



OFFICE OF
LEGISLATIVE AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS

COMMERCE

PRESIDENTS' DAY RECESS PACKET

**INVESTING IN
AMERICA**

COMMERCE

INVESTING IN AMERICA

February 9, 2024

Dear Congressional Colleagues:

As you prepare for the Presidents' Day work period, it's my pleasure to highlight the many ways in which the Biden-Harris Administration is serving your constituents. On behalf of the Department of Commerce, I invite you to consider events in your states or districts that showcase the efforts of the Department, particularly through the American Rescue Plan, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS and Science Act, and Inflation Reduction Act.

The Department has an array of resources and district and state offices that you can partner with to highlight recent investments. One of the best ways to track investments in your district or state from these laws is through [Invest.gov](https://invest.gov). Commerce's bureaus also provide important information and updates regarding the important work taking place throughout the country. You can find links to those resources and event ideas below.

The Department is deeply grateful for our Congressional partners, and we look forward to sharing more about our work in your communities. Please do not hesitate to contact my team with any questions you might have at CongressionalCorrespondence@doc.gov.

Sincerely,



Susie Feliz
Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

- EDA plays a critical role in facilitating regional economic development efforts in communities across the nation through strategic investments that create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth. For the latest information about EDA's work, follow this [link](#).
- The Good Jobs Challenge (GJC) awarded \$500 million to 32 industry-led workforce training partnerships. Across the country, the Good Jobs Challenge is expanding career opportunities for more Americans to reach their full potential and secure good-paying jobs while producing a skilled workforce to ensure the United States is prepared to innovate, compete, and succeed in a 21st Century global economy.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Reach out to a GJC [awardee](#) in your state/district and organize a visit to a training site and/or employer partner to see how these programs are placing your constituents into good jobs.
- The Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) is also seeing returns on \$1 billion of investments to 21 regional coalitions, boosting economic recovery from the pandemic, strengthening regional industry clusters, expanding economic opportunity and competitiveness, and creating thousands of good jobs.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Visit a BBBRC [awardee](#) in your state/district and organize a roundtable with coalition members.
- **MORE INFORMATION:** You can find an interactive map of all of EDA's American Rescue Plan awardee locations (including recipients of GJC, BBBRC, and more) across America using our [American Rescue Plan Impact Map](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

- In 2022, EDA received \$500 million—the first 5% of its \$10 billion CHIPS and Science Act authorization—to launch its Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs) Program to drive regional technology- and innovation-centric growth by strengthening a region's capacity to manufacture, commercialize, and deploy critical technologies.
- EDA received 379 total Tech Hubs applications from 49 states and 4 territories. In October, EDA designated 31 Tech Hubs and awarded Strategy Development Grants (SDGs) to 29 consortia. Among the designated Hubs, 6 include Tribal governments in the consortia, and 22 benefit small and rural communities – more information on the portfolio can be found here. The 31 Tech Hubs are each applying to receive one of approximately 5-10 implementation grants of approximately \$40-70 million each. The application deadline is February 29, 2024 and EDA anticipates a Summer 2024 awards announcement.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Identify consortia in your state/district who applied to the Tech Hubs program and request a tour of their institutions and assets that are advancing critical technologies on which your region is strengthening its economic competitiveness. See the complete list of applicants here and the list of Tech Hubs Designees and Strategy Development Grantees here.

TECH HUBS
U.S. Economic Development Administration



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

- Authorized for up to \$1 billion in the CHIPS and Science Act, the Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program (Recompete) received \$200 million to invest in economically distressed communities to create and connect people to good jobs. This program will create renewed economic opportunity in regions that have for too long been forgotten.
- EDA received more than 560 applications during the Recompete Program's initial competition, representing the highest demand of any national program in EDA's history. In December of 2023, EDA announced 22 Phase 1 Finalists, as well as 24 recipients of Recompete Strategy Development Grants (SDGs). Among the Finalists, 7 focus exclusively on rural America and 5 are led by or involve Tribal organizations as a primary partner. Recompete Finalists will compete in Phase 2 of the competition, with 4-8 Recompete Plans ultimately receiving implementation funding averaging between \$20 and \$50 million each. The application deadline is April 25, 2024, and EDA anticipates a Summer 2024 awards announcement.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Find a Recompete Finalist, awardee, or applicant in your state/district and host a stakeholder roundtable to highlight current efforts in your state/district to advance the regional economy, and to discuss the proposed solutions they've identified to tackle persistent regional challenges. See the complete list of applicants [here](#) and the list of Recompete Finalists and Strategy Development Grantees [here](#).





NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

- NOAA's mission includes: 1. To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean and coasts; 2. to share that knowledge and information with others; and 3. to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.
- To carry out these missions, NOAA has an expansive national footprint of Labs, Weather Forecast Offices, Cooperative Institutes, National Estuarine Research Reserves, Piers and other facilities. To view a snapshot and highlight of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your area, see here.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Contact leg.affairs@noaa.gov to schedule a visit in your state/district to see how NOAA's investments are supporting your local community.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Learn about and tour a [site that has benefitted from marine debris funding](#).
- NOAA has awarded \$885.4 million to coastal and Great Lakes states as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. See where the money is being used in [your state](#).
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Contact leg.affairs@noaa.gov to arrange a local site visit, tour, roundtable discussion, or press event to highlight these transformational investments.
- Announcements for additional grant awards for these funds are expected this spring and summer, so please stay tuned for upcoming engagement opportunities in your state/district!



INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION (ITA)

- ITA promotes U.S. exports and is working to strengthen our international competitiveness by promoting trade and investment and ensuring there is a level playing field for American workers and businesses.
- ITA's Global Markets business unit advocates for U.S. businesses in international markets, and helps global companies invest in the United States. You can read some success stories [here](#).
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Partner with your local U.S. Export Assistance Center (USEAC) to host a roundtable with small businesses in your district that are new to exporting.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Host an event to recognize Presidential Awards for Export Achievements (E Award) winners in your state/district.
- The Enforcement & Compliance business unit defends against unfair trade practices and upholds compliance with existing trade agreements.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Contact ITA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs to help identify local stakeholders that have benefited from enforcement of U.S. trade laws and do an in-person visit to one these facilities.
- Robust and secure supply chains are crucial to a strong economy. ITA's Supply Chain Center in our Industry & Analysis business unit uses advanced analytics to make the U.S. government more strategic and proactive in strengthening supply chains.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Convene a panel discussion with business leaders on supply chain resilience and diversification efforts and hear from them on challenges that they may be facing.



INTERNATIONAL
T R A D E
ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (NTIA)

- NTIA promotes access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service with its Internet For All Initiative.
- At the end of June 2023, NTIA announced state allocations for the \$42 billion in Broadband Equity and Access Deployment (BEAD) funds. Find information about the impact in your state and specific tribal and minority community awardees.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** 1) Reach out to your local State Broadband Office to coordinate a roundtable discussion on NTIA's Internet for All efforts, 2) coordinate a BEAD press event with unserved/underserved constituents, 3) visit a local university or community organization that benefited from one of our broadband programs, or 4) set up a tour with a company that is investing resources to close the digital divide.
- NTIA has awarded more than \$1.86 billion to over 200 tribal projects through its Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP). Find a recipient in your state using NTIA's TBCP recipient map.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Connect with a Tribal government in your state/district to hear how this funding directed to tribal governments is being used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as for telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion.



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (NTIA)

- NTIA's Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) is a \$268 million grant initiative to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) for the purchase of broadband internet access service and eligible equipment or to hire and train information technology personnel. Find the awardee in your state/district using NTIA's CMC recipient map.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Partner with one of the 93 CMC awardees to learn more about how this funding is contributing to higher learning. Host a roundtable and tour of the institution to see the impacts of this funding firsthand.
- NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program has awarded approximately \$980 million to 36 entities across 40 states and territories to build regional networks that connect to national Internet networks. Middle mile Internet infrastructure carries large amounts of data over long distances, increases capacity to local networks, boosts network resiliency, lowers the cost of bringing high-speed Internet service to unconnected households, and helps connect unserved regions to the Internet backbone.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Partner with an awardee from your state using NTIA's Middle Mile grant recipient map and learn more about how this investment will impact your state/district.





