

IIN Overview



IIN Vision

The Illinois Innovation Network drives inclusive and integrated research, innovation, and economic development across Illinois.

IIN Mission

The Illinois Innovation Network fosters collaboration, increases capacity and integrates systems in education, research, and innovation by connecting people, organizations, and resources. Together, we build equitable, inclusive, and sustainable communities across Illinois.

IIN Goals

- Foster collaborative research and inclusive innovation to solve challenges facing Illinois
- Connect people of all ages to inclusive and equitable economic development pathways
- Advance equitable integrated economic development to build prosperity across the state



IIN LEADERSHIP

Jerry Blazey, IIN Chair

Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships, Northern Illinois University

Leslie Roundtree, IIN Vice Chair

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Chicago State University

Denise Cobb, IIN Secretary

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, SIU Edwardsville

Chris Merrett, IIN Executive Committee At-Large Member

Director and Professor, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University

Kyle Harfst, IIN Executive Director

Associate Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation, University of Illinois System

Jay Walsh, Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation

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