



Annual Report to the Board of Trustees on the State of the University



Raj Echambadi, President
October 28, 2021

ILLINOIS TECH

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION



It is a great honor to join Illinois Institute of Technology as the university's 10th president. I am humbled to lead such an extraordinary institution, founded on a bold and electrifying idea put forth by minister Frank Wakeley Gunsaulus in his "Million Dollar Sermon" more than 130 years ago.

Today, Illinois Tech continues to live up to that founding promise to serve as a place of unequalled opportunity and value by offering quality technological education. We are #1 in the state for lifting students from families in the bottom 20 percent of income to the top 20 percent. We are #1 in the Chicago region for occupational earning power. And we are third in the nation in upward mobility among highly selective private universities.

Despite the global pandemic, there has been much cause for celebration in the past year. We completed a total renovation of Cunningham Hall, our second residence hall restoration in as many years, and began a complete overhaul on a third. We partnered with community health organizations and public health officials to help vaccinate more than 1,500 members of the Bronzeville and greater Chicago communities by hosting several mass vaccination events on campus. And most importantly, we navigated the pandemic in a way that prioritized the health and safety of our university community, while maintaining a top-tier educational experience for our students—which ultimately enabled us to fully reopen our campus for the fall 2021 semester.

However, despite these accomplishments, we must continue to ask ourselves how we can continue to grow in our quest to be an elite technological research university that acts as a vehicle for individual empowerment, community engagement, societal progress, and economic impact. As we look through our past accomplishments, we must also look to the future as we embark on a path to preeminence:

- First, we must recommit ourselves to our role as an engine for opportunity.
- Secondly, we must embrace this unique moment in time to help reimagine the future of education for all.
- Third, as always, we must remain laser-focused on empowering our students in order to create pathways into good jobs and to position them for future success.
- Lastly, we must dedicate ourselves to fostering a culture of purpose-driven citizenship in service of Bronzeville and Chicago.

Despite the challenges confronting colleges and universities today, I know that Illinois Tech—our mission, our purpose, and our community—can mark the way forward for higher education. Our legacy as an engine of opportunity provides the proof of thousands of lives changed.

Our purpose is what the world needs to meet this historic moment. The world needs Illinois Tech. The world needs more of what we provide: creativity, discovery, innovation, impact, and inclusion.

Sincerely,

Raj Echambadi

President, Illinois Institute of Technology

ENROLLMENT REPORT

As of the fall 2021 census, total enrollment at Illinois Tech is **6,504** students. The total enrollment is composed of **2,998** undergraduate students, **3,488** graduate students, and **18** professional education students.

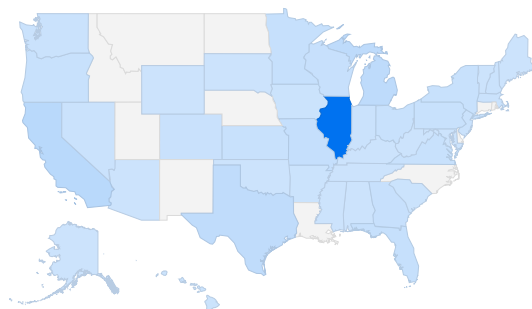
This year Illinois Tech welcomed **735** new undergraduate students (**682** degree-seeking and **53** visiting students). Among this group, the university enrolled **505** new full-time first-year students and **160** new students with prior college experience.



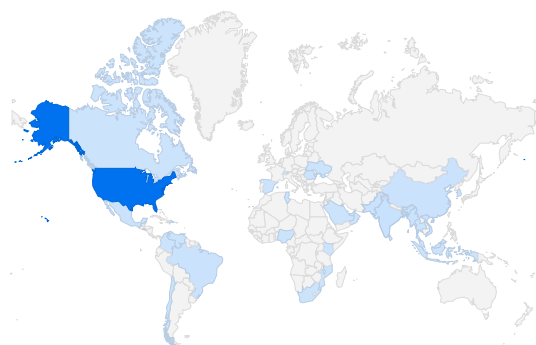
Highlights from Welcome Week activities that kicked off the fall 2021 semester

The first-year class comes to Illinois Tech from **39** states and **36** countries; **98** students are from the city of Chicago, and **158** report that they are the first in their family to attend college. This year's class is very diverse, with **32** percent of the class coming from underrepresented groups, **33** percent are female, and **12** percent is international.

This year Illinois Tech welcomed **1,424** new graduate students. The new class of graduate students is composed of **93** Ph.D. students, **257** J.D. students, **1,006** master's students, and **68** non-degree students. The class comes to the university from **65** countries; **65** percent of the new graduate students are international.



Distribution of first-year domestic students by state



Distribution of first-year students by country

ADVANCEMENT REPORT

FY21 Philanthropy Results

FY21 was another milestone year for Advancement, with a total of \$83.3 million raised. This marks the third-highest fundraising year in the history of the university.

