

Washington University in St. Louis Secures Major Grants and Industry Partnerships with FirstIgnite's Support

At a glance

Washington University in St. Louis (WashU) utilized FirstIgnite's platform to form a synthetic manufacturing advisory board, secure industry feedback required for a chemical sensing grant, and build industry partnerships to win a \$26 million decarbonization grant. FirstIgnite's consultation, industry expertise, and connections were key to their success.

Challenges

WashU faculty needed help identifying niche industry partners for their synthetic biology, chemical sensing, and decarbonized manufacturing research. The process of finding and engaging the right partners was time-consuming and costly, requiring specialized support to streamline outreach and build valuable connections.

Solutions

FirstIgnite helped WashU identify key companies, industries, and scientific leaders to build industry partnerships that were critical to strengthening major grant proposals and future engagement opportunities.

Outcomes

1

NSF Engineering Research Center Industry Members

WashU secured a \$26 million NSF grant for decarbonized biomanufacturing with FirstIgnite's support in securing industry partnerships, positioning the university as a leader in this research area.

2

Research Industrial Advisory Board

WashU launched a 16-member advisory board with FirstIgnite's support in identifying key companies interested in synthetic biomanufacturing, strengthening future grant opportunities and research partnerships through strategic industry partnerships.

3

NSF Convergence Accelerator Grant Expert Industry Interviews

WashU identified 40+ relevant companies with FirstIgnite's support that were critical in helping faculty gain industry feedback necessary to compete for Phase 2 of an NSF Convergence Accelerator Grant application.

Key metrics

FirstIgnite played a key role in connecting WashU with industry partners, leading to significant outcomes in both research and funding.



\$26M

grant secured for decarbonization manufacturing research, the largest in WashU Engineering history.



40+

companies identified to help WashU secure industry feedback for Phase 2 of the NSF Convergence Accelerator Grant.

