

PARTNERING WITH PURPOSE

Across the great state of Illinois, people welcomed University of Illinois System leaders for the 2022 state tour. Their insight on quality education, economic development and strong communities will shape our shared futures.

Explore

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

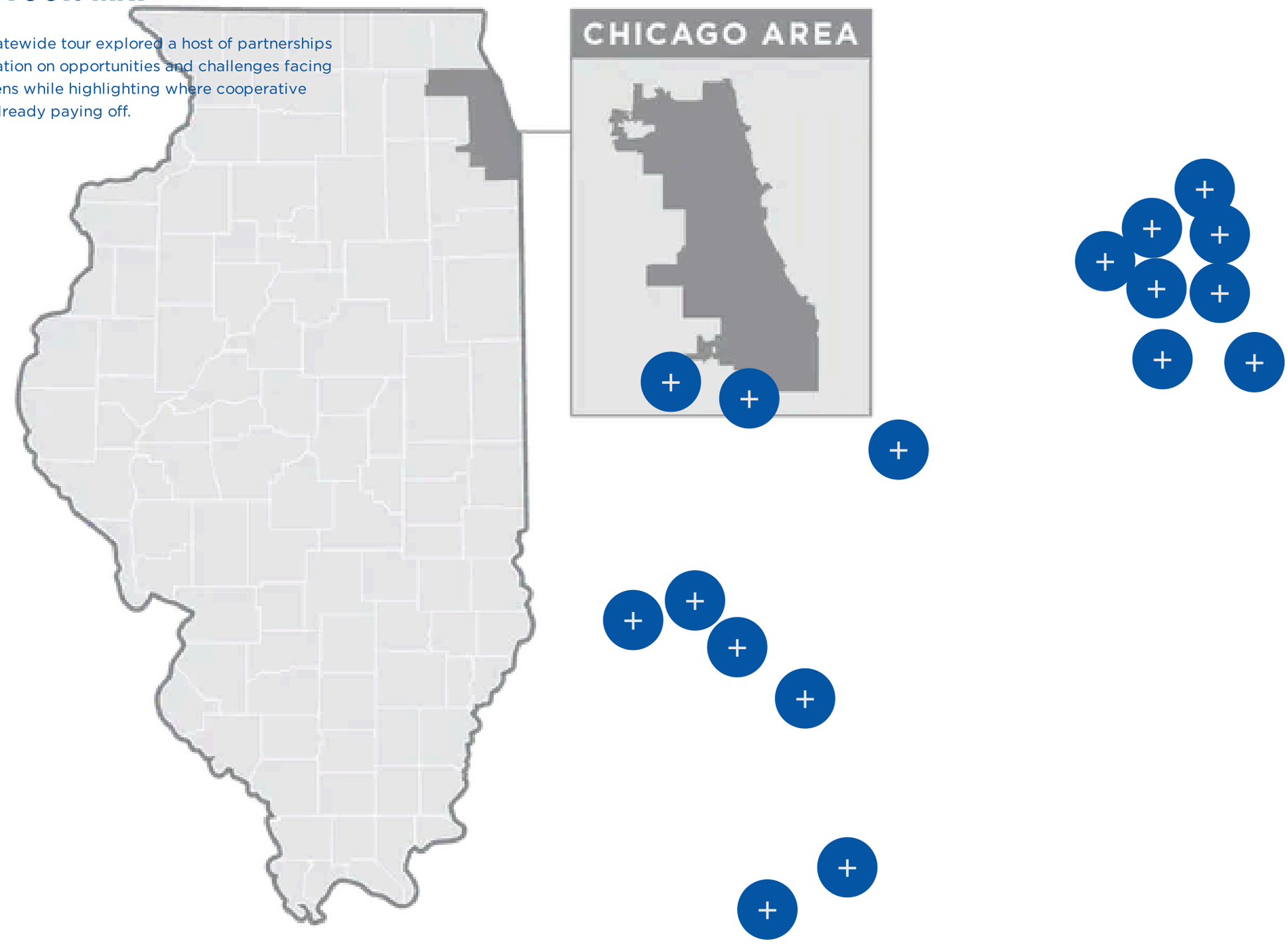
U of I System President Tim Killeen's annual state tour focuses on learning, listening and looking for opportunities to understand challenges and partner on solutions.

State tour hosts know that welcoming system leaders is more than a one-and-done event. Robust conversations among legislators, business and community leaders, alumni and other essential connections lead to the next steps that propel our state forward.

Visit us online

STATE TOUR MAP

The 2022 statewide tour explored a host of partnerships for collaboration on opportunities and challenges facing Illinois citizens while highlighting where cooperative efforts are already paying off.