Included in these totals are several generous gifts:

- Michael P. Galvin (LAW '78) announced a bequest commitment of \$10 million, bringing his total *Power the Difference* campaign commitment to \$50 million.
- Trustee Martin Cooper (EE '50, M.S. '57) announced his extraordinary campaign commitment of a \$20 million bequest to the *Power the Difference* campaign. Marty and his partner, Arlene Harris, have already gone above and beyond for the university, and this newest commitment continues to build upon the Cooper/Harris legacy at Illinois Tech.
- Trimble Inc. donated hardware, software, and seat licenses, with a commercial value of \$16.9 million, to create the Trimble Technology Lab in the construction engineering and management program.
- Art Hill (CHE '71) passed away in 2020. Art's estate included a \$9.1 million gift to Illinois Tech. We honored his legacy by establishing the Arthur W. Hill Endowed Chair in Sustainability at Armour College of Engineering.
- With leadership from Trustee Brian Walker, the Grainger Foundation made a \$1 million endowment commitment to establish the Grainger Computing Innovation Prize at Illinois Tech. The Grainger Prize will consist of team-based competitions for students across all disciplines and backgrounds—both inside and outside of the tech and computing fields—who excel at solving important societal challenges through innovative computing solutions.
- Gerry Maatman Sr. (FPSE '51), the former CEO of Kemper, made a \$1 million estate commitment to support the baseball team.
- Chicago-Kent College of Law Professor Martin Malin retired in 2021 after 41 years of service. Alumni, friends, unions, and law firms have joined together to contribute \$1 million to rename the Institute for Law and the Workplace in honor of Malin.
- Commonwealth Edison has provided an additional \$850,000 to Illinois Tech in support of the ComEd Scholarship and C-SMART research, which brings its *Power the Difference* campaign giving total to \$2.9 million to date.
- We celebrate the support of Trustee Ed Kaplan (ME '65) in the form of two six-figure gifts to support priorities in the Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship. Ed made a gift of \$300,000 to purchase equipment for the Kaplan Institute: a CnC laser for the Grainger Maker Space, as well as 3D printers for the Duchossois Idea Shop. Additionally, he made a gift of \$200,000 to support the growth of the Kaplan Institute team.
- The Mies van der Rohe Society, whose goal is to maintain and restore Mies buildings, was successful in raising the \$250,000 needed to renovate the south porch steps of S. R. Crown Hall.
- After making the decision not to host Giving Day in 2020 due to the early days of the pandemic, Giving Day was moved to the fall and hosted on October 1, 2020. The 24-hour event yielded more than \$350,000 from more than 600 donors.

Power the Difference: Our Campaign for Illinois Tech

The leadership phase of Illinois Tech's \$500 million campaign, *Power the Difference: Our Campaign for Illinois Tech*, has surpassed \$333M as of October 17, 2021, with the Board of Trustees having approved the campaign goal during its October 2020 meeting. With Advancement and campaign leadership from Michael P. Galvin (LAW '78) and Jamie Cowie, the campaign will help advance Illinois Tech's founding mission to provide first-generation college students with educational opportunities focused on innovation and to further establish Illinois Tech as one of the "best value" universities in the country.

Events

- While the pandemic made an in-person Homecoming impossible in fall 2020, the event moved forward in a virtual setting, which included a 50th reunion breakfast with the president and the recognition of 14 alumni and friends for their impact on global, professional, and philanthropic interests.
- In November 2020 we celebrated our first virtual Global Alumni Gathering. It was a celebration of alumni in regions all over the world who were able to share their Illinois Tech pride and heritage.
- In January 2021 Alumni University made its debut. Faculty presented their expertise in areas like fermentation's place in health, diabetes treatments, mental illness, and why American Girl Dolls play video games.
- The Mies van der Rohe Society was successful in moving its programming to the virtual landscape, including two book launches and the traditional Hilbs Day and Mies Birthday Party celebrations. They also added a new series devoted to the partnership between Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Lilly Reich, which drew nearly 400 people to attend from all over the world.
- A number of interactions between donors and their scholarship recipients took place, including virtual gatherings for the Greer Foundation and Greer Scholars in November 2020; for Stacey Kacek and the George J. Kacek Endowed Scholarship recipients and ComEd and the recipients of the ComEd Scholarship in December 2020; and an in-person dinner for the Duchossois Leadership Scholars with the Duchossois family in April 2021.
- Five virtual investiture ceremonies were held between December 2020 and April 2021 to invest faculty members into endowed positions. These included Reed Kroloff as the Rowe Family College of Architecture Dean Endowed Chair; Kenneth T. Christensen as the Carol and Ed Kaplan Armour College Dean of Engineering Endowed Chair; Philip Troyk as the Robert A. Pritzker Endowed Chair in Engineering; Carlos Teixeira as the Charles L. Owen Endowed Chair in Design; and Xian-He Sun as the Ron Hochsprung Endowed Chair in Computer Science.



- Spring 2021 featured a celebration of the newly formed College of Computing, which included a virtual ribbon cutting by none other than Amazon’s Alexa, who was introduced by trustee and alumnus Rohit Prasad (EE ’99). Prasad, Trustee Chris Gladwin, and Victor Tsao (M.S. CS ’80) joined Illinois Tech leaders in punctuating the university’s influence and importance in Chicago’s tech community, as well as highlighting the value of infusing computing across the entire Illinois Tech campus.



- Coordinated with the launch of his autobiographical book about the cellphone, Illinois Tech hosted a virtual event honoring trustee and alumnus Martin “Marty” Cooper (EE ’50, M.S. ’57) and his accomplishments. One of Illinois Tech’s most moving events included personal stories from Board



of Trustees Chairman Michael P. Galvin (LAW ’79) connecting his family’s story with Marty’s; stunning videos providing a retrospective montage about how Marty became the father of the cellphone, as well as how the cellphone answers our human nature to connect were shown. Celebrating one of the world’s most significant inventions, and its inventor, couldn’t have been more poignant during the pandemic that the world is navigating. The evening also celebrated Arlene Harris

for her dedication to Illinois Tech, both in partnership with Marty and as a passionate supporter in her own right. She was named the university’s first Adopted Hawk, which recognizes select non-alumni individuals who have become essential members of the university community through their actions in support of Illinois Tech.

- In August 2021 the Alumni Association teamed up with the Mies van der Rohe Society for its first in-person event since March 2020. The group visited the Helmut Jahn exhibit at the Chicago Architecture Center and took part in an architectural boat tour with Rowe Family College of Architecture Endowed Chair and Dean Reed Kroloff.

Stewardship

Throughout the year, stewardship events were held to recognize and celebrate our donors, including a number of interactions between donors and their scholarship recipients and five virtual investiture ceremonies celebrating faculty endowed chairs.

Named in honor of the university’s founding donor, the Philip Danforth Armour Society recognizes philanthropic families who have given gifts of \$1 million or more in support of the university’s mission. Since June 1, 2020, we have welcomed eight new families to the Armour Society: the Hoel, Maatman, Marselle, Turner, Nemcek, Greer, and Olin families, as well as one anonymous family. This brings our total number of Armour Society families to 111.

Additionally, the Cooper/Harris and Hill families reached the \$10 million level, bringing our total number of families who have given \$10 million or more to 19.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS 2020–2021

National Rankings: Illinois Tech #122 on U.S. News & World Report 2022, #107 on WSJ/THE 2022 Best National Universities List

This year the university saw our *U.S. News & World Report* ranking increase by two places, up to #122 from #124. Our peer assessment score held steady at 2.9, and we improved our peer overall score, moving from 57 to 58. We ranked #42 among “best value” universities in the United States, down three places. We also moved up to #107 on the *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* rankings.

Endowed Chairs Appointed FY 2021



Xian-He Sun, a distinguished professor in the Department of Computer Science, is the newly appointed Ron Hochsprung Endowed Chair in Computer Science.

Gustavo Utrabo has been appointed as the Victor A. Morgenstern Family Visiting Chair in Architecture for the 2021–22 academic year. Utrabo is the founder of his eponymous firm, which intends to expand the field of architecture through sustainable and inclusive approaches. Among other distinctions, he has been recognized by the Royal Institute of British Architects with both its International Prize (2018) and its International Emerging Architect Award (2018).

Faculty Appointments, Faculty Awards, and University News 2021

Armour College of Engineering

- Two professors in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering are the leading researchers on two grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health in July 2020 that will total \$6 million over four years. The projects, led by **Motorola Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Miles Wernick** and **Harris Perlstein Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Yongyi Yang**, aim to use a type of artificial intelligence called deep learning to reduce the amount of radiation that patients are exposed to when undergoing medical imaging.
- Professors Jennifer Kang Mieler** (PI) and **Associate Professor Ken Tichauer** (co-I) of the Department of Biomedical Engineering have received a second research project grant (R01) from the National Institutes of Health to study diabetic retinopathy, a side effect afflicting 60 percent of diabetes patients that is a leading cause of blindness. This award is for \$2.5 million over five years.
- The **student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers** was awarded the Outstanding Chapter Award for the second year in a row in 2021.
- Liz Elliot** (CHBE 4th Year) was one of 50 undergraduate students in the country to receive a 2020 Nuclear Energy University Program scholarship from the United States Department of Energy.

Lewis College of Science and Letters

- Amandeep Sandhu** (Food Science and Nutrition) was awarded the Sigma Xi/IIT Award for Excellence in Research Junior Faculty Award.
- Roya Ayman** (Psychology) has been named a fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA), a prominent scientific and professional organization for individuals in the field of psychology.
- Rachael Ellison** (Psychology) was chosen by the American Psychological Association as a recipient of the 2020 Early Career Achievement Awards.

College of Architecture

- The College of Architecture received a full, eight-year accreditation for the B.Arch and M.Arch programs, the first American school to do so under the National Architectural Accrediting Board's new accrediting process.
- The college and the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat announced a new degree program, the Master of Tall Buildings and Vertical Urbanism, the world's first multidisciplinary advanced degree focused specifically on high-rise design.
- Acknowledging the impact of Chicago's 2013 school closures, fifth-year students led by professors Dirk Denison, Maria Villalobos Hernandez, and Chicago Commissioner of Planning and Development Maurice Cox created proposals to repurpose the unused South Side and West Side schools as new community development and enrichment opportunities for their neighborhoods.

College Awards and News

Lewis College of Science and Letters

- The BioCAT facility, led by Professor of Biology and Physics Tom Irving, received a renewal of its grant from the National Institutes of Health for five more years for a total budget of \$8.62 million.
- Elisabeth Hildt, Kelly Laas, and Ph.D. student Monika Sziron (Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions) edited a topical collection for the journal *Science and Engineering Ethics* titled "Brain-Based and Artificial Intelligence: Socio-ethical Conversations in Computing and Neurotechnology."
- Associate Professor of Digital Humanities and Media Studies Carly Kocurek's card game Happy Ecosystems, produced as part of the Indiecade Climate Jam, received the Positive Impact Award for the jam.
- Associate Professor of Biology Oscar Juarez and his colleagues were featured in a medical watch episode on WGN-TV titled "Chicago Researchers Developing Inhaler to Help Stop COVID-19" to discuss the development of their novel drug treatment for COVID-19.

Stuart School of Business

- In fall 2020 Associate Professor Weslyne Ashton and her co-authors were honored by the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors with the AEESP Mary Ann Liebert Award for Publication Excellence in Environmental Engineering Science. The award recognizes their paper titled "Distinguishing Environmental Impacts of Household Food-Spending Patterns Among U.S. Demographic Groups," which was published in *Environmental Engineering Science*.
- In April 2021 the Greater Chicago Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration honored Industry Associate Professor of Public Administration Roland Calia with the Louis Brownlow Faculty Member of the Year Award at the chapter's annual awards program, given to Chicago-area public and nonprofit leaders, as well as students and alumni from Chicago-area public administration programs, for their contributions to public service.
- Stuart School's Master of Technological Entrepreneurship program, led by Coleman Foundation Clinical Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship Nik Rokop, began in fall 2020 to recruit students for the spring 2021 semester. The core of the MTE program is an expanded capstone project (9–12 credits) in which students build a startup business, bring a new technology to market, or complete an entrepreneurial project within a company or organization. Courses are offered at Stuart and the Institute of Design, with electives at Chicago-Kent College of Law and in technical disciplines. Student engagement with the Chicago tech community and through activities at the Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship will be emphasized.

College of Computing

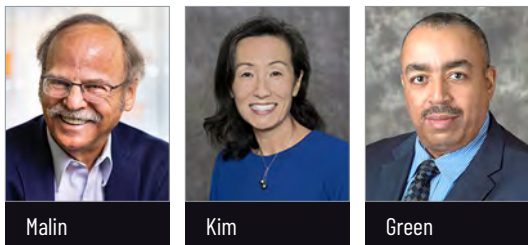
- **Hariharan Devarajan (Ph.D. CS '21)** earned a best paper award at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers/Association for Computing Machinery CCGrid conference hosted in Melbourne, Australia, for his innovations in identifying data bottlenecks that hinder input/output performance in deep-learning algorithms.
- Illinois Tech has announced the inaugural **Grainger Computing Innovation Prize**, an annual innovation competition that aims to solve critical societal challenges through innovative computing solutions and cross-disciplinary collaborations. A \$1 million endowment grant funded by The Grainger Foundation will support the competition, and student teams will receive substantial prizes for finishing in first, second, and third place.

College of Architecture

- **Prometheus**, the journal of the College of Architecture's Ph.D. program, won the prestigious Douglas Haskell Award from the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects.
- The college was chosen as one of only three North American **partner schools for the Switzerland-based Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction** and will host the organization's 2022 international conference.
- The college swept the **American Institute of Architects Chicago Chapter annual diversity awards**, with students Fionn Hull (B.Arch.), William Manzanilla (B.Arch.), and Hsu Myat Aung (M.S.Arch.) winning awards.
- **Professor John Ronan** won his fifth national design award in as many years when his Independence Library and Apartments in Chicago's Irving Park neighborhood received a design award for housing from the American Institute of Architects and a joint award from AIA and the American Library Association.
- **Faculty members Andrew Tinucci and David Woodhouse** received one of only 10 awards for sustainable design given by the American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment in 2020.
- The **American Society of Landscape Architects Illinois Chapter** named student Alexis Betancourt (M.Arch.+M.L.A.) as its outstanding student for 2020.
- Five college faculty and alumni won awards in the **Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects small projects awards for 2020**, by far the largest number of any school represented.
- **Faculty member Jennifer Park** received the American Institute of Architect's Young Architect Award in 2021, the top honor nationally for emerging voices in the profession. **Faculty member Tiara Hughes** won one of four AIA nationwide awards for Outstanding Associate in a Firm.
- **Student Daniel Allen** won first prize in the American Institute of Architects national office annual photography competition.
- **Students Ian-San Chiang, Nimah Mohiuddin, Olaowulapo Odukoya, and Tyler Sauter** won four of 30 nationwide fellowships from the National Organization of Minority Architects.
- The Chicago Architecture Club awarded its top honor, the Burnham Prize, to **student Daniel Allen and alumnus Blake Hageman (ARCH '20)**.
- *Crain's Chicago Business* named alumnus and **faculty member Dawveed Scully**, an architect with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, to its "40 under 40" list in November 2020.
- **Faculty member Paul Endres** won the National Council of Structural Engineers Association Award for Excellence 2020 for his innovative Dublin Link bridge in Dublin, Ohio.
- Chicago Women in Architecture gave **student Anandee Panach** its Gertrude Lempp Kerbis scholarship for 2020, the latest in a string of the college's alumni to win the award.

- Two landscape architecture students, **Meg Schroeder and Jing Yao**, were recognized with awards from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for their service to the profession while in school.
- **Professor and MLA+U Program Director Ron Henderson** received the 2020 American Society of Landscape Architects Best Books of 2020 award for his work on the publication *New Horizons: Eight Perspectives on Chinese Landscape Architecture Today*.

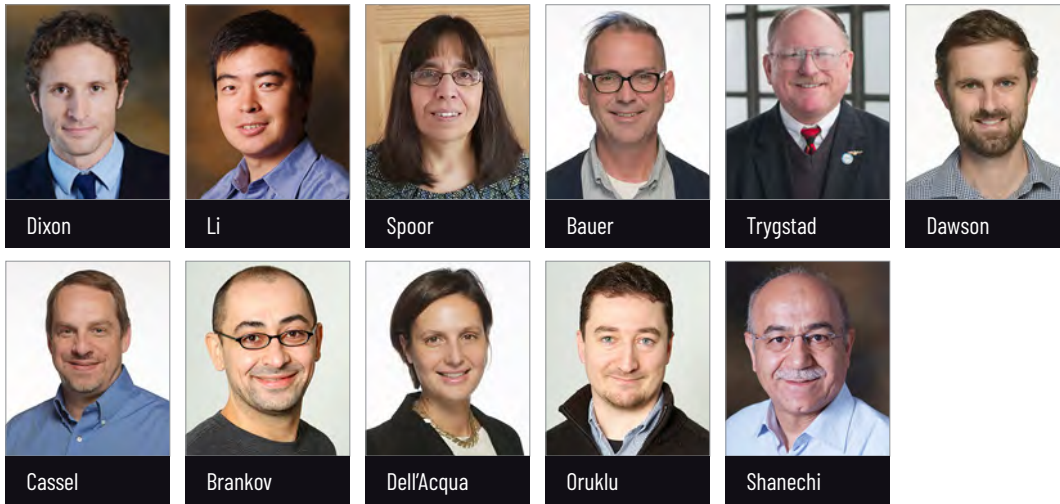
Chicago-Kent College of Law



- President Joe Biden appointed **Professor Emeritus Martin H. Malin**, an expert on labor and employment law, as chair of the Federal Labor Relations Authority's Federal Service Impasses Panel. The panel resolves impasses in collective bargaining between federal agencies and unions representing the agencies' employees.
- Chicago-Kent named **Nancy Kim as the inaugural Michael Paul Galvin Chair in Entrepreneurship and Applied Legal Technology and Professor of Law**, starting in fall 2021. As the Galvin Chair, Kim resides and teaches at Chicago-Kent while engaging in interdisciplinary research and facilitating student involvement at the Ed Kapan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship. Kim's scholarship focuses on consent, contracts, privacy, and the effect of technology on society.
- Chicago-Kent named **Michael Z. Green** as the next director of the school's Institute for Law and the Workplace. He will become the second director to lead the institute, following the retirement of ILW founder and director, Professor Emeritus Martin H. Malin. Green's research focuses on workplace disputes and the intersection of race and alternatives to the court resolution process. He is among a handful of African-American legal scholars focused on labor, employment discrimination, and dispute resolution issues.
- Chicago-Kent student **Zoe Appler '22** won the 2021 Top Gun National Mock Trial Competition, a national event that features competitors from the top 16 trial advocacy schools in the country. Appler defeated trial advocates from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law; Harvard Law School, the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law; Georgetown University Law Center; and Wake Forest University School of Law.
- Chicago-Kent student **Ashley-Marie Sutherland '22** and Gyasi Sutherland won the top prize at Pitch@IllinoisTech, a student-run business plan competition hosted by Illinois Tech student organization Intinium and the Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship. Their HEIRS Farm startup provides healthy, culturally relevant food to those who do not have access to it on the South Side of Chicago.

Institute of Design

- ID entered into a **collaboration on joint educational and research activities with Rush University** on “Design & Innovation for Healthcare” with a special focus on navigating new paths to develop more equitable health care. So far ID has started a joint research project on “Reinventing Primary Care,” the joint graduate-level course Innovation of Healthcare Delivery, and the joint continuing-ed course Design in Healthcare.
- ID is the only North American partner involved in the **New European Bauhaus initiative**. The New European Bauhaus is a groundbreaking interdisciplinary initiative developed to help the European Union achieve the goals set forth in its Europe Green Deal, namely to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.
- ID is actively pursuing building its reputation in Chicago’s cultural community to take back its rightful place as an illustrious and historical contributor. In 2021 ID created two partnerships: a jointly developed event on “**Art+Design for Action**” with the **Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA)** and a grant from the **Terra Foundation for Art+Design in Chicago 2024** to hold a planning symposium on anti-racist design.
- **Christopher Rudd**, clinical professor of community-driven design, has been chosen as one of 24 university researchers who have made a significant impact in their field by the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition (one of two Illinois Tech researchers to make the list). Rudd was recently also chosen to participate in Chicago Urban League’s highly selective 2021 IMPACT Leadership Development Program and profiled in the *Chicago Reader*.
- Four ID projects are 2021 honorees for **Fast Company awards**, a new record for ID.
 - *World Changing Idea* (“This major annual awards programs is focused on social good, seeking to elevate finished products and brave concepts that make the world better.”): The project “**Inclusion Diagnostic Floor Plan Tool**” was created by **ID students with ID faculty member Zach Pino** in ID’s spring 2020 course Steelcase Workspace Futures. The workshop was sponsored by Steelcase, the world’s largest office furniture manufacturer.
 - *Innovation by Design* (“The awards honor the designers and businesses solving the problems of today and tomorrow. The competition, now in its eighth year, has featured a cross-section of blue-chip companies, scruffy startups, and hungry young talents. It is one of the most sought-after design awards in industry.”): The ID projects honored are led by **Charles L. Owen Professor in Design Carlos Teixeira** and **Studio Professor Martin Thaler**.
 - § **CareBand**—ID students assisted a Chicago startup, CareBand, which is creating wearable devices for individuals living with dementia. The students aimed to create a wearable that not only shares information with caretakers about the individual’s location, but would also be fashionable and provide some independence to reduce the stigma of living with the condition.
 - § **Envisioning Sustainable Food Sourcing Solutions**—ID students sought to make the intentions of Chicago’s Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) actionable. This project also won the Core77 Design award.
 - § **Tactical Design for Pandemics**—In this systems workshop students focused and creating systems that would both mitigate the negative impacts of living in a pandemic environment in the short term and build more resilient and equitable infrastructures in the long term.
- ID and *Fortune* released the “Greatest Designs of Modern Times.” The list revisited Jay Doblin’s original 1959 list (also published with *Fortune*). The new 2020 package won a **New York Press Club Award** in the category of “Critical Arts Review.”



