

**From:** DCEO.NEWSLETTER  
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**To:** dceo-newsletter@lists.illinois.gov  
**Subject:** DCEO Monthly Newsletter



February 28, 2014

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## Message from the Director

February was a time of excitement and vibrancy, with eye-catching headlines about Illinois manufacturing investments, the launch of new industry incubators, and new business investment in the state. Illinois' Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, DCEO, has been an integral part of all of this - working hard to create jobs and economic growth throughout the state.

Some of our highlights include:

- U.S. Defense Department awarding \$70 million to UI Labs of Chicago, along with \$16 million in state and other funding, to form the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation (DMDI) Institute – a first-of-its-kind digital hub with the capability to transform American manufacturing.
- A new study ranking Illinois 3rd among the 50 states in growth of business establishments. Total establishments in Illinois rose by 18,000, or 5 percent, to 383,103, and Illinois accounted for 14 percent of all new net business establishments in the country, from 2009 to 2012.
- Family-owned Hof Haus Meats Products Company in Chicago expanding their facilities with \$9.6 million, including a \$2 million Advantage Illinois loan from DCEO, to create 25 new union jobs and a new slicing and packaging operation.
- MATTER, a new startup “BioHub” for next-generation healthcare technology companies, locating in Chicago’s Merchandise Mart, driving entrepreneurship in the rapidly expanding medical and biotechnology field.
- U.S. Green Building Council ranking Illinois as the nation’s #1 Green Building State among all 50 states in the sustainable building design movement.

- Yahoo! breaking ground on a new 40,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility that will expand its Champaign, IL technology hub and engineering workforce. We know that Illinois is a great place to live and work, which is why millions of people call it home. With your help, we will make it even better.

Please sign up for [The DCEO Reporter](#), our agency's monthly newsletter, and remember to follow us on:



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Pollet', is written in a cursive style.

Adam Pollet, Director DCEO

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## **U.S. Department of Defense Awards \$70 Million to UI Labs**

*Combines with \$16 Million in State Funding to  
Launch Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation  
Institute on Chicago's Goose Island*



*An aerial view of Goose Island in Chicago. (Zbigniew Bzdak, Chicago Tribune)*

The U.S. Department of Defense awarded \$70 million to UI Labs of Chicago, a public-private partnership that will combine the award with \$16 million in state funds and other

contributions to form the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation (DMDI) Institute. The DMDI will be a first-of-its-kind digital hub with the capability to transform American manufacturing.

The \$320 million DMDI will apply the newest technologies to help manufacturers try and use new innovations in digital manufacturing and design, with an emphasis on defense manufacturers. This will mean better products, faster production and lower costs for U.S. manufacturers.

UI LABS is a Chicago-based research and commercialization collaborative that brings industries, universities and government together to apply real solutions to tomorrow's most important business, economic and cultural challenges. For more information on DMDI, visit [www.UILABS.org](http://www.UILABS.org).

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## **New Study Ranks Illinois 3rd Best in Business Growth**



An independent study has identified Illinois as having one of the most thriving private sectors in the nation. The report provides further evidence that the state is recovering steadily from the worst economic hardship since the Great Depression.

The study by CareerBuilder and Economic Modeling Specialists Intl. found that Illinois ranks 3rd among the 50 states in growth of business establishments. According to the study, total establishments in Illinois rose by 18,000, or 5 percent, to 383,103, from 2009 to 2012.

The study found that for the three-year period through 2012, Illinois accounted for 14 percent of all net new business establishments in the country.

Since recovery from the recession began in January 2010, Illinois has added 280,000 private sector jobs. Unemployment was at 11.3 percent at the height of the Great Recession and today it is at its lowest point in almost five years. Since last May, Illinois has led the Midwest in new jobs created. According to the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank, in the next six months Illinois is projected to have the best economic growth of the five largest states in America.

A copy of the report can be found at [www.economicmodeling.com](http://www.economicmodeling.com).

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## **Yahoo! Expands in Champaign-Urbana**



On February 5, [Yahoo! Inc.](http://www.yahoo.com) (NASDAQ:YHOO) broke ground on a new state-of-the-art facility that will serve as an important expansion of its Champaign, IL technology hub. Champaign is the home of several Yahoo engineering teams working on critical technologies for the company. Yahoo currently occupies 24,000 square feet of office space and is the largest full-time employer in the University of Illinois Research Park. The new 40,000 sq. ft. building will be solely constructed for Yahoo. Plans include recruitment of engineers over the next 12-24 months.

