ENTREPRENEURSHIP TASK FORCE REPORT:
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Illinois Workforce Investment Board

Entrepreneurship Task Force

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Executive Summary

The Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB) established the Entrepreneurship Task Force to provide a deeper analysis into the role that entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial learning can and should play in our education and workforce systems in Illinois. Given the significance of entrepreneurship not only as a driver of new economic growth, but as the backbone of the U.S. and Illinois economy, the group was tasked with evaluating how to expand entrepreneurship as a focus in education and workforce development.

The Task Force represented collaboration between state agencies, business and corporate leaders, non-profits, educators and entrepreneurs who volunteered their time to discuss strategies to advance more student engagement with entrepreneurship in Illinois. Ultimately, the goal of the task force was to develop recommendations and actionable items about how to elevate the importance of entrepreneurial learning to students, teachers, administrators and the broader community, and how to increase greater access to developing entrepreneurial skills across P-20 and adult education.

The Task Force approached entrepreneurship within the context of education and developed a framework to collectively define what comprises 'entrepreneurial skills' through a multi-disciplinary lens. Fundamentally, entrepreneurship is a process by which ideas are turned into action. Among the group there was much discussion about an *entrepreneurial mindset* that is inherent in critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and taking action. This entrepreneurial mindset cuts across disciplines and classroom subjects, and is cultivated by learning that takes place across and beyond the curriculum – from math and science to the arts and business.

Therefore, it was determined that the skills tied to entrepreneurial learning involve not only business foundations and digital/technological skills, but also communications, interpersonal ability, and an ethos involving traits and behaviors such as curiosity, owning your work, being resourceful and persistence.

The Task Force structured its work into three key areas, and created working groups that addressed: *Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Visibility*; *Teacher and Faculty Professional Development*; and *Improving Entrepreneurial Linkages & Workforce Alignment*. Each working group developed specific goals and recommendations to comprise the Task Force's action plan, which included describing a specific set of challenges in each of these areas and laying out objectives, deliverables and proposed next steps to address each challenge.

- ❖ **Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Visibility** addressed the need to change the way entrepreneurship is talked about in education by providing a common vocabulary and awareness around entrepreneurial learning and the related core competencies and experiences. This working group also focused on how to more sustainably embed entrepreneurship across the P-20 curriculum and better engage real-world linkages and the entrepreneurial community. *Key recommendations included*:
    - Work with the Illinois Pathways network to demonstrate how entrepreneurial skills and activities are included as part of orientation and advanced pathway courses across each of the targeted STEM areas, and commit each of the Learning Exchanges to engage a target number of start-up firms or entrepreneurs into their consortiums;
    - Work with the Illinois State Board of Education on more formally integrating financial literacy coupled with an orientation to entrepreneurship as part of the core curriculum;
    - Launch a suite of free and open entrepreneurial applications as part of the state's Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE) that focus on curriculum tools and resources, problem-based learning challenges, mentorships, social networking and career exploration.

- ❖ **Teacher and Faculty Professional Development** examined the importance of empowering teachers to recognize the connections that exist to entrepreneurial learning in their coursework and supporting the use and integration of real world, problem-centered learning opportunities in the classroom. The group also targeted existing networks and resources statewide to leverage. *Key recommendations included*:
    - Develop a series of branded workshops statewide for interested educators, administrators, and community partners) to promote and advance entrepreneurial skills development in the classroom and better connections between industry, community groups and schools;
    - Connect university-affiliated entrepreneurship centers statewide to talk about their efforts, successful programs, new ideas, best practices, challenges and opportunities to collaborate.

- ❖ **Improving Entrepreneurial Linkages & Workforce Alignment** targeted the scope, linkages and quality of services provided throughout the Illinois entrepreneurship ecosystem to address entrepreneurial skill needs at each stage of development. *Key recommendations included*:
    - Explore how existing resource platforms or existing frameworks and grids can support a comprehensive entrepreneurship resource inventory and identify key gaps and develop a strategy to address them;
    - Propose a strategy and plan for using the identified platform and the revised framework or grid to increase access to entrepreneurship resources and how this will be coordinated with platforms for supporting educational programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels.

Introduction

Entrepreneurship is critical to the present and future economic growth of Illinois. The state will increasingly depend on a growing number of entrepreneurs, inventors and innovators to create and rapidly grow new businesses, which will employ more workers in good jobs across the state. In addition – and equally as important – will be the need for a workforce that possesses an *entrepreneurial mindset* that can help advance breakthrough business models, disruptive innovations, and new, effective value propositions across all industry sectors, including the public/non-profit sector. This applies to managers and front-line workers alike.

The next generation of these entrepreneurial thinkers and doers are sitting in a classroom right now, and many more are currently working within corporations and other organizations. Though there are many examples of successful programs of study in entrepreneurship across the state, there has not been a statewide strategy to cultivate and embed entrepreneurial learning.

While entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education has traditionally been thought about as an exclusively business discipline and discussed principally through the lens of launching new enterprises and raising capital, the Task Force sought to address entrepreneurship more broadly across disciplines through its fundamental definition of creating value and the process of turning ideas into action.

> "If you were to ask me, from all of Gallup's data and research on entrepreneurship, what will most likely tell you if you are winning or losing your city, my answer would be, '5th to 12th graders' image of and relationship to free enterprise and entrepreneurship.' The better the image, the more likely your city will win." – **Jim Clifton**, *The Coming Jobs War*

Entrepreneurship is interdisciplinary in nature driven by a process of identifying problems, thinking critically and creatively about solutions, and executing on new ideas that ultimately make things better and more efficient – in the marketplace, within a start-up firm, existing corporation, or non-profit organization, etc.

Education at all levels and workforce development, in combination with related entrepreneurship programs and services, play a critical role in providing more students with the technical skills, connections and opportunities to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset regardless of one's chosen field. Step one for the Task Force recognized a need to change the way entrepreneurship is talked about in education, focusing on critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, interpersonal skills, and interdisciplinary and real-world linkages.

The timing of the Task Force's work aligned well with larger education reform efforts taking place in the State of Illinois, as well as during a time of great entrepreneurial energy and excitement in Chicago and across the state, both from the public and private sectors. In

particular, Governor Quinn launched Illinois Pathways earlier in the year, an innovative $10.3 million public-private STEM-based education initiative to better prepare students for today and tomorrow's jobs.

Pathways represents unprecedented collaboration from across education, industry, government, non-profits and the entrepreneurial community to leverage our collective resources to advance science, technology, engineering and mathematics-based fields of study. Funding has been distributed to develop Learning Exchanges, managed by organizations selected through a competitive process, to coordinate investments and resources that will create more hands-on, real-world experiences for students to enhance college and career readiness across nine sectors: Agriculture; Energy; Manufacturing; Information Technology; Architecture and Construction; Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics; Research and Development (R&D); Health Science; and Finance. This new infrastructure will provide a unique and effective platform to test and address many of the ideas and recommendations developed through the work of this Task Force.

Further, federal, state and city leaders have made renewed commitments in promoting targeted entrepreneurship and innovation-driven policies and investments. This includes Governor Quinn's $2.3 million investment in 1871, a 50,000 square foot communal tech center for digital technology start-ups and hub for entrepreneurial activity and collaboration, which is now home to more than 200 start-up firms; and Advantage Illinois, a $78 million federally-funded program to spur institutional lending and small business growth, which is expected to generate more than $800 million in private investment in Illinois' small businesses.

It is within this context that the Entrepreneurship Task Force was convened and situated its work in developing and promoting new strategies to promote entrepreneurship through improved coordination between education, workforce development, economic development and the momentum taking place in the entrepreneurial ecosystem statewide.

Background

The Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB) is a Governor-appointed board charged with reviewing the progress of the state's workforce planning efforts. It facilitates workforce development services and programs to assist government and the private sector in meeting the workforce needs of Illinois employers and workers.

