2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering

> Students to excel,
> researchers to discover, and
> businesses to take off.

Tech. Talent. Research.

DISCOVERY PARTNERS INSTITUTE

PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DPI Does Three Things

Train people for in-demand tech jobs; fund and conduct applied R&D; and launch new businesses built on university technology. We are building an equitable economic development engine and we need your financial support.

We have been a fully funded institute for just two years. Already we are:

Priming or training more than 300 students annually from age 14 to 63 for jobs in tech.

> With $10 million in funding from the Pritzker Foundation, our Pritzker Tech Talent Labs are launching new opportunities by the month. We're exposing high school students to college-level computer science courses and placing 30 computer science apprentices at Cognizant, a Fortune 500 company. These apprentices are going to go from zero to tech in one year.

Searching for early signs of new COVID-19 variants for the entire state.

> Our wastewater team is sampling at wastewater treatment plants and manholes at more than 90 locations statewide, which is the best early-warning system we have for surges. The program is so comprehensive it requires the involvement of many of the state's largest and leading scientific institutions. Argonne National Laboratory; the University of Illinois Chicago; Northwestern University; and Current, Chicago's water technology incubator, have joined our effort.

Launching a $100 million business that has saved lives.

> We have built Shield T3, which has run more than 4.8 million COVID-19 tests nationwide and served more than 450 customers. The test is, of course, our homegrown covid-SHIELD test, a gold-standard, PCR saliva test. Now Shield T3 is using its know-how to deploy rapid testing for the flu and other viruses.

We are building a more equitable economy for Chicago and Illinois. Our highly diverse, talented apprentices are undergoing rigorous training and will be available to join your team this yea: summer 2022. If you're interested in learning more, send me a note: **billjack@uillinois.edu.**

And we need your support to expand our efforts. Contact Suzanne Schoeneweiss at **suzannes@uif.uillinois.edu** to discover how we can work together to change people's lives.

Bill Jackson
Executive Director, DPI
Principal Officer, Shield T3

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Pritzker Tech Tal Labs

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“In the program I learned how to use Python encryption code. My current employer said that when she saw my Python experience, she was very impressed, and this is why I have my current job.”

— Joshua Campbell, UIC computer engineering major and graduate of DPI’s 2020 Digital Scholars program. He interned with Grant Thornton during the summer of 2022.

Cognizant Full Stack Developer Apprenticeship Program

Melissa Chaca, 25, Chicago

A year ago, Melissa Chaca was working as a patient care technician at a hospital, on a path to be a nurse. But she had the nagging feeling that a career in healthcare wasn't for her.

Always interested in problem solving and puzzles, she was intrigued by the idea of a career in tech, but wasn't sure how to pivot. Then, she learned about the Cognizant Full Stack Developer Apprenticeship Program.

"I immediately thought it was too good to be true," she said. "I said, 'I'll try it.' It was the best decision I've made."

While the fast pace and new material were challenging, Chaca appreciated the program's in-person learning format and the opportunity to connect with a diverse cohort.

"It was great to see people of all backgrounds doing this together," she said. "People have all these different experiences — pharmacy, law, healthcare — but we are all on the same playing field."

Growing up, Chaca said she never considered a career in tech.

"I'm first-generation," she said. "My mom wanted me to be a lawyer or a doctor. Now, I want to show my community that there's way more opportunity out there."

Training to be a full stack developer

Three-month pre-apprenticeship course in web fundamentals

The apprentices are onboarded and then begin three months of intensive, accelerated full-time training where they learn the foundations of full stack development.

Finally, the apprentices are embedded in a diverse, experienced, agile team to define requirements and develop end-to-end solutions. They pair with other, more experienced employees.

Jorge Morin, 23, Chicago

Seeing how software works is like unlocking the secrets of the universe, according to Jorge Morin.

"I never considered a career in tech because I was never exposed to tech," the 23-year-old Chicago native said. "I didn't learn how to use a computer until fifth grade. We used encyclopedias at school because they didn't have computers."

Instead, Morin studied engineering and architecture in college, ultimately specializing in fire protection and plumbing design. But he was curious about coding, and started learning it on the side. Then he learned about the Cognizant Full Stack Developer Apprenticeship Program.

"I love engineering, but I also love learning and trying new things," he said.

Since starting the program, Morin feels like he's learned another language.

"I use software everyday," he said. "But to finally understand how it's working in the background is really cool. I was plateauing in engineering, but I feel like a kid again learning all this."

cognizant

Cognizant is a Fortune 200 company specializing in technology and consulting services for clients across a range of industries. Services include helping clients digitize their products, services and customer experiences; automating their business processes; and modernizing their technology infrastructures.

“I use software everyday. But to finally understand how it’s working in the background is really cool. I feel like a kid again learning all this.”

Discover Computing

Building Coding Skill Starting in Ninth Grade

Computing-related jobs make up more than half of all STEM jobs in Illinois, but Black and Latinx workers make up just a tiny fraction of this workforce.

Enter DPI's Discover Computing program, designed to build a deeper and more diverse computing pipeline for the state of Illinois.

"Our aim is to address the disparities that exist for under-represented groups in computer science and tech to provide more exposure and learning opportunities within these dynamic fields," said Gina Grant, associate director of K-9 student programming at DPI. "This program is just the beginning of a larger goal to make Chicago the most inclusive tech workforce."

Discover Computing launched its first cohort in fall 2021 in partnership with Wilbur Wright College and with support from Google Chicago.

Ninth and 10th graders explored computing concepts and tools, including HTML/CSS, data analysis, Python, machine learning, and p5.js.

“I’ve long had an interest in computer science, but I never had the tools or resources to do much with it until I learned about this program. It’s definitely a commitment. You’re giving up your Saturdays to be there. And it’s rigorous, but it’s fun. You’re surrounded by people who have a shared interest in the same thing.”

— Devi Tellis completed Discover Computing as well as the mobile app development course of the Digital Scholars program. Although quiet, Devi managed to show up in a big way — she was chosen as the outstanding student for her class. Devi will be a 10th grader at Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy, in Chicago, this fall.

Digital Scholars

Introducing high school and college students to Chicago tech

When we first met Chenille Lawrence, she was a 17-year-old senior at Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy. She had moved to Chicago from Jamaica a year earlier.

Today the 2020 Digital Scholars alumna is a junior majoring in computer science at UIC. She recently interned with Morningstar.

Lawrence's story shows the power of the Digital Scholars program. DPI partnered with the UIC CHANCE program in 2020 with the goal of building a deeper and more diverse pool of home-grown students pursuing computer science degrees. It can offer students a lifelong connection to DPI and pathway to tech, said Kay Monelle, associate director of high school programs.

"It offers them the ability to become mentors to students who look like them, from similar communities," Monelle said. "All of this allows them to be a change agent for their culture, their community, and beyond."

