DRAFT

June Meeting at Argonne

Overview

The CMAP Economic Development Committee will host an event at Argonne on the challenges, opportunities, and strategies to promote innovation across the region, specifically in regard to strengthening and expanding connections between businesses and the institutions and stakeholders that support innovation.

Several organizations have prioritized strategies to bolster businesses' ability to innovate and grow, including World Business Chicago, the Tri-State Alliance, CMAP, and several County economic development groups including Choose DuPage and the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development. This event will build off these planning efforts as well as recent research which shows the region has numerous assets and advantages related to innovation, but is lagging behind other major metro regions and the nation on several innovation indicators.

This event will consist of a panel made up of education, R&D, private sector, and policy makers to help further the discussion and inform strategies that lead to economic growth. Potential questions and panelists include:

Potential Panelists:

- Argonne
- University
- Company with a relationship with Argonne—related to battery research?
- Leaders/planners of the Illinois Manufacturing Lab
- Venture Capitalist or other business investor

DRAFT Discussion questions:

- What are the main programs and services Argonne offers to companies?
- What Argonne programs are especially relevant to regional businesses?
- What characteristics does a business need to be benefit from Argonne's resources and partnership opportunities?
- Is there an interest from Argonne to increase connections to regional companies and growth strategies? If so, what is driving this interest and what are the plans to move in this direction?
- What are specific ways multi-sector partners have worked together?
- What partners would help address innovation related challenges, such as commercializing research and providing capital?
- What opportunities should regional stakeholders focus on in the next year?

Audience:

• Economic development organizations, policy and research organizations, industry associations, businesses, education institutions, government agencies