Competitor Scan
Summer 2022 Report
This report scans the initiatives of competitor peer institutions so Northwestern’s key leaders are better informed about developments in higher education among other elite institutions. More importantly, it provides insights on potential directions to consider.

The report has been organized to track the major investments and innovations at peer institutions, as well as Northwestern, during 2021 through Spring 2022. Data is collected primarily through institutions’ main news services with additional information incorporated from general news sources. This report, and those from previous years, are available online to the Northwestern community at http://www.adminplan.northwestern.edu/planning/special-reports/index.html.

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REPORT THEMES

Overview
Below are select themes from developments at peer institutions from 2021 through spring 2022.

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
There have been several major investments by Northwestern’s peers in new schools and programs that support the growing interest in climate change research and academic programs:

- **Stanford** received a $1.1 billion gift for a new school focused on climate change and sustainability, which will absorb several existing academic departments and plans to add new programs in the future.
- **Harvard** launched a new institute to unite and advance Harvard efforts to stem the tide of the climate crisis – the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability, made possible by $200 million gift from Melanie and Jean Salata.
- **Princeton** announced plans for major new facilities for environmental studies and engineering, that are essential to conducting research addressing climate change and carbon sequestration and greater energy efficiency. The new buildings also will further environmental science studies that are crucial to learning about and mitigating global challenges related to biodiversity, conservation, climate, energy, and environmental policy.
- **Caltech** broke ground on its new Resnick Sustainability Center; the 79,500-square-foot project will open new portals to sustainability in the realms of research, education, and societal impact.
- Supported by a $100 million founding gift, **MIT’s** new Morningside Academy for Design will foster collaboration and innovation on MIT’s campus and will be housed in the School of Architecture and Planning. The academy will strengthen MIT’s ongoing efforts to tackle pressing issues of global importance, such as climate adaptation, public health, transportation, and civic engagement.
- The **University of Virginia** will invest $60 million to put climate change solutions in people’s hands. Through UVA’s ambitious Grand Challenge Research Initiatives, UVA researchers will pursue two avenues focused on environmental resilience and sustainability: researching and perfecting clean energy and helping local communities develop best practices for responding to climate-driven challenges.
- **UCLA** Engineering’s Institute for Carbon Management received a $21 million pledge from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, which will enable the school to further develop promising technologies for carbon removal.
- **Columbia** (who opened a climate school back in 2020) announced a new $25 million AI-based climate modeling center.

DATA SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)
Northwestern’s peer institutions continue to make major investments in data science and AI research. Several peers are making progress towards new facilities and capital projects to house new data science schools and departments. Notable developments include:

- **MIT’s** new College of Computing.
- **Berkeley’s** new building for the Division of Computing, Data Science, and Society.
- **University of Virginia’s** School of Data Science.
Several peers have also announced new university-wide, interdisciplinary initiatives around data science and AI research. Examples include:

- **Harvard**'s new Kempner Institute for the Study of Natural and Artificial Intelligence, a new University-wide initiative standing at the intersection of neuroscience and artificial intelligence, seeking fundamental principles that underlie both human and machine intelligence. The institute will be funded by a $500 million gift from Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg.

- **Yale**'s new investments in the School of Engineering and Applied Science and in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) that will accelerate the University’s educational and research missions. The plan calls for **45 new faculty positions and the modernization of supporting campus facilities**, together amounting to a landmark investment in the expansion of the University’s educational and research enterprises.

- **Penn**'s School of Arts and Sciences’ new Data Driven Discovery (DDD) Initiative. The DDD Initiative will act as a hub for data science education and research across the school.

- **Emory**'s new AI Humanity Initiative, which aims to recruit 60 to 75 new, leading faculty over three to five years, poised for interdisciplinary work in four major focus areas: business and free enterprise, human health, law and social justice, and arts and humanities.

Peers have also launched new data science academic programs, including:

- **U Chicago**’s new undergraduate major in data science.
- **Brown**'s new master’s program in data-enabled computational engineering and science.

Finally major NSF funding continues to be allocated towards AI research efforts, including the establishment of **11 new AI research institutes** at Georgia Tech, UC-San Diego, Ohio State, Duke, University of Washington, NC State, Washington State, and Iowa State.

**FINANCIAL AID**

Several universities have made notable investments in increasing college access through generous financial aid gifts or direct university investments via endowment returns:

- **Washington University in St. Louis**’s **$1 billion investment into financial aid**, which will allow the university to adopt a need-blind admissions policy and provide financial aid for graduate and professional students.

- The **University of Chicago**’s Board of Trustees announced a **$200 million gift for undergraduate financial aid and educational access**, as well as a **$50 million individual gift for educational access and aid**.

- **Notre Dame** received a **$50 million gift to be used exclusively for financial aid**.

