

APLU

INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY UNIVERSITIES
AWARDS PROGRAM

CASE
STUDY
2018

ABOUT LIFEX

On the heels of the Pittsburgh region's [Life Sciences Opportunity Analysis](#) published in May 2017 and the [Brookings Institution report](#) about Pittsburgh's future as a global innovation city published in September 2017, the University of Pittsburgh launched [LifeX](#) in December 2017. LifeX provides expertise, capital, and working space to new companies addressing the most complex challenges facing modern medicine.

Pitt's Office of Economic Partnerships (OEP) played a central role in bringing the initiative to life working in close collaboration with the Graduate School of Public Health. LifeX addresses a void identified by both the Life Sciences Opportunity Analysis and the Brookings study: The region's lack of a unifying platform to bridge the gap between academia and the marketplace and create a center of gravity for investors, leading life sciences companies, researchers, and entrepreneurs to collaborate and sustain industry growth.

LifeX amplifies the university's ongoing efforts to translate discovery and invention in the lab to the marketplace and to address public health issues. Led by Dietrich Stephan, PhD, the renowned human geneticist and entrepreneur, the 10-year goal of the project is to deliver new solutions to tackle prevalent and intractable global diseases. It will provide the expertise and resources to drive life sciences innovation and create solutions for large unmet health needs.

As identified by LifeX, healthcare has to change because if we fail to act:

- Over half of adults currently under 65 will be diagnosed with cancer.
- By 2050, resistance to antibiotics will kill more people than cancer.
- 65 million more adults in the US will be obese by 2030.

"LifeX is a strategic engine for nurturing cutting-edge, life-saving health solutions and moving these innovations to market. This is familiar territory for us. Teams at Pitt have developed the vaccine that eradicated polio, launched immunotherapy products that can potentially cure cancer and pioneered the field of organ transplantation. What's different and truly exciting about LifeX is that it dramatically expands the University's capacity to take our work to scale and have a meaningful and powerful impact on health around the globe."

-Chancellor Patrick Gallagher

LifeX is made up of three complementary ventures:

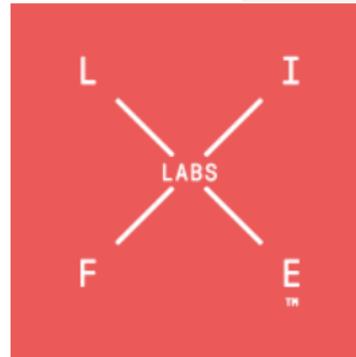


Figure 1: LifeX Labs is one of three complementary LifeX ventures.

LifeX Labs is a high-tech facility that's nurturing the next generation of biotech companies (Figure 1).

Exceptional start-up companies are invited to move their operations to LifeX headquarters on Pittsburgh's South Side. Here, companies realize their vision, hone their skills and gather momentum to bring their product to the marketplace. The labs are where pioneering science meets commercial expertise. It's where we nurture the next generation of biotechnology companies.

In the LifeX Labs, companies benefit not only from funding and state-of-the-art facilities, they're also mentored by LifeX's active management group and an experienced team of scientific entrepreneurs. There's a carefully curated program of support, assisting with everything from scientific insight and strategy to marketing and contract negotiations.

LifeX Capital Funds (Figure 2) (see link #6) provide financing to transform concepts with promise into high-impact companies with world class talent. Opportunities range from early-stage investment with the Seed Fund to at-scale financing with the Growth Fund.

Companies in the LifeX Portfolio (Figure 3) (see link #7) have two things in common: Standout innovation and billion-dollar potential. The LifeX Portfolio currently spans the following treatment areas: autoimmune disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic disease, nausea, rare genetic diseases, infectious disease outbreaks, pain, resistance to antibiotics, obesity and metabolic disease, and extracellular matrix defects.

It's creating a world-class culture for building biotech companies, attracting first-rate talent to Pittsburgh, providing the physical resources required for life-changing discoveries, and providing a place where external stakeholders and funders can plug in and collide. LifeX combined with the weekly Bio Breakfast anchors all of the biotech activities in Pittsburgh in one location.

"At LifeX, the world's leading minds will come together to solve our biggest health care problems. It's where groundbreaking theories can become working realities and our success will be measured by the number of lives we improve."

- Dietrich Stephan

OEP continues to actively work with LifeX on business and talent development and connectivity to its robust network of government, foundation, and economic development partners. OEP's efforts on behalf of LifeX led to a \$2 million investment from the Henry L. Hillman



Figure 2: LifeX Capital is another of three complementary LifeX ventures.

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Figure 3: LifeX Portfolio is the final of three complementary LifeX ventures.

Foundation. Strengthening Pittsburgh's innovation ecosystem, LifeX exemplifies the connections of talent, innovation, and place.

ABOUT APLU

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is North America's oldest higher education association. APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. The association's membership consists of public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations.

APLU's mission is to: expand access and improve student success to deliver the innovative workforce of tomorrow; advance and promote research and discovery to improve society, foster economic growth, and address global challenges; and build healthy, prosperous, equitable, and vibrant communities locally and globally.

Based in Washington, DC, the association's work is furthered by an active and effective advocacy arm that works with Congress and the administration as well as the media to advance federal policies that strengthen public universities and benefit the students they serve.

ABOUT THE IEP UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM

APLU and its **Commission on Economic and Community Engagement (CECE)** established the Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) Universities Program to help higher education institutions codify, elevate, and advance their campus enterprise supporting economic and community development.

The **IEP designation program** recognizes institutions that have demonstrated a meaningful, ongoing and substantial commitment to economic and community development, growth, and economic opportunity.

The **IEP awards program** recognize exemplary and innovative projects in university-based economic and community engagement:

- **Talent** and workforce development
- **Innovation**, entrepreneurship, and tech-based economic development
- **Place** development through public service, outreach, and community engagement

Learn more at: www.APLU.org/IEP