Where Next Happens
University of Cincinnati 1819 Innovation Hub

Talent has choices.
Proximity matters.
Innovation is the new currency.

Office of Innovation
Background

The Office of Innovation was formed in 2017 when the University’s 30th president, Dr. Neville G. Pinto, completed a new strategic direction called “Next Lives Here” with an Innovation Agenda as one of its primary platforms. The office oversees all the university’s intellectual property, technology transfer and commercialization, and the 1819 Innovation Hub.
What can you accomplish in one year? Since our opening in October 2018, we have unleashed the talent and innovation capacity of our urban research university and connected with industry thought leaders to create meaningful value. Our city and state have rallied around our efforts creating a sense of urgency as we compete for talent - and the organizations that seek that talent - on a national and global stage. We have collectively ignited the beginning of an irreversible regional transformation.

This was a memorable year for our university and our community. We have achieved unprecedented progress as a catalyst for regional innovation. The 1819 Innovation Hub is a place where industry connects with smart and hungry talent to innovate. That talent includes students, researchers and educators. Demand for space in our building is tremendous and the 1819 Innovation Hub is already 75% occupied.

We have worked aggressively to create a place where ideas can be prototyped, patented and licensed with terms that increase speed and reduce friction. This has positively impacted engagement from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. Speaking of start-ups, we have increased our quantity by 400% and continue to gain momentum.

Our efforts as a community are being recognized globally. In October, Reuter’s named the University of Cincinnati as one of the top 100 most innovative universities in the world. In June, the Uptown Innovation Corridor, anchored by the 1819 Innovation Hub and the Digital Futures complex, was recognized globally as an innovation district. We are now being discussed alongside cities such as Atlanta, Austin, Boston and Pittsburgh in the US, Toronto in Canada, and Barcelona and Sheffield in Europe to name just a few.

We are clearly on the pathway for regional transformation. As you review our first year in the following pages, reflect with us on our progress as the University OF Cincinnati. Together let’s turn our attention as a community to building on our momentum toward Cincinnati being a destination location for talent and not just a step on the journey.

David J. Adams
University of Cincinnati Chief Innovation Officer, 1819 Innovation Hub
“While research universities are of economic importance anywhere, they are particularly relevant to the economic vitality of cities because their geographic proximity to firms increases the interplay between companies and schools. This agglomeration is the process in which firms located near one another and other relevant institutions (like universities) gain additional benefits from their proximity.”

– Brookings Institute

In the Office of Innovation, we help organizations connect with the talent they need to innovate. This includes connecting companies to our student, research and education talent. Similarly, we connect students and faculty with the talent needed to create working prototypes, startups, and patents.

Our Corporate Relations team is the ‘front door’ to the community. This team interfaces directly with organizations of all sizes to understand their needs and connect them with the talented resources inside the university. This team focuses on quickly creating value for each organization.

Our Technology Transfer team assists students, faculty and organizations with the development and commercialization of intellectual property. This team develops and manages the policies and intellectual property of the university, and is focused on increasing speed and reducing friction in university engagement.

Venture Lab is the place where ideas are brought to life and connections with value-added partners occur. This team is focused on the development of start-ups and connecting them to experts, globally, to accelerate their efforts.

The Makerspace + Microfactory is the place where an idea can be physically created and a small batch of products can be manufactured. The team instructs on how to use the equipment and assists individuals and organizations in achieving their goals.

The 1819 Innovation Hub is the front door to the university and the anchor to the Uptown Innovation Corridor. Strategic partners located within 1819 connect with university resources and with each other. The Office of Innovation is also located in 1819 and has responsibility for operations and programming of the facility, as well as future occupants within 1819 and the developing innovation district.
Inc. Magazine publishes 3 Reasons You Should Start Your Next Business in Cincinnati.

UC is recognized by Reuters as Top 100 Most Innovative Universities.

1819 ribbon-cutting sees over 1500 attendees, from community officials to city, state and national partners.