- **Yale**’s School of Drama recently went tuition free, thanks to a generous gift.
REPORT THEMES

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
Northwestern’s peers continue to make notable investments in research and programming that support diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives:

- The University of Michigan has launched a new Center for Inequality Dynamics, which will pursue cutting-edge research to comprehensively understand changes and stability in inequality across generations, time, and place and propose novel solutions to address them.
- Wharton (Penn’s business school) and Wall Street announced a $90 million partnership that will prep students of color for careers in finance.
- Brown announced $20 million from gifts and grant funding that will go toward Brown’s diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives through the “BrownTogether” fundraising campaign, which offers new support for faculty positions, research initiatives, student financial support, and other priorities outlined in Brown’s diversity and inclusion action plan.

In addition, several medical schools have received funding to advance health equity programs, including:

- The UC-San Diego School of Medicine, which received $2.6 million to expand its existing Program in Medical Education on healthy equity and launch a new program focused on Native American health.
- UPenn’s Perelman School of Medicine, which received $10 million in NIH funding to address health disparities and advance health equity.
Northwestern University

- Michael H. Schill, the president of the University of Oregon, has been named the 17th president of Northwestern University. Schill will begin his presidency this fall. Article.
- For the third year in a row, Northwestern was ranked the ninth best university in the country by U.S. News and World Report. Article.
- The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Family made the largest single gift in Northwestern’s history: a $480 million gift that will enable the University to accelerate breakthroughs in biomedical, economics, and business research and to redevelop Ryan Field, constructing a best-in-class venue for the Northwestern community. Article.
- Northwestern announced it will name its new multimillion-dollar technology accelerator the “Querrey InQbation Lab” in honor of honor of Kimberly K. Querrey (’22, ’23 P), chair of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Committee of Northwestern’s Board of Trustees. Located at 1801 Maple Avenue in downtown Evanston, the new Querrey InQbation Lab will provide a home for Northwestern’s highly entrepreneurial faculty to contribute to innovation through commercialization of sophisticated scientific discoveries as well as bring economic growth and opportunities to the Evanston and Chicago communities. Article.
- Northwestern Medicine is part of the research team on a $185 million NIH project that will explore the millions of genetic variants that cause disease through the Impact of Genomic Variation on Function Consortium. The project will address the challenge of determining which human genomic variants, out of the millions that scientists have identified, are relevant for health and disease. Northwestern and Washington University in St. Louis will receive a $7 million grant from the NIH to co-lead the consortium’s Data and Administrative Coordinating Center. Article.
- A Northwestern-led research team has signed a 4.5-year, $33 million cooperative agreement with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to develop a wireless, fully implantable device that will control the body’s circadian clock, halving the time it takes to recover from disrupted sleep/wake cycles. Article.
- The National Institute on Aging (NIA) awarded Northwestern Medicine’s SuperAger study a $20 million grant to establish and coordinate an international multi-center SuperAging consortium. Since 2008, Northwestern scientists have studied SuperAging, coining the term, “SuperAger,” as someone who is over age 80 and has the memory capacity of an individual who is at least 20 to 30 years younger. Article.
- Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine has been awarded two grants totaling $18.1 million to study the most common type of heart failure: heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF), also referred to as diastolic heart failure. Article.
- Northwestern received a $5 million dollar gift to advance the study of human-computer interaction. The gift will advance research at Northwestern that examines the future of technology and its ability to enhance the lives of people around the world. Article.
- The Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications announced a partnership with the Google News Initiative for the Data-Driven Reporting Project, which will bolster Medill’s efforts to advance local news and investigative journalism and which will award $2 million to journalists working on document-based investigative projects for local news outlets serving underrepresented communities across the U.S. and Canada. Article.
Updates by Institution

Harvard University

- Larry Bacow, Harvard’s 29th President, announced he will step down in June 2023. [Article](#).
- Harvard launched a new institute to unite and advance Harvard efforts to stem the tide of the climate crisis – the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability made possible by $200 million gift from Melanie and Jean Salata. [Article](#).
- Harvard launched the Kempner Institute for the Study of Natural and Artificial Intelligence, a new University-wide initiative standing at the intersection of neuroscience and artificial intelligence, seeking fundamental principles that underlie both human and machine intelligence. The institute will be funded by a $500 million gift from Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg. [Article](#).
- Harvard and National Resilience, Inc., a manufacturing and technology company, have established a five-year R&D alliance with a $30 million commitment from Resilience directed toward the development of complex medicines, including biologics, vaccines, nucleic acids, and cell and gene therapies. [Article](#).
- A collaboration between Harvard with scientists at QuEra Computing, MIT, University of Innsbruck, and other institutions has demonstrated a breakthrough application of neutral-atom quantum processors to solve problems of practical use. [Article](#).
- The U.S. National Science Foundation announced the creation of a $20 million artificial intelligence research institute led by faculty from the University of Washington, Columbia Engineering, and Harvard. [Article](#).
- Harvard, M.I.T., and edX announced a joint effort with education technology company 2U to further the reach and impact of online learning across the world. [Article](#).
- Philosophers from several universities (Harvard, the Australian National University, Oxford, Princeton, Stanford, and the University of Toronto) have formed the “Philosophy, AI and Society Consortium (PAIS)” to understand and design AI systems that will contribute to human flourishing, social justice, and robust, stable democracy. [Article](#).

