ED KAPLAN FAMILY INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION AND TECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

INVEST IN INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

What if the global city of Chicago had a place with a singular purpose to teach and develop the basic elements of innovation—idea creation, design methods, rapid prototyping, and enterprise formation?

The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship on Illinois Institute of Technology’s Main Campus will be that place—a hub for a technology-focused, interdisciplinary curriculum to intersect with industry, creating pathways to the commercialization of ideas.

A SYNERGY OF INNOVATION ACTIVITIES

With IIT’s signature programming under one roof and every IIT undergraduate attending at least two classes within, this center for innovation will quickly become a centralized core for innovative thinking on campus. The Kaplan Institute will be home to:

- IIT Interprofessional Projects (IPRO) Program
- Idea Shop
- Entrepreneurship Academy
- Jules F. Knapp Entrepreneurship Center
- M. A. Self Leadership Academy
- IIT Institute of Design

The building will dedicate thousands of square footage to “maker space”—interactive flexible space for faculty, staff, administrators, and students to converse and create.

Innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurship are firm fixtures of an IIT education. The Kaplan Institute will be critical for the university to continue to deliver on its promise of providing a distinctive education and a vibrant environment from which world-changing ideas emanate. An educational anchor to the city’s existing businesses, the center will build upon Chicago’s reputation as a hub of innovation and enterprise formation.

The new innovation center promises to be an investment in both the education offered at IIT and the future of Chicago. It will help unlock the potential of thousands of students while providing Chicago businesses with a pipeline of new products, processes, and talented graduates to hire.”

—Rahm Emanuel, Mayor, City of Chicago

We recognize the importance of the Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship to IIT and the City of Chicago and are seeking to secure funding at all levels. A generous dollar for dollar $10 million challenge gift from IIT Board of Trustees member Ed Kaplan (ME ’65) and his wife, Carol, has fortified efforts to complete the institute by 2017. Thanks to the Kaplan Innovation Challenge, you can double the impact of your gift and invest in the next generations of innovators.
VISION

The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship will attract students who will learn to convert their creative ideas into significant, viable innovations. They will become the leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs of the future.

MISSION

The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship will nurture the advancement of creative ideas, foster interdisciplinary and external collaboration, and create a culture that enables innovation and tech entrepreneurship to flourish.

OUTCOMES

- Creative students who wish to innovate in STEM fields will be attracted to IIT.

- All IIT undergraduates will acquire a superior capability to innovate and all will have the opportunity to participate in an entrepreneurial activity. Our graduates will be in demand because of their educational experience in the Kaplan Institute.

- Relationships and collaborations with external organizations will be developed to broaden interactions and leverage resources in order to accelerate innovation and enable entrepreneurial activities.

- Innovative ideas will result in new enterprise formation.

DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING ARCHITECTS

John Ronan Architects—a Chicago-based, internationally renowned architecture and design firm—has been selected as the design architect for the Kaplan Institute. Shepley Bulfinch, the award-winning programming architect for the institute, is a national leader in the programming and planning of prototype collaboration spaces for some of the country’s leading academic institutions, including the Harvard Innovation Lab and Duke University’s Link Teaching and Learning Center, among others.