



PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Tech. Talent. Research.
dpi.uillinois.edu



About DPI

The Discovery Partners Institute (DPI) empowers people to jumpstart their tech careers or companies in Chicago. Led by the University of Illinois System in partnership with top regional and global research institutions, DPI does three things centered around economic development:



Talent development for high-demand tech jobs



Applied research and development



Strengthening the city's tech ecosystem

We are in a global war for the best and the brightest. DPI is the state's offensive. It represents an unprecedented collaboration to band together to develop, attract, and retain talent—and advance transformative R&D.

With \$235M in state investment and a new urban innovation district in development, DPI has the resources to attract, develop and leverage the most ambitious people and companies the region has to offer—and keep them here.

Tech Talent Development

DPI will help retain the students we've educated, make our current workforce more skilled, diversify our tech talent pipeline, and entice tech employers to put their most attractive, high-paying jobs in Illinois. We know that this will require a systemic approach to talent development.

We will deliver transformative scale and connectivity across a learner's journey from high school to a successful career in tech—with an intentional focus on underrepresented and under-served populations. DPI's talent programs at scale have sizable key goals that include:



K-12

Improving K-12 and community college pathways in computer and data science—supporting programs for both students and teachers



College

Immersion programs for undergrad and graduate students that connect them with experiential learning relevant to employers



Career

Upskilling and workforce development for in-demand jobs in computing and data analytics



Diversity

Developing specific programs to help under-served and under-represented groups step into high demand tech jobs



Testimonials

“The 78 is a project we should all get behind.”

- Crain’s editorial board

“We look forward to collaborating with (DPI) on our shared goals of developing inclusive long-term economic growth.”

- Mayor Lori Lightfoot

“... Strengthening Illinois’ economic vitality for generations to come.”

- Gov. J.B. Pritzker

“A big step in putting the city on the right economic path for tech-industry development.”

- Chicago Sun-Times editorial board

Applied R&D

DPI will become a hive of technology activity, a place where companies, researchers, and students can access smart people, state-of-the-art equipment and money. We are beginning to build multidisciplinary research teams that solve complex but practical challenges, and will match them with new funding from corporations, the federal government, and foundations.

The goal is to develop these teams into international centers of excellence that will achieve significant economic and societal impact in the following key sectors:



Climate & Environment



Finance & Insurance



Food



Health & Wellness



Transport & Logistics



Timeline & Projected Impact

Today

DPI activities are underway at 200 S. Wacker in Chicago’s Loop, which offers classrooms, conference rooms, and initial partnership development.

+5yrs

DPI will open a 261,000 square foot space in Chicago’s South Loop. This space will anchor an innovation district, known as The 78, in partnership with Related Midwest.

+10yrs

By 2029 and beyond, DPI will be an economic engine and global research powerhouse, adding **\$200M+** in new R&D every year, dozens of start-ups, and corporate innovation centers. It will prepare **7,000 students** primed for tech jobs in Illinois annually, with **3,000 individuals** from underrepresented backgrounds entering the tech workforce.