Yale University

- Yale announced bold new investments in the School of Engineering & Applied Science and in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences that will accelerate the University’s educational and research missions. The plan calls for 45 new faculty positions and the modernization of supporting campus facilities, together amounting to a landmark investment in the expansion of the University’s educational and research enterprises. [Article](#).
- Yale is renovating buildings to create “Humanities Quadrangle.” The building will host 15 humanities departments and programs. Its distinctive tower, named for the late David Swensen who was Yale’s chief investment officer, is entirely devoted to study space for doctoral students. [Article](#).
- Following fundraising success and project approval by the Yale Corporation, Yale Divinity School is moving ahead with design and construction of its history-making “Living Village” residential complex. The School will break ground in 2023 on the first phase of the unprecedented off-the-grid student housing, with the facility to open in 2024. [Article](#).
- A new and historic philanthropic gift for Yale is launching an ambitious research enterprise devoted to the study of human cognition that will supercharge Yale’s neuroscience initiative and position the University to reveal the brain in its full, dynamic complexity. [Article](#).
Yale plans to establish a new center—the Kline Tower Institute (KTI) for the Foundations of Data Science—to increase dramatically the University’s expertise in and capacity for education and research in the field of data science. Article.

Boeing contributed $10 million to the Yale Center for Natural Carbon Capture. Article.

With gift from David Geffen, Yale’s drama school will go tuition-free. Article.

Yale launched a “Campaign for Humanity.” The campaign aims to raise $7 billion to help future generations of Yale faculty, students, and staff tackle the greatest challenges facing humankind. The University’s first fundraising campaign in 10 years includes four key priority areas: Arts and Humanities for Insight; Science for Breakthroughs; Collaborating for Impact; and Leaders for a Better World. Article.

Stanford University

Stanford received a $1.1 billion gift for their new school focused on climate change and sustainability. The school will absorb several existing units - the School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences, the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, the Precourt Institute for Energy, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Hopkins Marine Station - and will add new programs in the future. Article.

A new life science incubator in Stanford Research Park will serve as an anchor for a thriving life science district that directly connects Stanford’s biomedical research and hospitals with industry partners to accelerate new medicines. Article.

Five Stanford Medicine faculty members have received more than $40 million from the NIH as part of a $180 million, five-year endeavor to understand how variations in the human genome — those affecting DNA sequence, three-dimensional structure and the pattern of chemical tags that regulate the expression of genes along its length — influence human health and disease. Article.

Stanford Medicine received an $80 million gift to its Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital to launch a bold new clinical and research program that will transform the health of mothers and babies. Article.

Princeton University

Princeton announced plans to build new engineering and environmental studies facilities that are essential to conducting research addressing climate change and carbon sequestration, new pharmaceuticals and vaccines, better processes for the production of new materials, and greater energy efficiency. The new buildings also will further environmental science studies that are crucial to learning about and mitigating global challenges related to biodiversity, conservation, climate, energy, and environmental policy. Article.

Google, GE, and ClearPath joined a new Princeton research consortium focusing on low-carbon technology. The consortium will bring together corporations and researchers focused on scalable clean energy technologies. Article.

Princeton researchers are partners on a major initiative to help shape the next generation of computer networks. The effort, known as “Project Pronto,” aims to build and test new types of flexible, programmable networks to advance network security, performance, and innovation. Article.
University of Pennsylvania

- Penn will build a massive life sciences complex at the Pennovation Works campus. The project, slated to open in late 2025, aims to strengthen Philly's reputation as a budding “Cellicon Valley.” Penn has selected a developer for a life sciences facility that will join the Ivy League school's Pennovation Works incubator. The new life sciences facility will be segmented into 387,000 square feet of research and development space and 68,000 square feet of biomanufacturing space, with rooftop terraces offering views of Philadelphia’s skyline and Penn’s campus. The main complex will have two adjoining six-story buildings with flexible lab and office space for tenants. Article.
- After five years of construction, Penn Medicine will debut “The Pavilion,” a mammoth new care facility in University City that Penn officials said includes advanced and adaptable features and amenities to better tackle education and research as well as patient treatment. Article.
- Penn President Gutmann announced the launch of a $750 million investment in advancing Penn’s pathbreaking contributions to innovative and impactful areas of medicine, public health, science, and technology. Article.
- Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences has announced the establishment of a new Data Driven Discovery (DDD) Initiative. The DDD Initiative will act as a hub for data science education and research across the school. Article.
- The NIH awarded researchers at Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine a nearly $10 million dollar grant through the NIH Common Fund’s Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity initiative. Article.
- The NIH awarded Penn Medicine researchers a grant of more than $14 million over the next five years to develop the Penn Innovation in Suicide Prevention Implementation Research (INSPIRE) Center. Article.
- In a move that will enhance Penn Medicine’s clinical, operational, and research and clinical capabilities, the health system is launching the Center for Applied Health Informatics to better facilitate and coordinate health data projects across the health system and grow its leadership in health informatics globally. Article.
- A $90 million Wharton and Wall Street partnership will prep students of color for careers in finance. Article.