Cincinnati’s Young Presidents Organization (YPO) hosts Starbucks Chairman Mike Ullman in a fireside chat at 1819.

UC celebrates the groundbreaking of its Digital Futures Complex, adjacent to 1819 within the Uptown Innovation Corridor.

Uptown Innovation Corridor is recognized globally alongside 160 innovation districts world-wide.

Forbes recognizes the 1819 Innovation Hub in a story about entrepreneurs taking over Sears’ landmark buildings.

Entrepreneur magazine cites UC’s 1819 as key reason Cincinnati is poised to become ‘the premier Midwestern start-up city.’
Housed in a former Sears building in Cincinnati’s Avondale neighborhood, the 1819 Innovation Hub within the Uptown Innovation Corridor is the University’s next major contribution to the development of a world-class innovation ecosystem in the city. The 1819 building is open and serving as the new front door for companies seeking to tap into the vast talent, research and educational expertise at UC. It provides space for interdisciplinary students and faculty to collaborate with industry partners and translate ideas to market. Students and faculty receive hands-on support from businesses, active in their areas of expertise, and businesses gain access to innovative solutions to the most pressing technological and workforce needs. Mixed-use development within Cincinnati’s Uptown Innovation Corridor, anchored by the 1819 Innovation Hub, will create a place to support the community, medical, research, and innovation needs of the city: a place to live, work, learn, and play.
First Floor
Built on a grade, the building’s first floor is accessed through the glass Atrium entrance where one has the option to ascend the grand suspended staircase or visit the Ground Floor Makerspace + Microfactory.

Second Floor
The second floor of the 1819 Innovation Hub is home to the Venture Lab accelerator, three active learning classrooms, a multi-use room and common areas.

Third Floor
The third floor provides space for corporate and social innovation, for small, medium, and large companies to engage with the University of Cincinnati. The third floor is home to Cincinnati Insurance Companies, the Kroger Technology Knowledge Action Center, Kingsgate Logistics, LiveWell Collaborative, Village Life Outreach Project, Simpson Center for Urban Futures, and the Cincinnati Bell Innovation Hub.

Fourth Floor
The top floor also provides space for corporate and social innovation, for small, medium, and large companies to engage with the University of Cincinnati. The fourth floor is home to CincyTech, UC’s Office of Innovation, the UC Simulation Center (with P&G), and Edaptive Computing Inc.
In 1819, in the very heart of this still-young nation, in a period of revolution that was transforming every level of society, a place of learning was founded that would become The University of Cincinnati.

Nearly 200 years later, that institution is poised to lead urban public universities into a new era of inclusion, innovation and impact. This new revolution begins here: at the University of Cincinnati 1819 Innovation Hub.

1819 is a place of thinking, making and doing, of discovery and delivery, for the University and its community, for the city and the world beyond. It is the one-stop destination where industry meets the University’s talent.

The University of Cincinnati is where next lives. The 1819 Innovation Hub is where next happens.

• Presented 323 events/programs in its first year, and hosted 18 accredited classes

“Then there’s Cincinnati, where the University of Cincinnati’s 1819 Innovation Hub opened in October 2018 where the city’s first Sears department store once stood, bringing new growth opportunities for the community.”

Forbes – Entrepreneurs Take Over Sears’ Landmark Buildings
The relationship between academic research institutions and private industry has evolved significantly over time and is even more critical today with the rapid pace of change and the challenges with funding research in today's economic climate. Universities bring valuable resources to the table: talent, research, and access to physical assets such as specialized equipment and technology.

At the same time, corporations bring real-world problems that need innovative solutions and an opportunity for students and faculty to take a multi-disciplinary approach to solving them. This, in turn, creates a better-prepared pool of talent and source of employment for industry. These are the strategic partners who engaged early with the Office of Innovation by co-locating into spaces within the 1819 Innovation Hub. These charter partner companies, along with numerous other small, medium, and large organizations, are working with the Office of Innovation to access talent, through student engagement, faculty research, or ongoing education for their own talented employees.
“It’s all about talent and how we attract talent for Kroger’s mission, which is increasingly techno-centric. Students learn valuable work and life skills, and we both get the chance to test drive each other.”

