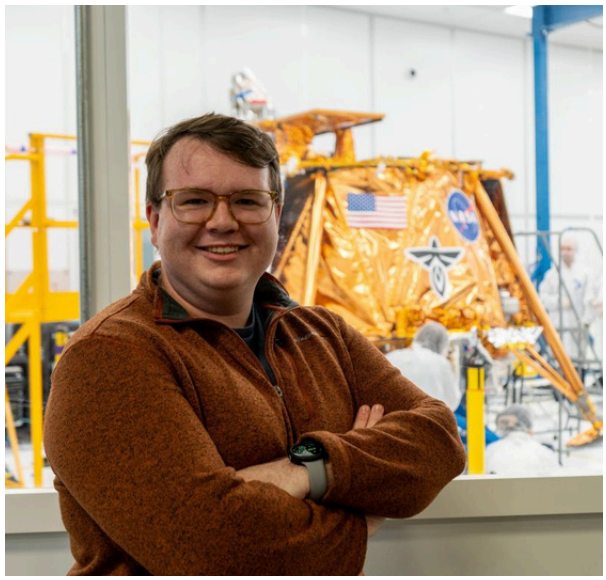
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
BATTELLE CENTER FOR SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND PUBLIC POLICY

Battelle Center for Science, Engineering and Public Policy

2025
ANNUAL REPORT



REACHED

$4,200,000

Secured Revenue

37

Active Research & Innovation Projects

30

Strategic Collaborative Partnerships

241

Students Directly Engaged

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Driving Innovation at the Intersection of STEM and Public Policy

The 2025 Annual Report reflects a year of significant progress for the Ohio State Battelle Center. Building on last year's momentum, the Center expanded its role as a platform for applied collaboration and workforce preparation, helping move technical expertise into **real-world decision-making contexts**. This year's growth in strategic partnerships and sponsored projects demonstrates how the Center operationalizes science and engineering to inform policy and practice across sectors. Through **experiential learning**, **community engagement**, and leadership in **public interest technology**, the Battelle Center continues to deliver solutions that strengthen institutions, inform policy, and advance the public good.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

Experiential Learning

This year marked the first time Metro High School students participated alongside OSU students in Battelle Center coursework through the **Science, Engineering and Technology for Policy and the Public Interest course**. students, representing a broad range of disciplines spanning STEM, policy, and the humanities, also engaged in **U.S. Space Policy** and the **Global Space Economy** and **Rapid Innovation for Public Impact**, applying interdisciplinary approaches to real-world public-interest challenges.

Strategic Partnerships

Collaborations with government, academic institutions, industry, and nonprofit organizations drove applied research and informed policy solutions, including leadership in the **Geomatics Emerging Scientist Consortium,** and NSF's **Safeguarding the Entire Community of the U.S. Research Ecosystem (SECURE)** projects.

Public Interest Technology Leadership

As Ohio State University's representative in the **PIT University Network**, we expanded initiatives that prepare students for careers at the intersection of technology and public service including a boutique-style career summit and leading the **Midwest Regional Hub**.

Community Engagement

Through **Community Conversations**, **professional workshops**, and national and international conference participation, we fostered dialogue and built networks that amplify our impact.

Strengthening STEM Pathways

We open doors for students from **every background** to pursue STEM careers through experiential learning, mentorship, and **mission-driven partnerships.**

Global and National S&T Policy Leadership

The Center's leadership shaped critical science and technology policy discourse on the world stage through expert contributions to prominent convenings, including featured panel roles on investment and regulation, expert presentations on **conservation policy**, and **fostering dialogue on ethical emerging technology**.

Driving Innovation for the Public Good

The Center remains focused on advancing talent, technology, and teams to drive public-interest innovation while the **preparing the next generation of leaders**. Our work ensures that innovation serves the public interest, advancing knowledge, shaping policy, and creating solutions that benefit society.

