

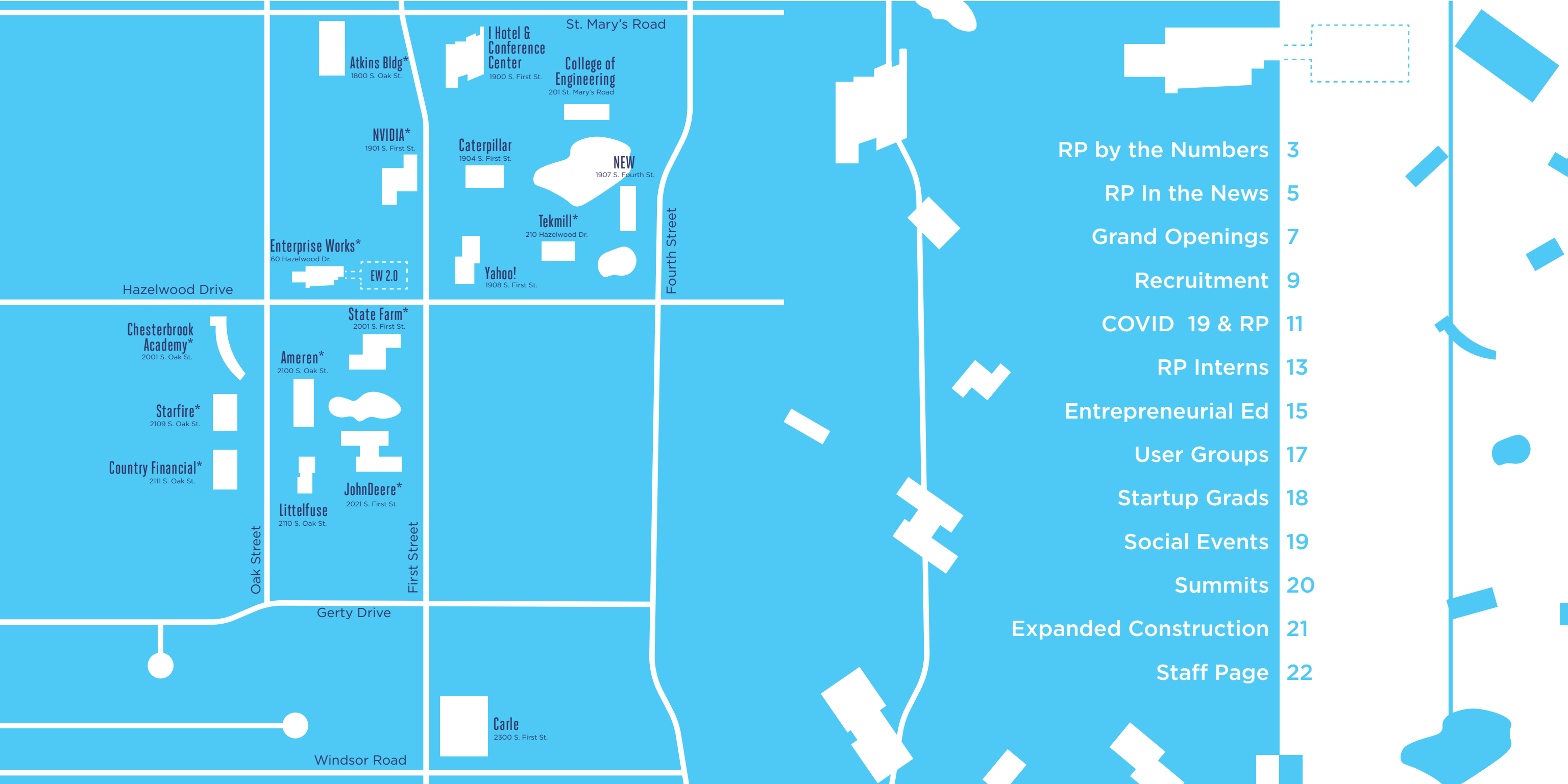
2020

YEAR IN REVIEW



Research Park

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



RP by the Numbers 3

RP In the News 5

Grand Openings 7

Recruitment 9

COVID 19 & RP 11

RP Interns 13

Entrepreneurial Ed 15

User Groups 17

Startup Grads 18

Social Events 19

Summits 20

Expanded Construction 21

Staff Page 22



61
STARTUPS IN
TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR

200
EVENTS ANNUALLY

17 BUILDINGS + 3 NEW BUILDINGS



300+ angel and venture capital investments received by Enterprise Works Companies totalling \$1.1 billion.

