers chosen for the honor has demonstrated outstanding achievement in their research field. This year's group of researchers includes those fighting COVID-19 & preventing diseases; advancing energy & sustainability; using data and pioneering analytics; and founding new companies," said Matthew Bragg, Director of ISTC.

The 2021 Researchers to Know represent 10 institutions of higher education leading innovation in Illinois. The researchers chosen in 2021 include those conducting breakthrough fundamental research; developing and commercializing new technologies; launching new ventures; and creating positive social change.

The 2021 Researchers to Know are as follows:

- Walker Ashley, Northern Illinois University
- Maurice Dawson, Illinois Institute of Technology
- Patricia Finn, University of Illinois Chicago
- William Frost, Rosalind Franklin University
- Raul Gazmuri, Rosalind Franklin University
- Kathryn Grant, DePaul University
- Sossina Haile, Northwestern University
- Luke Haverhals, Bradley University
- Jon Klingensmith, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Lichuan Liu, Northern Illinois University
- Tanu Malik, DePaul University
- Khalid Meksem, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Richard Novak, University of Illinois Chicago
- Kunle Odunsi, University of Chicago
- Nichole Pinkard, Northwestern University
- Marilyn Prasun, Illinois State University

- Erik Procko, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Rama Ranganathan, University of Chicago
- Chris Rudd, Illinois Institute of Technology
- John Sedbrook, Illinois State University
- Pengfei Song, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

[View bios for all researchers here](#). For more information, [subscribe here](#) and follow us [@ISTCoalition](#).

The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition is a member-driven non-profit, nonpartisan organization that expands economic opportunity in the state through support for innovation and entrepreneurship. ISTC serves as a convener, catalyst, and champion for Illinois' innovation economy, delivering measurable impact and positioning the state as a national innovation leader. ISTC's affiliated Institute (ISTI) focuses on STEM education, connecting companies with classrooms to better prepare the next generation of problem solvers. For more information, visit [ISTCoalition.org](#).

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