Faculty Awards

College of Computing

Excellence in Research at the junior level was awarded to **Matthew Dixon, an assistant professor in applied mathematics**. He has made important research contributions in the areas of machine learning and data science, finding applications primarily in financial risk management and financial engineering.

Excellence in Research at the senior level was awarded to **Shuwang Li, a professor in applied mathematics**. His outstanding achievements include contributions in multiscale modeling, analysis, simulation and prediction of complex dynamics in physical sciences, and quantitative biology.

Excellence in Service was awarded to **Cynthia Spoor, program manager in the Department of Industrial Technology and Management**. For two decades Spoor has worked closely with students and faculty, ensuring the smooth management of enrollment, scheduling, and technology management of courses.

The Dean's Award for service above and beyond was awarded to **Senior Lecturer Matthew Bauer and Department of Information Technology and Management Associate Chair Ray Trygstad** for an extremely well-prepared and smooth ABET accreditation process for computer science and information technology and management.

Armour College of Engineering

Assistant Professor Scott Dawson received the ICTAM Early Career Presenter Fellowship for the ICTAM2020+1 virtual conference.

Professor Kevin Cassel was honored as an ASME Fellow in 2020.

Professor Jovan Brankov was the recipient of the 2021 Sigma Xi/IIT Award for Faculty Excellence in University Research.

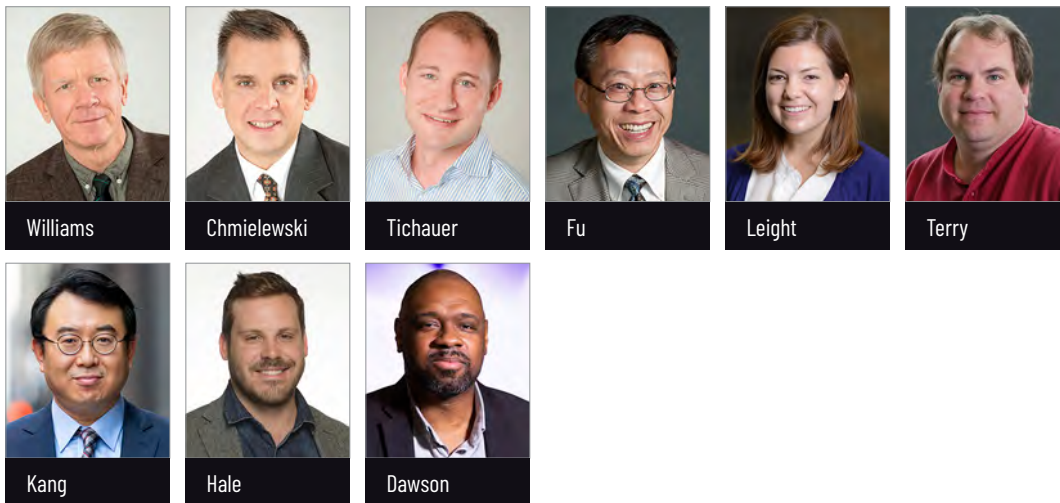
Teaching Awards

Armour College of Engineering

The John W. Rowe Excellence in Teaching Award was awarded to **Edoarda M. Corradi Dell'Acqua (M.S. CE '10), senior lecturer in the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering**.

Associate Professor Erdal Oruklu (2020) was the recipient of Board of Trustees Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Hassan Shanechi, senior lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, received the Bauer Family Undergraduate Teaching Award.



Professor David Williams is a core member of the AVT-239/295 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) research group that received the 2021 NATO Science and Technology Organization Excellence Award for the team’s high-quality research and impressive collaborative efforts.

Professor Donald Chmielewski received the Hamid Arastoopour Excellence in Teaching Award.

Associate Professor Ken Tichauer received the BME Excellence in Teaching Award in 2021.

Professor Gongkang Fu received the 2021 Ernest E. Howard Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers for “innovative and significant contributions to national and state practice specifications advancing structural engineering.”

Lewis College of Science and Letters

Senior Lecturer of Chemistry Katherine Leight received the Board of Trustees Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Professor of Physics Jeff Terry received the Lewis College of Science and Letters Excellence in Teaching Award.

College/School Excellence in Teaching Award Winners

Stuart School of Business

Sang Baum “Solomon” Kang: A member of the Stuart faculty since 2012, Kang engages with Stuart and Illinois Tech students at all levels as a teacher, independent study and dissertation adviser, research mentor and collaborator, and faculty adviser for student teams in international academic competitions. “Professor Kang combines excellent academic credentials with industry experience,” says John and Mae Calamos Stuart School of Business Dean Endowed Chair John Bilson. “His teaching ratings have always been excellent.”

College of Computing

Kyle Hale: An assistant professor in computer science, Hale has achieved excellence in course development, teaching and student engagement, and supervision of student research. Student evaluations include such praises as “Professor Hale makes this course amazing. I’ve learned a lot and enjoyed tapping into his vast knowledge of the topic.”