I-Hotel and Conference Center expansion, new greenhouse for RIPE project funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

\$155.8 Million in SBIR/STTR funding



Yahoo joins Verizon Media



470+ SBIR/STTR awards received by EnterpriseWorks companies



“EarthSense Selected for John Deere Startup Collaborator Program Research Park”

- January 23, 2020



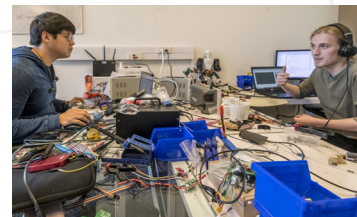
“PhotoniCare Wins Top Prize at SPIE and Photonics Media Prism Awards”

- February 8, 2020



“PSYONIC, Featured on Fox Illinois, Changing World Views on Prosthetics”

- April 14, 2020



“Reconstructed \$1 Billion in Projects”

- May 26, 2020

“Aspiring Universe Wins 2020 OCP Innovation Challenge”

- June 17, 2020

“ATSP Innovations, EnterpriseWorks Graduate, Selected for NASA Phase 1 Awards”

- July 1, 2020

“The Economist Profile of the Midwest Highlight Research Park’s Focus on Technology Commercialization”

- August 6, 2020

“EnterpriseWorks Graduate, Photonicare, Receives Over \$7 Million in Funding From Series A and Phase II SBIR”

September 3, 2020

“EnterpriseWorks Startup PSYONIC wins Fourth Revolution Awards’ Product of the Year”

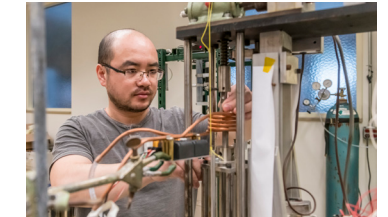
- October 21, 2020

“EarthSense wins AURP 2020 Innovation Award – at University of Illinois Research Park”

- November 4, 2020

“Serionix Creates Performance Face Mask”

- December 7, 2020



While staff and students were still working in their offices in the beginning of the year, Genective and Cargill joined the Research Park family. Fast forward to October, Research Park safely hosted a virtual grand opening for the Verizon 5G Innovation Hub.

Cargill Innovation Lab - March 3, 2020



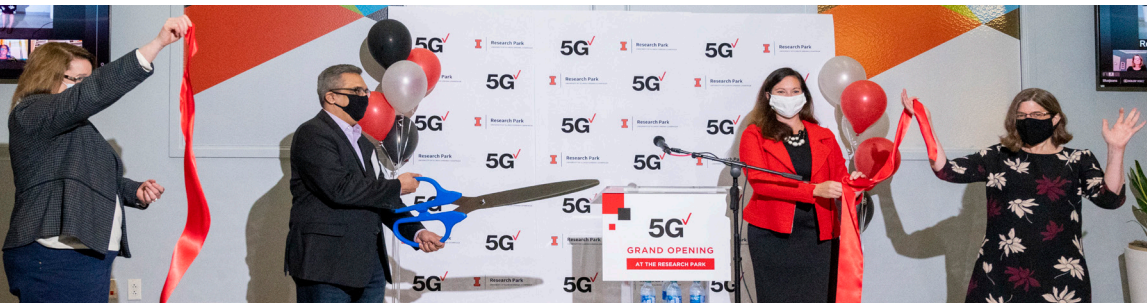
"We are on a constant search for new innovations and new talent, whose fresh thinking can help us bring new technologies to life...With an impressive engineering and computer science program, the University of Illinois is an ideal partner to spur the growth and innovation in our digital business,"
- Keith Narr, Vice President of Cargill's Digital Labs team.

Genective Grand Opening - March 6, 2020



"When it comes to agtech, few ecosystems are more progressive than the one at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to being part of and contributing to this vibrant community,"
- Qiaoni Linda Jing, President and CEO of Genective.