Duke University

- The NSF announced the creation of 11 new research institutes devoted to artificial intelligence, including one at Duke and one at NC State. The $220 million total investment comes after a $140 million NSF investment created seven other AI institutes last year. Article.
- Duke received a $10 million gift to advance diverse faculty hiring and retention at Duke. The gift will help the University recruit and educate the next generation of tech leaders and innovators and further advance Duke's focus on computing—AI, cybersecurity, privacy, autonomous systems, the Internet of things, and more. Article.
- Researchers at Duke’s School of Medicine were selected to lead two inter-institution team grants totaling $18 million to investigate Parkinson’s disease. The awards from the Aligning Science Across Parkinson’s (ASAP) initiative position Duke as a national leader in understanding the origins and development of this devastating movement disorder. Article.
Columbia University

- Columbia’s Business School opened two new buildings as part of the University’s 17-acre “Manhattanville” campus expansion project. Article.
- A five-year, $61.7 million grant to the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons will help medical researchers speed the application of scientific discoveries, so that new treatments can be delivered to patients faster. The grant, awarded by the NIH, is one of the largest ever to the medical school and will support the work of the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, which works in partnership with researchers and clinicians across Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York-Presbyterian, and the New York State Psychiatric Institute to support all phases of clinical and translational science. Article.
- To bring greater precision to climate modeling and encourage societies to prepare for the inevitable disruptions ahead, the NSF has selected Columbia to launch a $25 million AI-based climate modeling center called “Learning the Earth with Artificial Intelligence and Physics (LEAP).” Article.
- Columbia’s Climate School launched a Carbontech Initiative to Bring Climate Solutions to Market. The program will help researchers and entrepreneurs develop and scale carbon-cutting technologies. Article.
- The NSF announced the creation of a $20 million artificial intelligence research institute led by faculty from the University of Washington, Columbia Engineering, and Harvard. Article.

Cornell University

- Cornell announced a $30 million gift to help cover the construction costs and outfitting of a new academic building, to be named Atkinson Hall. The new building is intended to foster innovative and collaborative research in priority areas of sustainability, public health, cancer biology, immunology, and computational biology. Space for faculty and staff of the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability and a new Master of Public Health program are included in the building’s program components. Article.
- A collaboration of researchers led by Cornell was awarded $22.5 million from the NSF to continue gaining the fundamental understanding needed to transform the brightness of electron beams available to science, medicine, and industry. The funding will play a key role in creating breakthroughs in medicine, electronics, and particle physics. Article.

University of Chicago

- University of Chicago Medicine announced plans to build a $633 million, 500,000-square-foot facility dedicated to cancer care on its medical campus on the city’s South Side. Article.
- U Chicago is launching a new $200 million commitment to educational access and financial aid for undergraduate students through a gift and challenge from the University’s Board of Trustees in honor of President Robert J. Zimmer. Article.
- U Chicago held a groundbreaking ceremony to launch the expansion of its Center in Paris, which aims to serve as an important regional hub for ambitious education, research, and collaboration across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. The new expanded facility will nearly triple the size of U Chicago’s current Center to accommodate increased demand among faculty, students, alumni, and partners to study, conduct research, and convene in Paris. Article.
UPDATES BY INSTITUTION

• U Chicago received a $50 million gift from the late Arley D. Cathey, PhB’50, a devoted alumnus and patron of the University. The bequest is the largest estate gift in university history. It will support U Chicago’s commitments to educational access and financial aid, enhanced opportunities for undergraduate research, and new international educational programs for college students and research collaborations sponsored by the U Chicago faculty abroad. Article.
• A $50 million grant commitment to U Chicago from CRI Foundation, Inc. will establish the University as the administrative home of the Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, a fund established by a grant from CRI to support frontier research in development economics focused on issues affecting less-developed countries. Article.
• A $25 million commitment to U Chicago from the Kiphart Family Foundation will expand global health and social development research and educational initiatives to address health inequities and their root causes in West Africa and in low- and middle-income communities around the world. Article.
• U Chicago announced a new undergraduate major in data science. Students are able to select data science as their primary program of study or combine the interdisciplinary field with a second major. Article.
• As part of a nationwide initiative to boost research in quantum science, the NSF will establish a $25 million institute in Chicago to investigate quantum sensing for biology and train the quantum workforce. Headquartered at U Chicago and in partnership with Chicago State University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Harvard, the institute will be funded for five years. Article.
• QuSTEAM: Convergence Undergraduate Education in Quantum Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, was awarded $5 million from the NSF’s Convergence Accelerator. U Chicago is one of the partnering institutions, as is the Chicago Quantum Exchange, a growing hub for the research and development of quantum technology that is based at U Chicago’s Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering. Article.
• U Chicago has launched a new Data & Democracy Research Initiative. Article.
• U Chicago has established a new Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity. Article.

