



Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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New DCEO Deputy Director Of Business Development Named

CHICAGO – Jack Lavin, Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), has named Dennis Vicchiarelli as the agency's new Deputy Director of Business Development. Vicchiarelli will be responsible for carrying out Illinois' economic development initiatives with a focus on commercialization of new technologies and financial incentive negotiations, and marketing of the state's industry advantages to company's looking at expansion alternatives.

"Dennis has more than a dozen years of economic development experience which he will apply to the task of creating and retaining jobs for Illinois residents," Lavin said. "His strong familiarity with the Chicago metropolitan region and his close work with firms in the technology sector will be major assets as we work to move Illinois forward."

Prior to joining DCEO, Vicchiarelli was Director of Business Development with World Business Chicago, the non-profit economic development and marketing organization for the City of Chicago and the surrounding nine-county area.

In that post Vicchiarelli specialized in the coordination of Chicago's efforts to attract and retain nanotechnology, biotechnology and environmental technology firms, and was instrumental in assisting firms with the acquisition of laboratory facilities, funding, and work force issues.

"I'm very excited to be joining the economic development team at DCEO," Vicchiarelli said. "I look forward to getting out and marketing the state's assets, such as its strong work force and strategic location, that make Illinois such a desirable site for companies looking to expand or relocate operations."

Vicchiarelli was also a participant in Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's Council of Technology Advisors (MCTA). He has also taught graduate-level courses in economic development as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

Vicchiarelli holds a Masters degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bowling Green State University.

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