

**Navigating the Future:**

# LEADERSHIP, ETHICS, AND INNOVATION

ILCMA 2025  
SUMMER CONFERENCE

**JUN**  
**3-5**  
**2025**

REGISTER BY MAY 31

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY, JUNE 3

**9:00 A.M.**

9-hole Golf

**10:00 A.M.**

18-Hole Scramble

**12:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.**

Registration Open

**1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

Walking Tour of Downtown Champaign

**1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Exhibitor Set-up

**3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Pre-conference Workshop:  
Best Practices are the Enemy of  
Innovation by Patrick Ibarra

**6:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.**

Dinner at the Colonnades Club in  
Memorial Stadium

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

**6:45 A.M. – 7:30 A.M.**

Legacy Walk

**7:30 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.**

Registration and Breakfast

IL Association of County Administrators  
(IACA) Breakfast

**8:50 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.**

Welcome, Intros & Keynote Address  
*Building Resilience: Leadership  
Strategies for Uncertain  
Times* by Joy Baldridge

**10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.**

Break in Exhibit Hall



**10:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

Career Counseling & Financial Advising  
Appointments

**10:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.**

Breakout Sessions

**Session 1:** AI in Action: Practical Strategies for  
Local Government

**Session 2:** Transforming Spaces, Building  
Places, Innovative Placemaking Across Illinois

**11:45 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.**

Lunch, ILCMA Business Meeting, &  
ICMA Update

**12:45 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.**

ILCMA Awards Celebration

**1:15 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.**

Dessert Break in Exhibit Hall

**1:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

Beyond Right and Wrong: Decisions,  
Dilemmas, and Dialogue

**3:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

Snack Break in Exhibit Hall

**3:30 P.M. – 4:45 P.M.**

Breakout Sessions

**Session 1:** May the Workforce be With You

**Session 2:** Cybersecurity Maturity

**Session 3:** IACA Idea Exchange

**5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.**

Reception and Dinner at the I Hotel

**7:30 P.M. – 11:30 P.M.**

Savor the Flavor of Downtown  
Champaign

### THURSDAY, JUNE 5

**7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.**

Breakfast

**8:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.**

Breakout Sessions

**Session 1:** Grant Procurement: Strategies  
for Success

**Session 2:** Lessons Learned in Freeport:  
Recovering from the Challenges of  
Infrastructure Disinvestment

**9:30 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.**

Break

**9:45 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.**

Breakout Sessions

**Session 1:** What Employees Want:  
Optimizing Total Rewards to Attract  
and Retain Employees

**Session 2:** Building Successful Government  
Facilities: From Vision to Reality

**10:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

Break

**11:00 A.M. – NOON**

Closing Keynote  
Keep on Pushing:  
A Roadmap to  
Ethical and  
Innovative  
Leadership  
by Devon Harris



## TUESDAY PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION:

Pre-Conference Session Additional Cost: \$35  
Be sure to sign up on the registration form!

### 3:00 P.M. — 5:00 P.M.

#### **Best Practices are the Enemy of Innovation**

The issue with best practices is that they often merely masquerade as innovation. In the wrong hands, they become a shield to deflect critics, as though one can expect to be granted management immunity by proclaiming the use of supposedly tried-and-proven solutions. But a cut-and-paste approach to better government is emblematic of status-quo thinking, the “we’ve-always-done-it-that-way” mindset that serves as a powerful deterrent to meaningful change. This session shows how modern leaders are taking a sharp pivot away from best practices and toward “next practices” in their efforts to build stronger, more effective organizations.

#### **Learning Objectives**

1. Implement effective ways to disrupt status quo thinking.
2. Identify an effective approach to designing and implementing innovative solutions.
3. Understand your specific role in executing innovative solutions.

#### **Speaker**

Patrick Ibarra, The Mejorando Group

**Addresses ICMA Practice Area:** (4) Staff Effectiveness; (6) Strategic Leadership; (1) Service Delivery; and (13) Human Resources Management and Workforce Engagement

**REGISTER BY MAY 28**

[ilcma.org/conferences](http://ilcma.org/conferences)

CLICK HERE!

