

READY25: DIGITAL COMMUNITIES IN ACTION Conference

Conference Program

Day 2:
Friday, July 11, 2025
Community | Youth, Parents, and Seniors



CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Sponsors:



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Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



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ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Day 2: Program

9:00 am - 9:50 am

Registration and Check In

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Opening | Welcome

Mark Smith, *Dean, Chicago State University*

Ms. Jeanette Tamayo, *Illinois Broadband Lab*

Dr. Daniel Block, *Department Chair, GSHAA, Chicago State University*

Ms. Nathalia Cardenas, *Project Manager, ABE-LINC Program, Chicago State University*

10:45 am - 11:30 am

Welcome Session

Welcome Session | CRSU Rotunda

What is Digital Literacy and AI?

*Presented by **Renita Malone**, **Brandon Cuatlatl** and **Pedro Covarrubias**, CSU and NEIU Digital Navigators*

11:40 am - 12:25 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Session 1 | Conference Room A 132

Conversations Around AI

*Presented by **Bevon Joseph**, Campus Coin Invest*

Session 2 | Conference Room B 131

Home Energy Savings: Taking Control of Your Utility Bills

*Presented by **Karen Tolentino**, Citizens Utility Board*

Session 3a | Science Building 106-108

Blast Off Rocketry (Youth Only - Age 5-10)

*Presented by **Nathan Wolters** and **Lesley Vasquez**, NEIU STEAM Pathways Program*

Session 3b | Science Building 213

Balloon Powered Cart (Youth Only - age 11-15)

*Presented by **Camila Duarte Marez** and **Sophia Cahue**, NEIU STEAM Pathways*

12:30 pm - 1:15 pm

Lunch | CRSU Rotunda

CSU Admissions

*Presentation by **Christina Gutierrez**, Associate Director, Admissions, Chicago State University*

Day 2: Program

1:25 pm - 2:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Session 4 | Conference Room A 132

The Future of Work in the Age of AI

*Presented by **Dr. Hei-Chi Chan**, UIS AI Campus Learning Community*

Session 5 | Conference Room B 131

ScaleLIT's Illinois Digital Learning Lab

*Presented by **Michael Matos**, Director, Education Technology, **Germania Solorzano**, Career Pathways Navigator, **Fantazia Berry**, Digital Navigator and **Robert Guzman**, Director, External Affairs, ScaleLIT*

Session 6 | CRSU Rotunda

Doctor Visits from Your Couch: How to Use Telehealth

*Presented by **Dwayne Douglas**, CEO, **Nathan Williams**, QUILT Corporation*

Session 7a | Science Building 213

Balloon Powered Cart (Youth Only - Age 5-10)

*Presented by **Camila Duarte Marez** and **Sophia Cahue**, NEIU STEAM Pathways*

Session 7b | Science Building 106-108

Blast Off Rocketry (Youth Only - Age 11-15)

*Presented by **Nathan Wolters** and **Lesley Vasquez**, NEIU STEAM Pathways Program*

2:25 pm - 3:00 pm

Closing Session I CRSU Rotunda

Regroup and Close Out

Thank you for attending the Digital Communities in Action Conference please scan the QR code to complete the Conference Survey for Day 2.

Special Thanks & Acknowledgements

Our Partners

University of Illinois Systems
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Illinois Broadband Lab
Northeastern Illinois University
Chicago State University

Our Speakers

Devon Braunstein

Assistant Director, Illinois Office of Broadband

Fantazia Berry

Digital Navigator, ScaleLIT

Dr. Daniel Block

Department Chair, GSHAA, Chicago State University

Sophia Rodriguez Cahue

NEIU STEAM Pathways

Nathalia Cardenas

Project Manager, ABE-LINC Program

Dr. Hei-Chi Chan

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Citizens Utility Board

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