Maurice Dawson: An assistant professor in information technology and management, Dawson employs a highly interactive teaching method that maximizes the likelihood that each student achieves the learning objectives of each course. His pre-class preparation and weekend student discussion sessions demonstrate his commitment to quality education.

FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Over the past year Illinois Tech made significant improvements to its physical environment, funded through generous philanthropic gifts, grants, and a modest operating allocation. Project highlights include:

- **Opening a newly renovated Cunningham Hall**, which has provided new, modern housing for 292 students in a historically significant Ludwig Mies van der Rohe building. This is the second such building to be renovated and reopened in two years, for a total of 622 beds
- **Beginning the renovation of Carman Hall**. In the same neighborhood as Kacek and Cunningham Halls, this modernization will save another Mies van der Rohe building and provide new, modern apartment-style housing for 216 upper-division and graduate students, bringing the total three-year impact to 838 beds
- **Modernizing the elevators in the Michael Paul Galvin Tower**, providing a complete mechanical/electrical overhaul while also updating the cab interiors to reflect Illinois Tech's bright new branding
- Replacing the roof and fascia of The McCormick Tribune Campus Center, providing critical protection to this heavily used student service facility and architectural feature
- **Completing the rebranding of Jeanne and John Rowe Village**, including beautiful and highly visible recognition signs on the east and west sides of the building
- Completing a deal to privatize the long-term operation and upgrade of the heating and cogeneration plant, resulting in a \$35 million up-front payment to the university
- Managing a successful transition to full on-campus operations for fall 2021 courses as the university transitioned through the next phase of the emergence from pandemic measures
- Maintaining a consistently low multi-year record of Clery-reportable crimes on campus through patrol strategies and coordination with local government



FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Overview

Despite the complex challenges from the pandemic, fiscal year 2020–2021 was a year of continued progress toward increased financial strength for the university. Key accomplishments include:

1. **Monetization of assets:** The university entered into a partnership on the Mies Campus cogeneration plant with Harrison Street, generating \$35 million in unrestricted cash in exchange for the right to operate, manage, and redevelop the university’s on-campus utility system. The investment, structured as a 40-year Public-Private-Partnership (“P3”), will support Illinois Tech and provide the university with a capital solution for deferred maintenance costs, operations and maintenance services, energy conservation measures, and cost-savings efforts. Furthermore, Harrison Street will support and collaborate with Illinois Tech on research initiatives and the continued use of the on-campus system as a living lab.

Additionally, the university completed the sale of its second EBS channel to a wireless provider, generating \$25 million in cash in FY22 and \$3 million per year for the next 10 years, increasing annual revenue by \$700,000. With the completion of the P3 and the EBS spectrum sale, the university has monetized assets that will yield more than \$58 million (net of fees) that can be used to increase the endowment, renovate Carman Hall, and invest in the new president’s strategic priorities.

2. **Investment management transition:** In January the university successfully transitioned management of its investment portfolio to the RockCreek Group after a comprehensive RFP and due diligence process. With strong market performance in the first half of 2021, our fiscal year return was 24 percent, pushing our total portfolio to more than \$300 million—the highest amount of fully cash-based investments in the university’s history. It is also notable that this does not include the money from the P3 or EBS transactions.
3. **Operational success:** In an extraordinarily challenging year, the university community demonstrated its commitment to fulfilling our mission in a financially sound way, once again exceeding budget targets and achieving an operating cashflow margin of 6.5 percent. Programs were largely delivered in a remote/hybrid environment, and the university received \$3.6 million in federal stimulus as well as \$4 million in payroll tax deferrals. Adherence to austerity measures allowed us to fully cover deferred maintenance, debt service, and nearly \$2.5 million in one-time expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Activities

At the time of this writing, the university’s financial statements are under audit, though preliminary results show that the university achieved its goal of generating \$14 million positive cash from operations to cover debt service and capital expenditures. Total revenues stand at \$259 million, the result of a \$13 million decline in tuition and fees due to the short-term impact of the pandemic buoyed by over \$25 million in gifts. IIT Research Institute also had one of its best years with a 27 percent increase in research revenue. Expenses totaled \$274 million. In recognition of the contributions of our faculty and staff in this unprecedented year, management implemented a 2.5 percent-equivalent merit increase last January and reinstated the retirement match contribution in April. With strong market returns of nearly \$62 million, Illinois Tech finished the year with a positive change in net assets of more than \$47 million.

Financial Position

As of May 31, 2021, total net assets stand at \$466 million. Assets increased by \$71 million, primarily the result of realized gains in investments and the physical plant as the university continues to reinvest in campus facilities with projects such as renovating Kacek and Cunningham Halls. Total cash and investments stand at \$319 million, up \$53 million from FY20. Liabilities increased by \$23 million, with an increase in deferred revenues and the additional use of our line of credit as we moved to a more liquid position for the summer. Net assets without donor restrictions continues to rise, including by \$12 million in FY21, demonstrating continued momentum toward a more durable financial position as we recover from the pandemic.

Endowment

As of May 31 2021, the university's endowment was valued at \$304 million, an increase of \$48 million from the prior year. With the investment transition and a strong year in the markets, investments returns were 24 percent.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Marketing and Communications

During the past fiscal year, the Content Team contributed significantly to the department's goals of increasing visibility and increasing recruitment. The team produced 335 news stories for the university's news website, created 53 videos, and conducted 112 photo shoots for use across a variety of communications. The Commencement video—for which the team proactively developed and led the creative and production portions of the project—was a collection of 11 component videos plus the full-length main ceremony video, the latter of which has been viewed more than 6,200 times alone. The team also proactively developed a series of four yield videos, which were delivered in summer 2020.

The Content Team proactively developed and launched the university's first online research magazine, in addition to new newsletters for the following departments and colleges: applied math; computer science; Armour College, in addition to separate newsletters for each of Armour's five departments; the Kaplan Institute; and the College of Architecture. Audiences included the appropriate peer universities/ranking entities (including *U.S. News & World Report* voters), the Illinois Tech community (including alumni), and other select groups. The team also created the first summer online edition of *Illinois Tech Magazine*.

During FY21, the number of views of news stories rose significantly, due in part to increased content and additional leveraging of content across channels. The greatest number of views occurred in April 2021, with 20,182 page views during that month alone. This marked an increase of 35 percent over the previous month and a 44 percent increase over April 2020.

Media Relations—The Communications team developed a new aggressive media outreach calendar in an effort to build a steady and consistent cadence of press coverage through proactive visibility opportunities. As a result, the Communications team was able to garner coverage in the *New York Times*, *the New Yorker*, CBS News, NBC News, *USA Today*, Wired, PBS, NPR, BuzzFeed News, *Forbes*, *the Associated Press*, *MIT Technology Review*, *Harvard Business Review*, *the Chicago Tribune*, *the Chicago Sun-Times*, *Crain's Chicago Business*, ABC 7, NBC 5, WBEZ, and WBBM. Overall, the team earned 14,093 total media mentions, including 969 mentions in high-visibility publications (with more than 10 million unique monthly readers), and 957 “high-performing articles” that drove traffic back to the Illinois Tech website. The team also secured 383 headline mentions and feature mentions (stories in which university activities were featured heavily, as opposed to singular mentions, such as faculty commentary), culminating in a total aggregate verified viewership of more than 1,845,700 from mid-September through the end of May. Throughout spring 2021, the Marketing and Communications team dramatically expanded its campaign targeting *U.S. News & World Report* rankings voters to increase the visibility and reputation of the university. This year the campaign increased total communications by 38 percent, from 42 individual emails targeting likely voters in 2020 to 58 in 2021. The average open rate for this year's campaign was 21.1 percent, and on average, 3.64 percent of recipients then clicked through to our university's website to learn more and engage with additional website content.

Social Media—The Social Media team worked collaboratively with our internal content and media relations teams to better promote Illinois Tech across all available channels. From the beginning to the end of the reporting period, university Facebook followers increased by 9 percent and university posts generated 922,000 impressions. The university's highest follower growth was on Instagram, an increase of 32 percent, along with 532,000 impressions. On LinkedIn, the university had a total of 2.4 million impressions and 9 percent growth in followers. On Twitter, the university saw a 9 percent increase in followers and 1.7 million total impressions.

Government Relations

External Affairs continued to closely coordinate with the Chicago mayor's office and other health officials regarding pandemic-related policies and decision-making. The office facilitated and coordinated with outside partners on six COVID-19 vaccination events for Illinois Tech students, faculty, and staff, as well as the community at large. Nearly 1,400 unique individuals were vaccinated at these events. Vice President for External Affairs Jess Goode was elected to a three-year term as co-chair of America's Urban Campus, an organization representing colleges and universities across Chicago. Illinois Tech has recently formally rejoined the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition, and Goode will serve on its Board of Directors, as well as the board's public policy committee. ISTC is a statewide nonprofit that is focused on strengthening Illinois's innovation economy through data collection, policy advocacy, and education. Illinois Tech continues to play a key role in the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, with new Illinois Tech President Raj Echambadi joining the organization's steering committee and Goode continuing as a member of the group's policy advisory table. This year the alliance advised on the presidential transition, organized a meeting with the White House on international student policy, and advocated for a statement of renewed support for international students from the United States Department of State and U.S. Department of Education.

Community Affairs

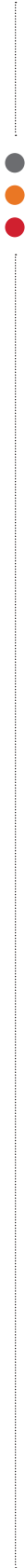
Despite the pandemic, the Office of Community Affairs and Outreach Programs (OCA) continued to create innovative virtual programming for at least 1,500 community members. In partnership with the Real Time Communications Lab and Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions, OCA launched the Tech and Social Justice series featuring internationally and nationally acclaimed speakers who addressed the role of technology in both perpetuating and dismantling racism and other social inequities.



OCA continued educational partnerships and matched faculty with community organizations and constituencies for the Science Café series. Elementary and middle school students received kits that helped them explore chemical and physical reactions and the properties of liquids and solids while making scientific observations and making/testing hypotheses. OCA Director Alicia Bunton worked with the College of Computing to launch the SURE (Summer Undergraduate Research Experiences) program. SURE offers insight and learning in some of the hottest topics in applied mathematics and computer science through hands-on research experiences.



The African American and Asian film series remained a part of art and cultural programming. Members of the Illinois Tech community participated in a special virtual screening of the Oscar-nominated film *Judas and the Black Messiah*, which was preceded by a conversation with Fred Hampton Jr. and his mother, Akua Njeri. The community also learned about race, immigration, American identity, and the dynamics between the Black and Chinese communities in a post-film discussion of *Far East Deep South*. In collaboration with the Galvin Library and Graham Resource Center librarian, OCA launched the community book club. A local and national audience read and discussed eight books including *Dead Land* with Hyde Park author Sara Paretsky, who also discussed her upcoming book and its emphasis on technology.



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