Message from the Director

2025 has been a landmark period of growth for the Ohio State Battelle Center, reinforcing our dedication to the university's land-grant mission and the Glenn College vision of "Education for Citizenship". By connecting scientific research with public policy, we prepare leaders to tackle complex challenges and deliver human-centered solutions. This year, our impact expanded globally through leadership at CCUS Latin America 2025 and the 11th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, while locally advancing Public Interest Technology (PIT) career initiatives. Looking ahead to 2026, we remain committed to modeling the "Glenn Way" by scaling our applied research partnerships, integrating meta-skills into our experiential learning, and ensuring the Center serves as a national hub for innovation and strategic decision-making.

Daniel Kelley, PhD

Director of the Battelle Center

Center’s Strategies: Roadmap for 2026

Applied Research: Scale impact by growing externally funded collaborations across government and industry sectors

Operational Excellence: Streamline business processes and research support to enhance faculty and staff performance

Curricular Innovation: Differentiate experiential learning while formally tracking alumni career success in Public Interest Technology

National Reputation: Elevate scholarly influence through collaboration with top-ranked policy schools and professional platforms

Workforce Development: Use SCOPE programming to provide essential meta-skills and direct networking with key employers

A Hub for Innovation and Impact

Founded in 2006 through a generous endowment from Battelle Memorial Institute, the Ohio State Battelle Center is a vital component of the **John Glenn College of Public Affairs**. Positioned at the intersection of science, engineering, and public affairs, the Center occupies a distinctive space within the university as a **hub for innovation and impact**. Serving as a **front door to the university** for community and public-sector partners, we connect decision-makers with researchers to **inform real-world action**. Through these connections, the Center **helps society anticipate complex challenges** and address the wicked problems that emerge where STEM and public policy converge.

Our Mission and Visions

Our Mission is to develop the talent, technologies, and multidisciplinary teams necessary to support innovation and strategic decision-making for the public interest.

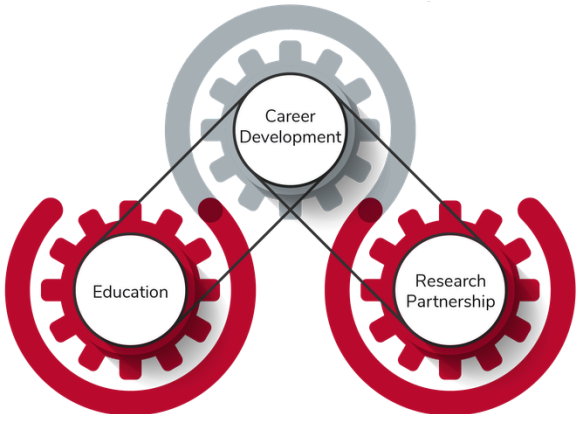
Our Vision: We are dedicated to the university's land-grant mission of "Education for Citizenship," preparing professional leaders who can deliver human-centered solutions that uphold democratic values like self-determination and equal opportunity.

Core Values

Service: Leading through listening to our students, employers, and the communities we impact.

Collaboration: Building authentic, trans-disciplinary partnerships to empower a diverse community of learners.

Innovation: Translating highly technical information for decision-makers and anticipating the unintended consequences of emerging technologies.



"Think of the Battelle Center as a universal translator in a high-tech laboratory. While the scientists speak the language of discovery and the policymakers speak the language of social impact, the Center ensures nothing is lost in translation, allowing both groups to work from the same blueprint to build a better future for the public." – **Michael Pires**

THE TEAM DRIVING IMPACT

Core Staff and Project Personnel

Daniel Kelley
Director

Lisa Frazier
Assistant Director of Research

Michael Pires
Business Operations Manager

Ethan Rivera
Senior Student Programming Lead

Maddie Firth
Marketing and Communications Specialist

Jessica Valsi
Education Program Senior Specialist

Erin Sainato
Reporting and Analytics Senior Analyst

Brooke Felts
Consortium Director

Shu-Wen Tsai
Senior Grants & Contracts Specialist

Shahwar Ali
Project Manager

Lauren Doocy
Post Doctoral Scholar

Caroline S. Wagner
Academy Professor, Faculty Emerita

Highlighting Winners of the 2024 Professional Excellence Award

The John Glenn Professional Excellence Award recognizes significant contributions to the advancement of the Glenn College mission, vision and goals. The Battelle Center is proud to congratulate our own **Michael Pires, Lisa Frazier, Shu-Wen Tsai** on receiving this honor.

THE TEAM DRIVING IMPACT

Course Instructors

Rich Granger
Managing Director, Workforce and Economic Development of Drive Ohio

John M. Horack, Ph.D
Professor, Vice President for Research, Neil Armstrong Chair in Aerospace Policy

Dr. Gala Korniyenko
Director of Research and Development at the National Youth Advocate Program

Tricia L. Petras, PhD, PE
President
Andover Associates, Ltd.

Student Workers

Vidhi Bakshi
Undergraduate Student Research Assistant majoring in Computer Science & Engineering

Aylin Kirbas
Student Assistant majoring in Geographic Information Sciences & Electrical and Computer Engineering

Colin Sears
Student Assistant majoring in Information Systems

Rohan Aleti
Student Assistant majoring in Computer Science & Engineering

Tavish Perera
Student Assistant majoring in Political Science

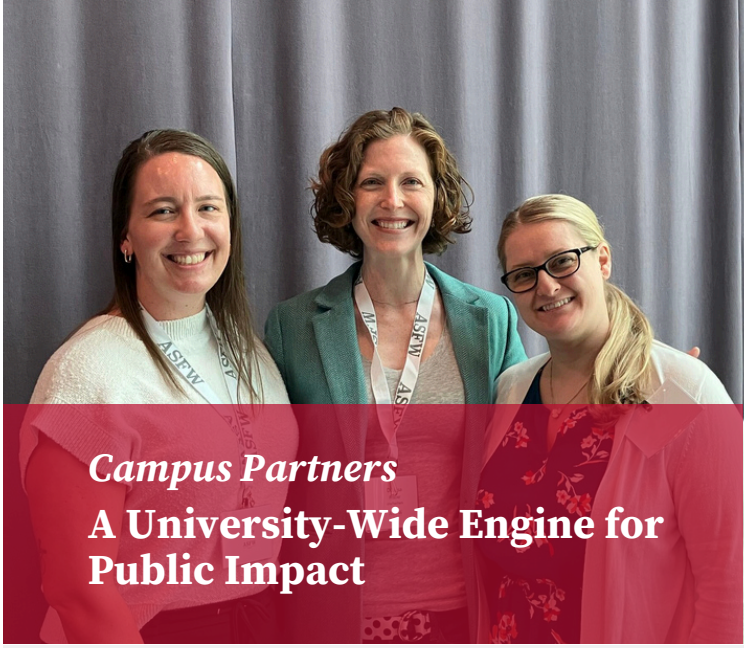
DRIVING INNOVATION AND IMPACT TOGETHER

Community Partners

Tackling Complex Challenges Through Collaborative Innovation

The impact of the Battelle Center is amplified through a robust network of industry, government, and non-profit partners who commission applied research to solve society's most cross-sector problems problems. In 2025, our community reach expanded globally through leadership at **CCUS Latin America 2025** in Colombia and locally through high-impact engagements at the **COSI Big Science Festival** and **Ohio GovTech Summit**. These collaborations with partners such as **Battelle, Engie, Ohio Family of Jobs and Services, and Ohio Department of Transportation** provide the practical insights and real-world challenges that define our experiential learning and research initiatives.

By participating in SCOPE programming and exclusive Meet and Greet and Community Conversation events, partners like **Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, Invenergy, and Ohio Life Sciences** gain direct access to a diverse pipeline of interdisciplinary talent prepared for careers in public interest technology. As we look toward 2026, the Center is dedicated to scaling community-engaged research and growing our portfolio of externally funded projects to ensure scientific innovation translates into meaningful public good.



Campus Partners

A University-Wide Engine for Public Impact

The Battelle Center serves as a catalyst for interdisciplinary collaboration across Ohio State, uniting partners to translate technical innovation into meaningful public impact. Through our affiliate network, faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and advanced students leverage the Center's SCOPE infrastructure to strengthen research proposals and meet the "broader impacts" expectations of major funders such as the NSF.

In 2025, we deepened partnerships with the College of Engineering through **GEO-ESCON geomatics** and **AFRL consortiums**, and with the **College of Arts and Sciences** through the PITCREWS initiative and NSF's Wicked Scientists project. We also expanded our engagement with university leadership communities by participating in the **Ballam Symposium**, hosted by **The Women's Place**, contributing to discussions on equity and collaborative research.

Our commitment to addressing wicked problems continues through the Rapid Innovation for Public Impact course, where students tackle complex challenges for government and industry sponsors. Beyond education, our research and workforce initiatives span efforts such as the NIH-funded HEALing Communities Study with the **Ohio State Wexner Medical Center** and the Nuclear Landscape Analysis project in partnership with **OSU's Military & Veterans Services—**advancing solutions that serve the public good.

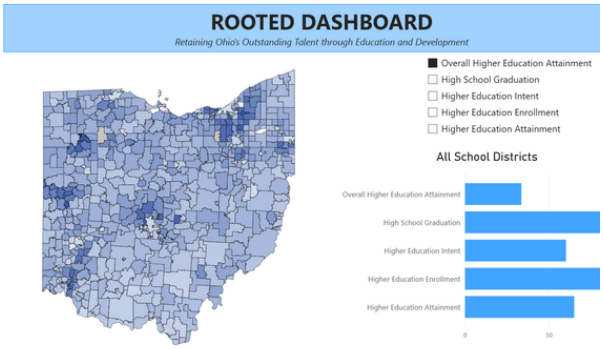
"The Battelle Center serves as a critical connector in Ohio's science and technology ecosystem, linking life sciences innovation, policy leadership, and workforce development. They're creating pathways that prepare students and emerging leaders to address the complex challenges shaping the future of our industry" – **Angie McMurry, Director of Industry Engagement and Workforce at Ohio Life Sciences**

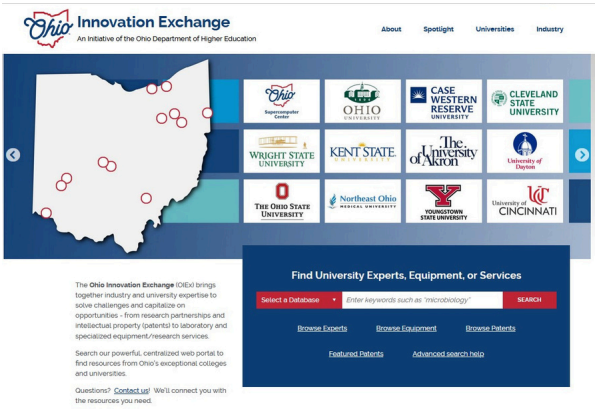
United for Impact: Strategic Projects in Partnership

Our commitment to developing the talent, teams, and technologies necessary for strategic decision-making is rooted in an increasingly diverse network of **30 collaborative partners** across five distinct sectors. This year, our project portfolio was powered by a high-impact mix of project partners across many sectors. This multi-sectoral reach aligns directly with our vision of being a **hub for interdisciplinary collaboration**, where we listen to the needs of employers and communities to solve high-stakes technical and policy challenges. By fostering these authentic, meaningful partnerships across the public and private spheres, we ensure that technical innovation remains firmly grounded in our core values of service and **innovation for the public interest**.

Microsoft ROOTED

In partnership with **Microsoft's University Relations Team**, the Center advanced Ohio's education to workforce pipeline through the development of the **ROOTED Dashboard**—Retaining Ohio's Outstanding Talent through Education and Development. This **interactive, map-based tool** turns fragmented **district-level data** into clear insights that reveal where students thrive and where barriers persist. By highlighting disparities in educational progression and workforce readiness, the dashboard helps educators and policymakers identify where **targeted investments** will have the greatest impact. This work strengthens **data-driven decision-making**, expands opportunity, and supports Ohio's diverse **technology workforce.**





Ohio Innovation Exchange

The Battelle Center began leading a strategic effort to enhance the **Ohio Innovation Exchange (OIEx)**, an **Ohio Department of Higher Education** platform that connects industry to university research talent in 2025. In partnership with the **Ohio University**, the Center is synthesizing insights from state leaders to develop a **sustainability roadmap** and a formal investment pitch. This collaboration leverages a Rapid Innovation for Public Impact student team to establish a framework for tracking the platform's long-term value as a public good.

Nuclear Landscape Analysis

Funded by the **Stanton Foundation**, the Nuclear Workforce for the 21st Century initiative is building the "master blueprint" for nuclear security leadership. In collaboration with **Military Veterans Services** and **Battelle Memorial**, we are conducting a national landscape analysis to design a multi-disciplinary program at Ohio State that serves both traditional students and **military-connected practitioners**. This work will culminate in a national symposium in 2026.

SPE/ARMA Workshop: Subsurface Storage from Characterization to Implementation

In September 2025, Director Daniel Kelley served as a panelist at the inaugural **Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE)** Workshop in Conroe, Texas. The workshop united professionals across geoscience, geomechanics, reservoir, completions, and production engineering to drive collaboration and deliver integrated, **cross-disciplinary solutions for geological storage**. His participation reflects the Center's commitment to bringing scientific expertise into real-world policy and industry conversations, ensuring students and partners benefit from insights at the forefront of technological innovation.

IEEE ETHICS 2025 Conference

Lisa Frazier spent the summer engaging national leaders in ethics, accessibility, and public interest technology. At IEEE ETHICS 2025, she worked with **PIT Midwest** collaborators and joined conversations on ethical emerging tech. She then helped open the **NSF ReDDDot Workshop** in Cleveland, framing PIT as a pathway to more inclusive technology. Her work exemplifies the Center's dedication to shaping a more equitable and responsible tech landscape.

BUCKEYES ABROAD

Director Daniel Kelley has served for six years as a reviewer for the **UNESCO Global Geoparks** program through the IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage, contributing his expertise to the evaluation of Geopark applications worldwide. In September 2025, he presented **"The Galapagos Islands: A Case Study of Sustainable Tourism in a Protected Area"** at the 11th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Chile, sharing insights on conservation policy and sustainable tourism practices to support aspiring Geoparks. The conference, which brought together more than **700 participants** from **50 countries**, also offered opportunities for Kelley to engage directly with global Geopark leaders whose applications he had previously reviewed and to participate in a guided visit to the Kutralküra UNESCO Global Geopark.

unesco
Global Geopark

11th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2025

CCUS Latin America 2025

In June 2025, the Battelle Center strengthened its global presence at CCUS Latin America 2025 in **Cartagena, Colombia**, collaborating with founding partner Battelle and international experts to advance science-informed policy on **carbon capture and sustainable energy**. Director Daniel Kelley served as a featured panelist on **Investment, Public policy, and Regulation,** sharing insights on aligning technical innovation with regulatory frameworks and Michael Pires represented the organization by staffing an informational booth. The Center advanced its mission by visibly engaging decision-makers with actionable technical expertise.

PITCREWS

On February 27, 2025, the Center hosted the 2025 Public Interest Technology Career Recruiting, Employment, and Workforce Summit (PITCREWS) at Page Hall to connect technical research with public-service career pathways. As the **university's designee** to the Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN), the Center used this summit to address regional demand for specialized talent and strengthen a diverse PIT workforce pipeline. Its personalized, smaller-scale format **fostered deeper conversations** and **stronger organizational visibility** than a traditional career fair. The event also featured a Battelle Memorial hosted Pre-PITCREWS Workshop and an employer panel on mission-driven work, with **50% of participants** reporting they were significantly more **likely to pursue PIT roles** afterward.

101 **Students Attended**
10 **Employers**

A Battelle Center Podcast Series

The SPARK

We launched **The Spark**, a new podcast series from the Battelle Center that explores how science, technology, and research create positive public impact. Our first two episodes feature conversations with innovators driving change: **Raymar Hampshire**, founder of **Braid**, shares how his open-source platform fosters global dialogue on technology and society, emphasizing empathy and creativity in innovation.

In the second episode, **Jeff Lumpkin**, founder of **Veritas Maps**, discusses how data visualization empowers evidence-based decision-making and the role of curiosity and resilience in building solutions for the public good. Through the Spark, we aim to inspire listeners with stories of purpose-driven innovation and the paths that lead to meaningful work.

Episode 1: Raymar Hampshire
Episode 2: Jeff Lumpkin

COSI Big Science Day

On May 5, 2025 the Battelle Center participated in the COSI Science Festival, engaging families in hands-on STEAM activities despite the rainy weather. Our interactive booth encouraged kids to think creatively about designing inclusive devices, reinforcing the role of innovation in serving the public interest. Participants took home **Scout's Innovation Guide** and other resources to keep the creativity going, showcasing our commitment to inspiring the next generation of problem-solvers.

Metro Ribbon Cutting

On May 28, 2025, the Battelle Center joined partners for the ribbon cutting of Metro at Indianola, a revitalized STEM campus featuring 40 flexible classrooms, a community health clinic, and space for **over 1,000 students**. Remarks from **Metro Superintendent Meka Pace, Battelle President & CEO Lou Von Thaer,** and **Ohio State President Walter "Ted" Carter** underscored the school's impact on student opportunity and the region's STEM talent pipeline.

Science, Engineering and Technology for Policy and the Public Interest

Technology is woven into every aspect of modern life, shaping how we communicate, govern, and solve complex social challenges. While science, engineering, and technology have enabled unprecedented innovation, they have also accelerated misinformation, deepened inequities, and intensified climate and democratic risks.

In **PUBAFRS 2620**, students explore contemporary science, engineering, and technology (SET) policy through the lens of citizenship and social welfare. The course equips students to analyze complex problems and develop evidence-based, values-driven approaches to innovation in the public interest.

Outcomes & Impact

Future leaders need more than technical skills in STEM and public policy. They'll also need the **professional skills** necessary to navigate different organizational and community contexts in a way that fosters trust and supports their personal goals.

Students therefore **collaborate on a semester-long applied project** that integrates content, context, and concrete skills relevant to research and practice of science and technology for the public interest. They leave the course with a **portfolio of S&T policy products** created for different audiences, as well as tailored **professional materials** to support their career and educational development.

The Battelle Center has thoughtfully chosen course instructors to support the course's objectives. Drs. Lisa Frazier, Tricia Petras and Gala Korniyenko each have **expertise in STEM, public policy and the use of design thinking to drive innovation**.

Reflections from the Classroom

In the last year, student demand for this course has continued to rise. The Battelle Center is proud that, to meet that demand, we were able to go from offering one section per academic year to three — 2 in the fall and one in the spring — to reach more students from across STEM, social science, and humanities departments who want to learn how to grapple with the complex implications of science and technology on our communities, democracy, and society writ large. This includes more than a dozen **Design Pathway students from Metro High School** who brought their considerable project-based learning experience into the classroom with their Ohio State undergraduate peers.

We look forward to continuing to grow our footprint on Ohio State's general education curriculum and deepen our relationship with Metro's Design students through this course, which is so relevant to this social, political, and educational moment. **- Lisa Frazier**

Student Perspectives

> "This class is a fantastic skill-builder. It improves collaboration, leadership, research, writing, and presentation skills without the pressure of high-stakes assignments."

> "You're learning ideas and processes you'll use throughout your life and career — not just information for one class."

> "As a non-STEM major, I wasn't sure what to expect, but this course taught me skills I will use every day."

US Space Policy and the Global Space Economy

PUBAFRS 3620 provides students with a deep understanding of the **political, economic, and societal roles of spaceflight** in the United States and its interactions with the **global space economy**. The course blends foundational technical context with policy and economic analysis, examining how government, commercial actors, and international partners shape space activities.

Through readings, discussions, and applied research, students explore space policy as a driver of **national security, economic development, technological innovation,** and **global cooperation**, while grappling with the complex tradeoffs that define modern spaceflight.

Key Learning Objectives

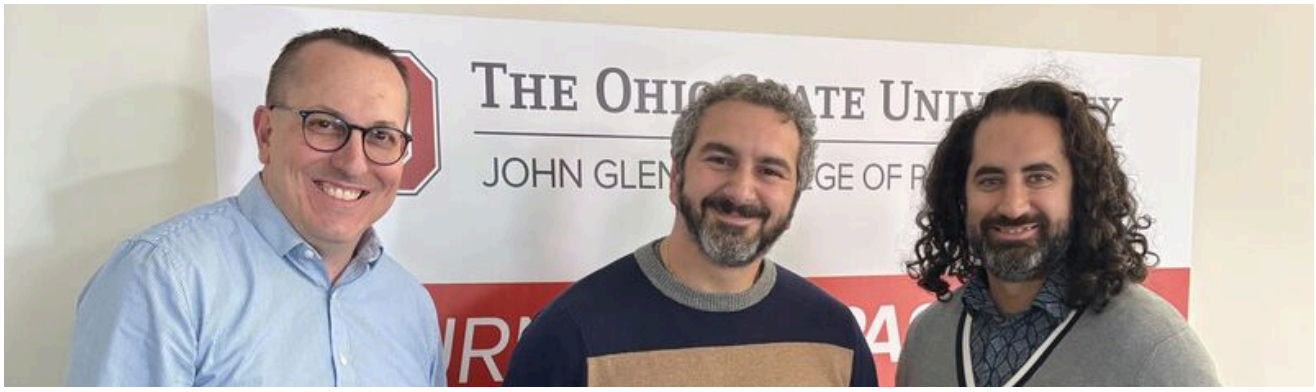
- **Analyze** the motivations and behaviors of U.S. and global spaceflight actors across government, commercial, and international contexts
- **Evaluate** political, economic, and organizational factors shaping space policy decisions
- **Conduct** independent policy research and stakeholder analysis related to spaceflight activities
- **Develop** and communicate a compelling, evidence-based space policy action brief

Reflections from the Classroom

PUBAFF 3620 is unique class, designed to enable technical and non-technical students alike to explore, learn, and produce work products related to US space policy, global cooperation in space, and key aspects of the intersection of spaceflight and the economy. The course is structured to facilitate not only learning, but also hands-on space policy development and advocacy, much in the way that engineering or other professional colleges emphasize practice as well as theory. **- John Horack**

2025 Classroom Guests

- **Stacy Rastauskas**
  Vice President for Government Affairs, The Ohio State University
- **Jim Free**
  Former NASA Associate Administrator; Center Director, NASA Glenn
- **Matt Desch**
  CEO, Iridium Communications
- **Meredith Garofalo**
  Science Journalist and Space Science Correspondent
- **Kim Wells**
  U.S. International Trade Administration
- **Jeffrey Manber**
  President, International & Space Stations, Voyager Technologies
- **Lindsey Holmes**
  Vice President, Advanced Projects, AMA
- **Stacey DeFore**
  Strategic Business Development & Stakeholder Engagement, Lockheed Martin
- **James Kenyon**
  Director, NASA Glenn Research Center
- **Keiichi Wada**
  Director, JAXA Washington, D.C. Office



Rapid Innovation for Public Impact

PPUBAFRS 5620 gives students a high-impact, real-world learning experience that pushes them to apply their disciplinary expertise in a **multidisciplinary, people-centered environment**. Students work on interdisciplinary teams partnered with external sponsors from government, industry, or nonprofits to address complex, **real-world challenges**.

Throughout the semester, teams engage directly with stakeholders and subject-matter experts to understand the problem space, navigate ambiguity, and identify meaningful opportunities for impact. Rather than working toward a predetermined solution, students iteratively develop and refine a **minimum viable solution** grounded in human needs, organizational realities, and continuous feedback, culminating in a final presentation to project sponsors.

