



# *2024 DATA MINE REPORT*

FALL 2024-SUMMER 2025



**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY®

The Data Mine



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Mark Daniel Ward | Executive Director, The Data Mine

This has been another banner year for The Data Mine. Beyond the metrics and beyond the amazing breadth of projects that our teams have completed, we are especially pleased at the success stories with our current and recent students. At both the graduate and the undergraduate level, our partners are very excited to hire our students and enable them to build careers that add tremendous value from Day 1 on the job.

In our business relationships with our partners -- both with companies and with other universities -- we frame everything as a marathon, not a sprint. Moreover, we are years and years into some of our relationships, and everybody is reaping the benefits. As we develop trust with business leaders, and long working histories with our academic partners, our processes are becoming more sustainable and more integrated into systematic change. This is a crucial time for higher education and for most sectors of industry. It is imperative to continue to change and to be adaptive and responsive to the data-driven innovations that are pervasive in our lives.

When I am visiting with recent alumni from The Data Mine, no matter what city they landed in, and no matter what sector of industry they chose for their work, there is a common theme: Our alumni are strongly valued for their technical ability, their problem solving ability, their comprehensive understanding of the domain in which they work, and their ability to be great team members and early career leaders.

As we are reflecting on last year and looking ahead, we are excited about the opening of a new residence hall, where 896 more students will have the opportunity to live and to work in The Data Mine here in West Lafayette. We are thrilled with the growth of our Data Mine initiatives in Indianapolis and in the Denver and Colorado Springs metropolitan areas, and we feel fortunate to work with more than half of the colleges and universities throughout the state of Indiana. Students from more than 50 colleges around the USA participate in The Data Mine each year.

None of this happens without the continued support of our partners, who offer amazing experiences for our students. We appreciate each and every mentor, business leader, data scientist, and friend who has guided our path. We are thankful to our students for their tireless work on our projects, and for being America's future workforce. We look forward to more exciting initiatives in the year ahead!

Mark Daniel Ward, Executive Director of The Data Mine

# THE DATA MINE GROWTH



Students at The Data Mine Indianapolis location

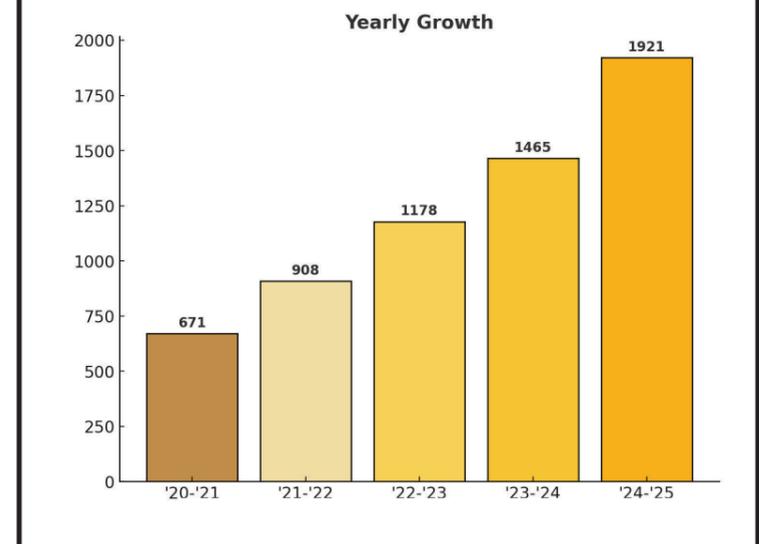


Students visit Caterpillar

## WEST LAFAYETTE STUDENTS IN THE DATA MINE

Please see page 9 for Expansion Initiatives.

Does not include TAs. We have over 100 TAs in The Data Mine.



The Data Mine has experienced remarkable growth since its inception. Our reach continues to grow as well, most recently through our Indianapolis location, which just completed its first full year of our Corporate Partners program. This expansion strengthens our ability to connect students with industry, broaden access to data science education, and prepare the next generation of leaders in a data-driven world.



### FINALISTS

- Circular Ventures
- Eli Lilly-Tech & Talent
- iXplore
- Jr Achievement of Cent IN
- Rooted School Indy
- South Bend Code School
- STARTedUP Foundation
- Tactile Engineering
- The Data Mine
- William Penn MS



The Data Mine was honored to be nominated for a Mira Award last year, a recognition presented by TechPoint celebrating innovation and excellence in Indiana's tech community. We were proud to share this acknowledgment alongside Purdue University in Indianapolis.

# CORPORATE PARTNERS

The Data Mine expresses gratitude to our Corporate Partners for their generous support throughout the academic year 2024-2025. Their ongoing commitment and involvement enables students to get 'real world' experience through the projects that you provide. We look forward to the 2025-2026 academic year and cannot wait to see what it brings!



2024-25 Partner Logos

**Interested in partnering with The Data Mine?** We are now accepting projects for the 2026-2027 academic year.

## What is the benefit to your company?

**Talent Access:** Work with highly motivated students from diverse backgrounds as a training ground to recruit for internships and full time employment opportunities.

**Build Company Recognition:** Set yourself apart from the big tech companies and build positive working relationships with students outside of the typical recruitment strategies.