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Add your voice. Make a lasting impact.

Join Illinois Connection – a grassroots network of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the University of Illinois System – to impact the things you care about.

- Accessible and affordable education
- Job training for a strong economy
- Safe and growing communities
- Innovation and world-changing research
- Healthcare when and where you need it

Join Illinois Connection. Your voice matters.

Learn more today



AT THE VERY CORE

A healthy, thriving economy depends on a strong, educated workforce. Developing and nurturing a variety of pathways for the talent pipeline is essential. From K-12 to community colleges relationships, our robust partnerships lead to greater access and scalable outcomes.

Pathways for everyone

A priority at every turn, opportunities for students of color permeated conversations among system representatives and leaders from all seven City Colleges of Chicago campuses. It's inspiring and effective to have so much compassionate and future-focused brainpower in one room. Everyone is striving to create even greater pathways to U of I System universities – and strong careers – including continued partnership on ease of transfers.

What's next: Malcolm X College leadership already visited University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) to kick off even closer connections. The system, its three universities and community colleges are working to cohost a transfer symposium.





It all adds up

Teaming up with Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy serves as a bright example of partnering with purpose. Our goals and those of the Chicago powerhouse are one and the same – STEAM strength and equity, supporting discoverers and problem solvers, education innovation and so much more.

What's next: Simmering possibilities around shared strategic priorities include curricula and program development, as well as working with IMSA as a testing site for new innovations in teaching and learning.

Attention to transfers

It's no wonder partners' ideas centered on evolving transfers to support students. In Chicago's western suburbs, College of DuPage sends the most transfer students to U of I System universities so they can pursue careers in computer science, business administration, nursing and more. The collective vision features broadening transfer opportunities by replicating what's working and creating innovative paths that benefit all parties.

What's next: The system, its three universities and College of DuPage are already working through opportunities for collaboration in the transfer arena.







School district leaders

Two roundtable discussions with high school superintendents allowed participants to share both challenges and solutions for all to learn from. We're all working together to help students of color connect with system universities for the education options they seek. Speaker of the House Emanuel "Chris" Welch and Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin helped make these essential sessions possible.

What's next: Developing plans to partner further with legislators and educators. The system will host events for high school educators looking to create or bolster their advanced placement offerings.

Full-continuum conversation

The University of Illinois System and Enclave Learning Academy share similar goals, especially supporting entrepreneurs who create the jobs of the future. Elk Grove High School and Harper College send the best and the brightest to system universities for engineering, computer science and other STEM staples. State Rep. Michelle Mussman's vision for further connecting these entities around shared goals and potential pathways means opportunity for all.

What's next: Illinois Innovation Network connections. Plus next-step conversations with University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), Enclave and Harper College.





ECONOMIC ELEVATION

Business development is another pillar of a thriving economy. From jobs to innovation, companies large and small are essential to the state's economic power. Through our partnerships and people to fill critical workforce needs, we're leveraging our resources to ensure businesses succeed.

Alignment with PepsiCo's commitments

PepsiCo and the University of Illinois System both use their size and scale to influence and improve diversity, equity and inclusion tenets in their organizations and the world. State tour conversations centered on this while also spotlighting:

- The primed and ready talent pipeline of graduates from system universities.
- The existing University of Illinois Extension Illini Science Policy Program partnership.
- Other ways the powerhouse organizations can work together for the public good.

What's next: Exploring agriculture and transportation partnerships, connections to Discovery Partners Institute and Illinois Innovation Network, and more.





Serious shift to electric

Taking the lead – that's what TCCI does. So true with helping advance electric vehicles in Illinois. Gov. J.B. Pritzker awarded TCCI the first Reimagining Electric Vehicles in Illinois tax incentive package. TCCI is transitioning its Decatur facility to produce electric vehicle compressors.

What's next: Already a strong UIUC supporter, TCCI looks to strengthen ties with University of Illinois Springfield (UIS), especially around building computer and data science skills. TCCI and the U of I System could partner on international relations opportunities.

Port of possibility

The port city of Cairo is shaping its future, and the University of Illinois System and other state leaders are proud partners. Supporting the people of Cairo with the infrastructure it needs is key. Efforts to bring in fresh produce and guidance to combat food insecurity and bolster health are already in the action.

What's next: Cairo's community-run grocery store cooperative will open soon. Healthy food close to helps residents and keeps spending local. Illinois Extension, Illinois Innovation Network and a host of engaged stakeholders are determining the next big push. Healthcare access and economic revitalization will be vital.





