WPI’s approach to innovation and entrepreneurship covers everything from idea to execution. We can’t predict unexpected twists, turns, and glitches of the marketplace, so it’s our job to produce impact makers that will manage even the most technical solutions with a thoughtful approach to their human-scale impact.

No matter how small, all innovation serves a global community.

Donna Levin
Executive Director
WPI’s Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center
Our discoveries are game-changers.
WPI’s I&E programs generate an energy that radiates from our Worcester campus and includes hands-on project work at our 50+ global project centers. Our discoveries make life better for people around the world. With an increasingly robust record of patents awarded and licensed, and with products hitting the market, our innovation is bringing global change. We don’t just churn out new ideas; we turn ideas into needed solutions. The result is powerful.

4x
national average of research universities’ invention disclosures and licenses
The world needs innovators and entrepreneurs who will solve today’s problems, even as they anticipate and design for those of tomorrow. From students with great ideas to seasoned executive entrepreneurs—WPI supports creative thinkers and doers.

**Building a Globally Inclusive Workforce Starts Here**

Our students develop a global view—they understand the technical, social, and ethical impacts their innovation will make.

**Engineering for Health Care**

Biomedical engineer Marsha Rolle’s research is taking on the delicate challenge of using engineered blood vessels to replace damaged windpipes.

**There’s an App for That**

Computer scientist Emmanuel Agu uses machine learning techniques to develop smartphone apps that help people live healthier lives.

**From MQP to Market**

Project-based learning means students in mechanical engineering professor Chris Brown’s courses are designing a new sports shoe to reduce non-contact knee and ankle injuries.

**Using Robots for MRI-Guided Surgery**

Biomedical and robotic engineers Haichong (Kai) Zhang and Gregory Fischer are developing precise surgical imaging robots that work within MRI machines for better cancer diagnosis.
The New Face of Patient Care

WPI’s cutting-edge PracticePoint integrates engineering with healthcare research and development to advance AI and targeted patient care.

Spotlight on Worcester: Local, Regional, and Global Impact

Known as a hub for life sciences, robotics, and education, Worcester also has an economy that fuels job growth and new ideas. WPI is proud to be part of the Worcester community.

Unmatched Facilities

Students, faculty, and staff launch groundbreaking ideas from work done in our makerspaces and facilities. WPI’s distinctive fire science labs allow researchers to conduct large-scale burns and contribute to global health and safety.

Community Commitment

As the official academic technology advisor to the Worcester Red Sox minor league baseball team, WPI is making cutting-edge contributions to Polar Park, a new ballpark in the city.

A Hub of the Photonics Industry

The Lab for Education & Application Prototypes (LEAP) at WPI (a collaborative project between WPI and Quinsigamond Community College) supports and advances the integrated photonics manufacturing sector.

From Worcester to Boston to the World

WPI Seaport builds connections and collaborations in fintech, life sciences and bioengineering, robotics, systems engineering, and construction in the Boston Innovation District.
WPI’s ecosystem supports innovators and entrepreneurs with cutting-edge facilities, varied series and pitch events, engaged alumni and off-campus partners, and entrepreneurs-in-residence programs. Entrepreneurship takes many forms here—from energetic I&E student clubs and organizations to patented ideas—but the end goal is the same—**impact**.

**GoatTank**

Goat Tank, named in honor of WPI’s goat mascot, aims to increase women’s participation in STEM. Each team is at least 50 percent women and takes part in entrepreneurial-themed workshops throughout the year.

**I-Corps**

Entrepreneurial and innovative students may apply for the intensive NSF-funded WPI I-Corps™ Site program, which helps determine if a product has potential market viability.

**WinterSession**

The interactive classes and workshops of WPI’s WinterSession are all about learning for the pure fun of it. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni explore different skills and foster new connections.