Lawrence returned to Digital Scholars in 2021 as a program coordinator helping a new cohort of students. She assisted with student engagement and classroom management. As a peer, Lawrence was also able to share her personal experiences with students.

“I had no idea how great the tech industry in Chicago was until we had all of these talks with people in the tech ecosystem.
I realized the tech industry aligned with my interests in the environment, and now I’m more interested in exploring the computer science side of civil engineering.”

Teaching Endorsement in Computer Science

Getting More Teachers Trained to Teach CS (and More Kids Learning It)

If Illinois wants to recession-proof its economy, tech jobs, particularly those in computing, are a sound bet. In the last recession, computing and mathematics barely took a hit — the industry lost just 1% of its employment in 2009 and fully regained momentum the following year, when jobs in the sector surpassed 2008 levels.

That's why DPI partnered with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to launch a Teaching Endorsement in Computer Science (CSTed) to prepare more teachers to instruct on the subject.

The program's first cohort of 22 teachers started in June 2021. CSTed aims to endorse hundreds of teachers in computer science over the next five to 10 years, and support hundreds more through ongoing professional learning activities so that every Illinois high school is equipped with a qualified CS teacher.

"Computing-related jobs make up roughly half of all STEM jobs in Illinois, but the vast majority of computer science teachers in the state haven't taken a university-level course," said Charity Freeman, associate director of teacher training for DPI's Community Education Unit of the Pritzker Tech Talent Labs. "With this endorsement program, we are building the capacity for more schools across Illinois to effectively teach CS and inspire the next generation of innovators."

“Most of the other offerings I’d found were in person, required a huge time commitment, or were really expensive. When I heard about this endorsement, it suddenly seemed doable.”

— Todd McFarlin, a former computer science teacher for Chicago Public Schools, who now serves as assistant director of teacher training for DPI and is enrolled in the CSTed program.

DPI Research Scholars

Giving College Students Real-World Challenges During COVID-19

Despite the design and engineering sophistication required to build a tall building, the construction industry still struggles to get projects done on time. That's because humans, not computers, do most of the manual labor, and people are prone to inefficiency.

Artificial intelligence can help.

Under the guidance of UIUC Associate Professor Mani Golparvar-Fard, a talented team of five undergraduate students from three DPI partners created a complex data set of building materials, such as wood and tile. The data set will be used in a startup's AI model so that its software automatically identifies delays and progress as buildings go up.

The students were part of the first group of DPI Research Scholars, a program placing junior and senior engineering, computer science, data science, or data analytics students from UIC, UIUC, and Illinois Tech into small groups to work on specific tech projects identified by DPI science teams.

Selection of student projects

AI for construction

Students worked on a system to apply AI to images and videos from 360-degree cameras, smartphones, and drones to track construction projects for risk and delays.

VR for lung-cancer patients

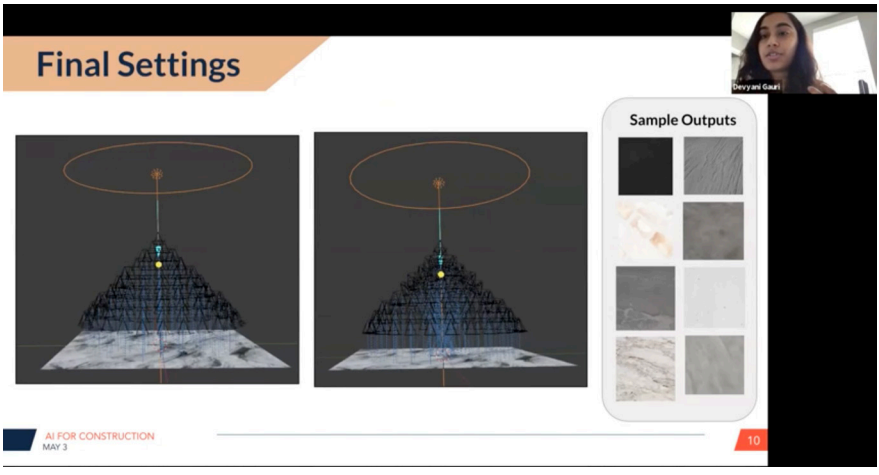
Students worked on developing VR software to help the emotional well-being of lung cancer patients.

AI for doctors

Students helped build out a technology platform that brings together a range of unrelated data sources and uses AI and machine learning to help doctors make better decisions.

“The biggest part of our project was to automate some of the progress-tracking — making sure that whatever is happening on a construction site is actually on schedule, and if it’s not on schedule, we wanted to track how behind it was.”

— Devyani Gauri, an artificial intelligence major at Illinois Tech.



AI for musicians

Students helped research how to use deep neural networks to transcribe music digitally and grow the technology to all types of instruments.

ML to fight misinformation

Students helped develop machine learning and natural language process programming to help identify social media misinformation.

Data visualization to help climate change

Students created data visualizations to assist cities in making climate plans.

Complete list of programs

To partner with DPI on these programs, please contact Omowale Casselle at casselle@uilllinois.edu or Mark Harris at markh3@uillinois.edu.

High School

- **Discover Computing:** Two-part series with Wright College and Google Chicago to help ninth and tenth graders build interest and awareness in pursuing computer science and tech careers.
- **Digital Scholars:** With UIC CHANCE and UIUC, an intensive five-week-long summer program for high school students, City Colleges of Chicago students and incoming UIC freshmen to take computer science courses for credit, as well as courses in data science, mobile app development, and electrical and computer engineering.
- **Digital Bridge:** Summer program for Wilbur Wright and other City Colleges students in its Engineering Bridge/Pathways program, in partnership with World Business Chicago's ThinkChicago program. Students get exposed to Chicago companies in growing industries.
- **Computer Science College Fair:** Launched for the first time in 2021 at DPI, the fair will be an annual event for high school students interested in majoring in computer science in Illinois.

College

- **City Scholars:** Run by Grainger College of Engineering at UIUC, City Scholars places top University of Illinois computer science and computer engineering students in semester-long internships with tech companies that are based in Chicago. Over the past four years, DPI has hosted hundreds of UIUC students in Chicago working 20 hours each week during the fall or spring while also taking a full load of classes.
- **Research Scholars:** Launched in spring 2021 with DPI's science teams, Illinois Tech, UIUC, and UIC, the program brings together teams of students to work on meaningful applied computational projects under the guidance of leading researchers.
- **DPI Tech Interns:** Teams of undergraduate students work on real-world tech problems (website development, data analytics, and software test automation) in partnership with leading employers. Businesses supply the problems.

Career

- **Inclusive Tech Fellows:** High-quality three- to six-month flexible (part-time or full-time) training program specifically designed for Black, Latinx, and female participants to learn software development, cybersecurity, and data analytics. For adult learners.

- **DPI Software Development Apprenticeship Program:** Combination of class instruction and on-the-job training that will take participants from zero to a tech job in one year. Will ensure that Black, Latinx, and women participants will have the training they need to secure high-quality roles with leading employers. For adult learners.

- **Cognizant Full Stack Developer Apprenticeship Program:** In partnership with City Colleges, and Cognizant Academy, a one-year apprenticeship program to address Cognizant's demand for software development talent. For adult learners with an AA/AS degree or higher.

- **TechReady:** A website that promotes upskilling and reskilling training programs. It will soon provide assessments and career direction for those who are interested in breaking into tech. For anyone.

Teacher Training

- **CS Teacher Endorsement:** DPI partnered with UIUC's College of Education to help launch the state's first all-online CS teaching endorsement (CSTed) for teachers in grades 5-12.

- **Ongoing Teacher Professional Development:** We are positioning DPI to be the central hub of a larger community of practice among teachers throughout the state to ensure successful and equitable delivery of CS education. This includes ongoing professional development for teachers and other efforts to help school districts build capacity to expand CS course offerings, including dual credit and Advanced Placement CS courses.

Applied Researc
Develop

ch and
oment

COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance

Never a wasted opportunity

Through thousands of lab tests, DPI's wastewater team has proven it can detect levels and variants of the coronavirus from samples of raw sewage, a reliable alternative to individual test results in tracking COVID-19.

This enables the team to alert public health agencies to outbreaks throughout Illinois.

The team has succeeded by drawing from the complementary expertise of scientists from DPI, UIC, Argonne National Laboratory, and Northwestern University. The team possesses the can-do drive of a startup founder, the problem-solving insights of an innovator, and, when nothing else works, the DIY ingenuity of MacGyver.

Today, the DPI team is collecting raw sewage to test for the virus that causes COVID-19 at 75 sites across the state for the Illinois Department of Public Health and more than 16 sites in Chicago for the Chicago Department of Public Health.

The samples are then couriered to a microbiology lab at UIC for analysis, and a subset is taken to Argonne National Laboratory for gene-sequencing to identify virus variants.

Altogether, this makes this effort one of the largest wastewater surveillance systems in the nation.

"We created this really diverse team with lots of expertise that has strengthened our ability to do the science, but also to make our science actionable."

— Rachel Poretsky, a microbial biologist at UIC and one of the leaders of the DPI wastewater science team.

A crew retrieves a probe for testing on the West Side of Chicago. The stainless steel canister has a mesh surface so liquid flows in.

Samples are then taken to a UIC lab to be analyzed.

How DPI MacGyvered a better way to test sewage

When researchers began collecting samples from sewer manholes, they followed common practice, deploying automated samplers to siphon up liquid. Autosamplers are relatively expensive, plus their batteries die and their pumps freeze up in cold-weather locales like Chicago.

The solution the team came up with was to suspend a tampon in the sewer for at least 24 hours, but when testing this approach, the team found that the tampon would often be lost due to high flows and debris. So the team decided to try suspending the tampon within a mesh basket.

Charlie Catlett, DPI's senior research scientist, rigged up a prototype in his suburban Chicago garage, using stainless steel parts from a hardware store. Rachel Poretsky, a microbial ecologist at UIC and the lead scientist on the team, then experimented in her lab with how best to extract enough liquid from the tampon to detect COVID-19 variants. (It's not as easy as you might think since tampons are designed not to leak.) Among the kitchen gadgets she tested were citrus squeezers, pomegranate juicers, and potato ricers.

The team has deployed 20 of its new contraptions in Chicago for further field-testing and modifications.

The savings are potentially enormous. An autosampler costs $5,000 to $12,000, and it takes 30 to 40 minutes to retrieve each sample. The parts of the tampon-in-a-basket cost about $100, and a retrieval can be done in half the time. This means agencies could collect more data without spending more money, whether they're watching for new strains of COVID-19 or some future pathogen that threatens lives.

Inventive and impactful — exactly how all DPI collaborations should be.

Total Funding: $17 million

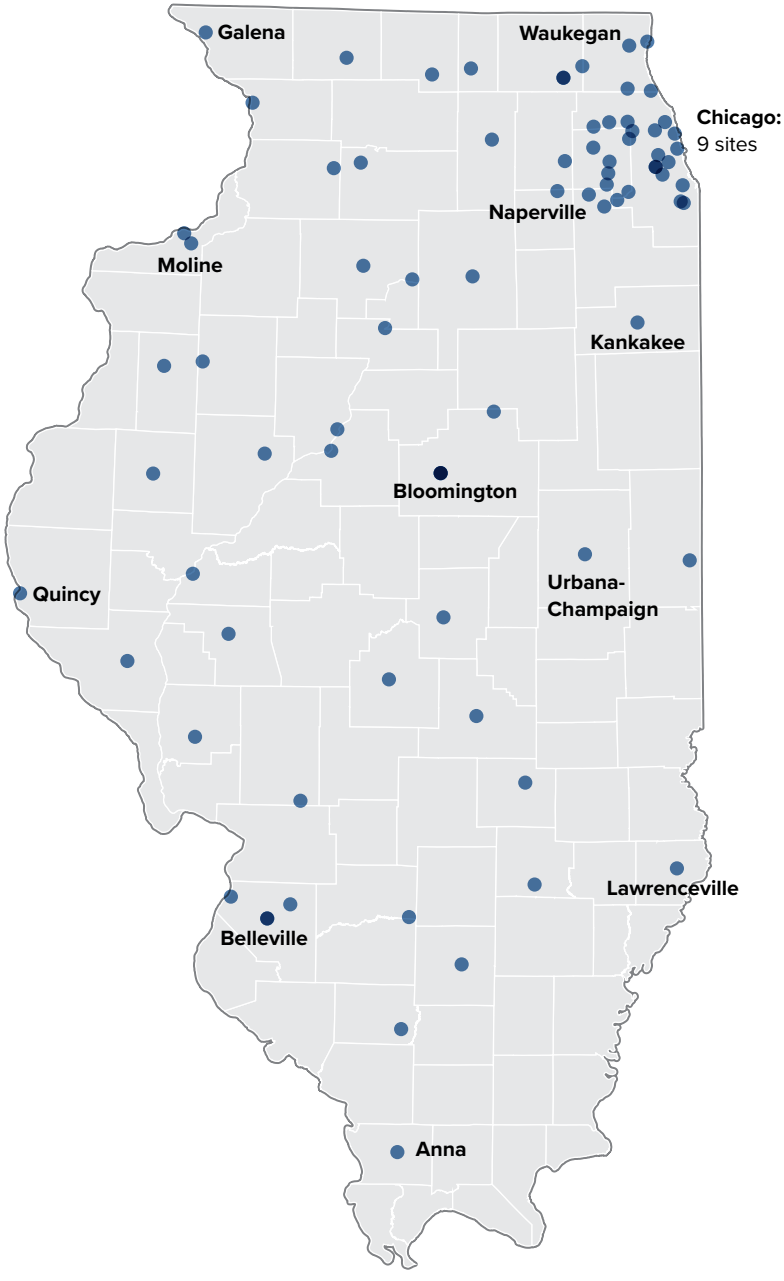
Funding Sources:

- Discovery Partners Institute
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Walder Foundation

"DPI's project, which was one of eight we funded in the very early days of the pandemic, demonstrated how wastewater surveillance can provide a snapshot of the health of communities at a point in time, giving public health workers valuable time to mobilize and respond to protect our communities."

— Sandra Laney, Walder Foundation.

Wastewater sampling locations



IWERC: Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative

Learning During the Pandemic

In June, IWERC announced the results of its Learning During the Pandemic series, which analyzed how remote and in-person learning during COVID-19 affected students' test scores. Lauryn Scott, DPI's assistant director of marketing and communications, asked Meg Bates, IWERC's director, to explain the findings.

Q. What impact did online learning have on students?

The pandemic was hard on learning. Test scores declined across the board, no matter whether students were entirely remote, in class, or in a hybrid environment.

But remote learning was especially hard for younger children. The benefits of being in person were most pronounced for grades 3-5 (all subjects) and for grades 6-8 (math). It was especially beneficial for math scores.

We saw no difference at grade 11, so we think being in person vs. remote didn't matter as much as kids got older.

Q. Based on your findings, in-person learning worked best for younger children. Was there a specific group that received more in-person learning than others?

The unfortunate truth is that students who experienced more in-person instruction were disproportionately white and attended more affluent schools. Those who experienced remote instruction were disproportionately Black, Latinx, English learner, and low-income students.

Q. How can school districts within Illinois provide an equitable opportunity for students most impacted?

In grades 3-8, ethnic/racial and socioeconomic achievement disparities likely widened. Schools serving younger students and historically marginalized populations should try to provide additional support to address these learning losses, especially in math.

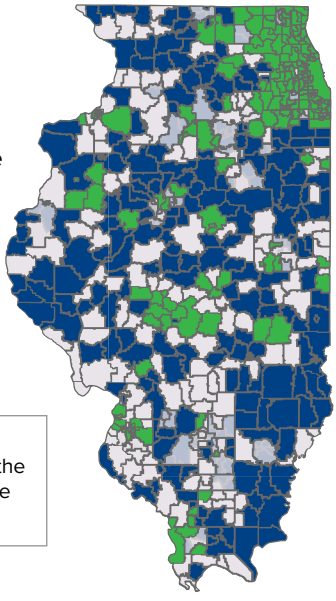
A transition from remote to in person

During the 2020-21 school year, districts across Illinois transitioned from mostly remote learning to mostly in-person.

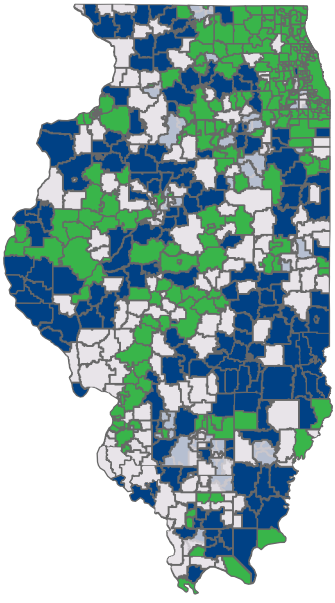
Modality by school district over the 2020-21 school year