Washington University in St. Louis
• Wash U will make an unprecedented $1 billion investment in financial aid for students, which will allow the University to achieve its goal of adopting a need-blind undergraduate admissions policy. Article.
• Wash U announced plans for a new state-of-the-art liberal arts and sciences building, which will create a new quad at the heart of campus. Article.
• A team led by researchers at Wash U’s School of Medicine, the Mayo Clinic, and the Neuro (Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital) of McGill University has received a five-year grant expected to total $35.1 million to develop biomarkers that indicate which people with a sleep disorder will go on to develop neurodegenerative diseases. Article.
• Researchers at Wash U’s School of Medicine have received a five-year, $9.1 million grant from the National Institute on Aging of the NIH to study resilience in older adults before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant also will fund research into the pandemic’s cognitive and emotional effects on older adults, including depression, anxiety, and dementia. Article.
UPDATES BY INSTITUTION

- Funded by a $33 million grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), a new study led by Wash U’s School of Medicine and the University of Michigan will compare intravenous propofol to inhaled anesthetic drugs to determine which of the common anesthetic drugs offers better patient recovery experiences and improved clinical outcomes. [Article](#).
- A $10.7 million grant for a five-year project is led by researchers at Wash U’s School of Medicine and the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health will support the first comprehensive study to use whole genome sequencing to address critical gaps in knowledge about Alzheimer’s disease. [Article](#).

Vanderbilt University
- The Vanderbilt College of Arts and Science has launched a new climate studies major, which integrates the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities to give students a comprehensive perspective on climate change, its challenges, and its possible solutions. [Article](#).
- Two Vanderbilt faculty members received an $8 million grant from the NIH as part of a groundbreaking, multi-institutional overview of variables influencing infant and child brain development, including substance exposure. [Article](#).

Johns Hopkins
- Johns Hopkins and Bloomberg Philanthropies announced a $150 million partnership to fuel diversity in STEM fields; the $150 million will be endowed to create additional pathways for students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions to pursue and receive PhDs in STEM fields. Johns Hopkins also received $125 million in funding (a $50 million lead gift + $75 in philanthropic efforts) to support the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The $50 million gift will fund endowed professorships, postdoctoral fellowships, and graduate research, and will provide ongoing support for research infrastructure. [Article](#).
- Johns Hopkins launched a new institute focused on clean/renewable energy technology, via a $20 million gift, to be housed in its Whiting School of Engineering. [Article](#).

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- MIT continues to make progress on facilities for its new College of Computing. [Article](#). The College of Computing also announced a new “Break Through Tech AI” program aimed at bridging the talent gap for underrepresented groups in the tech industry [Article](#).
- MIT’s Energy Initiative launched a Future Energy Systems Center, which will focus on speeding the energy transition and engaging with industrial leaders to deploy clean energy advances at scale. [Article](#).
- Supported by a $100 million founding gift, the MIT Morningside Academy for Design aims to foster collaboration and innovation at MIT and will be housed in the School of Architecture and Planning. The academy will strengthen MIT’s ongoing efforts to tackle pressing issues of global importance, such as climate adaptation, public health, transportation, and civic engagement. [Article](#).
**UPDATES BY INSTITUTION**

- MIT received a $15 million award from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to fund the Achieving Sustainable Partnerships in Innovation, Research, and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE) program. [Article](#).
- MIT’s McGovern Institute for Brain Research received a $24 million gift. [Article](#).
- A Professor Emeritus at MIT committed $50 million to support the life sciences at MIT that provided an initial gift of $25 million to establish the Schimmel Family Program for Life Sciences. This gift matches $25 million secured from other sources in support of the Department of Biology. [Article](#).

**Caltech**

- Caltech has broken ground on its new Resnick Sustainability Center. The 79,500-square-foot project, which will grace the western edge of the Caltech campus, was made possible by a $750 million pledge from the Resnicks to Caltech. When completed in 2024, the Resnick Sustainability Center will open new figurative portals to sustainability in the realms of research, education, and societal impact. [Article](#).
- The Chairman of Irvine Company and a lifetime member of the Caltech Board of Trustees donated over $100 million to form the Space-based Solar Power Project, which is developing technology capable of generating solar power in space and beaming it back to Earth. [Article](#).
- Caltech and Amazon Web Services (AWS) partnered to build the AWS Center for Quantum Computing. The goal of the collaboration is to create quantum computers and related technologies that have the potential to revolutionize data security, machine learning, medicine development, and sustainability practices. [Article](#).
- CalTech is launching a new quantum measurement center; a $20 million gift for the construction of laboratories that integrate gravitational-wave science and quantum precision measurement. [Article](#).
- Caltech Parkinson’s disease researchers received a major grant from the Aligning Science Across Parkinson’s initiative that provided more than $11 million to carry out research on environmental and genetic factors impacting the connections between neurons in the gastrointestinal nervous system, which can increase susceptibility to Parkinson’s disease triggers. [Article](#).