**Online Mentoring Platform**

WPI’s dedicated online platform offers opportunities to engage with the I&E community; discover upcoming events, applications and competitions; connect with cofounders and form teams; find mentors, investors, and internships or jobs at startups; and collaborate with entrepreneurial students and alumni across the globe.
The funds I received through Tinkerbox allowed me to conduct experiments on samples that are otherwise very costly and usually not provided in a general lab. Furthermore, the groundwork in collaboration with colleagues from different disciplines and their critical feedback helped me in shaping my ideas and concepts.

—Anusuya Pal, PhD candidate in physics
After determining if an idea has market potential, WPI helps launch start-ups with ideas ready for the market. From developing medical devices to looking at traffic patterns in a way never before considered, WPI nurtures, challenges, and supports ideas the market needs. Over the past two decades, more than 268 alumni founded companies and raised approximately $2.68 billion for their ventures—$1.5 billion of that since 2015. WPI alums make a big impact.

**TAN Program**

WPI’s I&E ecosystem is grounded by the Tech Advisors Network (TAN), a virtual incubator of 80+ alumni, faculty, and industry partners who volunteer advising and networking services to WPI innovators. The TAN Accelerator Program is a three-month cohort-driven program that helps a start-up identify and attain goals, and reach commercialization.

“TAN provides an opportunity for innovation to mature. From early presentations to months of advisory sessions, the process produces quality results. I’ve seen companies blossom and get funded, pivot based on TAN-driven advisor insights, or respectfully wind down. In every case, it’s a win for the entrepreneur.”

—Ken Rapp, CEO, Bluestream
“Through inclusive, community-based collaboration, TAN welcomes anyone from the extended WPI ecosystem to receive or give guidance. By doing so, TAN has developed a huge pool of talent and potential. WPI recognizes the value in mixing people with need and people with expertise, structuring just enough to keep it organized and productive, then standing back and letting the magic happen.”

–Scott Harris ’82, Onshape Inc., Co-founder and Advisor

90 ventures supported by TAN (2017)

80+ volunteer advisors involved with TAN

35 companies formed/advised by TAN (2017)
The ideas generated at WPI do more than inspire us—they also solve real-world problems and change people’s lives. From mentors in residence to active alumni and friends, the community of changemakers is active at WPI.

Solvus Global
With managing partner Aaron Birt ’14 (MS), ’17 (PhD), at the helm, Solvus Global is working in manufacturing and materials space to create streamlined and sustainable processes and solutions.

Battery Resourcers
Mechanical engineering professor Yan Wang founded Battery Resourcers, which continues to earn accolades for its innovative process of recycling materials from spent lithium ion cells.

“I’m grateful for the opportunities WPI opened up for me, and I want to pay it forward as far as trying to help students and alumni create new businesses and ventures that can help their communities and families, as well as expand the WPI brand and ecosystem.”

–Jim O’Neill ’93, CPO, HubSpot
Impact Makers
We focus on solutions that are fluid, adaptable, and worthwhile. WPI graduates become workforce leaders who have the acumen to tackle real-world problems that haven’t even developed. WPI faculty and students change the world every day. They use the knowledge, resources, and entrepreneurial thinking to make an immediate difference for local and global communities.

Global Entrepreneur-in-Residence (GEIR)
With state partnership, WPI’s GEIR program brings top-tier global researchers to share knowledge and experiences with students while they conduct research here.

Jim Baum
Jim Baum ’86 is a WPI trustee and mentor in residence. As a passionate and successful innovation leader, Baum’s expertise is invaluable for those just getting started.

Jeremy and Elizabeth Cash Hitchcock
Jeremy ’04 and Elizabeth Cash Hitchcock ’02 share a passion for their entrepreneurial journey and their alma mater. They invest in WPI’s talent with angel funding and participation in the Tech Advisors Network.

Martin Burt
Every spring and fall, social entrepreneur Martin Burt, founder and CEO of Fundacion Paraguaya and Poverty Stoplight, shares his expertise for making a living while making the world a better place.