

## **2024-25 ISPP Host Placements**

### **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Broadband**

DCEO's mission is to support and maintain a climate that enables a strong economy for our customers — taxpayers, businesses, workers, and communities — by keeping, attracting, and growing businesses, maintaining a skilled workforce, and enhancing communities so that the climate here is one in which businesses, small and large, and workers, can succeed to the greatest extent possible. Created in September 2019, the Office of Broadband is housed within the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. As a primary charge, the office is responsible for administering the Connect Illinois broadband infrastructure grant program. In addition, the office will develop and administer related programming — such as in the areas of community planning and capacity building and digital literacy, adoption, and inclusion. The Illini Science Policy Scholar placed with DCEO, Office of Broadband will work on initiatives closely aligned with the scholar's interests and expertise, including but not limited to: mapping and data; community outreach and engagement; finance and business analytics; digital equity and inclusion; or program design. Work will support key efforts of the Illinois Broadband Lab, a collaboration between the DCEO Office of Broadband and University of Illinois System.

### **Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT)**

The Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) became an agency by statute on July 20, 2018 being charged with responsibility for the information technology functions of agencies under the jurisdiction of the governor. DoIT's mission is to improve access to government services by leveraging modern technologies. DoIT is leading a digital transformation toward an enterprise approach to technology at the State of Illinois to gain efficiencies and improve service delivery for customer agencies who in turn, serve the residents of Illinois. This transformation is resulting in improved security and data protection, fewer redundant systems, more efficient technology spending and greater interagency collaboration.

The Illini Science Policy Scholar at DoIT will be engaged directly with projects related to education technology coordination efforts and those initiatives specifically related to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) fields that integrate all five Extension critical issue areas. Active engagement with anticipated initiatives includes assisting with the organization of STEAM events, coordination of online STEAM resources and activities for multiple audiences, and expansion of STEAM opportunities for youth throughout Illinois. Professional growth opportunities will enable the scholar to actively engage in public policy development, collaborate with a variety of advocacy organizations, focus on creative resource development, and explore innovative ways to communicate activities.

### **Illinois Department of Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security**

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) strives to better prepare the State of Illinois for natural, manmade or technological disasters, hazards, or acts of terrorism. The Agency coordinates a broad spectrum of functions designed to create a better prepared state, including:

1. **Emergency Management:** Coordinating the State's disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programs and activities, functioning as the State Emergency Response Commission, and maintaining a 24-hour Communication Center and State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC);
2. **Homeland Security:** Researching, developing, and implementing programs and services to protect the residents of Illinois from current and emerging natural, technological, and human-caused threats and risks by collaborating with intra-agency public safety partners to provide information and threat analysis related to critical infrastructure, cyber threats, violence prevention, and terrorism or terrorism-related crime; and
3. **Nuclear Safety:** Protecting Illinois residents from the potentially harmful effects of ionizing radiation, administering more than two dozen programs to protect citizens and the environment including inspecting and regulating radioactive materials licensees, registering and inspecting radiation producing equipment and facilities statewide, accrediting medical radiation technologists, certifying mammography facilities, monitoring nuclear power reactors in Illinois, and inspecting and escorting spent nuclear fuel shipments.

The Illini Science Policy Scholar at IEMA-OHS will provide professional contributions to inform research, policy, and management issues within IEMA-OHS related to Nuclear Safety, Emergency Management, and/or Homeland Security. They will have the opportunity to research and provide advice and guidance to Agency leadership on current matters of importance to the residents of Illinois.

#### **The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD)**

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) work to protect Illinois' greatest assets – the rich, fertile soils and water resources of the state through strategic conservation efforts. SWCDs, working in conjunction with agricultural as well as environmental stakeholders and for decades have played a central role in efforts to protect and sustain the viability of Illinois' finite natural resources for future generations. AISWCD, is a grass roots advocacy organization formed in 1948 to serve Illinois' 97 member SWCDs.

The Illini Science Policy Scholar placed with AISWCD will have an opportunity to engage on the front line of Illinois' soil and water conservation by elevating conservation with sustainable solutions that advance the AISWCD mantra "Clean Water, Healthy Soils."

#### **Congressional Placement**

The Illini Science Policy Scholar interested in a congressional placement will for this cohort, will have the opportunity to be placed within the local office(s) of Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski. Representative Budzinski represents Illinois' 13th Congressional District and is a member of the House Agriculture Committee and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. She was first elected to the House in 2022 and came to Congress to fight for working families. With a background in the labor movement as well as in state and federal government, her mission is to restore the American Dream, rebuild the middle class and deliver results for communities in Central and Southern Illinois. The ISPP Scholar will help inform issues and policies related to agriculture, the economy, labor, and health care. This position is hybrid and may require travel.

**Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton serves Illinois as the state's 48th Lieutenant Governor. In this role, her portfolio includes leading the Justice, Equity and Opportunity Initiative and chairing the Illinois Council on Women and Girls, the Governor's Rural Affairs Council, the Military Economic Development Council and the Illinois River Coordinating Council. Lieutenant Governor Stratton currently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Lieutenant Governors Association as the Treasurer. The Lieutenant Governor's Office works to advance programs that support agricultural equity, address food insecurity, and provide strategic support for the K-12 teaching shortage. Statewide listening tours provide insight to support much work in these areas.

**Illinois Legislative Black Caucus/Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation**

The ILBCF works to assure that the interests of African American citizens are given equitable representation in the General Assembly and that legislative action is directed to address those interests. The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, founded in 1968, stands for the progression of the African American community by promoting education equity, health and welfare equity, minority business enterprise, job creation, consumer education, and criminal justice reform.

**Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus and Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation**

The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus works to empower Illinois Latinos, assure equitable representation in the General Assembly and promote legislative action directed to address those interests. ILLCF is a non-partisan and tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization established in 2002. The mission of the organization is to foster the next generation of Latino leadership while advocating for the needs and wants of the community. Its long-term vision is to expand its work by leveraging the connections of the Foundation to increase their social capital and provide financial and leadership opportunities so that new leaders can emerge, ensuring that the community directly informs the Foundation's policy priorities. This ensures that the voices of the Illinois Latinos are heard and advocated for, and provides the ILLCF board with opportunities to engage, learn, and experience the issue areas together to promote united advocacy efforts. The Foundation's Board of Directors includes members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus and others from Illinois Latino communities.