



## Additional March 2023 & Year-Round Events Celebrating & Supporting Women-Owned Businesses Across Illinois

*powered by the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)*

The [Office of Minority Economic Empowerment \(OMEE\)](#) at the [Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#), is committed to providing minority-, women-, persons with disabilities and veteran-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs, overall marginalized owned businesses, across the state with equitable access to opportunities and resources. Through dynamic partnerships, targeted outreach, and tailored programs and initiatives, OMEE aims to create an inclusive business ecosystem for communities that have traditionally faced systemic barriers to entry and growth. This investment spurs local economic development in underserved areas resulting in a revitalized and thriving Illinois economy. Click [here](#) to get connected with Team OMEE.

Sign-up for e-updates from the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at DCEO by visiting <https://bit.ly/3Iphbpi> to receive updates for your business. Contact Women's Business Development Manager Michelle Lura White at [Michelle.White@illinois.gov](mailto:Michelle.White@illinois.gov) with any questions.

The [Office of Regional Economic Development \(Team RED\)](#) at the [Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#), lives and works in the communities they serve and are charged with facilitating economic development efforts in their regions, in addition to providing communities with front-line access to state programs and services. Team RED serves as an Economic Development Concierge for the State of Illinois. To help provide localized assistance, the State of Illinois is divided into 10 economic development regions. Download a copy of the Illinois Economic Development Regional [map](#) and [contacts](#).

Sign up for an e-newsletter from the Office of Regional Economic Development (RED) at DCEO by visiting <https://bit.ly/41s1erV> or contact Office of Regional Economic Development team member Kala Lambert at [Kala.Lambert@illinois.gov](mailto:Kala.Lambert@illinois.gov) with any questions.

**DCEO's Women's HERstory Month | [link](#)**

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is honored to celebrate Women's HERstory Month. Throughout March, DCEO is hosting events and elevating financial and social capital resources to advance women-owned businesses throughout the state. We'll also spotlight the contributions of businesses owned by women in Illinois – learn more about how to get involved and support women-owned businesses by clicking [here!](#)

**Below is not a complete list of all the Women's HERstory Month/Women's History Month/International Women's Day events in Illinois celebrating & supporting women, including women-owned businesses.**

**Let's Talk Womxn Chicago | [link](#)**

Let's Talk & Celebrate Chicago-Gold. Glamour. Gourmet. | March 2<sup>nd</sup> | [link](#)



**Founding Females | [link](#)**

Founding Females-Central Illinois event | March 4<sup>th</sup> | [link](#)

1871 | [link](#)

International Women's Day | March 8<sup>th</sup> | [link](#)

WMNtech Pitch Competition | March 30<sup>th</sup> | [link](#)

**The Hatchery** (*for food & beverage entrepreneurs*) | [link](#)

Networking Event: Celebrating Female Entrepreneurs | March 23<sup>rd</sup> | [link](#)

**Illinois Women in Cannabis** | [link](#)

Annual Spring Conference- “Empowering Women in the Illinois Cannabis Industry: Advancing Gender Equity Now” | March 25<sup>th</sup> | [link](#)



**Chicago Foundation for Women** | [link](#)

cfw Impact Awards | March 29<sup>th</sup> | [link](#)



**Chicago Innovation** | [link](#)

Celebrating Women in Innovation | May 11<sup>th</sup> | [link](#)

**Illinois Chamber of Commerce** | [link](#)

Sixth Annual Women in Business Conference | June 21<sup>st</sup> | [link](#)



**BizHub** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**Women's Entrepreneurship (WE) Hub** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**Founders Resource Hub** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**ChiBizHub** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**AWARE (Accelerating Women And underRepresented Entrepreneurs) and the University of Illinois at Research Park** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**Bunker Labs** (*for veteran entrepreneurs & their families*) | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship at Illinois Technology** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**Federation of Women Contractors** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**Female Strong** (*next generation*) | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**First Women's Bank** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**IC U/Latinas** | [link](#)

**Innovation & New Ventures Office (INVO) at Northwestern University** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**mHUB** (*for hardtech & manufacturing entrepreneurs*) | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**Latina Empowering Entrepreneurs Network (LEEN)** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)-Central Illinois** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)-Chicago** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**NextUp** (*empowered network of women, men, allies, & corporate partners*) | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**The Illinois Minority Business Development Agency (IL MBDA) Business Center** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**The Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Great Lakes Region** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**Women's Business Development Center (WBDC)** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**WomenEmployed (WE)** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**World Business Chicago** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**YWCA Evanston/North Shore** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**YWCA Metropolitan Chicago** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)

**YWCA Quincy** | [link](#)

year-round events | [link](#)