**Test Proof-of-Concept Projects:** Experiment ideas with innovative students and see what they can create before putting tremendous internal company resources toward a data project.

**Completing Value Add Projects:** Back-burner projects that are known to add value and could benefit from more resources like time and talent.



Indiana Fever students attend the President's lecture series



Students spend time with their mentor at Syngenta



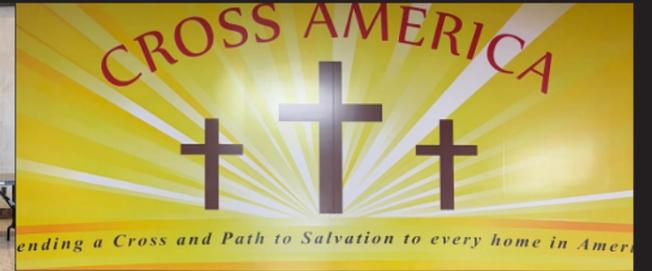
Inari student team visiting the West Lafayette facility



Students take a trip to Cummins



BAE Systems team visited Fort Wayne to tour the building and learn more about the company



Cross America students visited HQ to tour the facility and meet leadership



Students visit Kautex



Corveva site visit



Cook Medical students in Bloomington, IN

# THE DATA MINE IN INDIANAPOLIS SYMPOSIUM



Maggie Betz, Bryce Castle, and TA for Indiana Soybean Alliance and Cummins

This year, the Purdue University in Indianapolis location hosted the *Student Innovation and Excellence Showcase: The First Year in Indianapolis*. The Data Mine presented 12 projects at the showcase. We are so proud of the work of Maggie, Bryce, the TAs, and faculty! Check out some stats below!



Picture of the Symposium in Indianapolis (April 24, 2025)

## BY THE NUMBERS

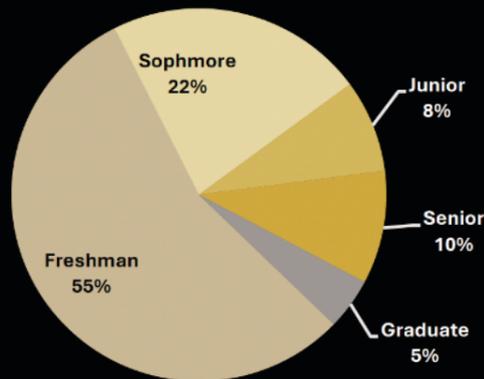
112

STUDENTS IN CORPORATE PARTNERS

145

STUDENTS IN OUR DATA SCIENCE SEMINARS

### CLASSIFICATION



### MAJORS

Computer Science	62.2%
Artificial Intelligence	15.3%
Engineering	09.9%
Data Science	04.5%
Cybersecurity	04.5%
Computer & Information Tech	03.6%

99%

REPORTED THEY ARE LIKELY TO RECOMMEND CORPORATE PARTNERS TO THEIR PEERS

22,500+ HOURS

ACCUMULATED INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS IN INDIANAPOLIS

# DATA MINE IMPACT '24-'25

1,921

STUDENTS

88

PROJECTS

1,790

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

132

MAJORS REPRESENTED

131

GRADUATE STUDENTS

51

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

63

COMPANIES

10

SPONSORED RESEARCH CONTRACTS

# ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2025

With over 85 project posters featured, more than 1500 people showed up to view the students' work. Be sure to save the date for our next Symposium on April 29, 2026 from 4-6:00 PM at the Co-Rec (France A. Cordova Recreational Sports Center). Visit our symposium page for more information and to see the students' work!



BAE students presenting

Yamaha students presenting

Cummins student presenting

Great shot at the Co-Rec

Dr. Ward learning listening to student presentations

American Mathematical Society students with mentor, Sarah Bryant

# EXPANSION INITIATIVES

**111** NATIONAL DATA MINE NETWORK STUDENTS

**96** INDIANA DATA MINE STUDENTS

**51** STUDENTS AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES

## What Supports The Data Mine's Expansion Initiatives?

**NSF - National Data Mine Network** The National Data Mine Network will directly fund 300 undergraduate students at MSIs with research stipends (100 stipends per year), administered directly to students by the ASA. Students are either working on research with faculty mentors or on Corporate Partners projects with mentors from industry.

**Lilly Endowment** The Indiana Data Mine (IDM) seeks to transcend traditional course-based education and boost the value proposition of data science-related skills. It aims to create a statewide ecosystem where students learn in-demand data science through hands-on projects with Corporate Partners. Participating companies also benefit as they adopt Industry 4.0 practices that increase efficiency and form relationships with potential employees.

## NEW Initiative: Data Mine of the Rockies

Data Mine of the Rockies launched in fall 2024 with 8 projects, with 48 students participating.

Our goal in being in Colorado is to help fulfill academia's role in the workforce and thought leadership needs for the US DoD's Strategy for Operations in the Informational Environment.

Contact Dan Hirleman, Director of the Data Mine of the Rockies, for more info: [hirleman@purdue.edu](mailto:hirleman@purdue.edu).



## Projects students worked on





**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO STAY IN TOUCH**



**The Data Mine**

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