



Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology

JB Pritzker, Governor | Brandon Ragle, Acting Secretary and State CIO

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology Celebrate Innovation and Technology Month

Featuring the 2026 CareerSpark STEAM Expo, expanding hands-on opportunities for Illinois 8th grade students

SPRINGFIELD – Governor JB Pritzker has proclaimed April as Innovation and Technology Month in Illinois, recognizing the state's leadership in emerging technologies and its commitment to preparing students for careers in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

"Illinois is a nation-leading innovation hub that drives technological progress. Innovation and Technology Month is a reflection of our commitment to emerging technologies and our efforts empower the next generation of Illinoisans to pursue high-demand careers in STEAM," **said Governor JB Pritzker**. "This April — and year-round — we're celebrating the critical education, workforce development, and business investments we've made to make Illinois a top state for innovators."

Illinois continues to advance innovation while investing in cybersecurity, research, and STEAM education, which are key drivers of economic growth and opportunity. These efforts, supported by partnerships among state agencies, educators, and industry leaders, are helping build a strong, resilient economy and preparing the next generation for in-demand careers.

The Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) supports this work by delivering secure, reliable IT services, expanding broadband access for K-12 schools, promoting STEAM career exploration, and advancing emerging technologies across state government. Together, these efforts strengthen Illinois' digital infrastructure and improve services for residents.

Innovation and Technology Month also recognizes the professionals, educators, and public-sector technologists contributing to Illinois' growing innovation ecosystem. Throughout April, partners across the state will highlight advancements in technology, research, and workforce development.

"DoIT is committed to delivering secure, modern technology services that support residents, agencies, and communities across Illinois," **said Acting Secretary and State CIO Brandon Ragle**. "Innovation and Technology Month is an opportunity to recognize the progress being made and the people driving it forward."

As part of this month-long celebration, DoIT will host its third annual [CareerSpark STEAM Expo](#), a free, hands-on learning experience designed to introduce 8th grade students to careers in STEAM. The two-day in-person event will take place on April 14-15 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds Orr Building in Springfield, offering interactive exhibits, demonstrations, and opportunities for students to engage directly with professionals across STEAM fields.

For additional information, registration and other IT Month events, visit DoIT's STEAM page at <https://doit.illinois.gov/initiatives/doit-steam.html>.

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Governor JB Pritzker's Proclamation is attached and more information can also be found at doit.illinois.gov.