**University of California, Berkeley**

- Berkeley received $75 million in gifts towards its new building for the Division of Computing, Data Science, and Society. Notably, two of the gifts are from current Berkeley faculty professors in the Division of Computing, Data Science, and Society, and the College of Engineering. [Article](#).
- Berkeley received a $50 million gift to the School of Optometry, which makes it the largest gift ever to be received by a school of optometry in the country. [Article](#).
- After two years of construction, the Bakar BioEnginuity Hub at Berkeley opened earlier this year. The world-class facility pairs the Bakar Labs incubator with fellowships and programming for Berkeley students and researchers, equipping current and aspiring entrepreneurs in the STEM world with labs, offices, equipment, and shared community spaces that aim to encourage collaboration. [Article](#).
Updates by Institution

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Berkeley and the University of Arizona, in collaboration with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium received a $10 million NSF grant to support a wide range of academic programming around food, energy, and water systems designed by and for Native Americans and other underrepresented student groups. Article.

Berkeley announced that the campus will be home to a new Kavli Center for Ethics, Science, and the Public, which, alongside a second center at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, will connect scientists, ethicists, social scientists, science communicators, and the public in necessary and intentional discussions about the potential impacts of scientific discoveries. Article.

University of California, Los Angeles

UCLA Engineering's Institute for Carbon Management received a $21 million pledge from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, which will enable the school to further develop promising technologies for carbon removal, bringing them from the lab to the field, and to test and validate the technologies at scale in real-world settings. Article.

UCLA received a $29 million gift to establish a center where scientists and physicians will work side by side to examine the role of genetics in disease and develop therapies that improve patients' lives. Article.

The Science and Technology Center on Real-Time Functional Imaging, which UCLA helps to lead, was awarded a five-year grant renewal from the NSF for approximately $22.5 million to tackle major challenges in the sciences and engineering using cutting-edge imaging technologies. Article.

UCLA has established a Department of European Languages and Transcultural Studies. The new department brings together the existing departments of Germanic languages, French and Francophone studies, Italian and Scandinavian, and aims to offer a wider and more holistic course of study, focusing on the breadth of languages and cultures across Europe. Article.

A research project co-led by the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program aimed at improving the assessment and treatment of concussions in school-aged children was awarded $10 million by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Article.

A team of researchers at UCLA received an $8.8 million grant from the NIAID to conduct a nationwide study aimed at reducing the spread of HIV among young transgender women through the use of a mobile app. Article.

A $5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will enable UCLA to further its commitment to social change and public service by establishing the UCLA Mellon Social Justice Curriculum in the divisions of humanities and social sciences of the UCLA College. Article.

University of Southern California

USC, in partnership with Children's Hospital Los Angeles, won a $24.5 million NIH grant to launch a center aimed at fighting obesity and related chronic diseases in Latino children and families across Southern California. Article.

A $14 million gift to USC's Viterbi School of Engineering will significantly grow recruitment of expert faculty members in industrial and systems engineering, with a focus on interdisciplinary areas such as computational systems, machine learning, and AI. Article.
UPDATES BY INSTITUTION

- The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke awarded a $10 million grant to a consortium of academic institutions focused on identifying the best diagnostic techniques for predicting recovery and long-term consequences of concussion among children. Article.
- With a $15 million award from the NSF, engineers and scientists from top research universities across the western United States will form a new consortium, I-Corps Hub: West Region, led by USC, to help advance new technologies and incubate emergent companies that can move breakthrough discoveries from the lab to the marketplace. Article.

University of California, San Francisco
- UCSF is moving forward with design plans for a new hospital at UCSF Helen Diller Medical Center at Parnassus Heights. Expected to open in 2030, the hospital will enable UCSF Health, one of the premier health systems in the nation, to serve the growing health care needs of patients in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. Article.
- The UCLA/UCSF ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience) Aware Family Resilience Network received $41 million in first-year state funding, bringing its wealth of expertise and resources to the state’s ACEs Aware initiative, which trains clinicians in ACEs screening for both children and adults. Article.
- Funded by a five-year $22.5 million grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, UCSF is developing a new center to coordinate research from 11 newly funded centers across the U.S. on the root causes of, and ways to eliminate, disparities in multiple chronic diseases. Article.

