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IMD Leadership Shares Strategic Vision with State Legislators

*Executive Director travels to Springfield on behalf of the nation's
second largest urban medical district*

CHICAGO— Illinois Medical District (IMD) CEO/Executive Director Dr. Suzet McKinney visited Springfield last week to discuss with state legislators her strategic vision to transform the District into a more vibrant, thriving environment for those who work, live and visit. Her efforts raised awareness among elected officials of current and future initiatives aimed at positioning the IMD as the next great health innovation district.

Dr. McKinney spent a full day going door to door at the State Capitol, meeting with senators and representatives alike. Her audience included Representative Art Turner and Senator Patricia Van Pelt, in whose congressional and senate districts the IMD lies. She also met with Representative Martin Sandoval, Senator Tony Munoz, House Speaker Michael Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton, among others.

“I was heartened by the reception from our elected officials when I shared our ambitious goals for the District,” said Dr. McKinney. “Their support will be critical to our success, and their thorough line of questioning tells me that we’ve piqued their interest.”

Dr. McKinney’s vision for the IMD calls for more strategic development throughout the District that will make a larger economic impact on the city, county and state. The plan also seeks to create opportunities for the surrounding communities through training programs, permanent jobs and more amenities, such as dining and retail.

“Chicago’s west side residents are often underserved, and their talents are underutilized,” said 5th District Senator Patricia Van Pelt. “I was excited to learn about the IMD’s plan to create change in the community, and I look forward to working closely with Dr. McKinney to see that it happens.”

The IMD plans to leverage existing economic development programs to recruit the types of business that will thrive, as well as foster a more collaborative and innovative environment. Attracting specific companies within the healthcare/biotech sector will ensure that the nearly 30 acres of available land are developed in a way that fits with the overall mission of the IMD.

“For too long the IMD has existed as a little-known entity with a wealth of untapped potential,” continued Dr. McKinney. “Our strategy is aggressive, but necessary to achieving our goal of becoming the world’s next great district for healthcare innovation.”

The IMD will advance its strategic plan by continuing to build awareness and support among local business leaders, elected officials and District stakeholders. It will also seek funding opportunities through federal grants and private investment, both of which are critical components of successful innovation districts. Together, IMD partners will accelerate discovery and commercialization that is reshaping the practice of medicine, generating prosperity for everyone.

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The Illinois Medical District Commission (IMDC) fosters economic growth in the Illinois Medical District (IMD) by supporting healthcare, research, program, technology commercialization and real estate development initiatives. The IMDC facilitates collaboration among clinicians, academic researchers, private industry and patients, acting as an independent third party convener that brings institutions and individuals together around common needs, goals and themes. Our mission is to be a leader in patient care and medical research utilizing our diversity and unique assets while driving economic growth. www.medicaldistrict.org