What is the D2K Learning Lab?

In the D2K Learning Lab, companies, community organizations, and researchers partner with Rice University to sponsor teams of students that work on a semester-long data science project. With a sponsored research agreement, sponsors will own any resulting Intellectual Property (IP).

Teams of 4-6 students come from a variety of disciplines and experience levels (advanced undergraduates and graduate students).

Teams are co-mentored by a sponsor mentor, D2K Fellows, and Rice data science faculty.

Teams produce a data science report and deliver all software and scripts used in the report.

Teams will exclusively use open-source software such as R and Python.

What are the benefits of sponsoring a D2K Learning Lab project?

- **Highlight your organization and projects of interest to data science students at Rice.**
- **Feature your logo on the team’s work and at D2K events as a D2K sponsor.**
- **Engage more closely with Rice’s exceptional data science students.**
- **Own IP.** You may file patents, continue to work on the project, or otherwise protect any novel IP.

What types of projects are appropriate?

- Impactful projects that are meaningful and motivating for the students, and solve real-world challenges for the sponsors.
- Projects should be challenging and have well-defined objectives.
- Projects should encompass all aspects of data science including data wrangling, data exploration and modeling.
What is the D2K Lab sponsored research agreement?

- The sponsored research agreement is the mechanism under which affiliates can sponsor a D2K Learning Lab student team and own any resulting Intellectual Property. The agreement is “turn-key”. For the value of the agreement, we are not able to negotiate terms.
- A non-disclosure agreement for the students and faculty mentor is built into the sponsored research agreement. Rice will educate students and faculty as to the particular clauses of this agreement.

How will Rice protect confidential or proprietary data?

We encourage sponsors to share data that they own but that is not proprietary or confidential. However, sponsors can share confidential data if they provide secure access.

Non-sensitive, non-confidential data:
Sponsors can share non-confidential data directly with the project group. Data will be stored in Box, an enterprise cloud-based storage and collaboration service, and students will use Rice computing resources in the conduct of the project.

Confidential, protected, or sensitive data:
Sponsors can maintain confidential data on a sponsor-controlled server or preferred secure third-party platform and grant remote access to the students for the duration of the project. Activities involving student access, manipulation and analysis of confidential data must take place remotely on company-controlled systems.

What is the timeline for Fall 2020 D2K Learning Lab Projects?

- Call for proposals: April 15, 2020
- Proposals due: June 1, 2020
- Notification whether proposal is accepted: June 15, 2020
- Sponsored research agreement signed (FIRM DEADLINE): July 6, 2020
- Data transferred to Rice or secure access to data provided: August 10, 2020
- Orientation and sponsors meet student teams (5-6:30pm): August 26, 2020
- Invoice due to Rice University: August 31, 2020
- Fall 2020 D2K Showcase: December 2, 2020
- Final report and code due: December 16, 2020