

James M. Schultz

**Director
Illinois Department of Commerce
and Economic Opportunity**



Gov. Bruce Rauner named Jim Schultz as the director of DCEO in February 2015. In his role, Schultz provides leadership and strategic guidance to the department's efforts to grow the state's economy. He oversees the offices of:

- business development
- entrepreneurship, innovation and technology
- community development
- film
- employment and training
- tourism
- energy and recycling
- trade and investment
- energy assistance
- urban assistance.

Schultz is a fifth generation Illinoisan, agribusiness entrepreneur, and private equity executive. As founder of Open Prairie Ventures, he ran three multi-million-dollar private equity funds where he successfully let two of his startups to eventual listings on the NYSE and NASDAQ.

He has been recognized in his hometown for turning a cornfield into an office park that created more than 1,500 jobs for college graduates. Schultz has also been recognized for his service on the advisory board for the Chicago Federal Reserve and boards for Prime Bank Corporation, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Southeast Illinois Community Foundation, and the Effingham County Community Foundation.