The Discovery Partners Institute is a new purpose-driven interdisciplinary research institute led by the University of Illinois System that is focused on building prosperity and growing the state’s workforce by creating solutions to grand challenges.

DPI will leverage the collective capacity of its partners to collaborate, innovate and build the economy. It will educate a 21st century workforce through deep integration with industry partners, a project-focused team environment, and a culture of entrepreneurship woven throughout the institute. DPI will build prosperity through new technologies and products, new companies, and highly skilled alumni ready to contribute immediately to today’s economy.

DPI will address the themes of computing & data, environment & water, food & agriculture, and health & wellness while considering how they interact with these cross-cutting areas:

- Entrepreneurship & Technology Transfer
- Education & Workforce Development
- Public Policy
- Culture & Society

Innovation is vital to the success and future relevance of today’s companies.

Innovation Cities™ Index 2018 ranked

CHICAGO 6th OUT OF 171 cities in the Americas and 11th OUT OF 500 cities GLOBALLY

The DPI will:

- Foster collaborations among faculty, students and industry partners to innovate across themes
- Grow the economy by creating new knowledge and accelerating its transition to practice
- Encourage entrepreneurship as a driving force of economic development and prosperity
- Nurture the next-generation workforce by keeping top students in the state and linking them with business and tech communities
- Attract international partners to broaden its innovation impact
- Provide state-of-the-art facilities for leading-edge research and education initiatives
- Create an environment that encourages diversity and inclusivity in all its forms
Get Involved

DPI will be a world-class institute, bringing strong companies together with the best faculty and students from national and international universities.

A project of this size requires potential partners and the public to get involved in shaping this collaborative initiative that is critical to the future of Illinois.

Business & Education Working Together

PARTNERS
DPI is bringing industry, universities, and community groups together to develop the intellectual and physical infrastructure for the new institute. Companies can engage top faculty and students on research and design projects that will grow their bottom line, produce timely results and serve as an employee recruitment pipeline. Community groups can influence and benefit from work at the DPI.

A Workforce for Chicago’s New Economy

STUDENTS AND FACULTY
A core goal for Illinois companies and prime benefit to working with DPI is keeping the talent that we cultivate and educate in Illinois. DPI will host 2,000 of Illinois’ top students each semester as they learn, work, and innovate alongside Chicago’s business and tech community. Together with the 100 world-class faculty in residence at DPI, this provides a rich talent base to engage with industry partners on collaborative research and development that will grow the Illinois economy.

Support and Help Shape the Future of Illinois

FUNDING
Support for DPI will come from corporate partners, individuals, and organizations who want to be at the forefront of global innovative change. This project will benefit Illinois’ economy through innovation, job creation, and economic growth by businesses of all sizes.


The University of Illinois is a land-grant institution, making it our mission to serve Illinois with programs focused on community outreach and research.

The core missions of the University of Illinois System are to:
• Educate
• Discover and innovate
• Serve the public
• Act as a catalyst for economic prosperity

To be a part of this groundbreaking initiative or for more information, contact:

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