

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, innovation and technology are valuable industry sectors in Illinois, contributing to the state's economy, delivery of services, advancement of cybersecurity practices, workforce expansion, and educational and career development; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois colleges and universities provide a multitude of options for degree programs in various tech sectors, including software developers, computer systems and security analysts, and network and computer infrastructure support; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois learners completed more science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees in the academic year of 2022 than in any year prior, according to the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition (ISTC); and,

WHEREAS, Illinois is a leader for STEM practitioners identifying as women and employment of women in STEM roles in Illinois surpassed the national average in 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois advocates for preparing students in their understanding of quantum science and is home to four of the ten national quantum centers, including two United States Department of Energy National Quantum Information Science Research Centers and two National Science Foundation Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes (QLCI), and endeavors to develop a highly trained workforce capable of filling future jobs in quantum-based and globally competitive companies and industries; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) promotes programming and outreach for the expansion of STEM-related initiatives, including IT competency-based curricula for work readiness, encourages STEM career exploration, and supports the delivery of free high-speed broadband for K-12 public schools through the Illinois Century Network; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois has been selected to be a member of the Expanding Computing Education Pathways Alliance to increase the number and diversity of students in the pipeline for computing and computing-intensive degrees; and,

WHEREAS, investments in the new Computer Science Equity Grant program in FY2024 will support the development and enhancements of computer science programs in schools with expanded access to coursework, training for teachers, and increased supplies and materials to better serve learners who are underrepresented in the computer science labor market; and,

WHEREAS, DoIT delivers statewide information technology and telecommunication services and innovation to state government agencies, boards, and commissions for policy and standards development, lifecycle investment planning, enterprise solutions, privacy, and security management, and the exploration of innovative solutions that could be of benefit to the agencies and residents of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, DoIT is advancing the delivery of innovative tools, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics to support Illinois state agencies and residents; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois is building an environment that spurs inclusive economic development through collaboration with business, industry, government, and organizations such as the Illinois Innovation Network and ISTC;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as **Innovation and Technology Month** in Illinois in celebration of the work being done by IT professionals statewide and to encourage communities and schools to explore this sector as a contributor both to the economy and workforce, allowing students to better understand the growing opportunities in both innovation and technology.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-FIFTH day of MARCH, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-FOUR, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexi Giannouh
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR