

ANNUAL REPORT

FY2021 - BY THE NUMBERS...

24

Webinars
(^71%)



4,997

UIDP member representatives
(^45%)



24

New member
organizations (^60%)



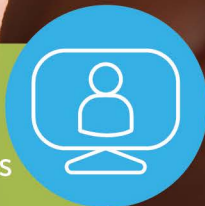
10

Projects released
(^100%)



2

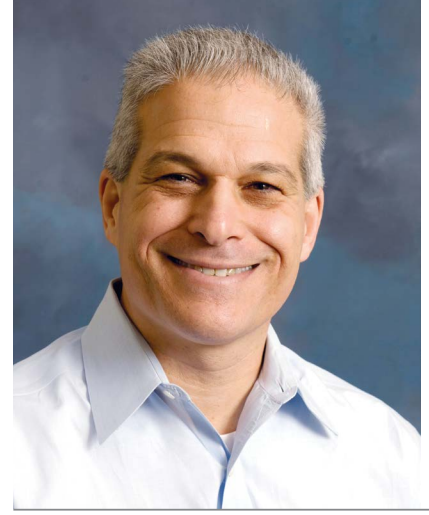
Virtual conferences
(^100%)



Strengthening
University-Industry
Partnerships

2021 PERSPECTIVE

Like many of our member representatives, fiscal year 2021 isolated us physically, but united us in mission and execution. The pandemic did not put an end to collaboration; rather, it put the power of partnership into the global spotlight. University and industry researchers worked together—often supported by government R&D funding—to develop, test, and distribute vaccines, personal protective equipment and therapeutics to address the ravages of the pandemic. And the collaborative nature of these timely breakthroughs did not escape public notice.



When faced with new challenges, we dig deep. We collaborate, invent, refine, reinvent.

UIDP moved at pace to adopt new technology platforms and approaches to maximize engagement and support member collaboration around the globe. Executing on our strategic plan, we conducted more webinars and virtual meetings than ever, supported members with online networking, and conducted our two best attended conferences in our history. We strategically developed conference agendas to take advantage of unique aspects of remote events: high-level speaker availability, packed conference agendas, and asynchronous access to meet the needs of our member organizations on four continents.

We launched a set of projects to address the partnership challenges of the pandemic. We formalized a new UIDP value, “responsiveness,” to emphasize our organizational commitment to work with agility and speed. We sought to identify and address evolving challenges and opportunities to enhance partnerships in this ground-shifting time.

And we expanded our reach with new initiatives. We competed and won federal funding to establish the Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA), a UIDP-administered initiative that is already strengthening bonds with our member organizations in new ways. ERVA is a network of stakeholders across the engineering research continuum that allows us to deepen our engagement with UIDP member organizations that benefit from its activities and to establish new ties with government, industry, and academic R&D leadership. ERVA holds the promise of substantive impact and influence by identifying new engineering research directions that, when explored, can address society’s greatest challenges.

UIDP also launched an initiative to support our members’ engagement with historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). This work is ongoing, and will culminate in the March 2022 forum in Atlanta, “Mission in Motion: HBCU Engagement and Collaboration,” which uniquely focuses on the collective effort of academia, industry, and government to build out research capacity through partnership.

In this report, you’ll read about UIDP’s activities in FY2021. A few highlights:

- UIDP completed a record-setting 10 projects in FY2021;
- More than 1,000 individuals registered for each of our virtual conferences; and
- ERVA, funded by the National Science Foundation, was launched as an activity of UIDP.

Early in 2021, with approved vaccines rolling out and public support for collaborative R&D on the rise, a member representative told me that **this is our time**. As long as this community continues to raise the flag and tell the story of the strength of partnership, it will continue to be our time. The COVID-19 variants and the continuing uncertainty they bring are wearying, but I always come back to this truth:

Challenges don’t paralyze the UIDP community; rather, they push us in new directions. They drive us to greater discovery. We are grateful to our member representatives for your perseverance, inspiration, and trust in this work. This is, indeed, our time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony". The script is fluid and cursive.

Tony Boccanfuso, President and CEO, UIDP

ADVANCING PARTNERSHIPS

UIDP strengthens partnerships by addressing issues impacting university-industry collaboration through projects, events, and community engagement.

UIDP PROJECTS

UIDP strengthens partnerships by addressing issues impacting university-industry collaboration. More than **150 volunteer stakeholders** came together to produce **10 new project resources in FY2021**, effectively adding to the knowledge base shared by UIDP member organizations. Projects addressed issues across the breadth of our work in:

	Contracting
	Partnership Management and Research Administration
	Workforce Development and Student Engagement
	Government Engagement and Economic Development

Many of the year's projects addressed challenges arising from the pandemic's effect on day-to-day collaboration. Based on a series of UIDP-hosted discussions for member representatives to share real-time solutions, UIDP captured these experiences and insights for the [UIDP COVID-19 Response Report](#).

