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.

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

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

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