

“IPRO was an amazing experience that allowed me to go out and change people’s lives through the work of our team. I went down to Peru, and I actually built a rocket stove and showed villagers how to build it themselves.”

—David Curtin (CHEM '08), IPRO 325: Designing Affordable Solutions for the World's Rural Poor

IPRO Sponsors

Each year, many companies and community partners benefit from sponsoring IPRO projects. Sponsors help to grow tomorrow’s crop of talented professionals who are prepared to work in collaborative teams and address complex issues. IPRO sponsors gain access to the fresh perspectives of IIT students as well as the IIT faculty from throughout the university who advise the projects. Through the IPRO team project course, corporations, small businesses, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and associations can advance their goals through one- or multi-semester projects that address cross-functional opportunities and challenges within an organization that can benefit from a team approach.

IPRO sponsors have included:

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About IIT

Founded in 1890, IIT is a private, Ph.D.-granting research university that awards degrees in engineering, the sciences, architecture, law, design, psychology, humanities, and business. Through programs such as IPRO, IIT students and graduates are differentiated by their readiness and ability to maneuver in a complex work environment—skills that cannot be learned in a classroom alone.

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It Takes a Team!

I P R O

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Interprofessional Projects (IPRO) Program

Building a Spirit of Collaborative Innovation in Tomorrow's Leaders

Teamwork, innovation, and complex problem-solving skills make successful professionals—and reflect the overall performance of their organizations. Since 1995, the IPRO team project course at IIT has been teaching students how to excel in the workplace by providing them the practical tools that can make a difference in their professional and personal lives.

The IPRO program joins together students from various academic disciplines to work as a team to tackle a real-world problem. Students from architecture, engineering, and humanities may create low-cost shelter solutions, or chemistry, business, and law students may develop best practices in CO₂-reducing technologies. Such experiential learning reinforces traditional education methods, providing students a richer academic experience.

- Many corporate and community partners participate in and sponsor projects
- Students, faculty, alumni, and various organizations propose project topics
- Service-learning IPRO projects strive to improve the human condition, K–12 education, and other efforts that make the world a better place
- Sustainability IPRO projects aim to preserve our environmental heritage through exploration of technologies, behaviors, and practices that change our way of thinking, working, and living
- Entrepreneurial IPRO projects (EnPROs) pursue ideas with a business slant

IPRO Day

Further enhancing students' communication and project-management skills, IPRO Day gives IIT's 45+ IPRO teams an opportunity to showcase their accomplishments to the public. At IPRO Day, the culmination of each semester's efforts, IPRO teams formally present and exhibit their projects for the community and judging panels. IPRO Day builds student experience in public speaking, organization, and teamwork.

IPRO Success Stories—Case Studies

Home-Run Measurement for the Chicago White Sox

Problem: In preparation for a Home Run Derby, the Chicago White Sox baseball team found itself using an outdated manual system to estimate the distance a ball would have traveled on the ground had it not landed in the outfield seats. The system also relied on old outfield dimensions, making it even more difficult to make accurate estimates.

“Fans enjoy knowing home run distances as soon as they happen. Realizing that our old measurement system had to be improved and updated in time for the All-Star Home Run Derby, it made sense for us to partner with the minds at IIT to come up with a better way. We are elated with the results!”

—Scott Reifert, vice president of communications, Chicago White Sox



Solution: The IPRO team resurveyed the field, applied physics and aerodynamics formulas to estimate ball behavior, and created a database of distances from home plate and a “look-up map” for seating and concourse areas. Students also developed the conceptual design for a computer software and camera-based application that uses trajectory algorithms to calculate home run distances in virtual real-time. The White Sox continue to use the IPRO team's home run distance map whenever a ball leaves the park.



KlarAqua

Problem: The World Health Organization estimates as many as half the populations in developing nations suffer from a lack of clean water and sanitation. Water-purification systems can be expensive to produce and difficult for its intended users to operate. **Solution:** For this combination IPRO and EnPRO project, students developed a low-cost water-purification system that could be locally produced in Mexico without electricity, chemicals, or heavy maintenance. The KlarAqua system is portable, sustainable, and removes bacteria and common groundwater pollutants. In collaboration with IIT's partner university, Mexico's Tec de Monterrey, students field-tested KlarAqua in Mexico. For their efforts, IIT's team was recognized through the Idea to Product social entrepreneurship competition.