University of California, San Diego
- The Institute for Learning-enabled Optimization at Scale (TILOS) at UCSD received a $20 million grant from the NSF’s National AI Research Institutes 2021 funding, a five-year, $220 million investment to create 11 multidisciplinary research institutes to advance AI research and workforce development. Article.
- The newly launched Center for Health Innovation at UCSD Health will seek to develop, test, and commercialize technologies that make a real, measurable difference in the lives and wellbeing of patients with diabetes to using artificial intelligence to prevent sepsis. Article.
- UCSD received a $12 million gift to support a new head and neck cancer center at UCSD Health. Article.
- UCSD received a $10 million gift in support of a new state-of-the-art amphitheater, signaling a major step in the University’s plan to become a top cultural destination. Article.

University of Michigan
- UM has founded the first robotics department among top 10 engineering schools. The new department will define robotics as a discipline, teaching students the skills needed to help drive a rapidly expanding field. Article.
- UM’s Board of Regents approved a plan for a new Leinweber Computer Science and Information Building in recognition of a $25 million naming gift from the Leinweber Foundation. The $145 million new building is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2025. Article.
A $30 million gift will establish the Ronald Weiser Center for Prostate Cancer at Michigan Medicine. The goal is to make this center the easiest and best place to be treated for prostate cancer in the country, if not the world. Article.

A new $13.8M center at UM will study infectious disease, to better prepare for future pandemics. Article.

UM’s School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) received an $11 million gift to establish Tishman Center for Social Justice and the Environment. The gift will establish the Tishman Center for Social Justice and the Environment, the Tishman Scholarship Fund, and two Tishman Professorships in Environmental Justice in both SEAS and the College of Engineering. Article.

Brown University

Brown is using two gifts, totaling $30 million, to establish a new Center for Alzheimer’s Disease Research with the aim of building a world-class research program focused on the early detection and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Article.

A $25 million gift to Brown will support computational brain science and endow a program to promote innovative research. Article.

The NIH awarded $10.8 million in new funds to Brown to build on the COBRE Center for Computational Biology of Human Disease’s early success. The Center uses sophisticated computer analyses to advance research aimed at understanding and fighting human diseases. Article.

Brown has launched a master’s program in data-enabled computational engineering and science. The new one-year master’s program will take a deep dive into the state-of-the-art simulation, modeling, and data science techniques widely used across engineering disciplines. Article.

Gifts and grants exceeding $20 million will go toward Brown’s diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives through the “BrownTogether” fundraising campaign that offers new support for faculty positions, research initiatives, student financial support, and other priorities outlined in Brown’s diversity and inclusion action plan. Article.

A $4.9 million grant to Brown’s Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice will fund a partnership with Williams College and the Mystic Seaport Museum that will use maritime history as a basis for studying historical injustices and generating new insights on the relationship between European colonization in North America, the dispossession of Native American land, and racial slavery in New England. Article.

University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame has received a $50 million gift, the largest of its kind in school history, for use exclusively for undergraduate financial aid. Article.

Notre Dame’s Engineering Innovation Hub opened its doors to students and industry partners. The new 10,000-square-foot facility offers a state-of-the-art experiential learning and advanced manufacturing environment with resources for collaboration, fabrication, automation, robotics, and modeling. Article.

A Notre Dame Trustee gave a $30 million gift to the School of Architecture to establish a center to expand its leading-edge urbanism and traditional architecture curriculum, support new faculty lines, sponsor conferences, and provide financial assistance to students. Article.
The Notre Dame-led SpectrumX project is bringing together experts from 29 organizations to transform the landscape of spectrum research, education, collaboration, and management. The center received $25 million in funding from the NSF as part of its Spectrum Innovation Initiative. Article.

Notre Dame launched the Initiative on Race and Resilience, a new interdisciplinary program focused on the redress of systemic racism and the support of diverse communities both within and beyond the Notre Dame campus. Article.

Carnegie Mellon University

CMU’s $250 million investment in new state-of-the-art science facilities includes a partnership with the Emerald Cloud Lab to build the world’s first cloud lab in an academic setting. Article.

Moderna, Inc., a biotechnology company pioneering messenger RNA (mRNA) therapeutics and vaccines, announced the launch of its Artificial Intelligence Academy, an innovative initiative that will bring to life an immersive learning experience for Moderna employees, in partnership with CMU. Article.

CMU received $20 million to establish the Hoskinson Center for Formal Mathematics in its Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The new Center aims to improve global access to mathematics, improve the power of computational proof-assistants, and increase collaboration among educators, researchers, learners. Article.

A $10 million gift will establish the Joseph Ballay Center for Design Fusion. The center establishes a formal presence of design expertise and outreach at CMU and also will serve as a central hub for design courses for the CMU campus community, executive education, sponsored projects and collaborations, and design research. Article.

CMU received a $20 million gift to establish the Hoskinson Center for Formal Mathematics to advance mathematical research by improving global access to knowledge and resources for mathematics researchers, educators, and learners. Article.