Cleaner energy for a better world

Argonne National Laboratory shared stunning examples of their work to help address the world's biggest challenges. Through collaborations with the U of I System and other partners, Argonne researchers aim for clean energy advancements and other ways to protect the environment. Think hydrogen production for cleaner fuel, next-generation supercomputing and ultrabright x-rays for pivotal discoveries.

What's next: A member of the Illinois Innovation Network Education and Workforce Development Committee, Argonne is partnering with the U of I System and may others on a largescale Department of Energy initiative around hydrogen fuel. Upon burning, hydrogen doesn't produce the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Another opportunity? Joint faculty appointments for research power.

Employer of choice

An innovator for more than 50 years, Mount Vernon's Continental Tire shares its expertise to support economic growth in southern Illinois. Attracting employees from a 65-mile radius, Continental Tire is the largest Illinois employer south of Peoria. This year's stop developed out of last year's visit to Continental Automotive, proving impact goes far beyond the tour.

What's next: Opportunities abound – a UIUC visit, job fair participation, an Illinois Innovation Network connection, plus analytics, R&D and sustainability partnerships.





Tomorrow's workforce

At Research Park at UIUC, Synchrony Financial puts student interns to work. Real work. On global challenges. These future leaders jump into projects and fuel Synchrony's employment pipelines. Interns don't have to be tech gurus, but drive and curiosity ensure them great experiences. Plus, they bring to the table their generation's commitment to including and amplifying diverse voices.

What's next: Discovery Partners Institute serves as a great next step in expanding the Synchrony and U of I System partnership.

Sustainable food supply

Like the U of I System, the Maschhoffs live and breathe both sustainability and Illinois tradition. Owners and operators of the largest family-owned swine production facility in the country, they help to feed 15 million people a year with the earth's wellbeing top of mind. Talk about putting generations of expertise and solid partnerships to work every day.

What's next: Exploring even more connections with UIUC's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. That could mean more faculty involvement, certificate opportunities and research partnerships. Plus, growing synergy with UIS and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to support students and communities.





IN IT TOGETHER

In addition to access to education and economic development through jobs and innovation, other critical needs emerge, like access to healthcare, healthy food and clean environments. The U of I System partnering with community-focused groups and other public universities improves our collective ability to make things better.

Living lab feeds neighbors in need

Dixon Springs Agricultural Center supports Southern Illinois residents and the unique challenges some face, including generational poverty. In true boots-on-the-ground spirit, the center helps growers and the region with fruit and vegetable research and outreach. Experiencing the living laboratory's breadth – forestry management, beef production and much more – made this system stop memorable and possibility rich.

What's next: Local legislators set to provide guidance for spreading the word about Dixon Springs Agricultural Center. The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at UIUC and Illinois Extension are planning additional visits to spotlight the center.





Opportunities for diverse vendors and students

Invaluable time spent with the Business Leadership Council and the Chicago Aldermanic Black Caucus. One common goal is connecting more businesses run by people of color with U of I System opportunities. An important part of the system truly showing up includes the new Diverse Supplier Development Program. Its first cohort began groundbreaking partnerships this fall.

What's next: In addition to more action on opportunities for Black professionals, student recruitment connections are essential to welcoming prospective students of color to any campus. Connecting high school students with fraternities and sororities from system universities is just one of many bright ideas in this space.

The strength of systems

An Illinois Innovation Network hub, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is synonymous with excellence in workforce education and development for its students and our state. So many priorities and ways for students and communities to thrive align between the U of I System and the Southern Illinois University System.

What's next: Exploring healthcare and other collaborations as UIS Chancellor Janet Gooch launches conversations with Southern Illinois University System President Daniel Mahoney and SIU School of Medicine Dean and Provost and SIU Medicine CEO Jerry Kruse.