The move from face-to-face to largely virtual interactions disrupted the natural serendipity that is often the impetus for fruitful collaborations. UIDP released [Networking with a Purpose: The Basics of Facilitated Serendipity](#) as a guide for designing events specifically to enhance the likelihood that viable research collaborations will result.

Despite pandemic constraints, UIDP member representatives clearly expressed dedication to maintaining commitments to students and workforce development efforts through internships and co-ops. Building on a series of surveys revealing that most member organizations were managing internship and co-op programs virtually, UIDP published [Hosting Virtual Internships](#) to provide timely insight and guidance.

[Virtual Visits](#) and [Virtual Recruiting Strategies](#) are two ongoing projects launched to identify best practices in a virtual or socially distanced environment. As the research and collaboration environment evolves, UIDP will provide its membership with timely knowledge to address the changing landscape and tackle contemporary issues in U-I collaboration.



33,000+

UIDP GUIDES, REPORTS, ARTICLES, AND RECORDING PAGES WERE ACCESSED IN FY2021

PROJECT RESOURCES
RELEASED

- [Comparing Internal Structures](#)
- [University and Industry Visits: Maximizing the Outcomes](#)
- [Corporate Affiliate Programs List](#)
- [Joint Employment](#)
- [COVID-19 Response Report](#)
- [Students & Contracting Issues Quick Guide](#)
- [Networking with a Purpose: The Basics of Facilitated Serendipity](#)
- [Hosting Virtual Internships Quick Guide](#)
- [15 Effective Practices for Strong U-I Partnerships](#)
- [Collaboration Metrics Quick Guide](#)

“I spoke with one of our school chairs that has worked on a number of these types of joint employment agreements for her faculty. We discussed this project as it unfolded and its importance of a better understanding of the process for all involved.”

Greg King, Georgia Institute of Technology

UIDP EVENTS: GO VIRTUAL, GO BIG

Circumstances dictated virtual conferences as UIDP's exclusive platform in FY2021. Our strategy was to optimize the advantages of the format – ease of access for participants, recording and on-demand viewing capability for attendees in all time zones, and the ability to engage high-level speakers with high-impact session content.

UIDPConnect 2020 and UIDPVirtual 2021 each featured 50 sessions across five days. UIDP is grateful to the more than 270 conference speakers who dedicated time and expertise during sessions that reached more than 2,000 attendees from 15 countries.

We also ramped up our webinar services to address current topics and to offer a platform for organizations to share collaboration and partnership opportunities. More than 3,000 individuals registered for 24 UIDP webinars.



2,200+

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRANTS



“You’ve done an amazing job of pulling people together who are willing and able to cross sectors, silos and boundaries to learn from each other.”

Anita Zaremba, Case Western Reserve University

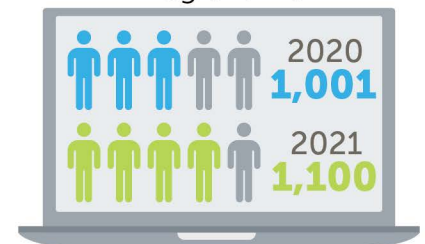
“Recordings are really useful! I can access those sessions I cannot attend because of the time difference.”

Mariko Kishi, University of Tokyo



BY THE NUMBERS UIDPConnect and UIDPVirtual

Registrants



Countries Represented



Speakers



Content Sessions



NEW INITIATIVES, GREATER IMPACT

ERVA: THE ENGINEERING RESEARCH VISIONING ALLIANCE

UIDP was awarded a five-year, \$8 million cooperative agreement from the National Science Foundation to create and manage the Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA), which launched in April 2021. This first-of-its-kind initiative has a single focus: To identify and develop bold new engineering research directions and thereby catalyze the engineering research community's pursuit of innovative, high-impact research that benefits society. UIDP's administrative management role in ERVA (ervacommunity.org) positions it to enhance current efforts and deliver greater benefits to UIDP members, who are intentionally engaged in ERVA's leadership and visioning efforts.



ENHANCING HBCU-INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

With increased interest in engaging with historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) for research, UIDP hosted a series of calls to gauge interest and gather feedback from member organizations about an initiative to support collaboration and partnership development activities. This initiative has resulted in a targeted strategy to build relationships with HBCUs that will mutually support mission-driven goals for expanded research capacity building and program participation.



Strengthening
University-Industry
Partnerships

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Our Mission: The UIDP supports mutually beneficial university-industry collaborations by developing and disseminating strategies for addressing common issues between the two sectors.