DPI
DISCOVERY PARTNERS INSTITUTE

History
Impact
Vision

May 2024

DPI — A very brief history

October 2017

Inspired by a vision for the future, President Timothy Killeen joins the IL governor in announcing plans for DPI.

February 2018

The state funded DPI and IIN with $500 million for capital projects.

November 2019

The board of trustees adopted DPI's business plan, operating model, and financial impact study, developed with the Boston Consulting Group.

November 2022

DPI wins Chicago Innovation Award for its work in wastewater. Science team travels to NYC to ring NASDAQ Bells in 2023.

Coming up

The search for DPI's next executive director is under way

Early Days

Ideas for DPI were envisioned and discussed across the University of Illinois System, the City of Chicago, and the State of Illinois.

August 2019

DPI became an official institute of the U of I System.

December 2020

Pritzker Foundation makes $10M donation for Tech Talent Labs.

Summer/Fall 2024

With groundbreaking for DPI's new headquarters on The 78 planned for later this year, DPI has grown to staff of more than 85.

Our purpose:

Equitable economic development at scale

Our vision:

Our vision is to be an engine of equitable economic development and a magnet for the most ambitious tech talent in the world. We do three things: applied R&D, business building, and tech talent development. Already, we're building a thriving community, fueling ventures, pioneering solutions, and transforming lives.

Our promise for the next decade

7,000+ Students primed for tech jobs in Illinois

3,000+ Individuals from underrepresented backgrounds entering the tech sector

Dozens of start-ups and corporate innovation centers

$2.8B in economic impact

Our approach:

Establish and grow collaborative partnerships that address grand challenges, elevate entrepreneurship, and educate the next-generation workforce.

1

Applied R&D

2

Business Building

3

Tech Talent Development

Applied R&D

Fueling research to create foundations
for new business development

R&D approach:

DPI-funded researchers and science teams bridge institutions, disciplines, and geographies to explore solutions to real-world problems. Their findings inform policymakers and their innovations inform new business development.

A sample of our study areas

- Transforming cities with resilient, climate-friendly, clean transportation solutions

- Tracing COVID-19 in wastewater statewide

- Building technology to operate machinery remotely

- Creating a new repository for data on the human brain

- Guiding companies on how to responsibly and safely adopt Artificial Intelligence to drive efficiencies and growth

- Increasing use of AI in the construction industry

- Improving improving farmer's livelihoods by increasing

- Use of AI

Highlights for R&D

$70.4M

in research grants received since inception; $26.3M more in contracts

42

new projects and partnerships with industry

33

new IWERC workforce and education research reports

Business Building

Partnering with scientists, institutions,
and companies to build businesses

Business building approach:

DPI brings a collaborative, multi-stage process of screening, competitive review, business plan development, licensing, and financial modeling to inventors and campuses in advance of company formation. Partnership continues in establishing operations, developing the leadership team, and accessing venture capital.

What our business building team does

- Assessment and evaluation
- Structuring and negotiation
- Finding facilities
- Access to capital
- Identification of talent

2023 highlights for business building

82

faculty members reached

52

invention disclosures filed

3

new ventures formed

Tech Talent Development

Finding, engaging, and preparing young and diverse people for careers in tech

Talent development approach:

Our Pritzker Tech Talent Labs programs are comprehensive and essential for our shared digital future. We cultivate promising and diverse talents from junior high to their first job after college, and help current workers upskill in tech.

Our programs

- K-12 CS teacher certification programs

- Junior high programs, high school programs, and community college pathways to four-year degrees

- Undergrad internships with Chicago tech industry

- Workforce education and apprenticeship programs

Range of PTTL programs

Middle and High School
- Digital Explorers
- Discover Computing
- Digital Scholars
- Workshops

Teacher Training
- CS Endorsement (w/UIUC)
- Mobile App Development
- PD Workshops
- Summer Intensives

Community College
- Digital Bridge
- CS Starter Academy

4-Year + Graduate
- Summer Tech Internships
- Working with campus partners on immersion experiences

Workforce
- Tech Apprenticeship program
- Full Stack Dev, expanding into other areas; certifications
- Online/Hybrid

Corporate Upskilling
- Initial pilots in development

2023 highlights
for tech talent development

750
students and 200 teachers reached at 133 schools

58
future apprentices upskilled in inaugural software dev program

2
Companies — SAP and John Deere — hired these diverse tech talents

Innovation hub

DPI's new headquarters at The 78 will allow us to scale our programs dramatically

Innovation hub approach:

In 2024, DPI plans to break ground on its new innovation center at The 78 near Chicago's South Loop. To be completed by 2027, the new headquarter will allow DPI to scale its programs significantly with new classrooms, studios, workshops, and labs.

DPI anchors development
ideas for The 78

2023 highlights
for the innovation hub

✓

Design complete for DPI's new innovation hub at The 78

✓

Intergovernmental agreement secured for 15th St. at The 78

✓

The Capital Development Board opened contractor bids

DPI's global institutional partners

DPI's community partners

IDPH — Illinois Department of Public Health

comed — AN EXELON COMPANY

1871

ILLINOIS VENTURES

MHUB

ILLINI ANGELS

CHICAGo — CHOOSE CHICAGO

CBC — CHICAGO BIOMEDICAL CONSORTIUM

WORLD BUSINESS CHICAGO

SAP

P33

MATTER

DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT