



DESIGNLAB

LEARNING + PERFORMANCE



LDTech's DesignLab Initiative

Real-world, situated learning has been a strength of our program for decades—something on which we wanted to build. In practical terms, this meant complementing our traditional project-based semester-long consultancies with new, various-sized experiences that would benefit our students' learning and the organizations with which we work.

The DesignLab initiative is an effort to integrate community-based performance issues into our entire curriculum. To date, we've aligned with many partners from various sectors including higher education, K-12 schools, government, corporates, and nonprofits.

We're proud to have partnered with SDSU's Lavin Entrepreneurship Center and Instructional Technology Services, Loyola University of Maryland, Innovation Middle School, Port of San Diego, Immersive Learning Research Network (iLRN), Girl Scouts San Diego, Association for Talent Development (ATD), Qualcomm, British Telecom, and IDK Innovation Laboratory.

Visit the DesignLab page to view sample projects.

If your organization is interested in participating in LDTech's DesignLab initiative, please contact Dr. Wang (ldt@sdsu.edu). She will reconcile opportunities and partner interests and then put you in touch with the specific faculty members involved in the selected endeavors.

ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS

These and other entities would provide projects and internships appropriate to the level of the student experience.

Non-Profit or Government

- Port of San Diego
- San Diego Girl Scouts
- Rady Children's Hospital
- Financial Independence Training (FIT)
- Immersive Learning Research Network (iLRN)
- The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Our Partnership with Professional Organizations

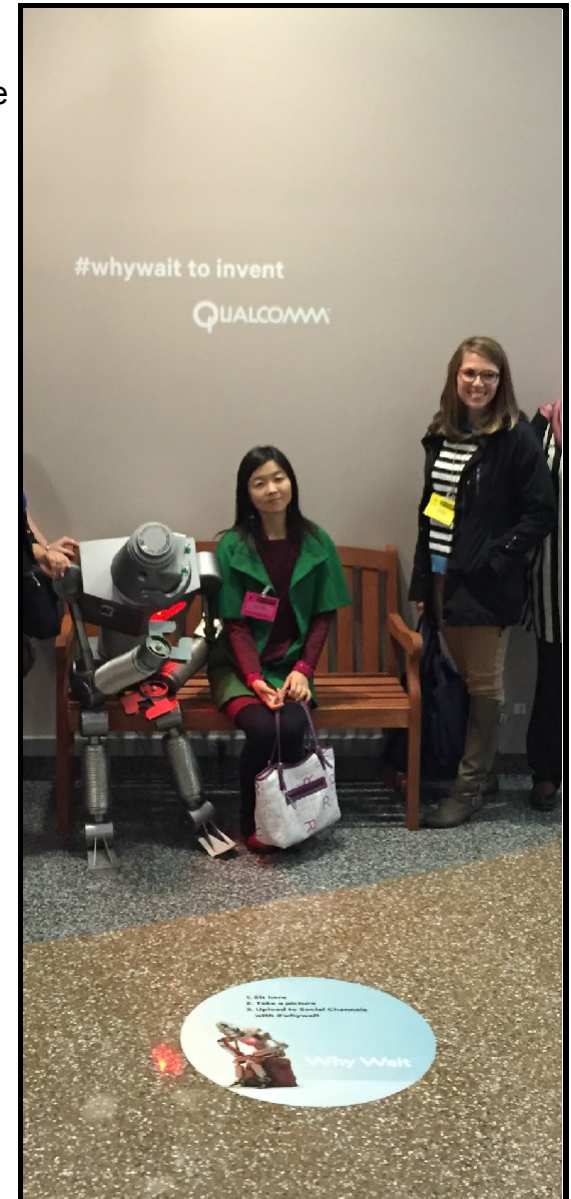
- Association for Talent Development San Diego (ATD-SD)
- San Diego Computer Using Educators
- IEEE Education Society

Higher Ed

- SDSU-ITS, Lavin Entrepreneurship Center, LARC, Department of Geography
- Loyola University of Maryland
- Beijing and Hainan University (China)
- Khalifa University (UAE)

Corporate

- Qualcomm
- General Dynamics (NASSCO)
- Leica BioSystems
- The Boston Consulting Group
- IDK Innovation Laboratory
- Marriott
- British Telecom (BT)





The DesignLab Structure

Major Projects

- Faculty focuses on projects from the limited number of Design Lab partners, allowing a deeper understanding of the work and organization
- Work unfolds over a 5-6 month time frame (either within one semester or across two semesters)
- Students devote 80-110 hours to the project
- Partners meet regularly with the student team to provide access to resources and feedback on progress
- Faculty advise students using their enhanced understanding of partner organizations

Small Immersions

- Partner provides "fodder" for particular tasks students complete
- Examples include cases, scenarios, 1-2 week mini-projects or activities
- May involve a commitment to provide feedback on a final product or deliverable

Mentorship/coaching

- Conducted via web conferencing online tool
- Happens occasionally, perhaps once or twice a semester (~30 to 45 minutes each time)

Class Presentation or Facilitation

- Conducted in a virtual classroom
- Partners make occasional contributions, perhaps once or twice a semester (~30 minutes each time)