## WEDNESDAY OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Joy Baldridge, CSP, CPC, CVP**



### 8:45 — 10:00 A.M.

#### **Building Resilience: Leadership Strategies for Uncertain Times**

In today's fast-changing world, city and county managers and public leaders must navigate complex challenges with confidence, adaptability, and foresight. This engaging keynote will explore essential strategies for building resilience in leadership, helping you stay steady under pressure, lead effectively through crises, and drive positive outcomes in uncertain times. Discover practical tools to enhance flexibility, maintain clarity in decision-making, and empower both yourself and your team to thrive amid change. Walk away with actionable insights to strengthen your leadership, foster a resilient organization, and turn uncertainty into opportunity.

**Addresses ICMA Practice Area:** (4) Staff Effectiveness; (5) Personal Resiliency and Development; (6) Strategic Leadership

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### 10:30 A.M. — 11:45 P.M.

#### **Session 1: AI in Action: Practical Strategies for Local Government**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming how local governments operate, making processes more efficient, data-driven, and responsive to community needs. This session brings together municipal leaders who are actively integrating AI into their operations, discussing real-world applications, challenges, and successes. Attendees will gain insights into AI-driven decision-making, automation of municipal services, and strategies for responsible implementation.

Join our expert panel as they share their experiences in leveraging AI for operational efficiency, policy development, and community engagement. Whether you're just starting to explore AI or looking to refine your approach, this session will provide practical takeaways to help navigate the evolving landscape of AI in local governance.

#### **Learning Objectives**

1. Understand practical AI applications in municipal government operations.
2. Explore challenges and ethical considerations of AI adoption.
3. Learn strategies for integrating AI into existing workflows.
4. Gain insights into how AI can enhance decision-making and public engagement.

#### **Moderator**

Jeff Fiegenschuh, City Manager, Rochelle

#### **Panelists**

John Peebles, CG-CIO, IT Coordinator, Bartlett  
Walker Steinke, MPA, Innovation Strategist, Schaumburg  
John Weidl, City Administrator, Whitewater, WI  
Joe Gallo, Director, Illinois Smart City & Region Association

**Addresses ICMA Practice Areas:** (1) Personal and Professional Integrity; (10) Service Delivery and (11) Technological Literacy

#### **Session 2: Transforming Spaces, Building Places: Innovative Placemaking Across IL**

What makes a place more than just a location? Placemaking is the art of transforming spaces into dynamic, people-centered destinations that drive economic growth, foster community engagement, and build local identity.

During this session, you will hear from leaders representing three Illinois communities—Crystal Lake, Evanston, and Berwyn—who have implemented innovative placemaking initiatives. Discover how Crystal Lake transformed a former gravel quarry into the thriving Three Oaks Recreation Area and developed the mixed-use Water's Edge, how Evanston Thrives is revitalizing commercial districts through data-driven economic development strategies and deep community engagement, and how Berwyn is fostering small business growth and artistic expression by converting two 7,200-square-foot footprints into successful retail incubator and artist spaces within an already built-out community. This session will offer inspiration and actionable strategies to help communities of all sizes achieve their placemaking goals.

## Learning Objectives

1. Explore a Variety of Placemaking Approaches: Gain insight into different strategies communities use to activate and transform spaces, from recreational redevelopment and commercial revitalization to small business incubation and public art integration. Learn from real-world examples and discuss the challenges and successes encountered along the way.
2. Understand the Impact of Strategic Development: Discover how creative reuse, adaptive planning, and innovative funding models can turn underutilized areas into vibrant, thriving community assets. Learn how data-driven insights, community input, and strategic partnerships play a role in successful placemaking efforts.
3. Foster Collaboration and Community Engagement: Examine the role of municipalities, businesses, and local stakeholders in shaping placemaking initiatives. Explore best practices for building consensus, addressing challenges, and ensuring projects reflect community needs and values.
4. Apply Placemaking Strategies to Your Community: Walk away with actionable ideas that can be tailored to fit different community sizes, needs, and resources. Learn how to assess feasibility, measure impact, and implement placemaking initiatives that support long-term sustainability.

