

# A New Engine of Innovation

An international hub activated by applied R&D, business building, and tech talent development to address global challenges and drive equitable prosperity for Chicago and the region.



PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

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# The power of three:

# How DPI makes an impact

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**

### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE INNOVATION HUB



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



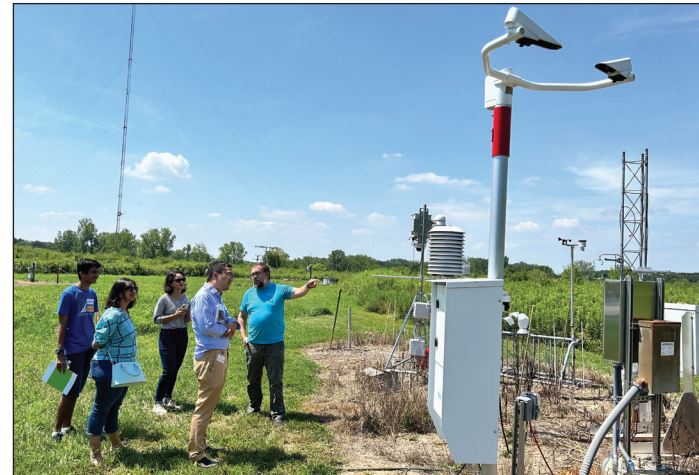
Intergovernmental agreement secured for 15th St. at The 78

**2024** Groundbreaking at The 78

# 1

## Applied R&D

*Fueling research to create foundations for new business development*



DPI researchers near an air sensor.

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.

- ▶ 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

### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS FOR R&D

**\$70.4M** in research grants received; \$26.3M more in contracts

**42** new projects and partnerships with industry

**10** new IWERC research reports presented at 31 events

# 2

## Business building

*Partnering with scientists, institutions, and companies to build businesses*



Like the future atrium in DPI's new headquarters, DPI's business-building efforts will succeed by bringing together a range of support systems, skills and expertise to create business out of university science and research.

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.

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

### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS IN BUSINESS BUILDING

**82** faculty members reached

**52** invention disclosures filed

**3** new ventures formed

# 3

## Tech talent development

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



Above, participants in DPI's full-stack apprenticeship program. Left, high school students in Digital Scholars.

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.

- ▶ 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

### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS FOR P TTL

**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