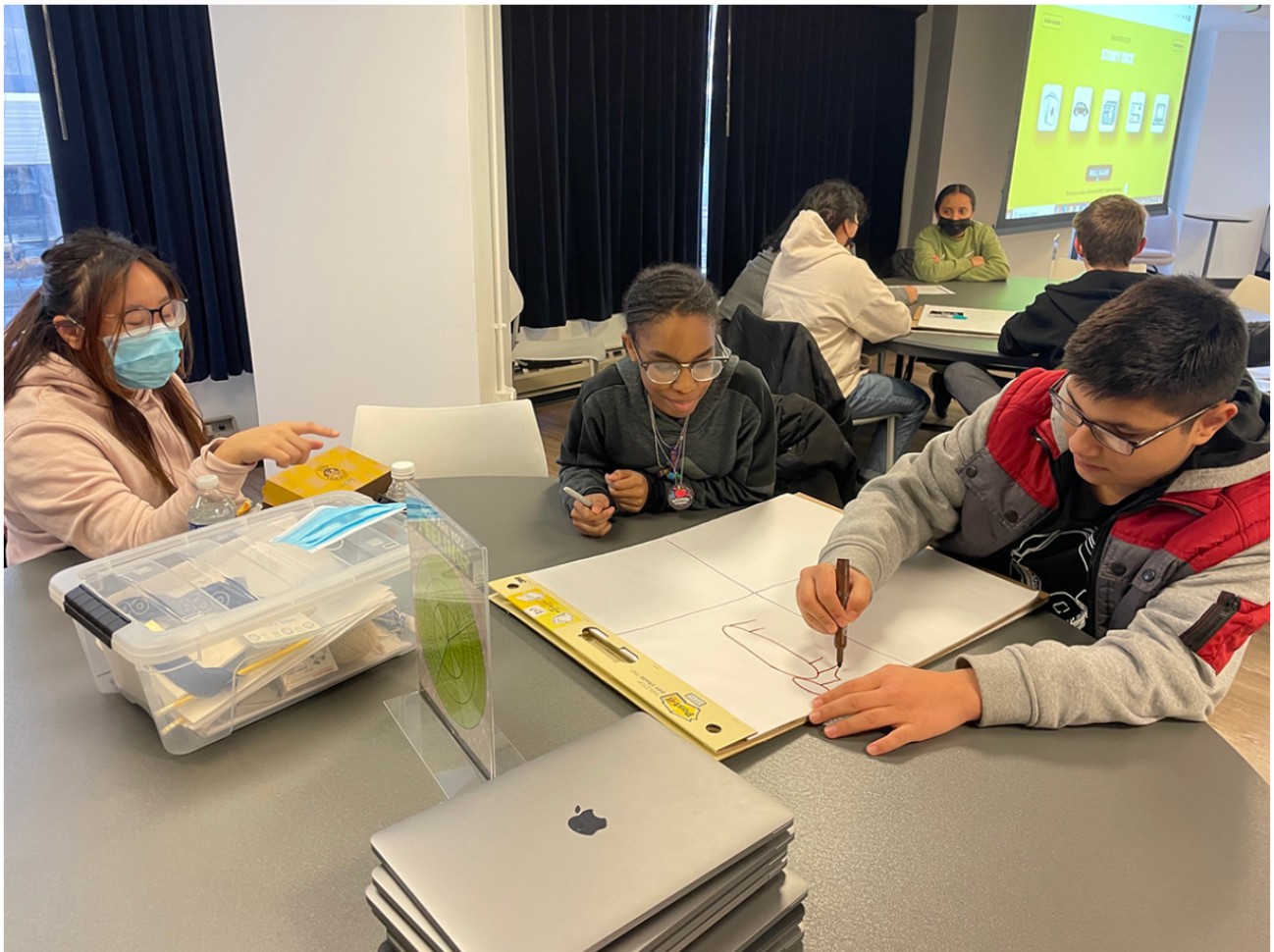


DPI's impact and vision

How we bring our three-part mission — tech talent, applied R&D and business building — to life. And how you can support us

Tech talent development



DPI's Digital Explorers program teaches code to middle grades students.

Community Ed

DPI's Community Education team helps students develop tech skills that will help them better transition into a tech-related field.

This year, DPI's Community Education team launched both year-round and summer programming that reached more than 600 middle, high school, and community college students. Through these programs, students built coding skills and made connections with the Chicago tech community. These relationships will support additional pathways into these fields for more students of color and young women.

- Through Community Education's teacher training program, we have recruited and supported more than 50 teachers pursuing their endorsement in computer science education and learning in Swift/mobile app development, in partnership with the College of Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- As of Summer 2023, Community Education's Digital Scholars program will have helped more than 300 high schoolers take college level courses in computer science, data science, and electrical and computer engineering, as well as mobile app development, in partnership with the University of Illinois Chicago and UIUC.
- Through the City Scholars program, UIUC engineering and computer science students were exposed to Chicago tech companies.



Pritzker Tech Talent Labs

This year, the Workforce Education team successfully placed 18 full-stack software development apprentices at SAP, a multinational software company and the world's leading enterprise resource planning software vendor.

- Recruited 30 apprentices for placement at Cognizant in partnership with City Colleges of Chicago
- Have dozens apprentices in training at DPI (as of April 2023)
- Three Discovery Partners Institute full-stack software development apprentices now working at SAP.
- Developing partnership with Hope Chicago for a Parent Pathway program with up to 100 parents of Hope Scholars.

Research & Development



DPI teams with the Illinois Department of Public Health and others to test wastewater across the state.

We've built an early-warning system for deadly viruses in Illinois. Our wastewater team is monitoring for COVID-19, Flu A & B, and RSV A&B at wastewater treatment plants and manholes at nearly 88 locations statewide. We are helping the City of Chicago test wastewater for polio.

Wastewater monitoring

DPI partners with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Chicago Department of Public Health to test wastewater across the state for potentially lethal viruses. Our wastewater team is monitoring for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV at wastewater treatment plants and sewers at nearly 88 sites statewide. We are also helping the City of Chicago check wastewater for polio.

Tree canopies

The R&D team has been chosen by ComEd to estimate energy savings from carefully planting additional trees in metro Chicago based on different scenarios, with an overarching goal of reducing heat islands and improving health in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative

Our Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (IWERC) has released two major reports. One looked into pandemic learning loss and another on which students leave Illinois for college and why. IWERC also created a dashboard breaking down access to education and workforce resources by Census tract.

Business building



A mobile lab built to run tests for Shield T3.

DPI's business building provides deep-tech focused services to local start-ups and mid-sized companies that are ready to grow and develop in Chicago's tech-ecosystem.

Evolution of a COVID test

In 2020, Shield T3 launched our homegrown covidSHIELD test, a gold-standard, PCR saliva test invented at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Since its launch, Shield T3 has run more than 5 million COVID-19 tests nationwide and served more than 450 customers. As a result of the overall success of Shield T3, we are now commercializing our wastewater services.