Hub of innovation and support

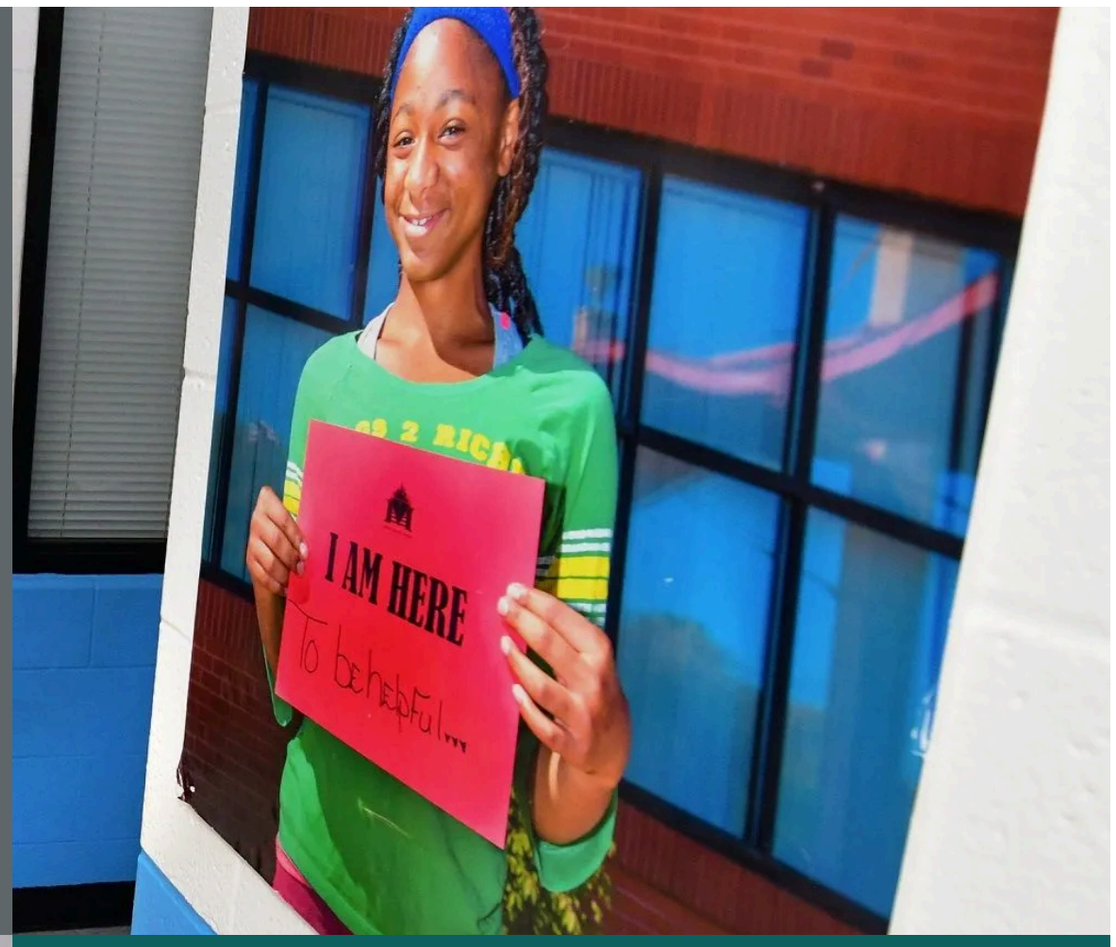
Partnering with Lake Land Community College and others, Illinois Innovation Network hub Eastern Illinois University (EIU) is eager to expand its Center for Clean Energy and Research Education. State tour visitors learned more about Sustaining Illinois Seed Grants EIU received, as well as the sustainability course it offers to Illinois public universities. Showing its range, EIU also buoys the Mattoon-Charleston community with work to help its low-income neighbors become food secure.