- FirstNet Authority is an independent agency within NTIA, whose mission is to oversee the buildout, deployment, and operation of the nationwide public safety broadband network called FirstNet. Today, first responders throughout the country use FirstNet to help them save lives and keep communities safe.
- Since 2018, FirstNet has deployed across all 56 states and territories and now has over 5.5 million connections at over 27,000 agencies.
 - Please email FirstNet's Director of Legislative Affairs, Tom Shull (Thomas.Shull@firstnet.gov) to learn more about FirstNet and its use by first responders in your state/territory/district.





MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

opportunities, (3) secure capital, (3) develop agreements and establish strategic partnerships in the private and public sector, and (4) become export ready, among other things.

- The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is the only federal agency solely dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of minority business enterprises.
- Through its Business Center Program, MBDA works with technical assistance providers to assist minority business enterprises (1) improve access to markets, (2) compete for contract

- **EVENT IDEA:** Reach out to your local MBDA Business Center to set up a roundtable discussion with a diverse set of stakeholders and the ecosystem of minority business enterprises in your state/district. Learn how this center is benefiting entrepreneurs and businesses in your community.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Reach out to your local MBDA Business Center to identify enterprises to tour.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Hold a Business to Business (B2B) event – inviting wholesalers/manufacturers/private companies to engage with the MBDA's Business Center's ecosystem of enterprises.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Invite your local MBDA Business Center to discuss capabilities and offerings at a community resource fair (virtual or in-person).
- MBDA's historic \$125 million Capital Readiness Program (CRP) funds and builds a geographically dispersed network of MBDA Capital Readiness technical assistance providers that help minority and other underserved entrepreneurs build the skills to (1) launch or scale existing businesses, (2) access SSBCI capital and participate in other governmental programs that support small businesses, and (3) secure other forms of capital. Service models include early-stage technical assistance/incubators to help enterprises launch their businesses, products, or services, and emerging business technical assistance/accelerators to provide guidance on growth and expansion.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Reach out to your local CRP competition winner to (1) meet their cohort of enterprises – if applicable, (2) tour one of their clients' facilities, (3) hosts a roundtable with diverse stakeholders and the local business ecosystem and learn more about their incubator and/or accelerator program to help entrepreneurs grow or scale their businesses.
 - Reach out to our office at CongressionalCorrespondence@doc.gov to help connect you with CRP winners in your state/district.

- Founded in 1905, NIST's mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life. For more information about NIST's work, follow this [link](#).
- Following the release of the NIST AI Risk Management Framework (RMF) in January 2023, NIST has continued to be a global leader in efforts to champion the design and deployment of responsible, trustworthy, and safe AI.
- In October 2023, NIST was assigned a number of key tasks in the President's Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence. NIST was directed to develop a variety of guidelines, best practices, and standards to further promote consensus industry standards that help ensure the development and deployment of safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems.
- NIST launched the [U.S. AI Safety Institute \(USAISI\)](#) to help create, measure, and develop standards for safe and trustworthy AI technologies. NIST received over 500 letters of interest to join an AI Safety Consortium that will advance the USAISI's scientific work, including from Fortune 500 companies; large, medium, and small industries; universities and professional societies; civil society; standard development organizations; and key government agencies.



◦ **EVENT IDEAS:**

- Contact NIST to schedule an in-person site visit to a local organization's research laboratory.
- Host a roundtable (in-person or virtual) with AI experts and/or companies, civil society groups, or other entities working on AI-related issues to discuss how the benefits of AI can be harnessed while mitigating any potential risks.
- Host a workforce development event with local colleges, universities, trade organizations, or industry to discuss the NEW AI jobs and training that are needed to ensure that the U.S. can lead the world in taking advantage of AI's benefits while minimizing potential risks.



**MEP • MANUFACTURING
EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP®**

- NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program serves small- and medium-sized manufacturers with an [office in every state](#).

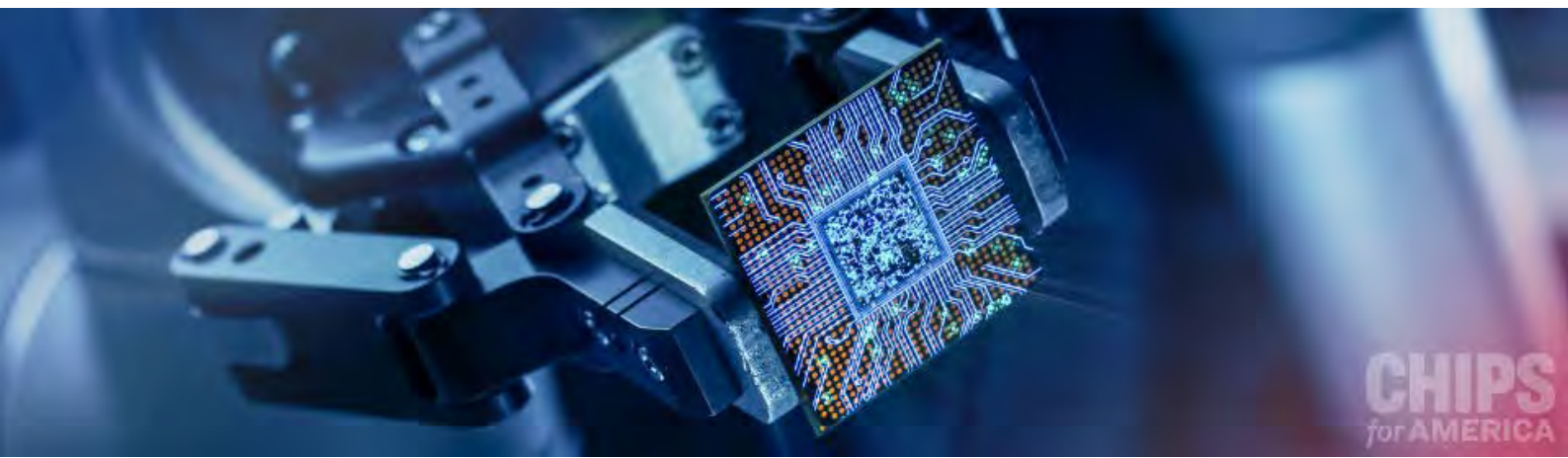
◦ **EVENT IDEAS:**

- Reach out to your [local MEP](#) to learn how they provide companies with services and access to public and private resources to enhance growth, improve productivity, reduce costs, and expand capacity.
- Tour a local business that benefits from your local MEP.



CHIPS FOR AMERICA

- NIST is home to CHIPS for America, which encompasses two offices responsible for implementing the CHIPS and Science Act: the CHIPS Program Office (CPO) and the CHIPS Research and Development Office (CRDO).
- As part of the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, the Department of Commerce is overseeing \$50 billion to revitalize the U.S. semiconductor industry, including \$39 billion in semiconductor incentives through CPO and \$11 billion in R&D funding through CRDO, including the National Semiconductor Technology Center (NSTC), National Advanced Packaging Manufacturing Program, a Manufacturing USA institute focused on digital twins, and the NIST Metrology Program.
- In February 2023, the Department released the first Notice of Funding Opportunity for commercial manufacturing facilities, and then opened it to include large supply chain projects.
- The Department also released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for smaller semiconductor supply chain projects and expects to launch funding opportunities for R&D in the near future.





- The Department of Commerce announced two CHIPS non-binding preliminary memoranda of terms (PMTs) in December, 2023 and January 2024. The first PMT was signed with BAE Systems Electronic Systems for approximately \$35 million in federal incentives to support the modernization of the company's Microelectronic Center. The second PMT was signed to provide approximately \$162 million in federal incentives to support the onshoring of Microchip Technology Inc's semiconductor supply chain.
- For more information about CHIPS for America's work, follow this [link](#).
- **EVENT IDEAS:**
 - Host a virtual workforce development event with local colleges, universities, trade organizations, chambers of commerce, labor, childcare leaders, and/or semiconductor manufacturers to discuss the NEW tech jobs and how to attract and support a diverse workforce.
 - Convene a virtual panel discussion with academic institutions, STEM leaders, national security and economic experts, entrepreneurs, and semiconductor trade associations to discuss about the growing semiconductor ecosystem.
 - Host a virtual opportunity & inclusion event with a local HBCU, MSI, or small and rural institutions that has an interest in the semiconductor industry and/or has a strong STEM focus to help students, faculty, and administrators learn more about CHIPS for America.



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (OUSEA)

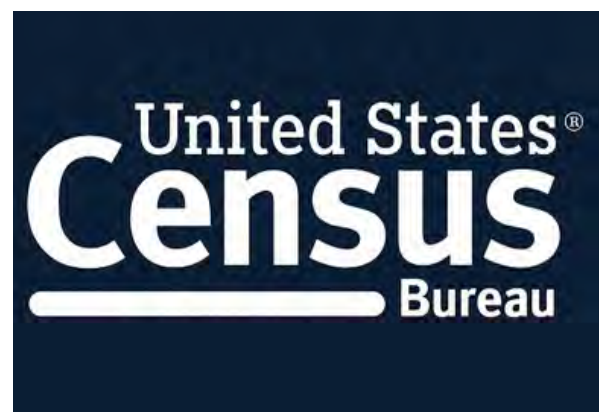
- OUSEA sets the data and evidence strategy for the Department of Commerce and provides critical economic analysis of the Department's priorities. Last year, OUSEA launched the [Regional Economic Research Initiative](#) an effort to build data tools, offer data services, and publish research to improve the design, implementation, and evaluation of place-based policies.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Host a roundtable with local economic development organizations and leaders to understand what types of data and analysis would be helpful to them as they help the communities you serve.
 - Send the group's feedback to RegionalInitiative@doc.gov so that the Regional Initiative team can continue to improve our products and services.

-
- BEA's economists produce some of the world's most closely watched [statistics](#), including U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), the statistics that help us track inflation, and data on industries and investments. Check out statistics available by [state](#) and/or [locality](#).



- **EVENT IDEA:** Convene local business leaders to share information about the economic data available to them from BEA and to hear their thoughts about additional economic data that would help supercharge their decision-making power.

-
- The U.S. Census Bureau is the leading source of federal government statistics about your local community. [Quick Facts](#) is an easy resource for understanding the demographic and economic characteristics of your community. [My Congressional District](#) gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics for each U.S. Congressional district.



- **EVENT IDEA:** Ask a Census Bureau [Data Dissemination Specialist](#) to [demo](#) Census Bureau data products that local community organizers and leaders can use to make decisions, conduct outreach, and advocate for change.



US PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)

- USPTO provides an examination of patent and trademark applications, guides domestic and international intellectual property (IP) policy, and delivers IP information and education worldwide to foster innovation, competitiveness, and economic growth. (www.USPTO.gov)
- At the highest level, the USPTO exists to promote American innovation through IP, across all geographic regions of the United States and across all demographics. The USPTO has established several programs and expanded and/or improved existing programs to fulfill this mission:
- Empowering Women's Entrepreneurship (WE) - A community-focused, collaborative, and creative initiative to encourage and empower more women founders across America. The USPTO's outreach to underrepresented communities includes a range of entrepreneurship programs. In 2022, the DOC and USPTO co-founded the Women's Entrepreneurship (WE) initiative to inspire and empower more women leaders to jumpstart their journeys of innovation, advance the conversation around challenges and opportunities for women-owned businesses, and tap into women's potential through entrepreneurship. The WE initiative includes a new resource hub that provides key information about IP protections, as well as resources that help connect innovators and entrepreneurs with each other, identify sources for funding, and launch their own businesses.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** February 21, 2024, Virtual and in St, Louis, MO program, 5:00 p.m. CT – 6:00 p.m. CT, Women's Entrepreneurship Series – Leading with purpose: Women making a difference

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE





US PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)