- Mostly remote
- Mostly dual
- Mostly in person

September 2020

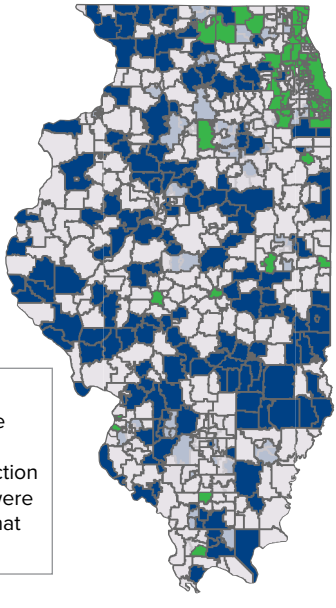


December 2020

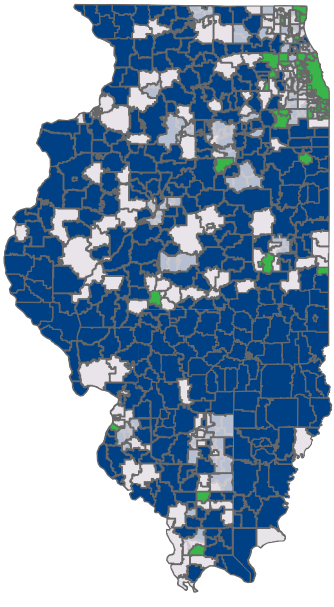


53% of Illinois schools began the year with remote instruction

February 2021



April 2021

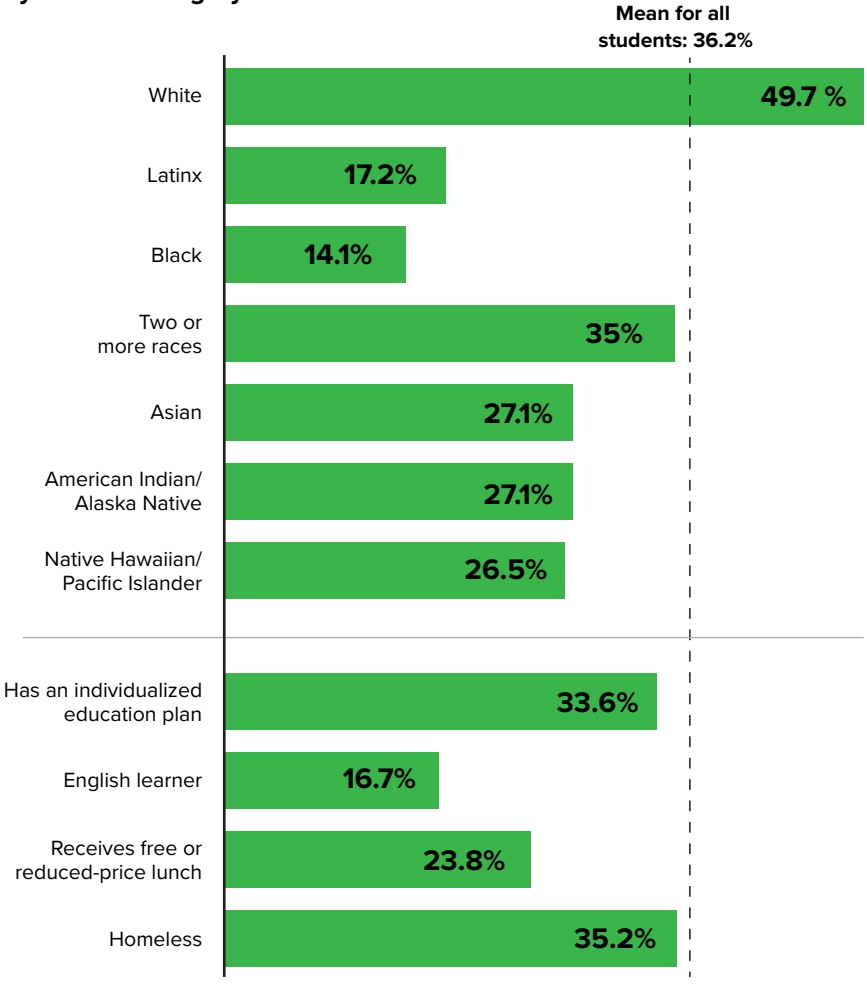


33% of Illinois schools went the entire year with in-person instruction while only 14% were remote during that time.

In-person learning varied by race, socioeconomic factors ...

White students had a higher rate of in-person learning than the state average while students of color had a lower rate of in-person learning during the 2020-21 school year.

Mean percentage of the 2020-21 school year in person, by student category

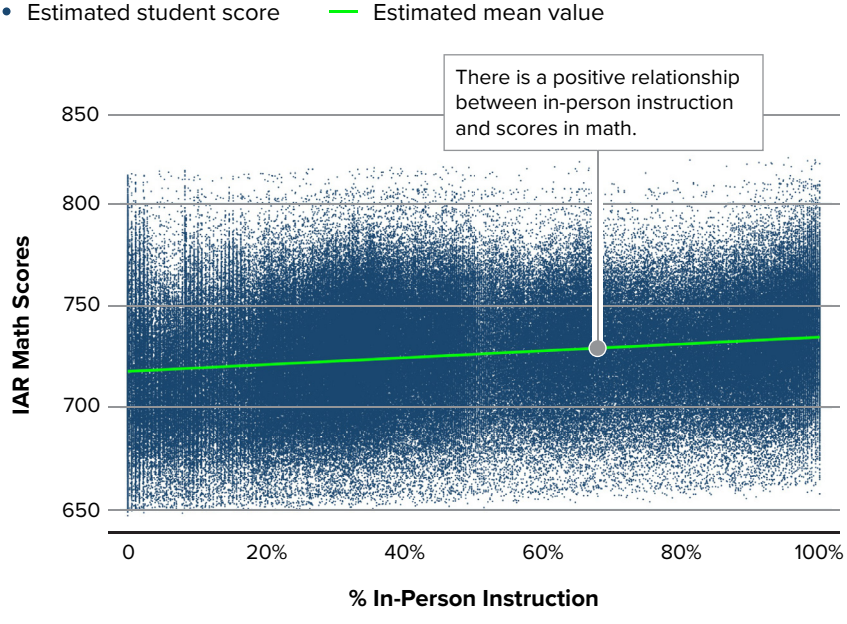


... while those who did learn in person scored higher in tests

Math test scores trended higher for students who had higher rates of in-person learning.

Estimated IAR math score by percentage in-person instruction

For grades 5-8 during the 2020-21 school year



"The pandemic was hard on learning. Test scores declined across the board. But remote learning was especially hard for younger children."

— Meg Bates, IWERC director.

I-BRAIN

Compiling Data on Brain Disorders and Using It to Discover Cures

Brain disorders and disease afflict 1 in 6 people, with epilepsy alone affecting an estimated 3.4 million Americans. Treatments are improving for many of these illnesses, but health data is often siloed. That hinders the ability of artificial intelligence to sort through it all to perceive patterns that could lead to bigger breakthroughs.

The Illinois Brain Analytics Institute, or I-BRAIN, is working toward a fix by collecting these data sets in one accessible repository. The team, led by Dr. Joseph Loeb, head of neurology and rehabilitation at UIC's College of Medicine, itself is an assemblage, bringing together researchers from UIC, UIUC, Illinois Tech, and private industry.

The team's first big data effort is enhancing the immense library of information, including 3D imaging and genomics, linked to a unique collection of human epilepsy brain tissue housed at the University of Illinois NeuroRepository. This platform is designed to be expanded to integrate data on other brain disorders.

The team already has spin-out companies: one is developing software for exploring brain imaging, HER2 breast cancer, and genomic data; the second is developing markers and treatments for epilepsy and traumatic brain injuries.

Some of the kinds of data that help drive I-BRAIN discoveries

Tissue samples

Molecular data on genes, proteins and more

Data from government health agencies

Electronic medical records

Brain images

Electrical 3D brain modeling

“As a practicing neurologist, I often have to inform my patients they have a diagnosis without a cure, including epilepsy, ALS, and Alzheimer’s disease. We desperately need new ways to understand human brain disorders and, of course, treatments that actually cure them. I am thrilled to be leading I-BRAIN as a new way forward.”

— Dr. Jeffrey A. Loeb, head of neurology and rehabilitation at the UIC’s College of Medicine, and director of I-BRAIN.

APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

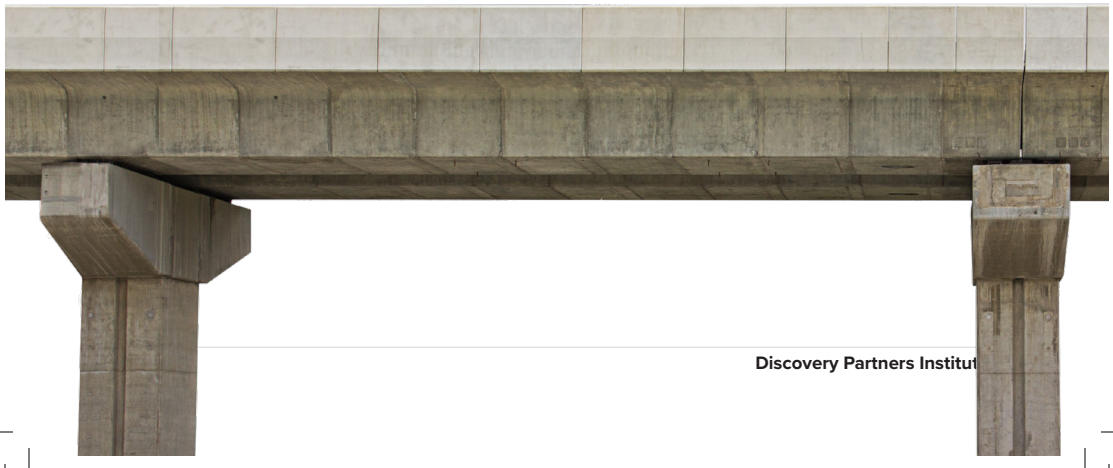
Making Drones That Detect Potential Faults in Bridges

What if you could pilot a drone not only to get 360-degree high-definition video of a bridge but also to detect what's going on under the surface to assess its condition? We may be there soon.

