



421 N. California Street, Suite 200
Sycamore, IL 60178

[phone] 815.895.2711

[fax] 815.895.8713

Technology Resources at Northern Illinois University

Northern Illinois University, in the City of DeKalb, is home to highly regarded business and engineering schools. Area businesses can take advantage of many resources at low cost or no cost. Following is a sample.

The Northern Illinois Technology Enterprise Center

NITEC is dedicated to identifying breakthrough technological innovations and supporting their advancement. Using their strong ties to the entrepreneurial community, NITEC seeks out ideas that are not only novel in theory, but also have the greatest potential for commercialization and growth. NITEC connects companies with NIU faculty for prototype and product development and also connects companies with students for business plan development, market studies, and industry analyses.

NITEC was formed to support the commercialization of new technologies and the growth of technology-based enterprises in the Northern Illinois region. Funded by the university, NITEC helps local entrepreneurs as well as existing companies bring new technologies to market.

NITEC's mission is to provide an effective vehicle for the development of technology-based businesses from idea to harvest. Services NITEC provides include the following:

- hands-on business development and technology commercialization counseling to early stage clients
- streamlining the technology commercialization process with private investors, and strategic service providers
- facilitating collaboration with technology-focused economic development organizations and university-based technology transfer offices in Illinois

Experiential Learning Center

The College of Business Experiential Learning Center (ELC) connects teams of NIU students with organizations to tackle real-world business issues. From software evaluation to emerging market analysis projects, students serve as consultants that address cross-functional business issues. Teams apply the cutting-edge ELC project methodology and the knowledge, skills, and theories learned in the classroom. Since only the best and brightest students are chosen for projects, recruitment of high-quality employees is an added benefit of sponsoring businesses.

Since 2000, 350 ELC team members have brought their skills and knowledge to 68 projects and provided measurable value for 38 sponsoring organizations. Past projects include the following:

- OfficeMax, Inc. – reducing supply chain latency
- Grant Thornton LLP – creating an integrated global marketing plan
- Caterpillar, Inc. – performing a competitive sales analysis
- McDonald's Corporation – devising a digital marketing strategy
- FTD, Inc. – performing comprehensive market research
- Wal-Mart Realty Division – creating an integrated appraisal system

The Operations Management and Information Systems Program

The objective of OM & IS, is to participate in research, service, and consulting activities that benefit the business community. It helps integrate area businesses, the academic community, and students through the following:

- involving students in research and consulting activities with business partners
- providing forums where businesses may involve faculty and students in solving problems
- engaging the support of businesses for relevant faculty research
- providing continuing education to the business community

Business Community Outreach

The College of Business outreach provides services such as business research, corporate education, corporate relations, and professional development.

The Engineering School outreach offers professional development conferences and seminars for engineering, safety, and technical professionals. The school also facilitates collaboratively designed education and training on-site at client companies. Some of the school's senior design projects address specific requests from local industry

NIU Net Fiber Optic Network

The university's high-speed fiber optic network rivals Silicon Valley and has made DeKalb County one of the most fiber-accessible counties in the state. Because of this, and low land prices, the county is a magnet for data centers.