## Moderator

John Harris, Principal and co-Founder, a5 Branding & Digital

## Panelists

David Hulseberg, Exec. Director/CEO, Berwyn Development Corp.  
Katie Boden, Economic Development Coordinator, Evanston  
Heather Maieritsch, Economic Development Manager, Crystal Lake

**Addresses ICMA Practice Areas:** (2) Community Engagement; (6) Strategic Leadership; (7) Strategic Planning; (8) Policy Facilitation and Implementation; and (14) Communication and Information Sharing

**11:45 A.M. – 1:15 P.M.**

**Luncheon, Business Meeting, ICMA Update & ILCMA Awards Celebration**

**1:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

## Beyond Right and Wrong: Decisions, Dilemmas, and Dialogue

Ethics are often nuanced and complex, so this interactive session incorporates a number of real-life case scenarios, encouraging open discussion, providing opportunities for professionals to analyze different perspectives, and focusing on the decision-making process behind ethical dilemmas. After a summary of ICMA and ILCMA modifications to the ethics enforcement procedures, this session will dive into real-life examples of ethical issues in different situations. Rather than simply stating what is “right” or “wrong,” allowing ILCMA members to grapple with complex situations and consider the potential consequences of actions; this approach promotes critical thinking and ethical reasoning, making ethics relevant and applicable to our day-to-day operations and management approach.

## Learning Objectives

1. Reinforcing a strict adherence to ICMA’s Code of Ethics and how enforcement of the Code is critical to the profession.
2. Real-life case studies/scenarios to illustrate ethical challenges.
3. Utilize current events, business cases, and personal anecdotes to illustrate ethical challenges and encourage discussion about how ethical principles apply in practical situations.
4. Emphasize the importance of identifying all parties affected by a decision and analyzing the potential consequences for each stakeholder.

## Moderator

Mark Franz, Village Manager, Glen Ellyn

## Presenters

Stephanie Dawkins, City Administrator, Geneva  
Cara Pavlicek, Village Manager, Northbrook  
Scott Hartman, Deputy County Administrator, McHenry County

**Addresses ICMA Practice Area:** (1) Personal and Professional Integrity

# WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**3:30 P.M. – 4:45 P.M.**

## Session 1: May the Workforce Be with You: Using Development Planning to Drive Individual, Team, and Organizational Success

This presentation will share actionable insights, strategies, and best practices for effective workforce development planning tailored to municipal environments. Workforce development planning is the foundation of creating a skilled and agile workforce and is necessary to build a talent pipeline for the future. Ideally, robust development planning is done at an individual, functional/team, and organizational level.

This thought-provoking session aims to equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to develop talent by identifying skill gaps, forecasting future talent needs, and taking thoughtful actions to ensure that the workforce can deliver on the organization’s strategic objectives.

## Learning Objectives

1. Apply the basic framework of workforce development planning.
2. Understand the benefits of strategic workforce development planning.
3. Learn to align workforce development planning with organizational objectives to create a talent pipeline for the future.

## Presenter

Sarah Schillerstrom, Owner/CEO of SRSD Consulting, LLC

**Addresses ICMA Practice Areas:** (4) Staff Effectiveness; (6) Strategic Leadership; (13) Human Resources Management and Workforce Engagement

## Session 2: Cyber Maturity

Cyber Maturity refers to an organization’s progression from a reactive, passive defensive approach to an active and strategic focus on enhancing cybersecurity capabilities. Organizations that prioritize maturity are not only focused on responding to threats but are also proactive in monitoring, identifying, and hunting for potential risks. This shift enables them to prevent many incidents and significantly minimize the impact of security threats, ultimately strengthening their overall security posture and resilience.