CMU and the University of Washington have joined a multi-year collaboration to create new software platforms to analyze large astronomical datasets generated by the upcoming Legacy Survey of Space and Time. The open-source platforms will fundamentally change how scientists use modern computational methods to understand big data. Article.

CMU is helping to develop the groundwork for the National Institute for Artificial Intelligence in coordination with researchers from The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and over 40 industry partners. Article.

Emory University

Emory has launched a major, university-wide “AI Humanity Initiative.” The AI Humanity Initiative aims to recruit 60 to 75 new, leading faculty over three to five years. Hired through each of Emory’s nine schools, this broad range of AI scholars will be poised for interdisciplinary work in four major focus areas: business and free enterprise, human health, law and social justice, and arts and humanities. Article.

Emory’s Goizueta Business School launched an online executive MBA program, the highest-ranked EMBA program nationwide to offer an online option. Article.
UPDATES BY INSTITUTION

Dartmouth University
• Dartmouth opened a state-of-the-art, $200 million Engineering and Computer Science Center this spring. The 160,000-square-foot building anchors Dartmouth’s innovation and technology hub in the West End of campus. The building was funded entirely by donations. Article.
• Dartmouth College’s Tuck School of Business announced the largest gift commitment in the school’s history -- a $52.1 million anonymous pledge to endow a recurring summit that convenes global leaders from the private and public sectors, academic researchers and students with the goal of inspiring action to improve the health, wealth and sustainability of people and the planet in the 21st century. Article.
• Dartmouth received a $25 million to establish a new cancer research institute, which aims to transform and accelerate the translation of research to prevent and cure cancer, enhance cancer survivorship, and promote cancer health equity. Article.

University of Washington
• The Alzheimer’s Data Center at UW was awarded $35 million from the National Institute on Aging to continue the mission of free, global access to data from clinical exams of Alzheimer’s patients. Article.
• The NSF announced a $15 million, five-year grant to integrate AI tools into the scientific research and discovery process. The award will fund the Accelerated AI Algorithms for Data-Driven Discovery Institute — or A3D3 Institute — a partnership of nine universities led by the University of Washington. Article.
• The Chairman of the Pacific Northwest for JPMorgan Chase invested $8 million in expanding the UW’s Consulting and Business Development Center’s Ascend network, a national network of business schools, non-profit lenders, and suppliers focused on the goal of accelerating the growth of businesses owned by people of color, women, and military veterans, especially those operating in inner cities. Article.
• UW received a $30 million gift from the Sunderland Foundation to renovate the Haring Center for Inclusive Education, which has provided innovative special education and early learning, improving the lives of children and youth with neurodevelopmental disorders and other disabilities. Article.

University of Wisconsin—Madison
• UW-Madison announced a $175 million investment towards a new building for the School of Computer, Data and Information Sciences. The building will enable important collaborations on campus by establishing a tech corridor between various STEM departments, such as the Departments of Physics and Chemistry and the College of Engineering. Article.
• The U.S. Department of Energy awarded more than $48.8 million through its Nuclear Energy University Program to support university-led nuclear energy research and development projects, including a total of about $3.6 million awarded for projects led by UW-Madison engineers. Article.
UPDATES BY INSTITUTION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
• The Thomas and Stacey Siebel Foundation made UIUC a $25 million gift to create the Siebel Center for Design, which is a multidisciplinary hub of student-focused design thinking and learning and is the only design center of its kind in the U.S. Article.
• The Illinois Department of Public Health made a $225 million investment to expand access to the covidSHIELD testing to middle and high schools across the state at low or no cost. The covidSHIELD test, which was developed by UIUC, is a saliva-based test that quickly detects the virus that causes COVID-19, including in people who are not exhibiting symptoms. Article.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
• UNC was awarded $38.2 million from the NIH to continue to lead the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health as the study focuses on aging. Article.

University of Virginia
• UVA broke ground on its new School of Data Science, which will be funded by a $120 million endowment/gift, the largest gift in UVA history. The School of Data Science also recently announced it will launch a new doctoral program. Article, Article.
• UVA will invest $60 million to put climate change solutions in people’s hands. Through UVA’s ambitious Grand Challenge Research Initiatives, UVA researchers will pursue two avenues focused on environmental resilience and sustainability: researching and perfecting clean energy and helping local communities develop best practices for responding to climate-driven challenges. Article.
• UVA announced it will invest more than $75 million in an interdisciplinary effort to pioneer life-changing advances in neuroscience while simultaneously mapping the workings of the human brain. Article.
COMPETITOR PEER INSTITUTIONS TRACKED

- Harvard University
- Stanford University
- Yale University
- Princeton University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Duke University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- University of Chicago
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Vanderbilt University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Caltech
- Brown University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- New York University
- Emory University
- Dartmouth College
- Johns Hopkins University
- University of Southern California
- University of Notre Dame
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Francisco
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Michigan
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin—Madison
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Virginia