



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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PAT QUINN
GOVERNOR

October 15, 2009

Polish American Congress
5711 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60646

Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for this conference hosted by the Polish American Congress.

Since its inception, the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress has been committed to serving the more than one million Polish Americans who make their homes here in the Land of Lincoln. Uniting over 3,000 Polish American clubs, societies and organizations, they work hard each day to improve the lives of Polish Americans in this state through a wide array of valuable programs and initiatives. Today's conference, with the theme "The Polish American Community in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities" highlights areas where considerable progress has been made and where there is still more work to be done. With panels on everything from leadership to education to the role of ethnic organizations, everyone in attendance is certain to benefit.

This conference will also serve to strengthen U.S.-Poland business ties. At this time of economic uncertainty, it is important that international partners meet to discuss bilateral trade issues and encourage cooperation. The events planned for today will provide an ideal forum for American and Polish representatives to share ideas and promote economic opportunities. Together, we must strive to reinforce the already productive partnership between our two nations, enhance our capabilities to foster future business and trade, and, perhaps most importantly, promote mutual understanding between cultures. I am certain that this event will greatly aid in those goals.

I commend everyone present for your work on behalf of the Polish American community, and all Illinoisans, and offer my best wishes for a productive conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn
Governor