

LEGACY OF INNOVATION PROJECT



ILLINOIS

light think
UNIVERSITY

Almost two-thirds of corporate leaders and recruiters rate creativity and innovation capabilities of students as critical measures of the effectiveness of higher education. These leaders say students with both an innovative mindset and a robust skillset are the most desired yet hardest to find. In fact: recruiters say that only 43% of new hires recruited from colleges have these skills, and 71% of employers surveyed say their greatest single challenge is recruiting students with sufficient practical experience.³

The Legacy of Innovation Project provides an out-of-classroom venue for any young adult to learn how to innovate sustainably as part of an interdisciplinary team of professionals, professors, peers, and community members. It's innovating in real-time on a real renovation project for real people - no longer just theory. The project timeline and budget serves as a catalyst for students to learn in the moment from team members who care about them, their goals, and the project.

LP facilitators guide the team and coach students throughout each phase of field research, design thinking, sustainable renovation, and validation research. The resulting renovation will become a lasting civic legacy, and a model of sustainable innovation - demonstrating best-in-class research and design methods, experience and space strategies, sustainable materials, and advanced technologies.

Students with an internship or project-based learning experience are 94% more likely to be hired.⁴

Sharing in the responsibility for realizing positive results, each student is team-taught and empowered to:

- develop their innovation and sustainability skillsets;
- build self-efficacy through practice, reflection, and feedback;
- consider and honor the needs, hopes, aspirations, fears, and goals of people;
- collaborate with an interdisciplinary team to innovate sustainably;
- transform a "zombie-like, carbon hog" space into one that is sustainably innovative;
- network with peers, professionals, professors, and community leaders;
- gain project experience and an innovation project portfolio; and
- become a living legacy - a confident innovator who cares, ready to compete and thrive!



1. World Economic Forum, The Global Competitiveness Report, 2015-2016; Solability, The Global Sustainable Competitiveness Ranking, 2015
2. Charles Westerberg and Carol Wickersham, "Internships Have Value, Whether or Not Students Are Paid," The Chronicle of Higher Education, 2011; IBM Institute of Business Value, How Higher Education Remains Viable in Today's Dynamic World, 2015; National Science Board, Moving Forward to Improve Engineering Education, 2007; National Academy for Engineering, Grand Challenges for Engineering: Imperatives, Prospects, and Priorities, 2016; Council on Competitiveness, Innovate America, 2005
3. IBM Institute of Business Value, How Higher Education Remains Viable in Today's Dynamic World, 2015; American Management Association, Critical Skills Survey, 2012
4. Hart Research Associates / Association of American Colleges & Universities, Falling Short? College Learning and Career Success, 2015

MORE INFO

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