

**Illinois Economic Recovery Commission
Innovation Committee**

**Minutes
December 15, 2009**

The Committee convened at 1:15 p.m., at the Thompson Center. Committee members present were: Sona Wang (Chair), Ellen Carnahan, George Burciaga, and Hedy Ratner. Invited speakers were: Warren Ribley (DCEO), Sunil Gaitonde (GS Lab), Tim Krauskopf (Spyglass, Inc.), and Shelley Stern Grach (Microsoft). Others present were Greg Wass (State of Illinois), Jennifer Weisensee (State of Illinois), Tom Jacks (NWU) John Brodson (ESC), Michael Johnson (ESC), Irving Miller (ESC), Laura Pearl, and Jill Mehrbeurg.

Warren Ribley, DCEO Director, described the activities of DCEO relative to small business development, entrepreneurship, and innovation. These activities were elaborated by Jill Mehrberg. A discussion followed as both responded to questions.

Sunil Gaitonde described his company and his experiences as an entrepreneur. He noted the differences between Illinois and the East and West Coasts, as regards new business development, and made several recommendations to the Committee.

Tim Krauskopf described the founding of Spyglass, Inc., and his experiences as a “serial entrepreneur”, and made several recommendations to the Committee during a discussion of his presentation.

Shelley Stern Grach described the activities of Microsoft Corporation as related to education and innovation, and made several recommendations to the Committee.

The minutes of November 30, 2009, were approved as written.

Chairperson Wang discussed the agenda and schedule for the Committee for the next several months.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for December 28, 2009, at 1 p.m., at the Thompson Center.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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