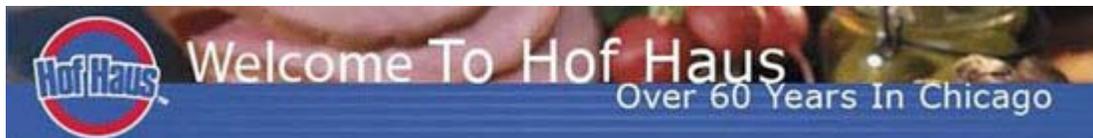
“The presence of Yahoo at the U of I is an incredible resource for the technology industry in Illinois,” Governor Pat Quinn said. “Illinois is a technology leader and we are actively working to grow our economy, create jobs and keep our state a center for innovation worldwide. Places like Research Park at the University of Illinois are essential in making Illinois even more competitive.”

For more information on Yahoo!’s expansion go to <http://researchpark.illinois.edu/news/yahoo-breaks-ground-new-facility-champaign>

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## Hof Haus Meat Products Company Expanding in Chicago

*State Loan Helps Firm Add 25 New Jobs as  
Part of \$9.6 Million Expansion*



Long-time, family-owned Chicago meat products company, Hof Haus will undergo a \$9.6 million expansion and create 25 new jobs. The project will be supported by a \$2 million loan from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Hof Haus’ expansion includes a new slicing and packaging operation and will allow the company to increase its overall sales to grocery companies and expand its school lunch program sales.

The \$2 million Advantage Illinois loan administered by DCEO is part of a \$9 million financing package led by Village Bank & Trust of Arlington Heights, part of the Wintrust

family of banks.

For more information on Advantage Illinois Loan Participation Program visit [www.illinois.gov/dceo](http://www.illinois.gov/dceo).

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## **New Healthcare Technology Startup Hub MATTER Locates in Chicago's Merchandise Mart**



MATTER - a new not for profit startup center for next-generation healthcare technology companies will be locating in Chicago's Merchandise Mart. A priority in the Governor's 2014 State of the State address, the BioHub will drive entrepreneurship in the rapidly expanding medical and biotechnology field.

Its collaborative workspace will allow interaction among entrepreneurs, academics and investors in order to create and grow new companies in healthcare information technology, medical devices, medical diagnostics and biopharmaceuticals. 1871, the digital startup hub which will be MATTER's neighbor in the Merchandise Mart, has followed that same recipe for success, resulting in more than 200 start-ups and creating more than 1,000 jobs since its launch in 2012.

Illinois has the third-largest healthcare community in the U.S., and Chicago boasts the nation's largest concentration of doctors.

For more information on MATTER, visit [www.matterchicago.com](http://www.matterchicago.com).

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## **Illinois is the Nation's Top Green Building State**

*U.S. Green Building Council Ranks Illinois #1  
in the Sustainable Building Design Movement*



[www.Illinoisholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.Illinoisholocaustmuseum.org)

The U.S. Green Building Council has ranked Illinois number one among all 50 states in the sustainable building design movement. Illinois has more than 29 million square feet of certified green buildings, or 2.29 square feet for every resident.

“Both the public and private sectors in Illinois recognize that long-term investments in 21st century infrastructure should be done in ways that reduce energy consumption and protect the environment,” Governor Quinn said. “Illinois is proud to be the nation’s green buildings leader, and we are proof that a smaller environmental footprint can help us step toward energy independence.”

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) ranking of the Top 10 States for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) highlights the regions around the country that are at the forefront of the movement for sustainable building design, construction and operation. Utilizing less energy and water, LEED-certified spaces save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce carbon emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment.

A few notable projects that certified in Illinois in 2013 include:

- The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, LEED Gold
- Choices Mental Health Facility in Ottawa, LEED Platinum
- 300 North LaSalle, a 57-story, 1.3 million-square-foot tower in Chicago developed and managed by USGBC Platinum Member Hines, LEED Platinum
- The Caterpillar Visitors Center in Peoria, LEED Gold
- Engine Company 16 in Chicago, LEED Platinum
- Lincoln Hall at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, LEED Platinum
- Powell Elementary School in Chicago, LEED Gold
- Lincoln Land Community College Workforce Development Center in Springfield, LEED Silver

Learn more at [www.usgbc.org/LEED](http://www.usgbc.org/LEED)

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