Verizon 5G Innovation Hub Opening - October 12, 2020



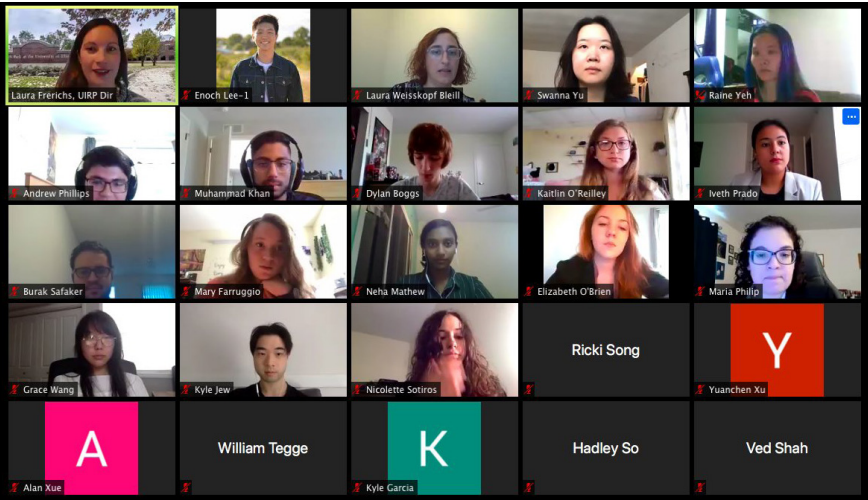
"The Research Park is an ideal location for our latest 5G Innovation Hub serving as an environment that cultivates startups, and inspires collaboration among various corporate partners and students to spur creativity and accelerate the innovation process."
- Tami Erwin, EVP and CEO of Verizon Business

14th Annual Career Fair

Before students were relocated to their homes in March, Research Park successfully hosted a safe and healthy Career Fair on March 10, 2020. 17 companies actively recruited in person while two recruited virtually. Though there were no handshakes, there were over 450 attendees and five company sponsors for Research Park's 14th Career Fair.

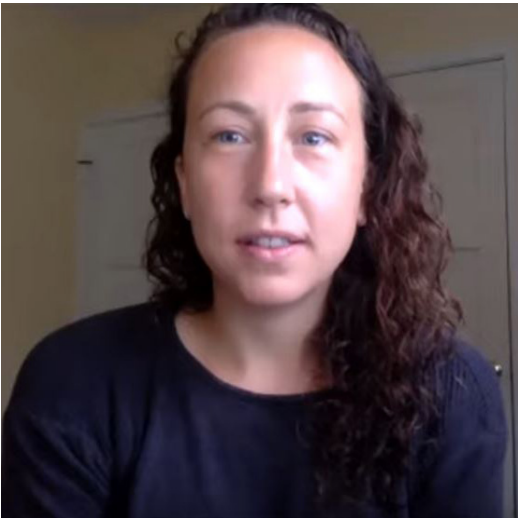


As the University of Illinois and Research Park transitioned into remote work, Research Park successfully maintained campus outreach virtually.



UIRP Outreach

- Virtual Open House
- Virtual Tour
- Quad Day
- Engineering Career Fair
- Gies Business Career Fair
- ACES+LAS Career Fair
- School of Information Sciences Career Fair
- Research Park Virtual Office Hours
- Graduate Student Networking Event



Research Park offered workshops to assist community members in navigating the job search process during the pandemic.

Job Seekers:

Research Park offered services to assist job seekers during the pandemic. Recruiter-in-Residence Sophie Roney hosted workshops and advised the community on best practices to navigate the job search.

- Job Search Strategies During COVID-19
- COVID-19's Effect on Tech Recruiting

Upskilling:

In July 2020, the Research Park launched a free technology training program in partnership with Software Carpentry at the University of Illinois to increase skills in programming and data analytics to elevate the local tech sector workforce in Champaign-Urbana. There were over 160 applicants with only 20 spots available. Participants also received mentoring and career coaching from professionals.

- Data organization and cleaning
- Managing Data with SQL
- Building Programs with Python



After the COVID-19 was declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020. Research Park planned over 59 hours of programming to help not only the Research Park companies, but also community members, small businesses, and Illinois incubators.

From March to May, here are a few of ways Research Park shifted programming to assist those impacted by COVID-19:



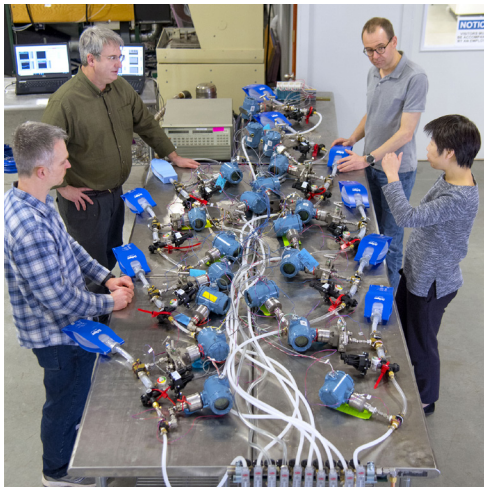
Programs/Workshops:

- With several professionals in Research Park, this is a small list of the discussions, panels, workshops, and webinars offered to aid those in need.
- Panel: COVID-19 Paycheck Protection Program for Small Businesses
 - Panel: COVID-19 Impact on Immigration
 - EIR Workshop with Daphne Preuss: Building Alliances
 - EIR Workshop with Dennis Beard: How to Optimize Resources and Maximize Compliance for PPP Loans
 - CU DSUG: Addressing COVID-19 Challenges
 - Entrepreneurship Brown Bag Series: Pivoting through COVID-19
 - Webinar: COVID-19 Solutions for Employers with Dr. David Fletcher
 - CU Tech Small Business Employment Law: Responding to COVID-19

Businesses Pivoting for COVID-19:

Many EnterpriseWorks companies and affiliates pivoted their technology to help those affected by COVID-19

- Belkin Produces Illinois RapidVent, an Emergency Ventilator
- Eden Park Illumination Uses UV Light Technology to Disinfect Crowded Spaces
- EarthSense Begins Creating Autonomous Disinfecting Robots to Fight Transmission of COVID-19
- Mesh++ Helps Champaign Schoolchildren Access Internet for Remote Learning
- Serionix, Uses NASA Tech in Face Masks



Reopening/Community

As doors began to open, Research Park provided materials to essential workers and ensured safety guidelines were enforced to allow research to continue in a safe environment. Essential workers were offered several supplies such as touchless soap dispensers, masks, and hand sanitizer. An EnterpriseWorks graduate, Copper Universal, installed antimicrobial copper lining to strengthen the safety of the incubator.

We continued connecting with entrepreneurs at EnterpriseWorks through our virtual Coffee & Community events. This gave an opportunity to connect and catch up with each other despite working remotely.

Summer 2020 Intern Awards

Entrepreneurial Leadership in a Startup

Grayson Schaer, Research Associate at Editekk

Most Outstanding Undergraduate Intern

Harry Zhao, Engineering Intern at Caterpillar and Anders Cox, Plasma Processing Intern at Starfire Industries LLC

Most Outstanding Graduate Intern

Eric Cheng, Data Analyst at AbbVie Innovation Center

Best Technical Innovation Award

Katherine Ritchie, Cancer Metabolic Modeling Intern at SimBioSys

Best Non-Technical Innovation

Nupur Bhardwaj, Human Resources & Community Intern at Motorola Solutions

Most Competent and Collaborative Team

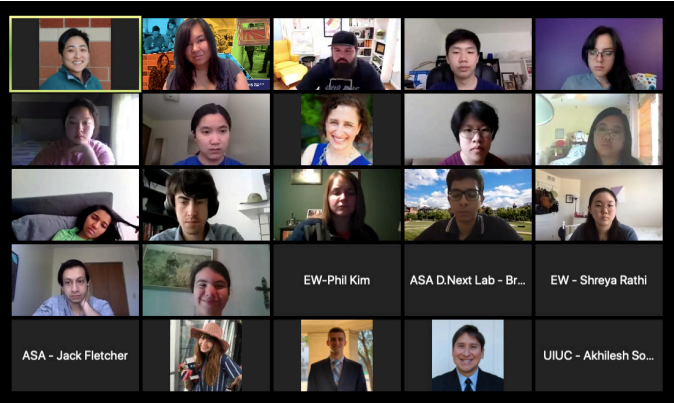
Granular Flex Team: Jake Stahl, Jordan Breedlove



Summer Intern Workshops:

Over the summer, eight professional development workshops were offered to all interns at Research Park. Here is the full list of the workshops offered:

- How to Get that Full Time Offer by Being a Star Intern
- Teamwork and Making the Dream Work from Anywhere
- Fundamentals of Presenting in the Workplace
- Identifying and Translating Your Skills
- Networking in a Virtual Era
- Intern Alum Panel
- Managing Your Personal Finance
- Negotiation Strategies



Honoring Class of 2020 Intern Graduates

In honor of the class of 2020, Research Park showcased the 600+ student interns who have helped startups and corporations be where they are today.



EIR Workshops

After March, the focus of the workshops pivoted to offer information on topics on how to manage businesses during COVID-19.

- Navigate U.S. Immigration Challenges in the Tech Sector with Alan Singleton
- Medical Device Development and Commercialization with Ed Moore
- Lessons Learned from a Career in Technology and Business Development with Alex Gorsuch
- Building Alliances with Strategic Partners with Daphne Preuss



SBIR 101 Workshop Series

To educate small businesses about SBIR funding, the three-part SBIR workshop series occurs bi-annually. Workshops covered:

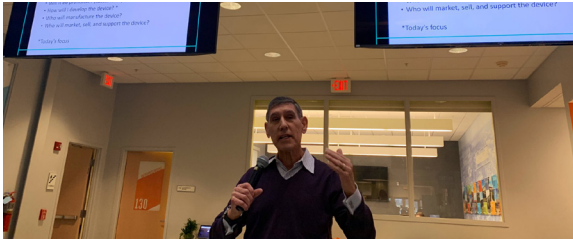
- Basics of the SBIR program and SBIR application process
- SBIR budgets and cover technical plans
- Moving forward with an SBIR proposal, Q & A



SBIR Week in the Midwest

Research Park was chosen by the SBA as a stop for the SBIR Road Tour. October 19-21 was known as SBIR Week in the Midwest. This event provides attendees the opportunity to learn more about SBIR/STTR funding as well as one-on-one meetings with federal agency managers.

After March, the focus of the workshops pivoted to offer information on topics on how to manage businesses during COVID-19.



Startup Cafe

The Startup Cafe series highlights the successes of startups while also sharing the journey and obstacles they had to overcome. Dr. YY Zhou from Whova, Eli Lazar from SNOOZ, and Robin Berthier from Network Perception walked through the journey of facing rejection, establishing global supply chains, figuring out funding, or in other words how it became successful.



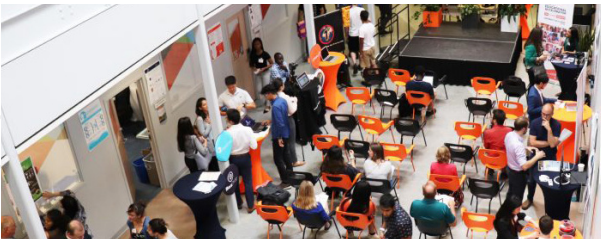
CEO Roundtable

CEO Roundtable is an opportunity for professional technology industry leaders in Champaign-Urbana to network and discuss the development of their small businesses, exchange opportunities, and share information.



AWARE

AWARE is an entrepreneurial program created to support women and underrepresented individuals with the opportunities, resources, and funding to create successful startups through a four-part workshop series: Visioning Impact From Research, Learning the Landscape, Building a Team, and Understanding the Funding Life Cycle.



I-Corps

The NSF I-Corps is a partnership program between the College of Engineering and EnterpriseWorks at Research Park where student entrepreneurs in STEM-related technology are able to receive training, workshops, opportunities, and small funding.

Every month, Research Park offers a variety of user groups on several different topics to allow the Champaign-Urbana community to share, discuss, and network on a multitude of topics. This year, two of the seven user groups were able to provide in-depth topics catered towards COVID-19.



Cloud Computing Platform User Group Meetup

On November 6, 2020, to kick off the Big Data Summit, Dr. William Sullivan, Professor of Landscape Architecture at UIUC, presented the team’s work on the SaferIllinois app.



Data Science User Group

On the first Friday of each month, individuals with an interest in data science come together to bridge the gap between the analytical sciences and practical applications of industry.

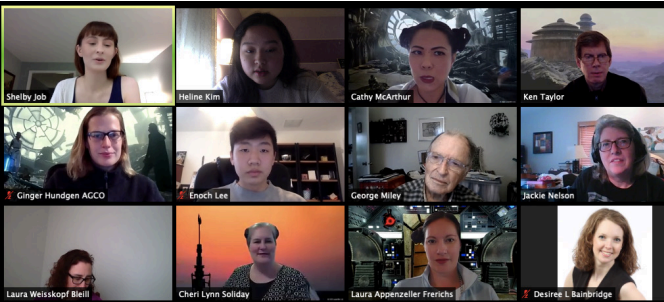


Women in Tech

Women in Tech is a collaborative space where women are invited to speak on topics regarding their professional experience and network with fellow women in the local tech workforce. In January, Susan Martinis, the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, was featured as the keynote speaker.

May the Fourth (Virtual)

Employees in the Research Park gathered virtually to celebrate the Star Wars holiday with intergalactic games and by dressing up as their favorite Star Wars character.



Fire @ Five

Usually on the last Friday of every month from May to October, families, interns, and professionals gather around the Ameren pond to bond and play activities together. However, since the transition to remote work, the Fire at Five events switched to a virtual setting. Some Fire at Five events were conducted in person through curbside pickup and social-distancing.



May 2020 Family Game Night (virtual)



June 2020 Ice Cream Social (virtual)



August 2020 Scavenger Hunt (virtual)

2020 Agtech Innovation Summit



One of the last major events before the switch to virtual conferences was the annual Agtech Summit. On March 4, 2020, over 400 attendees came to network with fellow industry professionals and participate in interactive discussion panels. The panels ranged from “Digital Disruptions in Agriculture” to “Preparing for the Next Generation” of farmers.

“The AgTech Summit is a great example of how bringing people from across scientific disciplines together can help shape a more sustainable future for one of the world’s most important industries.”
-Bayer’s Senior Vice President of Open Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Allen Christian



Thank you to all our sponsors that made this event possible:

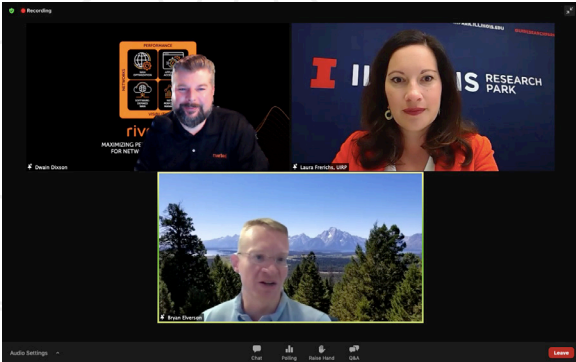
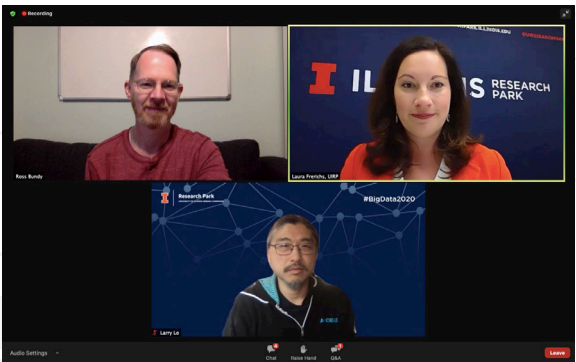
- Bayer
- The Climate Corporation
- John Deere
- Google Cloud
- Kin + Carta
- Land O’Lakes
- Corteva Agriscience
- COUNTRY Financial
- AGCO
- The Center for Digital Agriculture at Illinois

2020 Big Data Summit

On November 12, 2020, Research Park holds its first virtual Big Data Summit with over 15 guest speakers from Bayer, Amobee, EarthSense, and over 300 attendees joined through Zoom.



Topics such “Wastewater Management Through AI”, “Machine Learning for COVID-19 Mitigation”, and “Consumer Privacy in Digital Advertising” were discussed along with virtual Q&A options to maintain the interactive engagement with attendees.



While the year may have seemed slow to many people, Research Park expanded the construction of the I-Hotel and Conference Center and added a mixed-use building on 1907 S. Fourth St. and a greenhouse. The I-Hotel and Conference Center which can now hold more than 600 attendees, 140 parking spaces, and has an additional 32,500 square feet. The greenhouse has also been built in an effort to advance with the RIPE project, which was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In addition, a new directional signage was updated on the corner of First and Windsor.



1907 S. Fourth St.



Greenhouse



Conference Center



Research Park Sign

Full Time Staff

- Laura Frerichs**
Executive Director at the University of Illinois Research Park and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Economic Development
- Laura Bleill**
Director, Communications and External Engagement
- Desiree Clayton**
Program Coordinator
- Cynthia Faullin**
Associate Director, Incubator Management
- Cathy McArthur**
Corporate Events & Programming Coordinator
- Jenny Kim**
Assistant Director for Talent
- Cheri Soliday**
Outreach Coordinator, Incubation and Entrepreneurship
- Jim Wells**
EnterpriseWorks Facility Manager
- Roger West**
Associate Director, Operations and Finance
- Sheri Wilson**
Administrative Aide

Welcoming New Additions



Alex Gorsuch
Visiting Associate
Director of Entrepreneurship



Sarah Shewan
Accounting Associate



RESEARCHPARK.ILLINOIS.EDU



@UIResearchPark