The IWIB is also tasked with addressing skill needs for key sectors of the Illinois economy and for targeting specific population groups through the use of Task Forces, which provide a platform to engage leaders from outside of the IWIB to offer guidance and recommendations in a specific area.

"Preparing today's students for success and eventual leadership in the new global marketplace is the most important responsibility in education today… Entrepreneurship education is an important tool to achieving these objectives [and]… should be universally available to provide all students with opportunities to explore and fulfill their potential."
-**Stephanie Bell-Rose,** President, Goldman Sachs Foundation

In December 2011, the IWIB voted to create the Entrepreneurship Task Force, which was co-chaired by Mark Harris, Deputy Chief of Staff in the Governor's Office (now President and CEO of the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition) and Shelley Stern Grach, Citizenship and Public Affairs Director, Central Region at Microsoft Corp.

Appendix A lists the full Task Force members, which included leaders and representatives from state agencies, corporations, non-profits, schools, universities and foundations, in addition to a number of entrepreneurs. The year-long Task Force met approximately every other month starting in early February 2012. Task Force members served on one of the three working groups, which met separately to discuss their respective goals and potential strategies. Their work comprised the bulk of the recommendations and action items that are part of this report, which will be presented to the IWIB and Governor by December 15, 2012.

Findings and Recommendations

Skills Assessment

The imprecise nature of entrepreneurship led to a lengthy discussion on how best to define it. Instead of choosing to reinvent entrepreneurship or establish strict parameters on what it means or does not mean, this Task Force instead sought to establish a framework for talking about entrepreneurship; that is, building a common vocabulary around the discipline.

With this new focus, the Task Force agreed on the need to map out the skills they perceived are associated with entrepreneurial learning, as well as the resources and programs already in place that seek to help students develop those skills. Members were charged with providing this information which was consolidated into an Entrepreneurial Skills and Resources matrix.

For the skills portion, the suggestions by Task Force members generally fell into one (or more) sub-categories.

I. **Technical Skills** – There was broad consensus that a base level of mathematic, technological and communicative expertise is required in order to be a successful consumer or contributor in the entrepreneurial space. They include a general grasp of rudimentary accounting principles and strong writing abilities.

II. **Interpersonal Skills** – Beyond the technical acumen is the emphasis on interpersonal or "people" skills. It was generally stated that successful entrepreneurs are able to comfortably network, effectively communicate and successfully work in team settings.

III. **Ethos** – The final sub-category can be defined as the entrepreneurial mindset, which is a subject that has been written about extensively in other publications. The suggestions provided by the Task Force members reinforce the notion that – beyond technical and interpersonal skills – there is an additional cognitive level at which successful entrepreneurial learning and thinking occurs. Traits such as curiosity, passion, resourcefulness and work ethic were repeatedly cited as fundamental to the practice of entrepreneurial learning.

After compiling and consolidating the many submissions form the Task Force, DCEO created a document entitled "Skills Tied to Entrepreneurial Learning" (Appendix B). Borrowing from the National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education developed in 2004 by the *Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education*, these responses noted above were incorporated into these pre-established buckets:

I. **Entrepreneurial Skills** – *The processes and traits or behaviors associated with successful entrepreneurial performance*.

II. **Ready Skills** – *The basic business knowledge and skills that are prerequisites or co-requisites for becoming a successful entrepreneur.*

III. **Business Functions** – *The business activities performed by entrepreneurs in managing the business.*

Other source materials were provided to buttress the skills assessment exercise including:
- Curriculum Revitalization Project's list of teaching lessons that support entrepreneurship (provided by the Career and Technical Education Division of the Illinois State Board of Education)
- Program summaries from the Future Founders Foundation (based in the city of Chicago)
- Illinois Innovation Talent Program (ILIT) 2010-11 Summary Report

Finally, some Task Force members also cited selected readings and theories to help build the repository of entrepreneurial skills, including:
- *Invisible Capital, How Unseen Forces Shape Entrepreneurial Opportunity* (Chris Rabb)
- *The Entrepreneurial Mindset: Strategies for Continuously Creating Opportunity in an Age of Uncertainty* (Rita Gunther McGrath; Ian MacMillan)
- *The Lean Startup: How Today's Entrepreneurs Use Continuous Innovation to Create Radically Successful Businesses* (Eric Ries)

Asset/Resource Mapping

The second component to this exercise was the resource assessment. The Task Force members recognized that there are a number of existing efforts statewide that are promoting entrepreneurship across the P-20 pipeline through competitions, mentorship opportunities, problem-based learning, and other special and experiential programs. Many of these efforts are being driven by the organizations of those on the Task Force. Therefore, a goal of the group was to compile and categorize the existing resources in place across Illinois that are cultivating entrepreneurial learning.

Appendix C, while not exhaustive, provides a robust and diverse set of programs and resources for enriching entrepreneurial learning experiences. Task Force members cited dozens of organizations, foundations, academic institutions and government entities that are operating programs to advance the various entrepreneurial skills outlined above. Their respective scopes were equally varied and included:

- General programming;
- Apprenticeships, internships and other immersion learning;
- Camps;
- Competitions;
- Network development;
- Course curriculum;
- Other training and mentorship;
- Workshops, seminars and symposia;
- Online resources;
- Professional development for teachers;
- Business assistance and referrals;
- Advocacy.

These various initiatives fell into one or multiple demographical cohorts:

I. K-12 – *Programs or initiatives targeted at elementary, intermediate and high school students*;

II. Post-secondary – *Programs and initiatives targeted at students attending university, community college or other degree or certification-seeking students*;

III. Workforce professionals – *Programs and initiatives (especially training) targeted at adults already in the workforce or labor-ready individuals*.

Recommendations

The Task Force structured its work into three key areas, and created working groups that addressed: *Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Visibility*; *Teacher and Faculty Professional Development*; and *Improving Entrepreneurial Linkages & Workforce Alignment*.   Each working group developed specific goals and recommendations, which included describing a specific set of challenges in each of these areas and laying out objectives, deliverables and proposed next steps to address each challenge.

Entrepreneurship Advocacy & Visibility

Goal #1: Fully embed entrepreneurship across the P-20 curriculum in a sustainable way by defining the range of core competencies, skills and certifications that span secondary and postsecondary programs and are measured by customized growth and accountability measures.

Challenge: There is an increasing need for better awareness of what "entrepreneurship" is and how it relates to both formal education and life-wide learning. Entrepreneurship is ill-defined in our education system and does not share a common language. In addition, it is unclear how

entrepreneurship today is best captured in existing curriculum or as part of the adoption of the Common Core State Standards. Also, the current certification system and accountability metrics do not fully capture the core competencies and experiences connected with entrepreneurial learning.

Objective: Change the way entrepreneurship is talked about in education – focusing on critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, interpersonal skills, and interdisciplinary and real-world linkages. Begin embedding entrepreneurship across the P-20 curriculum by infusing core competencies—including financial literacy and technology/digital skills —and entrepreneurial activities as part of Illinois Pathways and related STEM Programs of Study. In addition, define entrepreneurship metrics as part of postsecondary performance systems and work to develop broad consensus around certificates, digital badges, and other forms of recognition for entrepreneurial learning.

Deliverables & Next Steps:

1) Develop a uniform vocabulary around entrepreneurial learning, catalogue existing best practices and formally present Task Force recommendations to the respective organizations for adoption, including key leaders at the Illinois State Board of Education.
2) Work with Illinois Pathways network to demonstrate how entrepreneurship skills and activities are included as part of orientation and advanced pathway courses across each of the targeted STEM areas.
3) Work with the Illinois State Board of Education on more formally incorporating financial literacy coupled with an orientation to entrepreneurship as part of the core curriculum.
4) Work with the Statewide Longitudinal Data System, Illinois Higher Education Consortium, and Illinois Board of Higher Education on incorporating metrics that measure program accountability and results and index the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Goal #2: Support entrepreneurship in the curriculum by developing new public-private partnerships that reduce the transaction cost with connecting educators and learners to practitioners in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Challenge: There are currently only ad hoc connections between new venture start-ups and employers to the education community, particularly at the K-12 level. There is a need for a more formalized partnership network that connects learners and educators to individuals, groups and organizations involved in entrepreneurial practice and a more structured and standardized approach defining how to best connect and derive value from the engagement.

Objective: Identify entrepreneurship as a key component of the newly launched STEM Learning Exchanges, which bring together statewide networks of public-private partners to support teaching and learning tied to a career cluster. In addition, investigate other potential public-private partnership networks that can be vehicles for the dissemination and adoption of entrepreneurial learning.

> "We live in a knowledge economy that is driven by access to information and new ideas..... Our mission is to prepare our students for the 21st Century workforce. These new Learning Exchanges will provide students with real-world experience and advanced educational opportunities to ensure they are ready to compete for the jobs of tomorrow."
> - **Illinois Governor Pat Quinn**

Deliverables & Next Steps:

1) Work with each of the designated STEM Learning Exchanges to create a cross-cutting approach to defining and supporting entrepreneurship through resources and activities as part of their scopes of work. This could include a commitment from each of the Learning Exchanges to engage a target number of start-up firms or entrepreneurs into their consortiums.

2) Formally present the Task Force recommendations to the Illinois Pathways Advisory Council and organize follow-up meetings with leadership of each of the STEM Learning Exchanges to secure their commitment to incorporate entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Goal #3: Empower public-private partnerships with innovative applications and collaboration tools that facilitate and deliver transformative entrepreneurial learning experiences through resources, social networking, and career exploration.

Challenge: We often pursue education technology initiatives that focus on access and connectivity (e.g. broadband and devices), but if you are not connecting to transformative learning resources on the other end, then you are only addressing half the equation. 21st Century learning requires access to customized and personalized tools that make learning more effective. In addition, connecting educators and learners to public-private networks will require collaboration tools that facilitate and structure their engagement. Likewise, educators and learners need equitable access to collaboration tools and networks to not perpetuate or deepen an "entrepreneurship gap." As we continue to promote 21st century learning in a digital age we need to focus as much on developing the next generation of innovative collaboration tools as we do on promoting access and connectivity.

Objective: Develop an innovative entrepreneurial application layer as part of the planned Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE) that is available to all educators and learners and incorporates free, open-source, and vendor applications. Include applications specific to entrepreneurial learning (Curriculum Tools & Resources; Problem-Based Learning; Mentorships; Peer-to-Peer Social; Career Exploration, etc.)

Deliverables & Next Steps:

1) Launch a suite of free and open entrepreneurial applications as part of ISLE that focus on curriculum tools & resources, problem-based learning challenges, mentorships, social networking, and career exploration. These tools can be available to the statewide, public-private STEM Learning Exchange networks as well as other communities of practice.
2) Embed the Task Force recommendations in the ISLE application layer design requirements documentation for inclusion in any solicitation or application build-out using capital bill funding. The Learning Exchanges will launch this fall so there will be as ready-made audience to pilot and test use these tools.

Teacher & Faculty Professional Development

Goal #1: Move entrepreneurship across the curriculum by empowering engaged teachers to integrate entrepreneurial skills development in their coursework

Challenge: Many educators in a variety of disciplines don't recognize the connections that exist to entrepreneurial learning in their coursework or understand the importance and benefits of connecting experiential, global (and local) issues inside the classroom.   While some are reluctant to change, others are interested but need the tools (and a nudge).

Objective: Help more teachers think about their subject matter in a more entrepreneurial and interdisciplinary context; support the use and integration of real world, problem-based learning opportunities in the classroom, tapping into networks of employers/practitioners and guidance on what that engagement looks like. Leverage the capabilities of entrepreneurship centers and experts to showcase successful learning models and facilitate ideas and access to resources.

Deliverables & Next Steps:

1) Develop a series of branded workshops statewide for interested educators, administrators, and community partners (businesses, non-profits and other organizations) to promote and advance entrepreneurial skills development in the classroom and better connections between industry, community groups and schools.
2) Identify workshop "hosts" – look to institutions of higher education, especially those with entrepreneurship programming (Millikin, SIU, NIU, U of I, DePaul, U of C, Northwestern) to collaborate on series of smaller scale events. Develop parameters and structure of workshops with input from leading educators in this space, including the use and utility of problem-based learning from the Illinois Math and Science Academy, who can provide input and perspective from their existing efforts. Also need to assess

budget requirements and funding partners. Many businesses are already involved in supporting this kind of programming or have been engaged with previous programs like Innovation Talent – would need to connect with these engaged private sector partners.

Goal #2: Share information, ideas, and resources across our post-secondary institutions and community colleges to advance more robust entrepreneurship education.

Challenge: Illinois has some of the nation's leading post-secondary entrepreneurship educators and institutions, but there is not a forum or platform to connect the efforts of these institutions.

Objective: Connect – even if informally – the university-affiliated entrepreneurship centers statewide to talk about their efforts, successful programs, new ideas, best practices, challenges, and opportunities to collaborate. This exchange of information will ideally facilitate improved entrepreneurial programming and a more connected statewide approach to cultivating and keeping talent in Illinois. In addition, the work of more established centers can help to provide guidance and build capacity at those institutions developing an entrepreneurial presence.

> " We are facing a transition, and we must take this opportunity to provide today's students and entrepreneurs with the tools and the thinking that is required for the future. Collaborative technologies can fundamentally transform both how we teach and learn. We need to harness the power of the Internet and these new technologies for creating and sharing knowledge that will prepare students with the skills to compete in the 21st century."
> - **John T. Chambers,** Chairman and CEO, Cisco

Deliverables & Next Steps:

1) Host a semi-regular meeting of entrepreneurship center directors and key faculty/staff.
2) Identify coordinating entity (ideally DCEO); put together list of invitees; develop agenda/presentations, etc.

Improving Entrepreneurial Linkages and Workforce Alignment

Goal: Improve the scope, linkages and quality of services provided throughout the Illinois entrepreneurship network to address entrepreneurship skill needs at each stage of development.

Challenge: Illinois has a well-developed network for supporting entrepreneurs throughout the state. There are many high-quality resources on the basics of startups and early entrepreneurship stages, but it is not clear whether there are sufficient high-quality resources at all stages in all areas of the state and how these resources are being accessed, used, and

connected. In addition, there are communications challenges in disseminating existing information in the most effective way.

Objective: Illinois should work with the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition (ISTC), the Illinois Innovation Network, and the statewide entrepreneurship network to leverage existing platforms (such as start-up Illinois/America, the Illinois Innovation Network website, 1871) to improve awareness of and access to entrepreneurship resources in Illinois.

This effort should identify and build on existing frameworks or grids that define the major skills or competencies at each stage of entrepreneurship and the resources currently available to entrepreneurs throughout the state.   This grid should be based on stages of development rather than level of education. This effort should also address how people can prepare for and access jobs at startup and early-stage companies.

Finally, this effort should be coordinated with related efforts to develop a platform to support entrepreneurship programs for students at the secondary and postsecondary levels.

Deliverables & Next Steps:

1) Explore how existing platforms, networks and frameworks/grids can support a comprehensive entrepreneurship resource inventory.
2) Identify key gaps in existing frameworks and grids and develop a strategy to address them.
3) Propose a strategy and outreach plan for using the identified platform and the revised framework or grid to increase access to entrepreneurship resources and how this will be coordinated with platforms for supporting educational programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels.
4) Present the plan to the key stakeholders in the Illinois entrepreneurship network and make revisions as necessary.

Appendix A: Entrepreneurship Task Force Member Listing

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Appendix B:

Skills Tied to Entrepreneurial Learning

Members of the Illinois Workforce Investment Board's Entrepreneurship Task Force were asked to submit a list of skills they believed were critical to entrepreneurial learning and success. Borrowing from the National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education (developed in 2004 by the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education), these responses were then consolidated into one of three buckets:

1) **Entrepreneurial Skills** – *The processes and traits or behaviors associated with successful entrepreneurial performance.*

2) **Ready Skills** – *The basic business knowledge and skills that are prerequisites or co-requisites for becoming a successful entrepreneur.*

3) **Business Functions** – *The business activities performed by entrepreneurs in managing the business.*

Entrepreneurial Skills

Just over three quarters of the responses related to entrepreneurial skills were tied directly to **Processes**. Examples of responses were diverse and included things like:

- Know what problem you are trying to address or what need you are trying to fulfill

- Ask questions

- Network!

- Don't take criticism personally

- Know how to work both independently and collaboratively

- Know that it's okay to fail

- Take care of your mental and physical health

The other 24 percent of responses in this category dealt with entrepreneurial **Traits and Behaviors**. The key themes provided here by respondents include:

- Take responsibility for your work and your behavior

- Curiosity, passion and enthusiasm

- Resourcefulness

- Creativity and innovation

- Know how to work collaboratively and independently

- Know how to read or gauge and audience

- Experiential learning is key

Ready Skills

The second category, Ready Skills, as established by the National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education, deals with the business acumen and basic prerequisites and co-requisites needed to become a successful entrepreneur. These are skills that could be impressed on students and youth, as well as post-secondary students. Of the responses provided by Task Force members, a majority stressed the importance of interpersonal/communication skills, and also the basic business foundations. Here are the recurring themes among respondents:

Business Foundations

- Basic understanding of core business principles (drafting a business plan, etc.)

- Know what intellectual property is and how to protect it

- Understand your competition

Communications & Interpersonal Skills

- Communicate effectively (includes writing skills and public speaking skills).

- Be a good listener and know how to take directions

- Negotiating skills and powers of persuasion

- Be extroverted and put yourself out there; entrepreneurism is not for the shy

Digital Skills

- Be literate in cloud computing, social media and other technologies that will increase your reach and efficiency

- Programming skills

- Using technology not only to sell your product or service, but also to run your business/enterprise more efficiently and effectively

Economics

- Ability to research and understand market needs

Financial Literacy

- Understanding of basic finance and financial modeling

Business Functions

The final category deals with Business Functions, or the business activities performed by entrepreneurs that go into managing a successful business.

Business Functions are separated into seven subcategories. One-third of the responses centered on Human Resource Management and the intricacies of developing and managing a successful team. Another 29 percent focused on the strategic management (big picture) elements of running a business. The common themes provided by Task Force respondents are consolidated below:

Financial Management

- Financial investments and breaking even

Human Resource Management

- Build a strong team and recognize the strengths of others and use those strengths to complement your own weaknesses
- Be a good leader, mentor and coach
- Everyone has a boss!

Information Management

- Understanding trends and ability to organize information pertinent to your business activities

Marketing Management
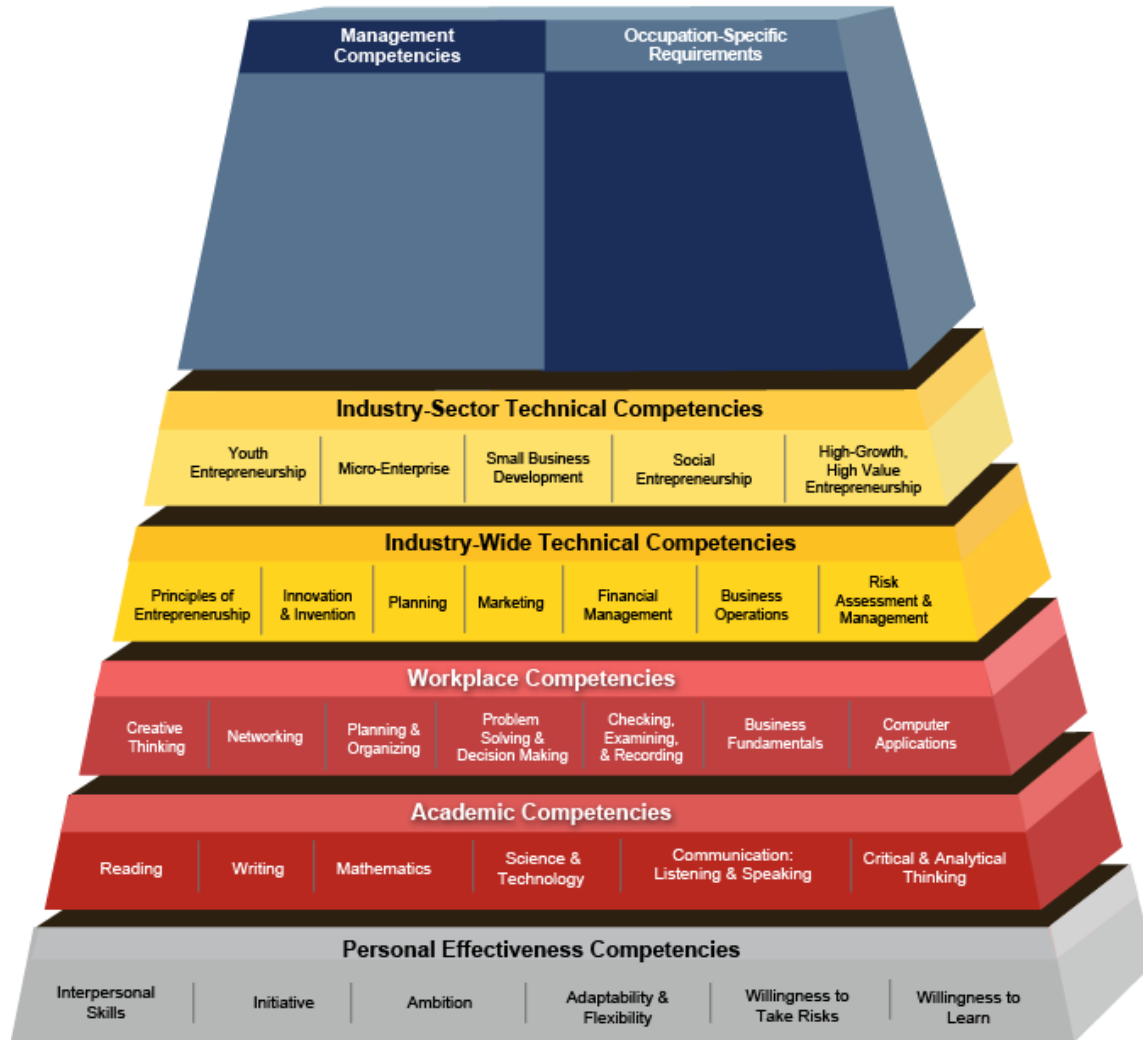
- Presentation skills

Operations Management

- Project management skills
- Goal setting
- Time is more important than perfection

Risk Management

- Be fearless

- Take (smart) risks often

- Instead of thinking about profit margins, think about how best to sell one product or one service hour

Strategic Management

- Execution, execution, execution!

- Understand the nuances of scalability

- Recognize and seize opportunities

http://www.careeronestop.org/CompetencyModel/pyramid.aspx?ENTRE=Y

Program	Location(s)	Mission	Scope	Target Demographic	Sponsoring Organization(s)	Website
K-12						
After School Matters	Chicago	Non-profit organization for teens to become paid apprentices or club members in arts, sports, technology, and communications programs. Mission of providing Chicago public high school teens opportunities to explore and develop their talents, while gaining critical skills for work, college and beyond.	Programs; apprentices-hips	K-12	After School Matters	http://www.afterschoolmatters.org/
CampCEO	Statewide	Camp to teach kids about starting a business.	Camp; competition; immersion program	K-12	Southern Illinois University - Carbondale	http://www.campceo.biz/
Collegiate Scholars Program	Chicago	Three-year enrichment program offered by the University of Chicago to prepare talented Chicago Public School students for academic success. Waverly Deutsch, clinical professor of entrepreneurship at Chicago Booth, teaches Elements of Entrepreneurship, where CPS students get real-world exposure to starting a business.	3-year program	K-12	University of Chicago	http://collegiatescholars.uchicago.edu/
Communities in Schools Chicago	Chicago	Plays matchmaker between schools and non-profit organizations; helps to determine which schools would be good partners. Communities In Schools of Chicago makes a big difference in the social, emotional, health and academic well-being of students throughout Chicago.	Programs; network development	K-12	Supported through donations	http://www.chicagocis.org/home/index.asp

Program	Location(s)	Mission	Scope	Target Demographic	Sponsoring Organization(s)	Website
Connect to the Future	Chicago - South & West	Created in 2006 to unite middle school and high school students with successful entrepreneurs and business professionals from a variety of fields. Program gives students a chance to ask questions, explore possibilities, and engage with potential role models who can validate the importance of hard work and the relevance of education to career success.	Training; mentorship	K-12	Future Founders Foundation	http://www.cttfuture.com/Connect_To_The_Future/Welcome.html
Eastern Illinois University Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation	Central Illinois	Through the "Coles County Entrepreneurship Class," modeled after the Effingham CEO class, teaches entrepreneurship to junior and senior Charleston, Mattoon and Oakland High School students.	Class	K-12	Eastern Illinois University	http://www.eiu.edu/~bsc/
CoolHub by IMSA	Chicago - Suburbs	TALENT is an extra-curricular program with no classes or grades. Students in all high school grades meet together, learning from business projects of their own creation and interest.	Network development; advising;	K-12	Illinois Math & Science Academy	http://coolhub.imsa.edu/web/talent/what-is-talent
Effingham CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities)	Effingham	Program covering the basics of conceptualizing, starting and running a small business. Concepts such as supply and demand, cost/benefit analysis, competitive advantage, and opportunity recognition are covered. Coursework includes: innovative thinking strategies, product development, business structure, marketing, financial strategies, record keeping, and preparing an income statement, balance sheet, income and cash flow statements. Entrepreneurial thinking (outside-the-box problem solving) is utilized throughout the course. The course is built around the National Entrepreneurship Standards and is linked to the Illinois Learning Standards.	Meets daily each morning; a year-long, two credit high school course with pending college dual accreditation	K-12	Effingham CEO	http://www.effinghamceo.com/

Program	Location(s)	Mission	Scope	Target Demographic	Sponsoring Organization(s)	Website
Future Founders	Chicago - South & West	Launched in 2005 to give motivated public high school students in Chicago's underserved neighborhoods the opportunity to learn about and experience entrepreneurship from some of the city's most successful entrepreneurs through a week-long "Taste of Chicago"-style summer entrepreneurship camp.	Training; mentorship; camp	K-12	Future Founders Foundation	http://www.futurefounders.com/
Hive Learning Network	Chicago	The Hive Learning Network is a community of civic and cultural institutions dedicated to transforming the learning landscape, and creating opportunities for youth to explore their interests in virtual and physical spaces. Through the Hive, youth will have multiple, continuous and connected opportunities to explore their intellectual and skill-based interests. Uses techniques like "connected learning" to integrate integrated, hands-on approach to education. Also provides education in STEM, Science, Robotics, Innovation, Media, Gaming, Civic Engagement, Social Media, Arts, Do-It-Yourself (DIY)	Workshops; entrepreneurship-based coursework; programs	K-12	MacArthur Foundation	http://hivelearning.org/
Illinois Innovation Talent Program – IMSA Problem-based Learning Resources	Statewide	The Innovation Talent Program was a successful public-private initiative that connects high school students with external partners to solve complex, real-world problems. Students work in project management teams and apply what they learn in math, science, engineering and social science to solve challenges over the course of a semester. By examining real-world problems and networking with outside professionals, students are able to experience firsthand a variety of career opportunities. IMSA carries on is Problem-Based Learning activities with partnerships with schools and external partners statewide.	Hands-on, experiential learning	6-12	DCEO / ISBE / IDOT / IL Math & Science Academy / iBIO	http://pbln.mrooms.org/course/category.php?id=15

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Science WoRx	National (with Deerfield office)	"Science Pro," a hands-on education and mentoring program, connects Astellas scientists with students in the classroom through live demonstrations. ScienceWoRx.org, an online resource network, aims to provide science teachers with valuable information on human health and medicine and access to resources from our leading science education partners – NSTA and iBIO Institute. Online communities including @ScienceWoRx and Facebook, www.facebook.com/ScienceWoRx, serve as a portal for science teachers to connect with peers, exchange insights and learn about the latest science breakthroughs. Astellas hosts online contests for science teachers to win lab equipment and gift certificates for their schools.	Mentoring and education programs; live demonstrations; online resource for teachers;	K-12	Collaboration with iBIO Institute and National Science Teachers Association	http://www.astellas.us/social/community/scienceworx.html
The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)	Chicago	The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) is a nonprofit that provides a first-class entrepreneurship education for at-risk high school students from low-income communities, is launching new programs supporting young entrepreneurs and their teachers	Entrepreneurship Curriculum	K-12	NFTE	http://www.nfte.com
iSmartGirls	Decatur	Through Millikin University's Center for Entrepreneurship, offers sessions in the fields of design, chemistry, engineering, and sustainability for young girls.	Hands-on laboratory for young girls	K-12 (6th-8th grade girls)	Millikin University	http://www.millikin.edu/academics/tabor/entrepreneurship/ismart/Pages/default.aspx
EDUCATE - iBIO Institute	Chicago	The iBIO Institute's EDUCATE Center connects Illinois classrooms with the real world of biotechnology and science-based industry, hands-on biotechnology lab activities, tours of industry research and development facilities and authentic, interdisciplinary problem-based learning experiences. As teachers and districts develop new curricula to meet the Common Core State Standards, the iBIO Institute's EDUCATE programs bring cutting-edge science from regional biotech companies to develop world-competitive educators and inspire student interest in science.	TalentSparks! Program; tours; presentations; professional development for teachers	K-12 (immersion program for teachers to become better educators in the bio field)	iBIO	http://http://www.ibioed.org/

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Illinois Institute for Entrepreneurship Education	Chicago	The Illinois Institute for Entrepreneurship Education (IIEE) provides college-level entrepreneurship education courses to K–14 teachers and to the staff of nonprofit organizations. The mission of the Illinois Institute for Entrepreneurship Education is to spread the message and potential of entrepreneurship to citizens of Illinois, primarily through providing two college-credit teacher-education courses to practicing classroom teachers and agency staff. The institute works with schools and other organizations to develop proposals and programs that further its mission to foster self-sufficiency and economic development for residents of Illinois.	Training program	K-12 (program for faculty and staff)	Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education (funded by General Assembly and private donations)	http://www.iiee.org/
CodeNow	Washington, D.C	Teaches youth foundational skills in computer programming. Focus on underserved populations to narrow the digital divide. Mission of creating a pipeline of talent for the government, nonprofit, and corporate sectors.	Weekend trainings; programs; bootcamps; network development and alumni networking opportunities	K-12 (specifically, grades 10-12)	JumpstartLab, Team Treehouse	http://codenow.org/
Teen Entrepreneurship Academy, Roosevelt University	Chicago	An innovative program for incoming high school juniors and seniors who have an interest in entrepreneurship, green technology, and having FUN	Program	K-12 (specifically, grades 11-12)	Roosevelt University	http://www.roosevelt.edu/Business/Academy.aspx
The Science and Entrepreneurship Exchange (SEE)	Chicago	SEE is a new experiential, mentor-driven STEM program that has already shown its effectiveness in inspiring elementary students to become the inventors, engineers and entrepreneurs of tomorrow. In the near-term, the program plans to deliver these programs to Chicagoans across the city, through schools, libraries and special events. Ultimately, SEE will bring together mentors form the professional and university worlds, helping create a population that has the confidence, business and engineering skills and entrepreneurial spirit to invent their own futures.	Initial pilot with Nettlehorst	K-8;	SEE, Northwestern University	http://www.see-chicago.com/

Program	Location(s)	Mission	Scope	Target Demographic	Sponsoring Organization(s)	Website
Post-Secondary						
Bradley University - Turner Center for Entrepreneurship	Peoria	The Turner Center for Entrepreneurship is a not-for-profit program located at Bradley University. The centers which make up the Turner Center for Entrepreneurship provide business counseling, technical assistance, training, and educational activities for individuals interested in owning their own businesses. Works with individuals, existing entrepreneurs and businesses in the community, as well as students hoping to start their own businesses.	Business assistance	Post-Secondary	Bradley University	http://www.bradley.edu/academic/colleges/fcba/centers/turner/
DePaul University - Coleman Entrepreneurship Center	Chicago	Helps students launch and grow their own ventures through a virtual incubator and an annual new venture competition. Also provides assistance to entrepreneurs and business owners through peer-to-peer educational programs and roundtables. Connects entrepreneurs with opportunities to collaborate and receive assistance from students in entrepreneurship courses.	Symposia; workshops; seminars; business owner peer roundtables	Post-Secondary	DePaul University	http://coleman.depaul.edu/
Illinois State University - George R. and Martha Means Center for Entrepreneurial Studies	Bloomington-Normal	Provides learning experiences in entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, and small business to the university students and the business communities of the Midwest. The Center supports many different entrepreneurship programs involving both student consulting and entrepreneurship research.	Education; assistance to businesses via IL SBDC	Post-Secondary	Illinois State University	http://www.cob.ilstu.edu/means/
Illinois Institute of Technology - Knapp Entrepreneurship Center	Chicago	The Academy organizes a full array of activities that provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to have a real-world experience in innovation and entrepreneurship. Programs include IdeaShop (where students from all disciplines collaborate in teams to solve real-world problems), Knapp Lab (to promote mobile application development) and the Sustainable Entrepreneurial Economic Development (or SEED) to assist small towns without sufficient resources in creating new sustainable economic development initiatives.	Internships; competitions; student clubs; seminars; programs	Post-Secondary	Illinois Institute of Technology	http://www.stuart.iit.edu/entrepreneurship_academy/knapp_center/

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International Institute for Nanotechnology	Chicago/ Evanston	Provides opportunities for student and postdoctoral exchange programs and joint workshops in the growing field of nanotechnology. The IIN has sponsored over 200 seminars, workshops, and symposia; supported over 300 undergraduates and 88 pre-college teachers in nanotechnology-related research; and launched two new journals.	Education; workshops; seminars; symposia	Post-Secondary	Northwestern University	http://www.ii nano.org/
Millikin University Entrepreneurship Center	Central Illinois	Provides programs to students including a summer immersion program in Italy, an "Interactive Marketing Today" workshop and Ideas inc. to help students take ideas and develop actual business models.	Programs	Post-Secondary	Millikin University	http://www. millikin.edu/a cademics/tab or/entrepren eurship/Page s/default.asp x
Moraine Valley Community College - Business and Development Resource Center	Chicago South Suburbs	The Business Development Resource Center (BDRC) of Workforce Development and Community Services facilitates economic growth, job creation, job retention, and greater business success by providing support, resources, solutions, referrals, and training opportunities for start-up to established businesses.	Provides support, resources, solutions, referrals, and training opportunities	Post-Secondary	Moraine Valley Community College	http://www. morainevalle y.edu/bdrc/
Northern Illinois University Technology Enterprise Center	Dekalb- surrounding Suburbs	The Northern Illinois Technology Enterprise Center (NITEC) was formed to support the commercialization of new technologies and the growth of technology-based enterprises affiliated with Northern Illinois University (NIU). Helps researchers, inventors, and entrepreneurs as well as early-stage and existing companies build the infrastructure to support the development of groundbreaking technologies. Works with early-stage companies to foster the growth of the Illinois science and technology industry by providing entrepreneurs the networking, capital, advocacy, recognition, and skilled workforce needed to be successful in building their business within Illinois.	Technical assistance to businesses; network development	Post-Secondary	Northern Illinois University	http://www.n itec.niu.edu/ nitec/

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Northwestern University - Farley Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation	Evanston	Helps evolve engineering beyond the application of the sciences to the creation of businesses that capitalize on innovations. FCEI is bringing together faculty from a number of schools to develop courses where students experience the entire innovation/business life cycle from ideation to prototyping and business plan development to create innovative curriculum like NUvention which offers courses in creating Web, Medical and Energy companies.	Entrepreneur-based curricula for Northwestern students	Post-Secondary	Northwestern University	http://www.cei.northwestern.edu/
Southern Illinois University Research Park	Carbondale	Non-profit corporation affiliated with Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) promoting technology and knowledge-based enterprise development within the Park and the southern Illinois region. As a knowledge-based high-tech and research-oriented business park, SIRP is a member of the Association of University Research Parks (AURP). Central activity is enterprise development to locate and expand knowledge-based, technology, and research oriented enterprises at the SIRP's site through recruitment and expert technical assistance to eligible existing and startup enterprises.	Incubator; research park	Post-Secondary	Southern Illinois University	http://researchpark.siuc.edu/
Tribeca Flashpoint Media Arts Academy	Chicago	Founded in 2007 and accredited by ACICS in 2011, Tribeca Flashpoint Media Arts Academy in the heart of downtown Chicago provides a two-year, career-focused alternative to traditional four-year media arts colleges. Our five disciplines, including Film + Broadcast, Recording Arts, Animation + Visual Effects, Game + Interactive Media, and Design + Visual Communication are designed to erase the boundaries between the classroom and the real world. Through a combination of hands-on learning, expert instruction, and an emphasis on collaboration and professionalism, we develop well-rounded, highly skilled professionals who are ready to hit the ground running after graduation.	Education program	Post-Secondary	Tribeca Flashpoint Media Arts Academy	http://www.tfa.edu/

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Udacity	Web	Online program built on the premise that university-level education can be both high quality and low cost. Using the economics of the Internet, connects teachers directly to students from all over the world.	Online class	Post-Secondary	Udacity	http://www.udacity.com/
UIC Innovation Center	Chicago	The UIC Innovation Center is a community of industry entrepreneurs and academic researchers working in partnership to instigate breakthroughs: fusing the uncommon, taking risks, thinking big. Situated in one of the country's leading universities, the UIC Innovation Center is a hub of education programs and projects that bridge traditional disciplines and leverage effective innovation methods. During each engagement, companies, educators, experts and students collaborate on real world problems and deliver real world results.	Entrepreneur-based curricula; programs and projects; collaboration between students and industry pros	Post-Secondary	University of Illinois at Chicago	http://www.uic.edu/depts/innovationcenter/
University of Chicago Booth School of Business - Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship	Chicago	The Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship at Chicago Booth advances the knowledge and practice of entrepreneurship and innovation. The center supports entrepreneurial learning and collaboration through its cutting-edge curriculum, innovative hands-on learning experiences, leading faculty research, conferences, mentorship, and community and global outreach programs.	Entrepreneurship curriculum; externships; faculty research; conferences; mentorships; outreach programs	Post-Secondary	University of Chicago	http://www.chicagobooth.edu/entrepreneurship/
University of Illinois - Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership	Urbana, Champaign	Supports and promotes curricular as well as extracurricular activities and opportunities for students, faculty and staff of the University of Illinois related to the field of entrepreneurship. In addition, the University provides entrepreneurship resources to the community in order to foster economic development.	Education; assistance to local business community	Post-Secondary	University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign	http://business.illinois.edu/ael/atillinois/index.html
University of Illinois - Springfield Center for Entrepreneurship	Springfield	The University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) Center for Entrepreneurship launched January 27, 2005, and is a part of the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network along with twelve other centers in the State.	Training; mentorship	Post-Secondary	University of Illinois-Springfield	http://www.uis.edu/cbam/featured/

Program	Location(s)	Mission	Scope	Target Demographic	Sponsoring Organization(s)	Website
Workforce						
1871	Chicago	Tenants and members of 1871 have priority access to hundreds of classes, lectures, seminars and other programs designed to educate and inspire. From classes specifically designed to empower entrepreneurs, to talks from leading business-builders, technologists and designers, to inspirational sessions from artists and others, 1871 offers a full range of content and programming.	Incubator	Workforce	Chicago	http://www.1871.com/
Ashoka Innovators for the Public	Global Focus (N. American HQ in Arlington, VA)	Beginning with the first Ashoka Fellows elected in India in 1981, Ashoka has grown to an association of over 2,000 Fellows in over 60 countries on the world's five main continents. Invests in new solutions for the world's toughest problems.	Advocacy; network development	Workforce	Ashoka	http://www.ashoka.org/
Built in Chicago	Chicago	Built In Chicago is a resource for "digital professionals" working to build great web and mobile businesses. Strives to connect, educate and promote the growing digital community in Chicago.	Network development; direct assistance; promotion and outreach	Workforce	Built in Chicago	http://www.builtinchicago.org/page/about-us
Career Information System	Statewide	Helps individuals of all ages understand careers and the training/skills/interests needed to get there.	Job & skills resource	Workforce	IL Dept. of Employment Security	http://www.ides.illinois.gov/
Catapult Chicago	Chicago	Not-for-profit collaborative start-up community focused on providing resources for entrepreneurs about scaling up their company.	Mentorship; assistance with accessing capital; network development;	Workforce	Private sponsors (including companies, organizations and individuals)	http://catapultchicago.com/
Center for Emerging Entrepreneurs	Bloomington-Normal	The Center for Emerging Entrepreneurs, formerly the ISU/EDC Business Incubator, seeks to foster economic development by addressing the educational and business development needs of emerging entrepreneurs. Services include coaching, direct assistance, individualized consultation, mentoring and educational service.	Management assistance; education; network development; mentorship; direct assistance; coaching; consultation	Workforce	Illinois State University; Economic Development Council of the Bloomington-Normal Area	http://ceebiz.org/
Chicago Fashion Incubator	Chicago	One-year program for six up-and-coming designers.	Training program	Workforce	Macy's	http://www.chicagofashionincubator.org/index.html

Program	Location(s)	Mission	Scope	Target Demographic	Sponsoring Organization(s)	Website
Chicago Innovation Awards	Chicago	Provide the knowledge transfer and intellectual capital needed to help today's innovators turn their ideas into multi-million dollar companies and successful models.	Year-round events; awards and recognition; network development	Workforce		http://www.chicagoinnovationawards.com/
Chicago West Side Entrepreneurship Center	Chicago - West	The center provides high growth potential companies with a broad set of business tools including matching Challenge Grants, direct consulting, access to debt financing, facilitation of equity financing, early stage valuations, assistance with SBIR/STTR grant writing and various training. The center also serves as a coordinating hub for entrepreneurial development activity within the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network.	Training; mentorship; matching grants; consultation; access to debt financing;	Workforce	University of Illinois at Chicago, DCEO, Chicago Community Ventures	http://www.uic.edu/cba/ies/wsec.html
Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center	Chicago	The Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center (CEC) identifies the region's most promising entrepreneurs and helps them build high-growth, sustainable businesses that serve as platforms for economic development and civic leadership for the Chicagoland area.	Business advice and consultation; network development	Workforce		http://www.chicagolandec.org/
Clean Energy Trust	Chicago	The Clean Energy Trust was created to accelerate the development of Midwest clean energy businesses by connecting entrepreneurs, researchers and early stage companies with the expertise and capital needed to become sustainable.	Convening top minds and entrepreneurs; competitions; network development	Workforce	Clean Energy Trust	http://www.cleanenergytrust.org/
Entrepreneurs Unplugged	Chicago	The events seek to create an intimate, engaging environment for entrepreneurs to learn actual lessons from actual experiences.	Speaking series; network development	Workforce	Entrepreneurs Unplugged	http://www.entrepreneursunpluggd.com/
Entrepreneurs' Organization Chicago	Global (Chicago office)	Dynamic global network of more than 8,000 business owners in 40 countries. Founded in 1987 by a group of young entrepreneurs, EO is the catalyst that enables entrepreneurs to learn and grow from each other, leading to greater business success and an enriched personal life.	Programs	Workforce	Entrepreneurs' Organization	http://eoaccess.eonetwork.org/Chicago/Pages/default.aspx

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Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab)	Batavia	Fermilab is the largest high-energy physics laboratory in the U.S. and the second largest in the world. Its innovative accelerator research, superconducting magnet development, and advancements in particle physics technology have led to societal benefits in health, security, and economic well-being. With 2,100 employees, and almost 3,000 national and international scientists and students who take part in the lab's experiments, Fermilab builds and operates the accelerators, detectors, and other facilities necessary to conduct research in high-energy physics.	R&D	Workforce	Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab)	www.fnal.gov
Greater Southside Entrepreneurship Center	Chicago - South	The Greater Southside Entrepreneurship Center (GSEC) is part of the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network.GSEC functions as a comprehensive resource center for high growth potential small businesses located on Chicago's South Side. GSEC seeks to make a positive economic impact on this geographic area by helping these businesses to increase the profitability of their enterprises, thereby expanding local job opportunities. As a strategic partner to these businesses, GSEC links them with advisory services, skills workshops, and other professional resources essential for success in today's ultra-competitive economy.	Mentorship; network development; workshops; other professional resources	Workforce	Chicago State University, DCEO	http://www.csu.edu/gsec/index.htm

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Hyde Park Angels	Chicago	Hyde Park Angels is an organization that provides a forum for entrepreneurial-minded members to invest in seed and early stage businesses, primarily located in the Midwest. HPA is a group of current and former executives, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists who are interested in investing their time and money into outstanding startups. HPA also provides domain expertise, strategic advice and coaching to its companies. The Chicago-based Hyde Park Angel Network was founded in 2006 by a group of classmates from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business Executive MBA Program.	Direct investment	Workforce	Hyde Park Angels	http://www.hydeparkangels.com/
I2A	Statewide	I2A is a Seed/Early Stage Venture Capital Fund focused on catalyzing and partnering with the next wave of successful entrepreneurial companies in the Illinois region.	Direct investment; consultation	Workforce	I2A	http://www.i2afund.com/
iBIO Institute's PROPEL Center	Chicago	The mission of iBIO Institute's PROPEL Center is to increase the number and success rates of life sciences start-ups in Illinois.	Direct assistance; consultation; programs	Workforce	iBIO	http://www.ibiopropel.org/
Ignite Chicago	Chicago	Ignite Chicago is a high-energy evening of five minute presentations by people who have an idea - and the guts - to get onstage and share it with fellow creative folks. Each presentation is composed of 20 slides that automatically advance every 15 seconds. Presentations can range from how to build a resume to a history of the Samurai sword to a manifesto on boxes.	Speaking series; network development	Workforce	Ignite Chicago	http://ignitechi.org/
Illinois Science + Technology Park	Skokie/ Chicago	A full-service corporate research campus with facilities to meet the needs of early stage companies, growing firms, large established life sciences companies, and related institutional research	R&D; incubator	Workforce	Illinois Science + Technology Park	http://www.scienceparkillinois.net/
Madison County Employment and Training	East St. Louis	Employment resource for SW Illinois region.	Job & skills resource	Workforce	Madison County Employment and Training	http://www.mcetd.org/

Program	Location(s)	Mission	Scope	Target Demographic	Sponsoring Organization(s)	Website
Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)	Chicago	Federal agency specifically created to encourage the creation, growth, and expansion of minority-owned businesses in the United States. The centers provide minority entrepreneurs with one-on-one assistance in writing business plans, marketing, management and technical assistance, and financial planning to assure adequate financing for business ventures. The centers are staffed by business specialists who have the knowledge and practical experience needed to run successful and profitable businesses.	Direct assistance; consultation	Workforce	U.S. Dept. of Commerce	http://www.mbda.gov/
Peoria NEXT Innovation Center	Peoria	An organization of the Heartland Partnership, aims to facilitate Discovery, Innovation and Commercialization of new technologies through collaboration and creativity for economic development. Serve as a business incubator to increase economic growth, diversity, and opportunities in the Peoria area. Strives to become the preferred location in the Midwest for research, innovation, development, and commercialization in the areas of engineering, medicine, bio-engineering, and agriculture.	Network development	Workforce	Heartland Partnership of Companies	http://www.heartlandpartnership.org/content/peoria-next
Quincy Entrepreneurship Center	Quincy	Provides direct business development assistance and consultation.	Training; coaching; counseling; network development	Workforce	Great River Economic Development Foundation	http://www.gredf.org/entrepreneurs/entrepreneurship-center/
Sandbox Industries	Chicago	Provides direct investment and other support services for start-ups.	Direct investment; consultation	Workforce	Sandbox Industries	http://www.sandboxindustries.com/about/
SIU - Edwardsville Entrepreneurship Center	Southern Illinois	The Entrepreneurship Center works with entrepreneurs who have business, business concepts, or an idea that would result in a high-growth, high-market business opportunity. The center can assist with providing services in market research, product development, R & D, business planning and identification of capital resources.	Technical assistance to businesses; network development	Workforce	Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville	http://www.siue.edu/business/ec/

Program	Location(s)	Mission	Scope	Target Demographic	Sponsoring Organization(s)	Website
StartingBloc - Chicago Chapter	Chicago	The StartingBloc Fellowship begins with the Institute for Social Innovation. The Institute is a five-day transformative experience during which young leaders learn to increase their impact, exponentially. Institute curriculum includes a survey of social innovation, an innovative case-study competition and sessions with industry leaders.	Competitions; mentorships; network development; entrepreneurship-based curricula	Workforce	StartingBloc	http://www.startingbloc.org/
Startup Illinois	Statewide	Startup Illinois enables mentors, advisors, funders, major corporations, service providers and government organizations to collaborate in order to help entrepreneurs start and scale companies in our state. We are focused on serving young companies with high growth potential. Driven by the Illinois Innovation Network, Startup Illinois is leveraging the best practices and national network of the Startup America Partnership, which celebrates and accelerates entrepreneurs across the country, to expand opportunities for Illinois entrepreneurs and startups.	network development; collaboration;	Workforce	Startup America	http://il.s.co/about
TechCocktail	Chicago	Tech Cocktail has morphed over the years into a full-fledged tech news blog and media company with thousands of fans, followers and supporters across the globe. Tech Cocktail has hosted local mixers, breakfasts, conferences, festivals and other events across the country that have attracted thousands of attendees, helping entrepreneurs by educating as they showcase their latest achievements and the local technology communities they live in.	Network development; educational resources	Workforce	TechCocktail	http://techcocktail.com/
The Chicago TechNexus	Chicago	TechNexus is the clubhouse where Chicago's technology leaders gather. It was developed by private investment and community support and in partnership with the Illinois Technology Association (ITA) to serve as a 'clubhouse' and co-working facility to bring technology professionals together, foster relationships and promote a sense of community in Chicago.	network development; collaboration;	Workforce	Illinois Technology Association, Clean Energy Trust	http://www.technexus.com/

Program	Location(s)	Mission	Scope	Target Demographic	Sponsoring Organization(s)	Website
The Chicago Technology Park	Chicago	The CTP's dynamic community helps to fulfill its mission to assist in the growth of life science companies and to help life science businesses flourish. By supplying fully equipped infrastructure and access to university resources, internship programs, world-class talent, and custom designed business development services, the CTP works to ensure the success of the companies that make up its community.	Training; mentorship; camp; incubator	Workforce	Illinois Medical District Commission	http://www.techpark.com/#Scene 1
The Workforce and Professional Development Institute	Lake County	The Workforce and Professional Development Institute (WPDI) is dedicated to helping organizations and individual professionals grow. The five areas of the Institute can meet an individuals' or an organization's professional development needs through a combination of training, consulting and coaching.	Training; consultation; coaching	Workforce	College of Lake County, Lake County Partners	http://wpdi.clcillinois.edu/
University Technology Park at IIT	Chicago	University Technology Park at IIT offers lab space for lease and flexible office space for startup and established technology companies just 10 minutes from downtown Chicago. Once here, companies can take advantage of an ecosystem designed to support growth and community.	Incubator	Workforce	Illinois Institute of Technology	http://www.universitytechnologypark.com/
Excelerate Labs	Chicago	Selects 10 start-up companies each year for a training program to help them develop and be competitive.	Mentorship; network development; direct capital investments	Workforce	Chicago	http://exceleratelabs.com/
Multiple Demographics						
The Starter League	Web	Provides online training to teach participants how to "learn code" and develop the skills needed to developing websites, games and applications.	Online class	Z_Multiple (K-12; Post-Secondary; Workforce)	The Starter League	http://www.starterleague.com/

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Khan Academy	Web	A not-for-profit with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free world-class education to anyone anywhere. Students can make use of our extensive video library, practice exercises, and assessments from any computer with access to the web. Coaches, parents, and teachers have unprecedented visibility into what their students are learning and doing on the Khan Academy.	Online classes offered free of charge	Z_Multiple (K-12; Post-Secondary; Workforce)		http://www.khanacademy.org/about
Treehouse	Web	Our mission is to teach Web Design, Development and iOS to people everywhere, in order to help them achieve their dreams and change the world.	Online class	Z_Multiple (K-12; Post-Secondary; Workforce)		http://teamtreehouse.com/
Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology	Champaign-Urbana	The Beckman Institute is an interdisciplinary research institute devoted to the physical sciences, computation, engineering, biology, behavior, and cognition. Research focuses on three broadly defined research initiatives: biological intelligence, human-computer intelligent interaction, and molecular and electronic nanostructures. More than 600 researchers from nearly 30 University of Illinois departments as far-ranging as psychology, computer science, and biochemistry—comprising 15 Beckman Institute groups—work within and across these overlapping areas	Research	Z_Multiple (Post-Secondary; Workforce)	University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign	http://beckman.illinois.edu
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	National (with Chicago office)	The Kauffman Foundation is working to further understand the phenomenon of entrepreneurship, to advance entrepreneurship education and training efforts, to promote entrepreneurship-friendly policies, and to better facilitate the commercialization of new technologies by entrepreneurs and others, which have great promise for improving the economic welfare of our nation.	Education; legislative advocacy; direct assistance	Z_Multiple (Post-Secondary; Workforce)	Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	http://www.kauffman.org/
Funnl.ME	Chicago	Provides entrepreneurship-based learning to assist aspiring entrepreneurs with their "pitches." Provides other packaging and branding consultation.	Education; programs	Z_Multiple (Post-Secondary; Workforce)	Illinois Technology Association, DePaul University, Illinois Math & Science Academy	http://funnl.me/about.php

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i.c. stars	Chicago	Using project-based learning and full immersion teaching, i.c. stars provides an opportunity for change-driven, future leaders to develop skills in business and technology. Since 1999, i.c. stars has been identifying, training, and jump-starting technology careers for Chicago-area low-income young adults who, although lacking access to education and employment, demonstrate extraordinary potential for success in the business world and for impact in their communities.	Program (for young adults and companies to participate)	Z_Multiple (Post-Secondary; Workforce)	i.c. stars	http://icstars.org/overview
Illinois Technology Association	Chicago	Mission to grow technology companies by fostering deep collaboration among the diverse industry all in support of developing the ecosystem necessary to foster the success of member companies. All the while tirelessly advocating for the industry to raise the awareness of Illinois as a leading technology community.	Peer-to-peer collaboration; mentorships; network development	Z_Multiple (Post-Secondary; Workforce)	Illinois Technology Association	http://illinoistech.org/
Technori	Chicago	Monthly pitches to entrepreneurial community by start-up companies. Keynote speaker series with industry pros.	Symposia; network development	Z_Multiple (Post-Secondary; Workforce)	Technori	http://www.technori.com/about/