

MAY 2016 RESEARCH PARK ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING RESEARCH PARK EVENTS

Wednesday, May 4, 9AM-5PM

Event: [May the Fourth Celebration & Movie Marathon](#)

Location: Enterprise Works Atrium

About the Event: Join us as we celebrate May the Fourth with a Star Wars movie marathon! Join us for one (or all) of the original Star Wars trilogy films showing in the EnterpriseWorks atrium (first two movies, the third will be in EnterpriseWorks 130). The schedule is as follows:

9:00AM - 11:00AM: Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope

12:00PM - 2:00PM: Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back

2:30PM - 4:40PM: Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi

Light snacks will be available throughout the day, but feel free to bring your own lunch or snacks to share. Princess Leia buns and Wookiee masks are welcome, but we will be checking lightsabers and blaster pistols at the door.

Sponsor: EnterpriseWorks

May 4, 10AM-7PM

Event: [Akuna Capital PhD Event](#)

Location: 2111 South Oak St., Suite 104

About the Event: Akuna Capital is hosting an exclusive event for Physics, Computer Science, and Computer Engineering PhD's in their Research Park office. Learn how to leverage your PhD in the trading industry and how your degree will give you the competitive edge you need. Discover the exciting and challenging career options that await you. You will be able to talk with members of the Akuna team who are also UIUC PhD alums. View interactive demonstrations on our trading screens to show you exactly what Quants and Developers do at Akuna. Find out what it takes to be a part of the growth at Akuna Capital.

Sponsor: Akuna Capital

May 4, 5PM-6:30PM

Event: Private recruiting event for a local software development team. Invitations have been distributed to companies through referrals. Contact Dana Cohen with questions at dfcohen2@illinois.edu.

Location: Enterprise Works Atrium

Thursday, May 5, 12-1PM

Event: [Cinco de Mayo Celebration](#)

Location: Enterprise Works Atrium

About the Event: Join us with music and food to celebrate Cinco De Mayo! Lunch will be provided, first come, first serve.

Sponsor: EnterpriseWorks

Tuesday, May 10, 12-1PM

Event: [EIR Workshop: Preparing Your Pitch](#)

Location: Enterprise Works Atrium

About the Event: Knowing your story is half the battle. Presenting it to potential funders and pitch competition judges is the rest. EnterpriseWorks EIR James Janega will talk about how to synthesize preparation in this hour-long session. Lunch will be served, first come first served.

Sponsor: EnterpriseWorks

Thursday, May 12, 12-1PM

Event: [Startup Café: Craig Bethke, Aqueous Solutions](#)

Location: Enterprise Works Atrium

About the Event: Startup Cafe is a luncheon series that highlights successful entrepreneurs with connections to the Research Park as guest speakers. The forum gives a chance for entrepreneurs to share their story and provide their insights on their success, things they wish they would have known before getting started, and lessons from their entrepreneurial journey.

Sponsor: EnterpriseWorks

Wednesday, May 18, 12-1PM and 7-8PM

Event: [Academy High Informational Meeting](#)

Location: I-Hotel Conference Center in Research Park, Illinois Ballroom

About the Event: The Academy High, a new independent high school focusing on academic excellence and real world skills is planning to open in Fall 2017. The Academy High plans to engage students in cutting edge technology, arts, service, community, and athletics; and offer students workplace exploration, with internships in areas of interest. Academy High has been in discussion about a location in the Research Park for the new school in coordination with the Research Park developer. If you are interested in learning more, please join the one of the information meetings on Wednesday, May 18th at the I-Hotel in Research Park, at 12 pm and again at 7 pm, in the Illinois Ballroom, www.academyhigh.org

Sponsor: Academy High Marketing and Planning Committee,
<https://www.facebook.com/TalkAcademyHigh/>

Friday, May 27, 5-7PM

Event: [Fire at Five Bonfire and Happy Hour](#)

Location: 2100 S. Oak Street, Champaign

About the Event: Join us for our Fire at Five Bonfire and Happy Hour summer event series. Drinks will be provided, and activities will be available for the whole family. Check back regularly for event updates.

Sponsor: Fox/Atkins and Research Park

Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21, & 28, from 12-1PM

Event: [Intern Professional Development Workshop Series](#)

Location: Enterprise Works Atrium

About the Event: Join interns from across Research Park for our intern summer workshop series. The workshop will run from 12:00-1:00pm. Lunch will be served.
Sponsor: Research Park and EnterpriseWorks

Wednesday, June 8, 12-1PM

Event: EIR Workshop: M&A for high tech start-ups

Location: Enterprise Works Atrium

About the Event:: EIR Rob Schultz of Serra Ventures will share experience based practical insights on how to best find an exit for your startup. He will discuss and encourage questions around advisors, the M&A process, timing, and valuation expectations. Lunch will be served, first come first served.

Sponsor: EnterpriseWorks

June 16, 5-6:30PM

Event: [Research Park Intern Mixer](#)

Location: 1902 S 1st St, Champaign

About the Event: Come on out to meet and network with interns from around Research Park! Appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages on us. Hope to see you all there!

Sponsor: Research Park and EnterpriseWorks

SAVE THE DATES:

Fire at Five: The last Friday night of the month, May-October

Intern Awards Picnic: Thursday, July 28, 4:30 p.m.

Big Data Summit 2016: Thursday, November 10, all day

RESEARCH PARK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Software and Data Analytics Programming One-Day Courses in Research Park, June 8-10

Research Park is partnering with [Computational Science and Engineering at NCSA](#) to have one-day format for software courses for skill development this summer. These courses are available on a first-come first-serve to Research Park employees and interns, but will require some pre-requisite skills for enrollment confirmation. Participants can enroll in these non-credit courses as one-day modules or for the 3 day series. All sessions will take place at EnterpriseWorks Conference Room 130 and will include lunch and refreshments. Participants must bring their own laptop. June 8, 2016 will be [Software/Data Carpentry](#), a computational skills course for workflow management and task automation, for researchers without coding backgrounds. June 9, 2016 will be one-day course Introduction to [Python](#), a widely used high-level, dynamic programming language to develop enable clear programs on both a small and large scale. June 10, 2016 will be a one-day course Introduction to [R](#), a free programming software for statistical computing and graphics widely used by statisticians and data miners for data analysis. Registration is \$75 to attend a full day course or \$150 to attend all three days. Formal registration starts soon, Paul Wagner at the Research Park is coordinating, pwagnr@uillinois.edu, please contact him with interest and questions.

AgNode I-Corps, June-July in Champaign (NOTE DATE CHANGES)

[University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Technology Entrepreneur Center](#) in conjunction with [University of Michigan's Center for Entrepreneurship](#), is hosting an I-Corps training session agriculture related technologies in Champaign. This program offers a customized curriculum to help participating researchers discover the commercial potential of their technology in the Agriculture industry. The four main areas include: Animal production and protection; Crop production and protection; Natural resources and sustainable Ag; systems and nutrition; Food safety and quality. Early stage teams are invited to apply. Kickoff: June 15-16, 2016; Finale: July 15, 2016. More information, Contact Jed Taylor (jedt@illinois.edu).

Food Trucks Start Return to Research Park

As the weather gets nicer and the academic year comes to a close, food trucks will be returning to Research Park. For the most updated schedule and information check researchpark.illinois.edu/FoodTrucks regularly.

Research Park Softball League Getting Started

Join us for the annual Research Park Softball League! Anyone who works in the Research Park is eligible to play. Companies can sign up an entire team or individuals/groups can be placed on another team. Thank you to Brandon Dohman of the Bud Lab for being our softball league coordinator for 2016. If you are interested in playing in the league, or want to be put on our list to receive more information as it becomes available, please contact [Dana Cohen](mailto:dfcohen2@illinois.edu), dfcohen2@illinois.edu.

Chesterbrook Academy Open House

Chesterbrook is hosting an open house on May 10 from 5-7PM. They are now enrolling for Private Kindergarten. Benefits include: full day program with before and after school; small class size with individualized instruction and attention to each child's learning style; core academics of Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Writing, Science and Social Studies; daily and weekly communication regarding your child's educational experiences; incorporation of Physical Education, Health, Art, Music, Spanish and Technology; participation in community projects and field trips designed to enhance children's educational experience. Call or email Randi at [217-344-3486](tel:217-344-3486) or Randi.Kinsella@nkcinc.com to schedule a private tour.

Research Park Job Board

Interested in working for a company located in Research Park? Check out our [Job Board](#) for available full-time, part-time, and internship positions. New openings are added regularly.

