


TECHNOLOGY**AND
THE****RESILIENCE OF METROPOLITAN REGIONS****MEDIA CONTACT:**

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Maureen.Meehan@jtpr.com**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****UIC Urban Forum Brings Together Top Officials, Business Leaders to Focus on
“Technology and the Resilience of Metropolitan Regions”**

CHICAGO—(December 5, 2013)—Top state and municipal officials, alongside business, community and academic leaders and experts gather today for the 2013 Urban Forum at the University of Illinois at Chicago to discuss how technologies affect numerous aspects of the metropolitan environment – from quality of life to governance, from health services to workforce development.

Six groups of diverse, local and national panelists will foster dialogues on technology-related issues most prominent to the Chicago metropolitan region and other urban areas nationwide. Discussion topics include creating informed communities that utilize technologies to enhance the quality of life, adapting technology in order to create and retain jobs, how technologies influence urban development and healthcare and how technology is driving our future workforce.

“A proactive, in-depth discussion of the benefits, opportunities and equitable access of technologies is critical in a world that sees new and exciting innovations daily,” said Paula Allen-Meares, Chancellor of UIC and co-chair of the Urban Forum. “We must be creative in using technologies if we are to benefit from their potential to improve urban communities. We must be mindful that those opportunities will only benefit us fully if we minimize disparities in access. I look forward to the unique insights from today’s panelists and the intellectual challenges and fresh ideas that result from the 2013 UIC Urban Forum.”

More than 30 local, state and national leaders from a variety of sectors are participating in the 2013 UIC Urban Forum, including but not limited to:

- Toni Preckwinkle, President, Cook County Board
- Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director, CMAP
- Jeff Malehorn, President and CEO, World Business Chicago
- Scott Miller, Interim Director, Illinois Manufacturing Lab
- Theresa E. Mintle, President and CEO, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Julio Silva, Chief Medical Information Officer, Rush University Medical Center
- Ted Smith, Director of Economic Growth and Innovation, City of Louisville
- Susana Vasquez, Executive Director, LISC
- Darrell West, Vice President and Director of Governance Studies, Brookings Institution
- Tim Wisniewski, Director of Civic Technology, City of Philadelphia
- *The full speaker line-up is available at: uicurbanforum.org/forum/agenda*



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“Making sure Cook County workers are armed with skills the job market demands is vital to the region’s economic growth and our ability to compete on a global level,” President Preckwinkle said. “It is essential employers and jobseekers understand how to use and adapt to technology. I am grateful to the UIC Urban Forum for making this conversation a priority.”

The 2013 UIC Urban Forum kicks off with welcome remarks from Chancellor Allen-Meares and an opening keynote address by President Preckwinkle, followed by two morning panel sessions entitled “Creating Informed Communities: Accessible technologies to help enhance the quality of life” and “Advanced Technology Driving Our Workforce: The growing effect of technology on tomorrow’s jobs.” These panels will feature experts such as Chicago’s former Chief Technology Officer John Tolva and Illinois Science and Technology Coalition President and CEO Mark Harris, among others.

Each of the four afternoon panel discussions focus on a white paper authored by one of the featured panelists, hailing from colleges and universities nationwide. Topics include Connecting Technologies to Citizenship, Technology and Health Care, Emerging Technologies and Metropolitan Development, as well as Workforce Development. To view the white papers, visit: uicurbanforum.org/issues/.

“With more than 80 percent of Americans living in urban settings, it’s extremely important we understand how technologies influence metropolitan regions,” said Michael A. Pagano, dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at UIC and chair of the 2013 UIC Urban Forum. “The 2013 Urban Forum provokes creative thought around the potential positive impact of technology as a key element in the planning of urban areas throughout the nation and across the globe.”

UIC has hosted an annual urban-oriented conference since 1995 when the first Forum convened under the auspices of the Great Cities Institute. It featured scholars, public intellectuals, policy makers and elected officials from the Chicago region and other parts of the country. The UIC Urban Forum continues the tradition of convening key public, private and non-profit leaders in an academic arena to discuss, analyze and propose pragmatic and innovative solutions to enhance the lives of city-dwellers around the globe.

The UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) is the primary internal partner for the Urban Forum. The academic strengths of the College allow the Urban Forum to conduct policy-relevant research, examine possible policy approaches to improve the condition of urban regions, conduct public symposia, engage policy officials and academic experts and provide training to the next generation of urban leaders.

Sponsors for the 2013 UIC Urban Forum include: Abbott, Cerner, The Chicago Community Trust, The MacArthur Foundation, Takeda, UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, UIC Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, Walgreens and WBEZ.

For more information on the 2013 UIC Urban Forum, visit uicurbanforum.org.