The United States has more than 600,000 bridges, and many of them are in need of repair or even replacement. To avoid catastrophe, crews must be dispatched to inspect them all. Their toolkits today often include devices like ground-penetrating radar and infrared sensors that allow them to better assess each span's structural integrity. Even so, the job is time-consuming and can be dangerous.

A DPI team is investigating how to outfit drones with multiple sensors to do these tasks more efficiently, accurately, and, because of their lower cost, perhaps more frequently. The team also envisions collecting the readings in a database that could be analyzed by computers trained to spot flaws before they become serious.

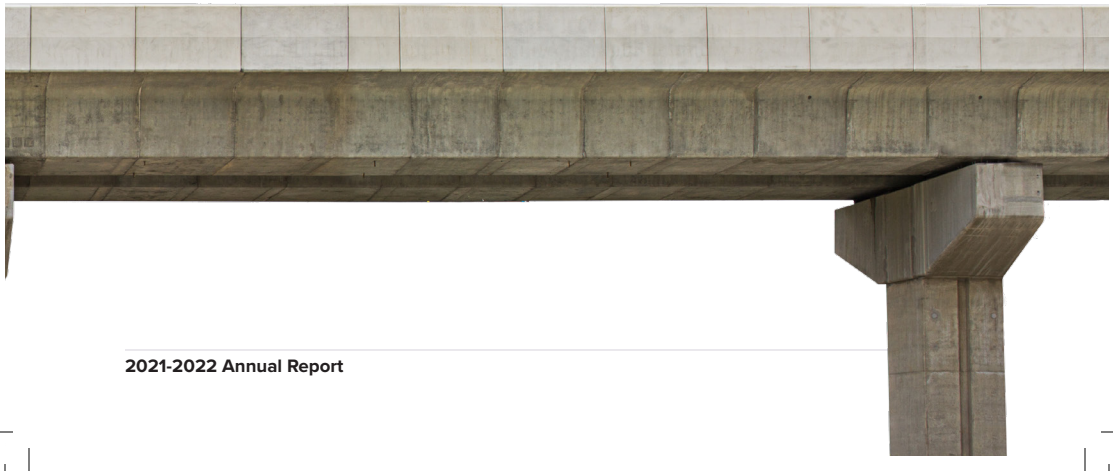
The international team, seeded with $125,000 by DPI, is led by Danilo Erricolo, an expert in electromagnetism and a professor in the College of Engineering at UIC. He is joined by engineering scholars with expertise in bridge investigation and sensor fusion from UIC, the University of Toronto, Tel Aviv University, and the National Research Council of Italy, and startup Droneasure.



Discovery Partners Institut

“We would like to make bridge inspections faster, safer, more efficient, and more economical.”

— Danilo Erricolo, UIC professor of electrical and computer engineering, and team lead.



Supporting R&D

Funding Won (in the past year)

$10.1M

Eight grants or contracts.
More on the way in these key sectors.

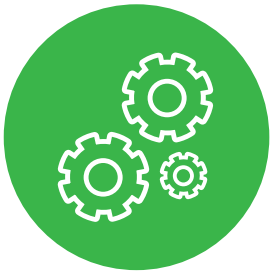
Agriculture

Health and Wellness

Transportation and Infrastructure

Information Technology

Water and Climate



More R&D partnerships with industry players are underway

Funding Awarded to Researchers

12 teams, $1.5M in awards

DPI's research partners

Argonne National Laboratory
Cardiff University
Chicago Department of Public Health
Droneasure
Goshen Education Consulting
Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois State Board of Education
Illinois State University Center for the Study of Education Policy
Illinois State Water Survey
Illinois Tech
Institute of Government and Public Affairs (Part of the U of I System)
Kocree
Latino Policy Forum
Loyola University Chicago
Mayo Clinic
National Center for Supercomputing Applications
National Research Council of Italy
National Taiwan University
Northwestern University
Office of Governor J. B. Pritzker
Rush University
Tel Aviv University
Toyota Technological Institute of Chicago
University of Chicago
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Illinois Springfield
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Pittsburgh
University of Toronto
Walder Foundation
Washington University

Busines
Building

Shield T3

After COVID-19, a Future Supporting Health and Wellness with Advanced Testing

"It was an all-out sprint, quite frankly," said Bill Jackson, DPI's executive director, who serves as principal officer of Shield T3. "DPI and Shield T3 carry the university's flag wherever it goes, and right now Shield T3 is serving more than 100 customers in 15 states."

David Clark, CEO of Shield T3, added: "We're proof that the University of Illinois System can put a business in place for social good and make it a success. We're demonstrating the university's commitment to public service through a well-run business."

Shield T3 is working on a new test that will also catch influenza A and B, and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, a common and very contagious disease akin to a cold.

"We are going to test wastewater for opioids and many other pathogens that impact public health," said Scott Cade, chief strategy officer for Shield T3. "With that and the broader saliva test, that also covers flu and RSV, we're transforming into a health and wellness business."

"We're demonstrating the university's commitment to public service through a well-run business."

— David Clark, Shield T3 CEO.

Shield T3 Achievements

4.8M

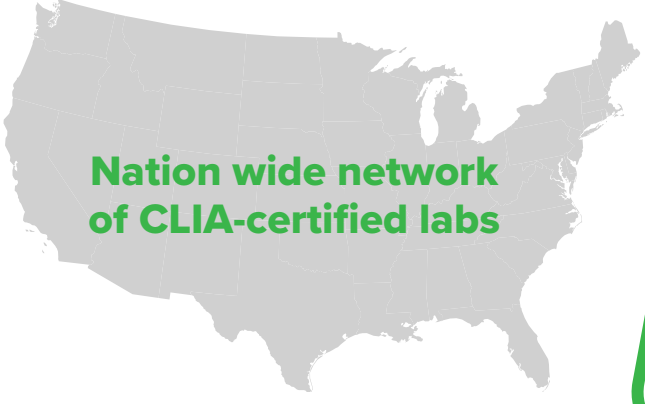
Number of tests run

Revenue generated

$100M

LESS THAN 12 HOURS

Average amount of time to return results



Nation wide network of CLIA-certified labs

Our Futu
Home or

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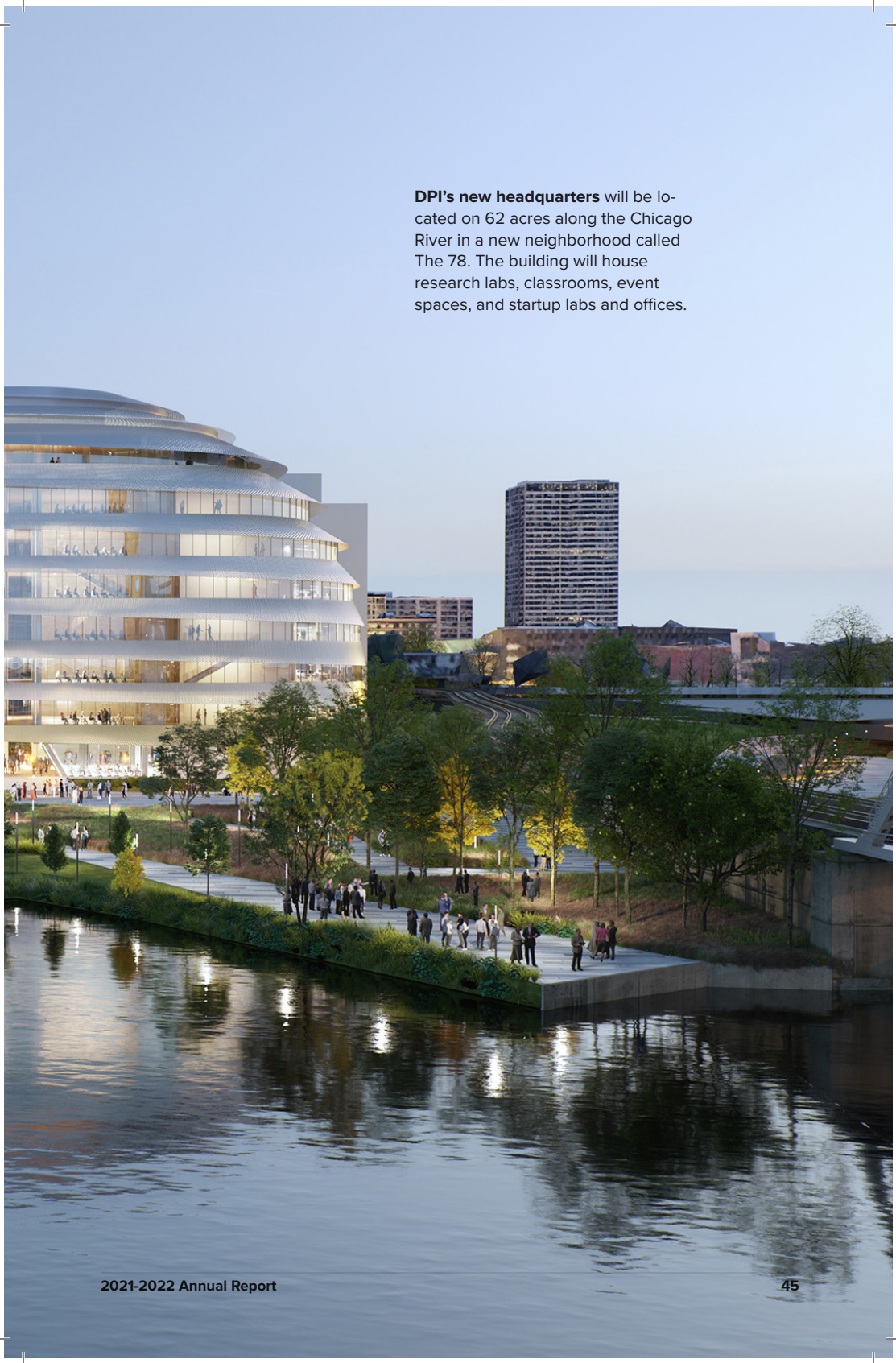
OUR FUTURE HOME ON THE 78

DPI's new headquarters will be located on 62 acres along the Chicago River in a new neighborhood called The 78. The building will house research labs, classrooms, event spaces, and startup labs and offices.



A new headquarters and the beginning of a new innovation district

In 2024, we will become the first project to break ground in Chicago's newest neighborhood, The 78. Our new home will begin to transform a long-vacant railroad yard into an innovation district, filling a 62-acre gap between the city's South Loop and Chinatown.

When completed in 2026, the DPI Innovation Hub will provide a beehive-like space for fully equipped engineering labs and computational labs for researchers as well as classrooms, conference rooms, offices for DPI staff and startups, a top-floor event space, and a ground-floor auditorium with up to 200 seats.

Construction of the 261,000-square-foot building, on an acre transferred to the University of Illinois by The 78 developer Related Midwest in March 2022, will be funded with $250 million from the state and university system. DPI is considering plans for further development including a second building, with wet labs for life-science research.

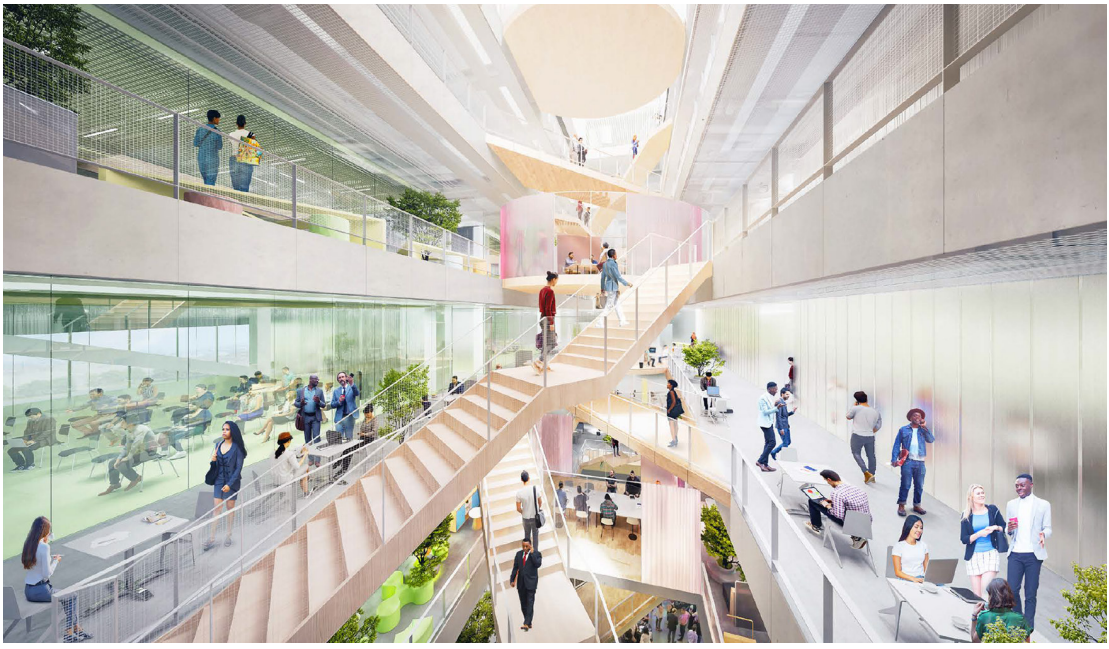
The oval-shaped structure will be designed by the New York City office of OMA, an architectural firm with roots in the Netherlands. Rem Koolhas is one of the firm's eight partners.