RESEARCH PARK IN THE NEWS

Cozad Competition Winners Announced, Includes Several EnterpriseWorks Companies

The Technology Entrepreneur Center (TEC) [announced](#) the winners of the 16th annual Cozad New Venture Competition at the Entrepreneurship Forum on Thursday, April 28. A record number of teams, 120 in total, competed throughout the Spring semester in the

Cozad competition. This year, a total of \$220,000 in cash funding and in-kind prizes were awarded to Touch Light Innovations, BioWire Analytics, Reconstruct, Amber Waves Grain Sensing, ExoWear and HPT: Hindered Polyurea Technology. Corporate Sponsors, included Dow Agrosiences, Motorola Solutions, State Farm, AARP Foundation, and more, also awarded prizes to teams that focused on specific areas of innovation. Two affiliates of the EnterpriseWorks startup incubator, Touch Light Innovations and Reconstruct, received second place and \$10,000 in cash funding for the Non-University Resource Track and University Resource Track grand prize awards, respectively. Amber Waves Grain Sensing received the EnterpriseWorks I-Start prize for professional services. Touch Light Innovations and Reconstruct also received the EnterpriseWorks Incubator prizes along with Nardo Technology, a fellow EnterpriseWorks affiliate. Several student teams were accepted into the [iVenture Accelerator program](#), which will once again be housed in the Research Park this summer. IllinoisVentures awarded \$10,000 to Amber Waves Grain Sensing. Congratulations to all the teams! Read the story [here](#).

PSYONIC Founder Named Most Innovative Student on Campus

Aadeel Akhtar, along with the co-runners up - Matt Alonso and Mayank Kale, were named the winners of the 2016 Illinois Innovation Prize. Aadeel, a Neuroscience Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Illinois, currently enrolled in the College of Medicine, was awarded a \$20,000 cash award as the most innovative student on campus. Each year the prize is awarded to a student who stands out as a passionate innovator and entrepreneur, who is working with world changing technology and is seen as a role model for others. Aadeel is CEO and Co-founder of PSYONIC, a startup developing highly advanced, low-cost prosthetic hands – the first with sensory feedback -- to those who need them around the world. PSYONIC was awarded 1st place in the 2015 Cozad New Venture Competition before participating in the iVenture Accelerator the following summer. PSYONIC is currently an affiliate of the EnterpriseWorks startup incubator, located within the University of Illinois Research Park. Read more [here](#).

Serra Ventures is Eyeing up to \$50m for its Third Fundraise

Serra Ventures' third fundraiser is expected to be their largest yet, according to filed documents with the SEC. Serra Ventures is a Research Park tenant that offers professional advisory services in business strategy, capital formation, business development and organization development. Read the full story [here](#).

David Pearah appointed as the HDF Group new CEO

The HDF Group is a software company dedicated to creating high performance computing technology to address many of today's Big Data challenges. Pearah replaces Mike Folk upon his retirement after ten years as company President and Board Chair. Read the full story [here](#).

Wired in Spotlight on Brighten Godfrey of Veriflow

Brighten Godfrey, co-founder and CTO of Veriflow, was featured as a high-tech difference maker in the News-Gazette's weekly Wired In column. Veriflow is an affiliate of the EnterpriseWorks startup incubator. Read the full story [here](#).

Wired In Spotlight on Kaustubh Bhalerao of Soil Diagnostics

Soil Diagnostics is currently developing a prototype for their SCNExtractor device, which will be used to detect eggs of soybean cyst nematodes, the largest soybean pathogen, and give farmers a fast and automated analysis of their soil. Read the full story [here](#).

Wired In Spotlight on Robin Berthier of Network Perceptions

Robin Berthier is the president of Network Perception, a startup company developed in 2013 by University of Illinois experts on network security and infrastructure. Network Perception is located at EnterpriseWorks incubator and works closely with the energy utility industry on security software. Robin is from France and is a filmmaker in his spare time, he created the drone video of the Research Park. Read the full story [here](#).

Wired In Spotlight on Swarnav Pujaru of Touch Light

Touch Light Innovations is the creator of the Power Pad, a device which generates power through kinetic energy when a pedestrian steps on it. The Power Pad is a \$20, one square foot device that, to date, can generate up to 10 watts of electricity per step, and has been tested and demoed in multiple high-traffic locations. Read more [here](#).