## Learning Objectives

1. Understand the concept of cyber maturity: Learn how organizations evolve from reactive defense strategies to proactive cybersecurity practices, including the importance of continuous improvement and risk management.
2. Identify key strategies for building cybersecurity maturity: Explore the critical components of a mature cybersecurity strategy, such as threat monitoring, vulnerability management, and incident prevention.
3. Develop proactive threat-hunting capabilities: Gain insight into the methodologies and tools used by organizations to actively identify and respond to potential risks before they escalate into incidents.
4. Evaluate the impact of cyber maturity on organizational resilience. Understand how a mature cybersecurity posture can reduce the frequency and severity of security incidents, enhancing the organization’s overall security resilience.

## Moderator

Scott Hilts, Village Administrator, Round Lake Beach

## Panelists

Chad Adams, General Manager, Technology Consulting | Impact Network  
Pat Brust, Director of Information Systems | Rochelle Municipal Utilities  
Britt Zick, Risk Manager & Safety Coordinator | City of Rochelle,  
Ben DeCasta, Network Specialist | City of Rochelle,  
Joe Barnes, Chief Digital Risk Officer | University of Illinois System

**Addresses ICMA Practice Area:** (6) Strategic Leadership; (11) Technological Literacy

### Session 3: IACA Idea Exchange

The Idea Exchange provides an opportunity for county officials from across the state to discuss issues specifically relevant to counties in an informal setting. All who have an interest in county administration are welcome to attend! It's a great opportunity to learn about the issues and challenges of being a county administrator.

**Addresses ICMA Practice Areas:** 6 (Strategic Leadership); 8 (Policy Facilitation and Implementation)

## THURSDAY MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**8:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.**

### Session 1: Grant Procurement: Strategies for Success

Great grant procurement requires balance. Balancing preparation with thinking on the fly, balancing grant requirements with community needs, and balancing pages and pages of applications, forms, drawings, and financials.

This session aims to provide valuable insights into identifying available funding sources, understanding eligibility requirements, and crafting compelling grant proposals that align with community priorities. Experts in the field will share strategies for maximizing the impact of grant awards, as well as tips on managing grant funds and reporting to ensure compliance. This interactive session aims to equip municipal leaders with the tools and knowledge needed to successfully secure and manage grants that support the growth and development of their communities.

#### Learning Objectives

1. Explore technologies and processes to aid in the grant procurement process.
2. Prepare organizations to move nimbly when grant funds become available.
3. Discuss grant writing as a learnable vs. hireable skill.
4. Explore real cases of grant management done well... or done wrong.
5. Teach organizations to craft and plan a go/no go grants process, and to balance the shovel-ready nimble projects with the long-game of grants.

#### Moderator

Jeff Fiegenschuh, City Manager, Rochelle

#### Panelists

Darren Monico, Capital Improvement Market Lead, Gewalt Hamilton Associates  
Russ Loebe, ICMA-CM, Vice President, Corporate Growth, HR Green Inc.  
Julia Pluff, Director Business Development-National Grants Manager, Farnsworth Group

**Addresses ICMA Practice Areas:** (1) Personal and Professional Integrity; (4) Staff Effectiveness; (6) Strategic Leadership; (9) Community and Resident Service; (11) Technological Literacy; (12) Financial Management and Budgeting

### Session 2: Lessons Learned in Freeport Recovering from the Challenges of Infrastructure Disinvestment

The City of Freeport has undertaken significant infrastructure improvements in many different areas:

1. Drinking Water: Freeport addressed PFAS contamination by transitioning to a new well and treatment facility, ensuring safe drinking water free of "Forever Chemicals."
2. Wastewater Treatment: The city is upgrading its outdated wastewater facility, originally built in the 1930s, with improvements to headworks, chemically enhanced primary treatment, and ultraviolet disinfection to enhance efficiency and environmental compliance.

3. Road Infrastructure: Freeport implemented a five-year road resurfacing program funded by a 1% sales tax, enhancing transportation infrastructure for residents.

This session will offer attendees detailed insights and practical lessons learned from Freeport's successful transformation of critical municipal infrastructure.

#### Learning Objectives

1. Identify best practices for responding effectively to environmental contaminants in municipal water supplies, including securing funding and gaining necessary Council support.
2. Explore strategies to manage complex infrastructure projects from pilot phases through construction, addressing unforeseen challenges effectively.
3. Understand essential modernization techniques for wastewater treatment facilities to ensure compliance, improve environmental outcomes, and support long-term operational efficiency.
4. Discover successful approaches for creating and sustaining consistent funding mechanisms, such as dedicated sales taxes, to support continuous infrastructure improvements like road resurfacing programs.

#### Speakers

Rob Boyer, City Manager, Freeport  
Darin Stykel, Project Manager, Fehr Graham

**Addresses ICMA Practice Areas:** (6) Strategic Leadership; (8) Policy Facilitation and Implementation; (9) Community and Resident Service; and (10) Service Delivery

**9:45 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.**

### Session 1: What Employees Want – Optimizing Total Rewards to Attract and Retain Employees

If you're a business owner, HR professional, or CFO, you understand the complexity of today's workforce demands. From rising compensation expectations to evolving benefit needs, creating an effective total rewards strategy has never been more challenging – or more crucial for your success.

In this session, we'll show you practical ways to enhance your total rewards program without breaking your budget. We'll cut through the complexity and share what's really working in today's competitive market.

#### Learning Objectives

1. The latest trends shaping employee expectations
2. Methods to maximize your benefits offerings
3. How to get to the root of what today's employees truly value

#### Speaker

Heather Acerra, Employee Benefits Consultant, Cottingham & Butler

**Addresses ICMA Practice Areas:** (4) Staff Effectiveness; (6) Strategic Leadership; and (13) Human Resources Management and Workforce Engagement

### Session 2: Building Successful Municipal Facilities: From Vision to Reality

This session will provide a comprehensive guide to planning and constructing municipal facilities that meet the evolving needs of communities. Attendees will learn how to evaluate existing facilities to identify deficiencies and prioritize improvements, with a focus on aligning design decisions with operational and staff needs. Best practices for engaging staff and the public throughout the planning process will be discussed, emphasizing collaboration to ensure the facility reflects the community's values and goals.

Expert speakers will also share strategies for effective project management, from conceptual planning through construction, to keep projects on time and within budget. Whether you are renovating a current facility or embarking on a new build, this session will equip

you with the tools and insights necessary to create spaces that enhance municipal operations and serve residents effectively for years to come.

#### Learning Objectives

1. Evaluate Existing Facilities: Learn how to assess current municipal facilities to identify inefficiencies, prioritize improvements, and determine long-term needs.
2. Identify Operational and Staff Requirements: Understand best practices for gathering input from staff and operations teams to ensure new or renovated facilities are designed to meet functional and organizational goals.
3. Foster Collaboration with Stakeholders: Explore strategies for engaging staff, the public, and other stakeholders in the planning process to create facilities that reflect community priorities and enhance trust.
4. Master Project Management Techniques: Gain insights into managing facility projects effectively, including budgeting, scheduling, and overseeing construction to ensure successful completion.

#### Moderator

Andrew S. Buckwinkler, MPA, Management Analyst, Village Manager's Office

#### Panelists

Tim McAvoy, Business Development Manager, McKinstry  
Patrick Moore, Project Manager, Wight & Co.  
Michael Hall, Village Hall Public Safety, Schaumburg  
Mike Baker, Deputy Village Manager, Downers Grove  
Dane Bragg, Village Manager, Buffalo Grove

**Addresses ICMA Practice Areas:** (2) Community Engagement; (7) Strategic Planning; (9) Community and Resident Service; and (12) Financial Management and Budgeting



## THURSDAY CLOSING KEYNOTE

**11:00 A.M. – NOON**

### ***Keep On Pushing: A Roadmap to Ethical and Innovative Leadership*** **By Devon Harris**

Join three-time Olympian Devon Harris as he shares the powerful "Keep On Pushing" philosophy that took him from the tough neighborhoods of Kingston, Jamaica to the Winter Olympics—and how this mindset can transform your approach to county leadership. In this inspiring keynote, Harris translates his remarkable journey into practical strategies for navigating the future of public administration with vision, integrity, and resilience.

Drawing on real-world examples from counties across America, Harris offers a comprehensive framework for ethical decision-making, fostering innovation through teamwork, and transforming seemingly insurmountable challenges into opportunities for community growth. You'll discover how the Keep On Pushing mindset can help you maintain forward momentum even when resources are limited, stakeholder demands conflict, and the path ahead seems unclear.

Whether you're facing budget constraints, political complexities, technological disruption, or changing community needs, this presentation will equip you with actionable insights for leading with purpose, persistence, and unwavering ethical commitment. Don't miss this opportunity to gain a fresh perspective on leadership that will inspire and equip you to navigate an uncertain future with confidence.

**Addresses ICMA Practice Areas:** (1) Personal and Professional Integrity and (5) Personal Resiliency and Development



## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

*CHAIR - Paula Schumacher, Village Administrator, Bartlett*

*Joey Dienberg, Village Administrator, Winnebago*

*Stevie Ferrari, Assistant Village Manager, Brookfield*

*Jeff Fiegenschuh, City Manager, Rochelle*

*Paola Garibay, Project Manager, Economic Development, Berwyn Development*

*Justin Pisellini, 457 Consulting Group*

*Tia Schoolcraft, Senior Program Director, Risk Program Administrators*

*Elijah Bebora, Management Analyst, Lincolnwood*

*Sarah Schillerstrom, CEO, SRSD Consulting*

*Alaina Murphy, Administrative Analyst, New Lenox*

*Charity Mitchell, Village Administrator, Beecher*

*Jim Petrakos, Principal Architect, Director of Business Development, Tria Architecture, Inc.*

*Roger Nulton, Regional Vice President, Equitable*

*Regan Stockstell, Village Manager, Richton Park*

*Hannah Lipman, Management Analyst, Tinley Park*

*Nancy Rabel, Deputy City Manager, Champaign*

*Jacob Smith, Administrative Analyst, Normal*

*John Harris, Principal, a5 Branding & Digital*

*Dan Choi, Partner, Centrix*

*Danielle Melone, Senior Lead Sales, Veregy*

*Scott Hilts, Village Administrator, Round Lake Beach*

*Andrew Buckwinkler, Management Analyst, Schaumburg*

*Rob Boyer, City Manager, Freeport*

*Dawn S. Peters, Executive Director, ILCMA*



# ILCMA 2025 | SUMMER CONFERENCE

## CAREER COUNSELING APPOINTMENTS

The ILCMA Membership Services Committee is pleased to offer to conference attendees one-half hour career counseling appointments that can include mock interview and resume review services. These services will be offered by GovHR USA/MGT. Appointments are available on June 4 (10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). Please contact Dawn Peters at [dpeters@niu.edu](mailto:dpeters@niu.edu) or call her at 815-753-0923 to schedule your appointment.

## FINANCIAL ADVISING APPOINTMENTS

ICMA's Mission Square will be available to provide financial counseling on xxxx from xxx to xxx and xxxx from xxxx to xxxx. Please go to this link to schedule your appointment: XXXXXXXXX

## SOCIAL EVENT INFORMATION

### Tuesday, June 3

#### **9:00 a.m. Nine Hole Golf at Atkins Golf Course at University of Illinois**

If you plan to participate in the pre-conference ICMA University Workshop and would also like to squeeze in a round of golf, sign up for nine-hole golf. Tee off begins at 9:00 a.m. The charge for nine holes of golf will be \$57 (includes golf and lunch) and is payable at the time of registration.

[SIGN UP](#)

#### **10:00 a.m. 18 Hole Golf at Atkins Golf Course at University of Illinois**

The fee for the handicap or the scramble tournament is \$92 (includes golf, lunch, and prizes) and is payable at the time of conference registration. Tee times begin at 10:00 a.m. Due to tee time restrictions, golf is limited to the first 72 registered golfers.

[SIGN UP](#)

#### **1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Downtown Champaign Tour**

Join Economic Development Manager T.J. Blakeman for a walking tour of Downtown Champaign. As a twenty-year veteran of the Planning and Development Department and informal City Historian, Mr. Blakeman has been deeply involved in the design of capital projects and the development of programs that have led the revitalization efforts of Downtown Champaign. During this hour-long tour, we will visit the new Downtown Plaza to discuss how the city is taking a lead in creating new public spaces and programming to welcome back patrons lost during COVID. We will discuss programs such as our Redevelopment Incentive Program to learn about public-private partnerships to revitalize downtown buildings and discuss further enhancing the public spaces throughout downtown, including the new Downtown Plaza. Along the way, you'll have a chance to ask questions about how lessons learned in Champaign could be returned to your community. This tour is limited to 30 people.

#### **6:00- 10:00 p.m. Dinner at the Colonnades Club in Memorial Stadium**

Don't miss out on this fun event. There will be entertainment, tours of the stadium and much more! Bus transportation will be provided to/from the I Hotel and Hilton Garden Inn. Shuttle service from the hotels will begin at 5:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 4

#### **6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner and Reception**

The I Hotel and then transportation to Downtown Champaign for Savor the Flavor!

#### **7:30 – 11:30 p.m. Savor the Flavor**

Experience Downtown Champaign's award-winning culinary and nightlife scene with our Savor the Flavor night! With over 40 locally-owned bars and restaurants in the district, you can find flavors from all around the world. On Wednesday night, we will bring you downtown and provide you with two tickets to be redeemed at a selection of spots for crafted cocktails, beer, wine, and delectable desserts. Hosted by Experience Champaign-Urbana, this evening will get you out of the hotel for a brilliant night of networking while sipping and tasting our local flavors. Transportation to and from the conference hotels to downtown Champaign will be provided by ILCMA.

# ILCMA 2025 | SUMMER CONFERENCE

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### I HOTEL & ILLINOIS CONFERENCE CENTER

1900 S. 1ST ST. CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820

Room Rate (does not include taxes): \$159/night plus tax

#### There are two ways to make a reservation at the I Hotel:

1. Online at this block booking link. This will take you to a log in page, where you will enter your block information to access your special rate:  
Block Code: ILCMA25 Guest Password: z7BH^
2. Phone at 217-819-5000 must mention the block code ILCMA25 to any of the Guest Service Agents.  
Room block deadline: Monday, May 3, 2025

#### OVERFLOW HOTEL:

There are limited rooms available at the I Hotel; therefore, alternative accommodations have been secured at the Hilton Garden Inn which is .9 miles away.

Hilton Garden Inn 1501 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL

Room Rate (does not include taxes): \$169/night plus tax

#### There are two ways to make a reservation at the Hilton Garden Inn:

1. Online at Hilton Garden Inn.
2. Phone 217-352-9970  
Room block release is May 3, 2025

## THREE EASY WAYS TO REGISTER

### ONLINE

<https://www.ilcma.org/conferences/>

### FAX

815-753-6900

### MAIL

Send completed registration form and payment to:  
Outreach Services Registration Office  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
Phone: 800-345-9472

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE

### REGISTER BY MAY 28, 2025

*For a full refund, you must cancel your registration by May 28, 2025.*

*There is a \$50 cancellation fee after this date.*

## REGISTRATION RATES

**ILCMA Member** Registration (includes all meals): \$250

**First time attendee\*** (includes all meals): \$175

**Student** (includes all meals): \$50 Student Scholarships are available!

**Non-ILCMA Member** (includes all meals): \$425

**Pre-Conference Workshop:** \$35

*First 20 online registrations for NEW corporate (voting) members who are first time winter conference attendees are free or for ILCMA corporate members who have NOT attended a conference in the past five-years. There will be 10 waivers for managers/administrators and 10 waivers for assistants/assistant to/management analysts. There is also a travel stipend of \$250 connected to the complimentary registration. All registrations using this category will be verified with ILCMA records. The travel stipend will require proof of expenditures before the stipend will be granted.*

*Fees are waived for "in career transition" managers, assistants, and spouses/partners.*

**Register online at:** <https://www.ilcma.org/conferences/>

**Dress:** Business casual

**How to Save on Costs:** Carpool with your colleagues from a neighboring community. Share a room or villa (especially nice to invite an MICT to be your guest!)