

# ILLINOIS Pathways



## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Learning Exchange

The Finance Career Cluster includes: securities and investments, business finance, accounting, insurance, and banking services.

The finance sector in Illinois is comprised of a set of institutions, instruments, and the regulatory framework that permit transactions to be made by extending credit and incurring and settling debts. Broadly understood, the financial sector encompasses banks, insurance companies, real estate, and organizations that manage securities, commodities and other investments.

### Career Pathways

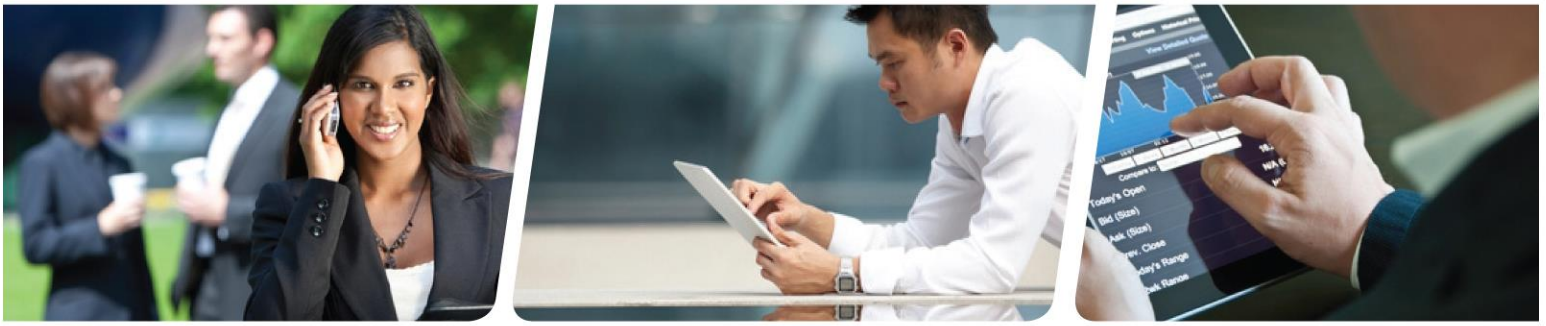
- Securities & Investments
- Business Finance
- Accounting
- Insurance
- Banking Services
- Property & Real Estate Management

### Highlights

- In banking and related services, office and administrative support workers constitute 64 percent of all jobs. Employment is projected to grow at about the state average thru 2018.
- As the population ages, sales will increase for health and long-term care insurance as well as annuities and other pension products.
- In securities and investment, employment growth is expected due to increasing investment and a growing need for investment consulting.



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**STEM Learning Exchanges have been formed for selected career clusters to improve the coordination and delivery of resources, work-based learning opportunities, career guidance, and partnerships that support local STEM programs.**

Illinois Pathways is supporting the launch of new and innovative public-private partnerships known as STEM Learning Exchanges. A separate Learning Exchange will be launched in each of the identified STEM areas and will have a lead entity that coordinates a statewide network of businesses, employer associations, education partners, and other stakeholders. These networks will be launched using Race to the Top funding, but will be supported by investments and commitments from public-private partners. The Finance STEM Learning Exchange will be provided with planning funds for one year to build their network and further develop capacity for implementation.

**Finance STEM Learning Exchange Planning Lead Organization:**



**FINANCE**

**Econ Illinois**

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Econ Illinois is the premier provider of economic education programs for K-12 schools throughout the state with over 60 years of experience in providing teacher professional development in basic economics, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship education. Econ Illinois' programs, delivered through university based Centers for Economic Education, help schools integrate the teaching of economics across all grade levels, developing a comprehensive and sequential curriculum for economics and personal finance.

A partnership of leaders from business, labor, agriculture, education, and government, Econ Illinois is dedicated to increasing economic literacy in Illinois. An affiliate of the national Council for Economic Education, Econ Illinois is the oldest continuously active state council in the national network impacting nearly 180,000 students each year.

The Finance Learning Exchange will provide curricular and other resources to support the selection of careers in finance and the preparation of high school students as they transition to post-secondary and consequently careers in the areas of securities and investments, business finance, accounting, insurance and banking.

- Matching contributions from Econ Illinois will support the planning activities over the course of the next year.

\* All applications for lead organizations are subject to change pending negotiations with the Illinois State Board of Education.



Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
 Illinois State Board of Education  
 Illinois Community College Board  
 Illinois Board of Higher Education  
 Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
 Illinois Department of Employment Security



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