Veriflow Captures Strong Media Attention Launching out of “Stealth Mode”

Veriflow, a software startup located at Enterpriseworks, was created by a team of computer science professors and PhD students at UIUC. Veriflow’s mission is to apply formal mathematical verification to complex networks, preventing outages and breaches that lead to astronomical losses. The company’s technologies have demonstrated success in multiple real-life network deployments. Veriflow is backed by a strong team of investors, including New Enterprise Associates, the National Science Foundation, and the US Department of Defense. See recent press blitz after the company emerged from “stealth mode”: <http://www.veriflow.net/newsroom/>. Highlights include national-industry press from: [Network World](#) “Veriflow promises to bulletproof networks”, [Information Week](#) “Startup Uses Mathematical Verification For Network Security”, [eWeek](#), [CIO Magazine](#), and [VC News Daily](#).

CAMPUS EVENTS OF INTEREST

May 3-5, 2016

Event: NCSA 2016 Private Sector Partner Annual Meeting

Location: NCSA Building, 1205 W. Clark Street, Urbana

About the event: NCSA’s Private Sector Program brings together private, university, and government organizations with the shared goal of increasing competitiveness and economic impact through high-performance computing and data analytics. For registrations and a complete agenda, click [here](#).

Sponsor: National Center for Supercomputing Applications

May 6 and 9-12, 2016, 11:30AM-1PM

Event: Finals Week Study Snacks

Location: Engineering Hall, First Floor

About the event: Finals Week Study Snacks is an event where students can take a break during this hectic week to grab snacks and de-stress. Many employers enjoy

participating in this event to not only build their brand on campus but to support our students' academic success--contributing monetary donations, food, beverages and other stress relieving items. If you are interested and want to learn more about this event please click [here](#).

Sponsor: College of Engineering

May 6, 2016, 4pm

Event: **Creating MDV: Maximum Design Value for the Real World**

Location: School of Art + Design (Peabody + 4th) in room 315

About the Event: Scot Herbst (and Walter Herbst) will be presenting at this event

May 6-7 & June 21-22, 2016, 9AM-6PM

Event: **Storytelling with Data**

Location: Greg Hall Lab 31: 810 South Wright St., Urbana

About the event: This workshop is intended to **help industry professionals leverage data** in a way that informs their organization's audience, persuades readers, and gives them a leg up on the competition. The program utilizes keynotes, panels, and hands-on learning experiences to help professionals learn the necessary tools to analyze, clean, and shape data into a compelling story. For more information, click [here](#). For the registration link, click [here](#).

Sponsor: College of Media

May 11, 2016, 9:30AM-4PM

Event: **AWSome Day**

Location: Atkins Building in the Research Park, 1800 South Oak St., Champaign

About: The goal of this event is to help researchers and their staff understand Amazon Web Services (AWS). There is no cost to attendees, but space is limited. To register for the event, click [here](#). The AWSome Day sessions are as follows:

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM: AWS Services Overview

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Scientific Computing in Research (Common Trends)

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM: Scientific Computing in Research (Common Solutions)

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM: Use Case Demos (EC2, S3, Hadoop, Lambda)

LOCAL/REGIONAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

First Robotics FRC Team 4096 Open House, May 4, Champaign

FIRST FRC Team 4096: Ctrl-Z is a growing **FIRST** Robotics Competition Team, started in 2011. This year we have 48 students, grades 8-12, including 25 students new to the team this year.

We represent 7 schools, mostly in the Champaign-Urbana area. The open house will be Wednesday, May 4 at 6:30pm at the Ctrl-Z Shop -- 103 S Country Fair Dr, Champaign (behind the Social Security building; look for the orange flag). Several Research Park employees mentor teams.

An Overview of Expanding Into the International Market, May 5, Champaign

This overview is for anyone thinking about exporting or those who just want a refresher. Why export? Learn the advantages, what grants are available to assist with exporting, and local resources available to help you step-by-step. What do you need to know

about exporting? The terminology, international price quotations, and export documentation. For more information, click [here](#).

SBDC Workshop: Starting Your Business in Illinois, May 6, Champaign

This informative 2-hour workshop helps entrepreneurs understand many of the steps and requirements of starting a small business in Illinois. You'll be taken step-by-step through a variety of topics and have the opportunity to ask questions. For more information, click [here](#).

The Academy Informational Meeting, May 18, Champaign

The Academy High, a new independent high school focusing on academic excellence and real world skills, will open in Fall 2017. The Academy High will engage students in cutting edge technology, arts, service, community, and athletics; and offer students workplace exploration, with internships in areas of interest. Come learn more: Information Meeting on Wednesday, May 18th at the I-Hotel in Research Park, at 12 pm and again at 7 pm, in the Illinois Ballroom, www.academyhigh.org

Chicago State of Innovation, May 18, Chicago

Join the city's business leaders and innovators for high-profile keynote speakers, cutting-edge panel discussions, invigorating workshops and incredible networking at Chicago Inno's annual State of Innovation. Comprised of digital content, interactive panels, and feature sessions, Chicago Inno's State of Innovation is a can't-miss opportunity to network with prominent business leaders, executives, and young professionals. For more information, [click here](#). Students are able to use the code **STUDENT** for 20% off their ticket.

The Future of Data, June 1, Chicago

A new data-driven world is emerging that has ramifications not only for today, but for the future. This shift will disrupt the status quo and impact both the public and private sectors. In general, data will be a positive force—improving planning and decision making as well as enabling products and services to be better tailored for customers and citizens. However, concerns around privacy, misuse and security of our data are real. Moving forward, we need to create a policy framework that protects data rights while enabling the many benefits of data intelligence. The Future of Data program invites policymakers and business leaders to come together and explore the key issues around this emerging topic. Free. [More info: https://www.illinoistech.org/events/the-future-of-data](https://www.illinoistech.org/events/the-future-of-data)

Midwest Island Port Tour, June 15, Decatur

You are invited to tour the 280-acre freight shipping and receiving facility at the ADM James R. Randall Research Center in Decatur. A bus will depart Champaign at 8:45AM and return at approximately 4PM. This event is free to attend and is sponsored by the Illinois Small Business Development Center. More info, or to RSVP, contact carly@champaigncountyedc.org.

Techweek Chicago, Week of June 20th

Save the date: <http://techweek.com/chicago/>

Compete in the startup competition, which provides great exposure, easy submission: <http://techweek.com/compete-in-our-startup-competition/>

Info Ag Conference, August 2-4, St. Louis

For more than 20 years, InfoAg has been the leading event in precision agriculture. In 2016, InfoAg and will be held in conjunction with the 13th International Conference on Precision Agriculture. ICPA focuses on science and research in precision agriculture and is attended primarily by academics and scientists from all around the world. In holding both conferences together we hope to bring together both audiences to gain a new perspective on precision agriculture. For more information, click [here](#).

UASCI Presents UAS Tech Forum September 7-8, Oklahoma City

This event will be a convergence of entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, tech transfer professionals, economic development officials and other service providers in the Unmanned Aerial Systems industry and will feature tech presentations, valuable networking with attendees and exhibitors, potential investment opportunities, thought-provoking panel discussions and relevant keynote speakers.

Ag Innovation Showcase, September 12-14, St. Louis

Since 2009, the Ag Innovation Showcase has engaged an international audience of the most influential Ag industry executives, investors, innovators and policy makers in an effort to unearth solutions to global issues in food safety and security. The Showcase encourages the convergence of diverse technology solutions around platforms that help bring the industry to the next level of productivity and sustainability. For more information, click [here](#).

SBIR and STTR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Experienced SBIR professionals have all been contracted by EnterpriseWorks to assist companies with SBIR and STTR applications with free consulting services to East Central Illinois applicants. Request technical assistance [here](#). EnterpriseWorks is working with the Illinois Science and Tech Coalition to have booth space at the National SBIR/STTR Conference in DC from May 23-25, 2016. Please contact [Laura Bleill](#) to learn more about our presence at this event.

The following agencies have open solicitations:

NIST SBIR 2016: Release date 02/15/2016, Due date 05/06/2016

HHS Funding Opportunities are ongoing. Click [here](#).

The following agencies have upcoming releases of solicitations:

NSF SBIR: Release date 5/16/2016, Due Date 6/16/2016

DOD SBIR: Release date 5/23/2016, Due Date 6/22/2-16