

STATE OF ILLINOIS



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, according to the Cyberstates 2020 study from CompTIA, the technology industry continues to grow and expand in Illinois at a rapid rate, contributing \$55.5 billion to Illinois' economy, the 10th highest among the 50 states and seven percent of Illinois' overall economy; and,

WHEREAS, the technology industry's employment in Illinois over the past decade grew by 15.6 percent with an estimated median tech occupation wage in Illinois of \$82,966; and,

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

WHEREAS, the 2020 Illinois Innovation Index from the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition found that Illinois awarded 24,861 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in STEM areas, a new record for the state ranking seventh in STEM degrees and third in computer science degrees nationally; and,

WHEREAS, it is important to develop a pipeline of technology talent and development programs necessary to meet workforce demand and committed to using equity and fairness as guiding principles to better prepare students through competency-based education curricula for workforce readiness; and,

WHEREAS, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) impact every aspect of our daily lives and providing equal access to STEAM course offerings is essential for every Illinois student from pre-K through postsecondary education; and,

WHEREAS, digital connectivity is a critical component for equity in accessibility and will improve the lives of families, entrepreneurs, farmers, and other Illinoisans who rely on high-speed broadband for essential services from healthcare to education; and,

WHEREAS, digital connections increase the risk for cybersecurity threats and attacks and the State of Illinois is working to provide Illinoisans with secure connectivity via the Illinois Century Network while prioritizing the importance of cybersecurity education and training to protect personal, education, and professional settings; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) is responsible for the information and technology functions of the Illinois Executive Branch and strives to empower the State of Illinois through high-value, customer-centric technology by delivering best in class innovation to client agencies, fostering collaboration, and empowering employees to provide better services to residents, businesses and visitors; and,

WHEREAS, DoIT delivers statewide information technology and telecommunication services and innovation to state government agencies, boards and commissions, 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 taxpayers of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, DoIT implements technology solutions to meet the business needs of State of Illinois agencies that allow Illinoisans to easily interact with their state government through secure and easily accessible connections; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID pandemic, DoIT enabled remote work for State of Illinois employees and launched innovative tools that leveraged artificial intelligence and data analytics;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as **Innovation and Technology Month** in Illinois in celebration of the important 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 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 THIRTY-FIRST *day of* MARCH, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-ONE, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and THIRD.



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR