

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, Illinois is the fifth-largest economy in the United States and is the second-largest producer of computer science degrees in the nation; and,

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

WHEREAS, there were a record number of STEM degree earners in the 2021 academic year in Illinois from 2020 to 2021; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois advocates for preparing K-12 students in their understanding of quantum science and the development of a highly trained workforce capable of filling future jobs in quantum-based and globally competitive companies and industries; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) promotes programming and outreach for the expansion of STEM-related initiatives and supports the delivery of free high-speed broadband for K-12 public schools through the Illinois Century Network; and,

WHEREAS, career and technical education programs in elementary and secondary education across Illinois include IT competency-based curricula for work readiness and the encouragement of STEM career exploration; and,

WHEREAS, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, all school districts that maintain any grades 9-12 shall provide an opportunity for every high school student to take at least one computer science course aligned to rigorous learning standards of the Illinois State Board of Education; and,

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, AI is increasingly influencing daily life in Illinois and playing important roles in areas such as healthcare, transportation, finance, and education; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois recognizes the potential of AI and is working to build an environment that fosters its development and collaboration with industry, government, and organizations;

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as **Innovation and Technology Month** in Illinois.*

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

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



Alexi Giannouch
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR