



Agenda

Competitiveness Conversations Across America: The Indiana-Illinois Innovation Corridor— Chips, Qubits, and Molecules

Location

Purdue University
Purdue Memorial Union
101 North Grant St
West Lafayette, IN 47906

September 9, 2024 (All Times Eastern)

8:00 am – 9:00 am:	Breakfast & Registration
9:00 am – 12:30 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Programming
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm:	Lunch & Keynote
1:45 pm – 4:45 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Programming
4:45 pm – 6:00 pm:	Networking Break & Reception
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Dinner

The Indiana-Illinois Innovation Corridor— Chips, Qubits, and Molecules

Monday, September 9, 2024

8:00 AM BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

**9:00 AM PUTTING COMPETITIVENESS IN CONTEXT—
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Leadership will share the policy vision for the “[Competitiveness Conversations Across America](#)”—under the auspices of the [Council on Competitiveness](#) “[National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers](#)”—in context of the economic, global, and political realities facing Indiana and Illinois, as well as the United States.

Mung Chiang, President, Purdue University

Paul Kearns, Director, Argonne National Laboratory

Jay Walsh, Vice President for Economic Development & Innovation, University of Illinois System

Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President & CEO, Council on Competitiveness

**9:30 AM FIRST LOOK: INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS—
INDIANA & ILLINOIS**

A primer examining the competitiveness factors shaping innovation in the region.

Chad Evans, Executive Vice President, Council on Competitiveness

**9:40 AM DEVELOPING THE PILLARS OF THE INDIANA-ILLINOIS
INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM**

Leaders on this panel will explore the key pillars of innovation that are driving the region’s innovation ecosystem. They will highlight both key challenges and opportunities in Illinois, Indiana, and the Midwest, as well as suggesting best practices to scale nationally, with a goal of dramatically increasing the nation’s innovation capacity.

Key questions to consider:

- How are leaders in Indiana, Illinois, and across the Midwest rethinking traditional models to define, coordinate, and support local, state, and regional innovation hubs?
- What key policies and partnerships do you see as foundational for a place-based innovation economy?
- How important is the alignment between industry and other stakeholders—like the education community, from K-12 to research universities and beyond—to develop the workforce skills for the future?
- What major investments in infrastructure, technology, and talent are shaping the Indiana-Illinois innovation ecosystem?
- Looking at all the grand challenges facing the world—and focusing on the strengths of Indiana and Illinois—what is the region doing to drive and leverage technological disruption for competitive advantage?

10:25 AM “CHIPS” – TAKING THE PULSE OF THE HEARTLAND’S CHIP BOOM

This panel of visionary leaders will unpack the Indiana-Illinois innovation corridor's ascension as a dominant force in semiconductor research, design, and manufacturing. Looking forward, they will also explore the region's pivotal role in fulfilling the objectives and addressing the hurdles of the ambitious CHIPS & Science Act, which is poised to facilitate America's resurgence in microelectronics—a cornerstone for enhancing future competitiveness and bolstering national security.

Key questions to consider:

- What factors allow the Indiana-Illinois innovation corridor to emerge as a hub for the research, design, and manufacture of advanced semiconductors?
- What role have critical stakeholders—from research institutions and universities, to companies, to public sector leaders—played in this development, and what role will they play going forward?
- What challenges are leaders across the ecosystem working to overcome to expand the semiconductors industry in the region?
- How can the region use its expertise in semiconductors to magnetize and grow associated industries?
- How do we tackle the national security challenge of protecting semiconductor technology research?

11:10 AM NETWORKING BREAK

11:30 AM “QUBITS” – SCALING THE PROMISE OF QUANTUM FROM RESEARCH TO REALITY

Quantum science has shifted our understanding of the fundamental nature of reality, leading to groundbreaking technologies with potential applications in computing, energy, and many other industries. This panel of leaders will discuss the transformative journey of quantum science from theoretical research to practical applications, illuminating the groundbreaking innovations poised to reshape society and Indiana’s and Illinois’ economies.

Key questions to consider:

- As we look to overcome the greatest challenges facing society—from energy to food and water security to national security—what are the opportunities on the horizon for quantum science?
- What are the key factors contributing to the Indiana-Illinois innovation corridor’s emergence as a hub for quantum science?
- What are the biggest hurdles slowing innovation in quantum science in the region and nationally? How are they being addressed?
- How is the region growing its quantum workforce?
- Will becoming a global leader in quantum science magnetize and grow related or tangential industries in the Indiana-Illinois innovation corridor?
- What role have collaborations and partnerships played in the development and adoption of quantum science?

12:15 PM TECH TALK: *EXPLORING INDIANA-ILLINOIS CUTTING-EDGE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM*

12:30 PM LUNCH

1:45 PM “MOLECULES” – TRANSLATING CUTTING-EDGE BIODISCOVERY TO EXPANDING HEALTHSPANS

Indiana and Illinois have robust industry clusters in sectors like pharmaceuticals, medical devices, agricultural biotechnology, and bio-manufacturing; positioning the region to become a significant global hub in bioscience research, technology, and innovation. This panel, representing leaders across multiple sectors and disciplines, will discuss how the Indiana-Illinois innovation corridor strategically aims to lead in bioscience innovation and, in doing so, positively transform the world.

Key questions to consider:

- What are the opportunities on the horizon for biosciences across industries?
- What key factors have contributed to the Indiana-Illinois innovation corridor becoming a robust hub for the bioscience industry?
- How are collaborations between universities, private companies, and government entities fostering innovation in the bioscience sector?
- What role do public-private partnerships play in driving bioscience advancements in the region?
- What are the biggest challenges facing the bioscience industry in the region and nationally, and how are they being addressed?
- How are advanced technologies such as AI or quantum spurring innovation in the biosciences?
- What are the safeguards to the privacy, security, and even ethical concerns regarding bioscience?

2:30 PM TECH TALK: *EXPLORING INDIANA-ILLINOIS CUTTING-EDGE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM*

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3:00 PM NETWORKING BREAK

3:15 PM POLITICAL LEADERS PANEL

4:00 PM LEVERAGING THE CONVERGENCE OF “CHIPS, QUBITS, AND MOLECULES” TO CONVEY COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

The future of innovation will rely increasingly on integrated, multidisciplinary, and multi-domain partnerships—that span and connect research, development, and deployment at speed and scale. This panel will share insights on the strategies over the next 25 years to build—bit by bit, qubit by qubit, molecule by molecule—the semiconductor, quantum, and bioscience industries of the future. Leveraging the information from the previous industry panel talks, the panel will discuss the future of innovation in the region.

Key questions to consider:

- Have you been able to combine your technologies together? How? If not, do you plan on collaborating with these technological advancements?
- What do you envision as the most significant opportunities and challenges for the Indiana-Illinois innovation corridor’s economic competitiveness over the next 25 years?
- What steps can leaders in the region take to ensure the Indiana-Illinois innovation corridor’s long-term economic success and prosperity?
- How can we implement these technologies to solve challenges throughout the region and the country?

Paul Kearns, Director, Argonne National Laboratory

Robert Jones, Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Karen Plaut, Executive Vice President for Research, Purdue University

Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness
(Moderator)

4:45 PM NETWORKING BREAK & RECEPTION

6:00 PM COMPETITIVENESS CONVERSATION DINNER

8:00 PM DINNER CONCLUDES