- Retired Kroger Chief Information Officer Chris Hjelm
Cincinnati Bell

“This is a tremendous opportunity for Cincinnati Bell to engage with the University of Cincinnati, which is doing cutting-edge research and producing a pipeline of students who are developing in-demand engineering, marketing, and design skills.” - Cincinnati Bell CEO Leigh Fox

Cincinnati Bell is the dominant telephone company in the Cincinnati region, offering landline service, wireless service, and high-speed internet access with more than $800 million invested in its local fiber network.

Cincinnati Insurance Companies

“Gaining access to talent, accelerating the time from ideation to commercialization, developing a platform for innovation that can be leveraged by the entire enterprise, and generating excitement among our associates and agency population around a culture of innovation are the keys to success for us.” - Cincinnati Financial Chief Information Officer John Kellington

The Cincinnati Insurance Companies is among the nation’s top 25 property casualty insurer groups based on net written premiums, marketing its products through independent agencies in 43 states and the District of Columbia.

CincyTech

“UC is a world-class research institution where ideas and intellectual property abound. UC’s Innovation Agenda and the 1819 Innovation Hub align perfectly with our mission.” - CincyTech CEO Mike Venerable

One of the most active seed funds in the Midwest, CincyTech is supported by Ohio Third Frontier and more than two dozen foundations, corporations, institutions, municipalities and individuals.
Kingsgate Logistics
“We are one of the fastest growing companies at the epicenter of delivery and commerce. And UC’s 1819 Innovation Hub is focused on growing tech talent at the region’s center of innovation. It aligns perfectly with our mission.” – Kingsgate owning partner Jeff Beckham
Kingsgate is a second-generation, family-owned logistics company, providing logistics support and transportation freight services for companies throughout North America.

Kroger
“The 1819 Innovation Hub is a co-working community where we will build and discover the next generation of technology and talent. Our vision is to create a talent pipeline that supports our business and positions the region as a place for digital and technology students and professionals.” – Retired Kroger Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer Chris Hjelm
Kroger is the largest supermarket chain in the US by revenue, the second-largest general retailer behind Walmart, and the 17th largest company in the US, operating in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

UC Simulation Center (Procter & Gamble)
“Modeling and Simulation is now the new norm for innovation in the industry. The UC Simulation center brought to P&G modeling and simulation capacity to drive innovation at an accelerated pace from manufacturing to technology discovery for all 21 of P&G’s billion dollar brands.” – P&G Vice President, Corporate R&D, Gerard Baillely
P&G is an American multinational consumer goods corporation specializing in a wide range of personal health/consumer health, and personal care and hygiene products.

Worldpay
“If you consider how consumers pay for things and how that is constantly evolving, it means companies like Worldpay need to be heavily focused on innovation and embrace change or fall behind. That is why the relationship between UC and companies like Worldpay, Kroger and P&G are so important. It allows us, together, to be ahead of the curve—creating tech and not just consuming it.” – Worldpay President and Chief Operating Officer Mark Heimbouch
Worldpay, Inc. is a leading payments provider, offering customers a comprehensive suite of products and services globally, delivered through a single provider.
Five-minute presentations in rapid succession are the highlight of Venture Lab Graduation Day, where EIRs find an affinity for new ideas.
• 400% increase in startups due to new process
• 2 Venture Lab start-ups go from pre-accelerator to launch, driving a combined $2MM in revenue in less than 6 months

“I’m very, very proud to have come from this school, and without the education here Allbirds doesn’t happen. It was the setting of standards, which was the consistent freight of my whole education.”

- Allbirds CEO Tim Brown

UC’s Venture Lab accelerates and simplifies the process of creating a new company from scratch. As any entrepreneur knows, you can’t do it alone. Venture Lab connects university students, faculty, staff and alumni to talent and funding to help launch companies. The team includes Office of Innovation staff as well as several dozen Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIRs), coaches, curated service providers, and subject matter experts.