- February is National African American/Black History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions and achievements of Black Americans and their central role in U.S. history.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Join us for the 2024 Black Innovation and Entrepreneurship program, Innovate, elevate, empower: Connecting the entrepreneur to the innovation ecosystem, on Thursday, February 22, from 1–4:30 p.m. CT. The free program will be offered virtually and in person at the T-REX Building in St. Louis, Missouri. Special guests and expert panelists will discuss resources and services that can help you access capital, protect your IP, find mentors, and network with fellow innovators and entrepreneurs. A networking session with subject matter experts from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will be held after the program. The 2024 agenda and speaker list will be posted soon. Register and learn more about the event. To see recordings of previous Black Innovation and Entrepreneurship programs, visit the event series page and select the event you want to watch.
- The National Medal of Technology and Innovation (NMTI) is America's highest honor for technological achievement and innovation. The president of the United States presents the NMTI at a special White House ceremony. Anyone can submit an NMTI nomination by using the online nomination form and providing letters of support. The USPTO must receive all nominations by **11:59 p.m. ET, May 3, 2024**. We encourage nominations of candidates from traditionally underserved communities groups. **Nominations for 2024 open February 5 through May 3**. The short link for NMTI is www.uspto.gov/nmti
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Nominate an extraordinary innovator in your state/district.
 - **Participate:** NMTI staff will hold a free informational webinar on the award and the nomination process. Staff will discuss the nomination guidelines and procedures, then answer questions from the audience. Upcoming NMTI Webinar 2024, Virtual Location, March 12, 2024, 2:00 p.m. ET – 3:00 p.m. ET. Go to: <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events/national-medal-technology-and-innovation-webinar-2024>



US PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)

- The USPTO's National Summer Teacher Institute on Innovation, STEM and Intellectual Property (NSTI) is an annual hands-on multi-day professional development program for K-12 educators to learn classroom techniques as they increase their knowledge of concepts of making, inventing, and intellectual property (IP) creation and protection that will foster and unleash the innovator in every student through invention education. The program is open to eligible K-12 teachers nationwide.
 - NSTI 2024 will take place July 21-26, 2024, at the USPTO Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Encourage K-12 eligible educators in your state/district to apply by March 13: Application period now open for 10th annual National Summer Teacher Institute | PTOWeb ([uspto.gov](https://www.uspto.gov)).
- China Intellectual Property (IP) Road Shows: The USPTO has also worked to improve IP protection and enforcement for U.S. business owners who are conducting business in China. The China IP Road Shows are a series of one-day events that represent a collaboration between the USPTO and a variety of organizations across the country, including universities, USPTO regional offices, business groups, state and local governments, and other federal agencies.
- These programs bring to local businesses and stakeholders the expertise and knowledge of the USPTO's China specialists as well as that of special invited guests, who often include local businesspeople. Between 2017 and mid-2020, the USPTO's China IP Road Shows were held in dozens of cities. In March-October, 2023, the USPTO has held roadshows in Minneapolis, Omaha, Dallas, San Diego, and Green Bay. The next road show will take place in Chicago, March 26, 2024. Please see the USPTO webpage China IP Road Shows and webinar events | USPTO for future updates on this and additional programs as the year commences.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** As China Intellectual Property (IP) Road Shows are planned in your state/district, especially for small and medium-sized business and new-to-market exporters, please share USPTO-provided flyer information with constituents you think may have an interest in the program. We invite Member and staff attendance at programs and "welcome remarks" by Members during the programs.



- NTIS's mission is to provide innovative data services to federal agencies, through joint venture partnerships with the private sector, to advance federal data priorities, promote economic growth, and enable operational excellence. These products include:
 - Limited Access Death Master File (LADMF). An “access control” service that can help organizations, e.g., non-profit, and for-profit, with fraud detection and prevention activities. This includes the financial sector, social security administrators, and secretaries of the state. This is a fee-based service that is authorized by a 2013 legislation. Website: <https://www.ntis.gov/ladmf/ladmf.xhtml>
 - National Technical Reports Library. NTIS has more than 3 million searchable government publications, reports, and studies. Ideally, this service can be used by researchers, colleges, and those who conduct studies within these districts. This is a free service that includes more than 300 subjects. Website: <https://ntrl.ntis.gov/NTRL/>



CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs:

(202) 482-3663

CommerceIGA@doc.gov

CongressionalCorrespondence@doc.gov