The building will be designed for sustainability and to be welcoming to the community.

Name that building

We asked DPI team members: If you could give DPI's planned new building a nickname, what would it be?

- The Neighborhood
- The Legacy Building
- Legacy Tower
- The Hive
- The Core
- The Hub
- The Dream Catcher
- The Starbase
- The Prism

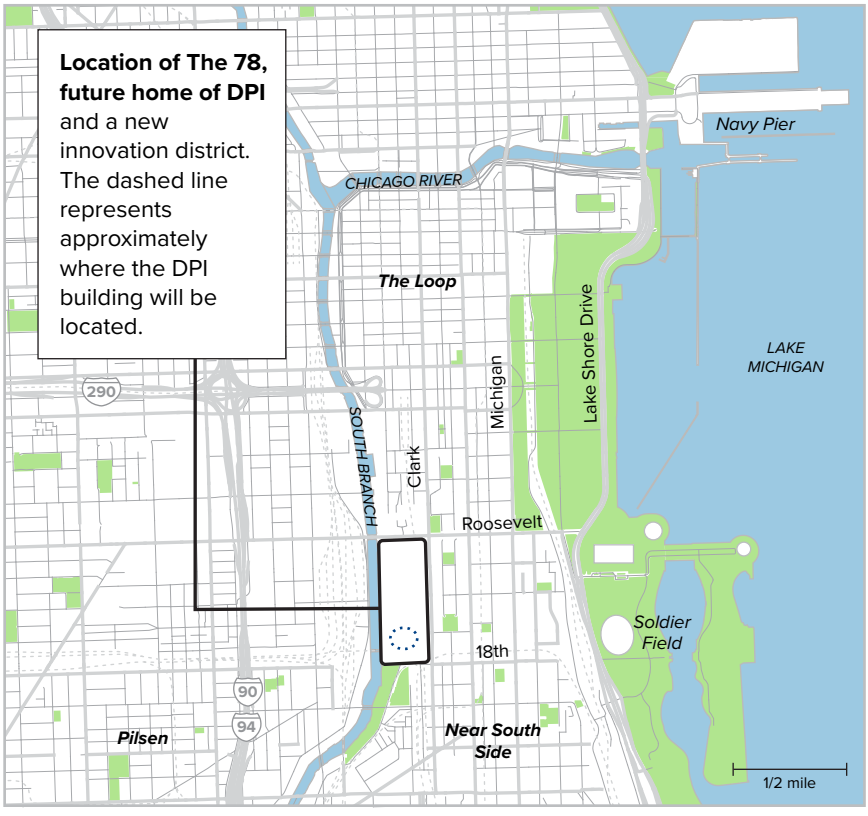


Community Involvement, Community Benefits

Since the winning firm was chosen, we have hosted 50 listening sessions within the University of Illinois community to refine the interior space to best serve the needs of those who will be working in or visiting the hub. To get further input, we will expand our outreach next to communities near the site.

While we finalize our design and construction plans over the next months, the City of Chicago is already doing its part by constructing a half-mile extension of Wells Street to Wentworth Avenue, connecting the South Loop to Chinatown and providing access by car, bus, and bike to the front door of our riverside site. The street is expected to open in the next year.

Yet to come is a new Red Line CTA station, nearby at 15th Street, to provide mass transit access not only to our building but also to its overall development near The 78.



Location of The 78, future home of DPI and a new innovation district. The dashed line represents approximately where the DPI building will be located.

“DPI’s building will be the spark for a premier innovation district at The 78, setting the tone for an inclusive ecosystem with a wide variety of education, business, housing, recreation, and other opportunities.”

— **Kumar Kintala,** Innovation Hub Director.

Develop

ment

Introducing Suzanne Schoeneweiss, DPI's New Director of Development

Q. Previously you worked at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern. What about DPI enticed you to join?

The 10 years I spent working with Kellogg donors in Silicon Valley showed me the power of a strong tech ecosystem. When I learned about the opportunity to join DPI, I thought it was just what Chicago needed: an ambitious plan that brings the community together to boost the tech workforce, especially among under-represented groups, while building tech companies from scientific research.

Q. What was your favorite piece of technology growing up and why?

As a teenager in the '80s, my Commodore 64 seemed revolutionary! I could actually write a paper and edit it as much as I wanted without having to type out every draft. My late-night studying was reduced quite a bit!

Q. What do you hope to achieve at DPI in 2022-23?

DPI is doing truly groundbreaking work by showing students a path that will allow them to develop their talents and gain access to a world of possibilities. I hope to find more forward-thinking individuals and organizations that will find joy in helping these students succeed.

Q. If you could give DPI's planned new building a nickname, what would it be?

I would call it The Cocoon, a place where innovative ideas, technologies, and (most importantly) students' potential are born.

A special thank you to the Pritzker Foundation

DPI would especially like to thank the Pritzker Foundation and former U.S. Commerce Secretary and PSP Partners Chairman Penny Pritzker for their support during the earliest phases of DPI's development.

Meet six of the people benefiting from the Pritzker Foundation gift

Aijah Welch, Hyde Park Academy

Jocelyn Corril, Von Steuben High School

Charles Johnson, Lane Tech College Prep

Letta Watson, Chicago

Omero Arreola, Chicago

Crystal Tello, Chicago

Our Greatest Needs

Our goal is to annually launch more than 7,000 people — half of whom are women or people of color — into high-paying tech careers in Illinois.

To achieve that goal, we need two things.

We need more companies working with us to hire tech talent. Our homegrown talent is a better investment than hiring an expensive headhunter to poach coders from other states. Together, we can build a more equitable world.

We need you or your company to join the ranks of Don and Anne Edwards, the Pritzker Foundation, Apple, Google, and the Walder Foundation in **providing transformative philanthropic gifts or grants**.

This is the headline we are aiming for:

> ***Chicago Becomes a Dominant Tech Hub***

Help us make that possible. Contact me at suzannes@uif.uillinois.edu or Executive Director Bill Jackson at billjack@uillinois.edu to begin the conversation.

Suzanne Schoeneweiss
Director of Development

“Come work with us and change people’s lives.”

— Bill Jackson, executive director of DPI.

Equitable Economic Development

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