Recognizing that students, faculty and staff may have limited time to invest in starting a company and that speed-to-market is critical to success, Venture Lab has created a streamlined process. At the end of a seven-week pre-accelerator program, graduating teams present their ideas to a room of experienced EIRs who then help them prepare a plan to compete for additional funding from the State of Ohio of over $300,000. This funding is designed to support the launch of companies to then attract additional resources and investment that will help bring new ideas to market.
Amplicore Inc.
Established in 2018, Amplicore Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing a new class of regenerative therapeutics for musculoskeletal diseases, such as degenerative joint osteoarthritis, cartilage damage, degenerative disc disease, and acute meniscus tear. The technology has driven interest and received various governmental funding supports, including awards from the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense.

Amplify Sciences
Two former post-doctoral students from the UC Engineering Department’s Novel Device Laboratory are changing the way we manage flu season by creating the first, at-home flu test using just a saliva sample. Developed in a UC lab focused on making wearable sweat-based biosensors, the team’s new technology amplifies the signal of pathogens in biofluid samples. This technology allows them to create easier-to-use tests that provide quick, actionable results.

ANTI-OD
A faculty member from the UC College of Design, Architecture, Art, & Planning is developing the ANTI-OD product to combat the opioid epidemic. Her product has garnered interest from all over the region, leading to strategic partnerships that will ensure the product is accessible to all who need it around the state and beyond.

UC Venture Lab graduate won “Best Software Product” at the Cincinnati Business Courier’s 2019 Innovation & Technology Awards
“UC is the ultimate resource for finding new talent from the IMS Center to other university programs.”
— UC Startup Predictronics Chief Technology Officer David Seigel

Cinthesis
Graduating from the Venture Lab in April 2019, and funded in July, start-up company Cinthesis is developing technology to reduce the environmental impact of chemical synthesis while improving yield in the process. Cinthesis is now furthering its concept with newly awarded funding from the Venture Lab’s Accelerator, funded by the State of Ohio.

Peel9
Venture Lab recently awarded funding to Peel9, a team of UC faculty and consultants from the School of Criminal Justice who developed a new record management system for law enforcement. The web-based system allows users to drill down into individual incidents to address issues and assess effectiveness, and allows for increased collaboration among law enforcement agencies. Peel9’s product was alpha-tested by 11 police agencies this past winter, and will hit the market soon.

See Word Reading
See Word Reading, a graduate of UC’s Venture Lab, won “Best Software Product” at the Cincinnati Business Courier’s 2019 Innovation & Technology Awards. In the Courier’s words, “See Word Reading has married visual design principles used in building successful brands with cognitive research theory to create a suite of applications that help teachers and parents provide personalized, fun and engaging lessons to improve literacy skills for all children.”
“Engaging with UC’s Office of Innovation on the development of commercialization plans for new solutions and technologies has been an easy and simple process that allows us to meet our vision of accelerating innovation to market.”

— Mike DiPaola, P&G Senior Manager, R&D Open Innovation
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Technology transfer is the movement of knowledge and discoveries to the general public. Within UC’s Office of Innovation, tech transfer refers specifically to the formal licensing of inventions under the guidance of our experienced licensing associates.

Our faculty and students have ideas and capabilities that will transform the world around us. Entrepreneurs have vision, and industry have resources to make those ideas a reality. UC’s Office of Innovation bridges the gap between innovators, industry and entrepreneurs, making it easy to work with us. Our technology transfer team is comprised of specialists in licensing, business development, community impact, and legal matters, all of whom are widely experienced in transferring technologies across a broad array of fields, including the physical sciences, life sciences and information technology. We are committed to serving our innovators, our entrepreneurs, and our industry partners with a full spectrum of commercialization services aimed at successfully turning UC’s ideas into reality to impact lives and to energize the regional economy.

As stewards of the intellectual property assets of UC, we work in tandem with industry, innovators, and entrepreneurs to assess the commercial potential of new discoveries, reduce friction, and increase the speed at which new ideas can impact the world.

- New processes and marketing efforts this year resulted in 121 patents and 16 licenses issued.
The Makerspace at the 1819 Innovation Hub is open to all university students, faculty, staff, and 1819 partners. It is a space for research, exploration, and the creation of new ideas, objects, and products, empowering the transformation of ideas into the material world and supporting innovation through the prototyping phase.

The facility includes both a prototyping lab and a fabrication lab. The prototyping lab offers laser cutters, 3D printers, 3D scanners, a vinyl cutter, large format printer, sewing machines, an electronics bench, spray booth and computer stations.

The fabrication lab offers access to fully stocked wood and metal shops, as well as manual and CNC machining in wood, plastics, and metals. Hand and power tools are available for use as well. Equipment includes CNC mills, CNC routers, CNC lathe, a waterjet cutter, welders, plasma cutter, drill press, metal shear and brake, cold saw, wood lathe, jointer and planer, and miter, band and table saws.

Many stories of student-designed innovation, faculty research, and capstone projects have emerged from this new space, dedicated to cross-disciplinary approaches to problem-solving.

- Makerspace attracted 1,400 members within nine months of opening
“The generous staff and resources at 1819 Makerspace offered us unparalleled exposure and has enabled us to grow as young professionals in ways that wouldn’t have been otherwise possible.” – Bearcat Motorsports Class of 2019

“We are immensely grateful for the numerous resources the Innovation Hub has provided us.” – UC Engineers Without Borders member Eva Sofge

UC engineering students work in the Makerspace on a “butt brake” for disabled bicycle riders who can’t grip handlebars tightly.
• UC announces plans in August 2018 to lease a new-construction building within Cincinnati’s Uptown Innovation Corridor
• The Digital Futures Complex breaks ground in April 2019

“We hosted a ‘reverse pitch day’ at 1819, in which our industry partners pitched UC faculty with their research needs to help determine future programming in the new building.”

- David J. Adams, UC Chief Innovation Officer
Together with UC’s 1819 Innovation Hub, the Digital Futures Complex will serve as the catalyst to help industry attract and retain talent. With faculty, lab, and education space dedicated to sensors, robotics, cybersecurity, information technology, computer science, data analytics, artificial intelligence, augmented and virtual reality, simulation, quantum computing, and more, what UC is creating is transdisciplinary: fields of study colliding in new ways with the potential to create a whole new field of study focused on applied problem-solving.

Cincinnati’s significant opportunity for business growth is building and recruiting more tech talent – not just talent to work at tech companies, but the tech talent that is powering virtually every business today. Cincinnati’s Fortune 500™ companies are no exception, and as the only Carnegie-classified R1 research university in the region, UC is leading the way for ground-breaking discoveries and knowledge creation. This new building will be transdisciplinary in form and forward-leaning in function, with the ability to empower diverse teams of thinkers and doers to push the boundaries of what’s possible.

The Uptown Innovation Corridor is the result of a public-private partnership among the region’s largest employers as well as city, state and national government. Pictured left to right:

- Jill Meyer, CEO of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
- Kimm Lauterbach, President & CEO of REDI Cincinnati
- P.G. Sittenfeld, Council Member of City of Cincinnati
- Peter Horton, Principal/Co-Founder of Terrex Development & Construction
- John Cranley, Mayor of City of Cincinnati
- Neville Pinto, President of the University of Cincinnati
- Tom Rowe, Principal/Co-Founder of Terrex Development & Construction
- Beth Robinson, President & CEO of Uptown Consortium, Inc.
- Patricia Milton, President of the Avondale Community Council
- David J. Adams, Chief Innovation Officer at the University of Cincinnati
- Kristi Nelson, Provost at the University of Cincinnati
- Catherine Ingram, Ohio Representative House District 32
- Nan Cahall, US Senator Rob Portman SW District Director
- Randy Gardner, Chancellor of Ohio