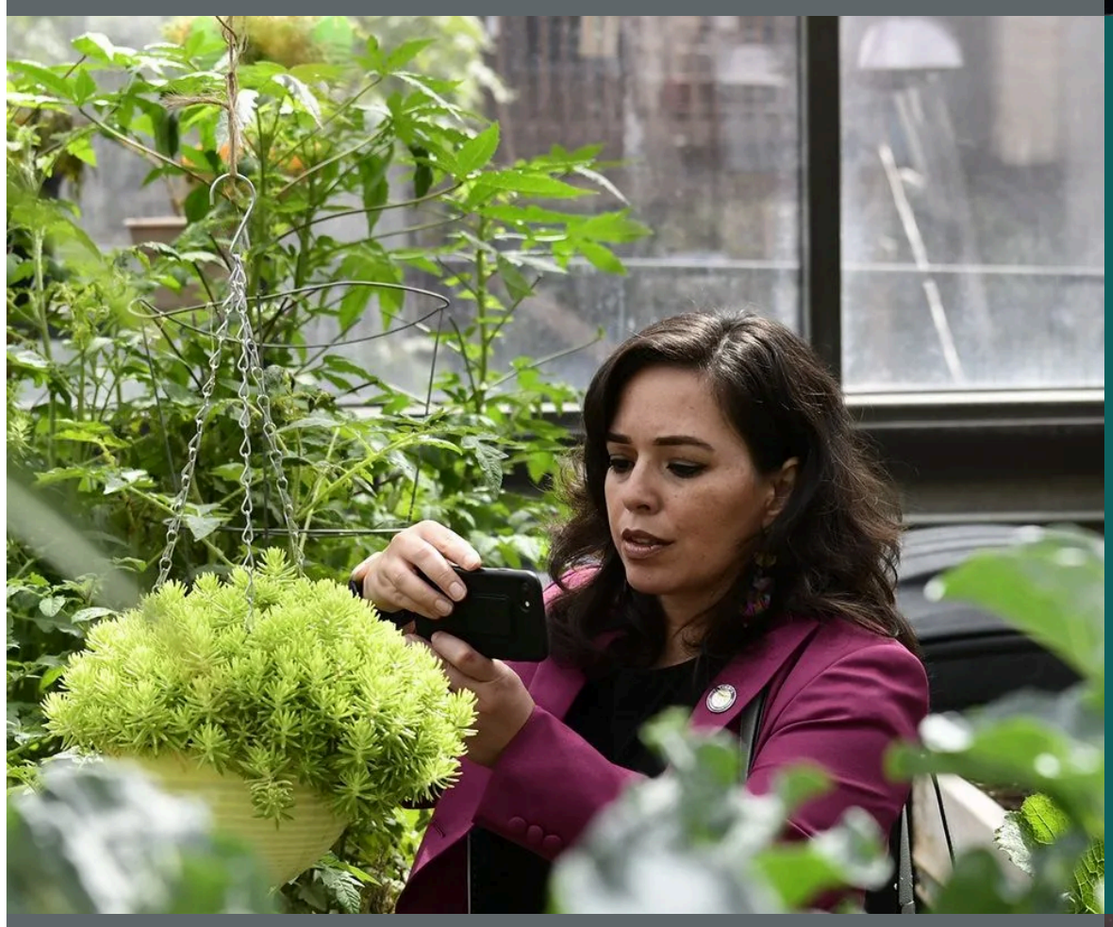
What's next: Potential alignment with Illinois Innovation Network members and the EIU Faculty Fellows Program, which helps faculty and staff connect informally with students outside the classroom. Exciting opportunities related to immersive classrooms for tech-centered learning experiences.

Olympic-level influence

Activity abounds any time Jackie Joyner-Kersee is around. So true at her new Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Innovation Center in East St. Louis. The facility will include indoor and outdoor urban agriculture demonstration sites, as well as space for youth and community members to engage in hands-on training and certification programs. With University of Illinois Extension and other partners, the focus is on growing healthy food and learning about nutrition.

What's next: Greater partnership with UIUC's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, as well as exploration around urban-rural exchange visits, early childhood development and Discovery Partners Institute.





Culture of care

Representatives from the Puerto Rican Cultural Center and the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation shared about their missions and talked about opportunities to work with the system beyond the Illini Science Program and current UIC partnership. They shared about their greenhouse for growing healthy food for their neighbors, including homeless youth, as well as the history and artistry that add to the vibrant community.

What's next: Among other possibilities, connecting community members with student advocacy groups and learning from one another about urban agriculture.

Springfield successes

At this stop, participants celebrated the successful UIS Reaching Stellar campaign and experienced robust interactions with new UIS Chancellor Janet Gooch, community leaders, alumni and more. The U of I System and UIS thrive on on working with Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance leaders to further strengthen the Springfield community.

What's next: Creating greater partnerships with UIS, as well as exploring how United Way of Central Illinois and UIS might reach more people to support community needs.





Focus on agriculture

At the Illinois State Fair, state tour participants gathered to spotlight how essential agriculture is to Illinois and its residents. Such important opportunities in education, research and partnerships in the agriculture industry. Plus, while farming traditions remain strong, so is the collective desire to help feed the world in more sustainable ways. Growing food and raising livestock efficiently and effectively helps our world's quickly expanding population and its ever-changing needs.

University of Illinois System

The University of Illinois System is the flagship higher education system in the state of Illinois.

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UNLIMITED IMPACT

Ever connected to their alma maters, engaged graduates from U of I System universities continually add value through their suggestions, support and spirit. From lifelong learning to advocating for higher education resources, partnering with alumni scales our ability to strengthen the economy.

Strong send-off

More than 130 alumni from University of Illinois System universities helped kick off this year's state tour. They gathered at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield to learn more about the myriad endeavors happening around the system and, of course, connect with one another. Explore how you can involved.

Alumni & Advocacy





Champions united

Oak Park area alumni serve as champions for their communities and our state making progress on key priorities. Ideas and opportunities flowed freely among those who gathered at a tour stop to recognize Illinois Senate President Don Harmon. Continued commitment to workforce development, a health economy and more raised the level of pride even higher among attendees.

Alumni in government

Alumni from system universities who work in government and government relations connected with U of I System leaders and Chicago area legislators. As partners in a host of ways, together we continually strive for positive impact on communities in local, state and federal initiatives and forums.