Challenges and Sponsors

- **Entrepreneurship in Columbus**
  Steelton Rising
- **Recruiting and Retaining the New Workforce**
  Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory
- **Health Access on Campus and Power of AI**
  Smart Columbus
- **Connected Vehicles in Ohio**
  DriveOhio
- **Carbon Valuation on Campus**
  Engie
- **EV Charging Ownership**
  Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council
- **SNAP Benefits for Seniors**
  Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- **Connecting Industry and Academia**
  Ohio Innovation Exchange

Reflections from the Classroom

By giving students ownership of complex challenges with no single "right answer," the course encourages experimentation, iteration, and learning through failure. Students learn to engage stakeholders, reconcile different perspectives, and develop solutions that are both innovative and grounded in human needs.

This experience gives students a meaningful advantage as they prepare to lead and collaborate in their future careers. **- Rich Granger**

Student Challenge Spotlight

Erin Eckman, Kendhyl Wilder, and Sulekh Mitra visited the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory as the fall APL Student Team for their Rapid Innovation for Public Impact project, joined by sponsor **Scott Mason, Chief Scientist for the Strategic Deterrence Mission Area**. The team is addressing onboarding and workforce retention challenges within a medium-sized engineering organization in the U.S. nuclear enterprise.

The visit gave the team firsthand insight into APL's culture, mission, and operations. Erin said the experience **"brought our project to life**," while Sulekh shared that meeting with researchers "**solidified my appreciation for the global impact of the scientific progress made in the lab**," adding that "innovation, to be truly meaningful, **must serve the common good."**

Wicked Scientists at Work

Our 2025 Impact Report celebrates the remarkable achievements of our students and alumni who are translating their technical expertise into leadership roles within the public interest.

Student Spotlight

Sarina Mathis

Sarina Mathis, a senior in Electrical and Computer Engineering, represents the "unconventional thinkers" at the Center dedicated to solving complex wicked problems at the intersection of technology and public policy. Beyond her classroom knowledge, Sarina serves as a student assistant at the Institute of Behavioral Medicine Research, supporting DNA isolation and PCR experiments to deepen her understanding of complex systems. Through the Center, Sarina found the mentorship and collaboration that led to her summer internship as an IT Support Intern at Battelle.

Sarina also participated in the Honda Launchpad program, where hands-on networking and facility tours —including a visit to the Honda Museum—galvanized her passion for her field. She aims to contribute to advanced technologies in transportation, national defense, and space exploration, specifically within embedded systems and electronics, to create a real impact on safety and innovation.

Alumni Spotlight

Abby Geesling

Abby Geesling graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.A. in Public Policy (’24) and a Master of Public Administration (’25) from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. During her time at OSU, she was involved in Greek life and WAIP communities and worked with the Glenn College’s Finance and HR team. Drawn to interdisciplinary work, Abby has consistently sought opportunities that bridge people, processes, and policy.

In 2024, Abby became involved with the Battelle Center through STEM and policy events and later participated in the Rapid Innovation course. Her team evaluated high-performance computing use at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), an experience that reshaped her career trajectory and sparked a deep interest in the intersection of technology and national security. Following the course, Abby joined APL as a Knowledge/Information and Operations Analyst, where she continues to build technical expertise while applying her policy background to complex, systems-driven challenges.

Bridging Potential and Practice

SCOPE brings students from every discipline together to network, learn, and grow under the guidance of community experts. We provide a dedicated home for "unconventional thinkers" to master the intersection of technology and policy through three core pillars: Community Conversations on global industry trends, exclusive Meet and Greets with elite employers, and Professional Development Workshops that build essential, career-ready “meta-skills.”

- **7 Community Conversation Events**
- **4 Exclusive Employer Meet and Greets**
- **4 Professional Trainings**

2025 ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Professional Development: Mastering the Interview

On February 5, 2025, the Center hosted a high-impact professional training session led by Sarah Shumick, University Relations Lead at Battelle. Designed as a **strategic "bootcamp"** for the upcoming PITCREWS summit, this workshop provided students with actionable insights into recruitment strategies, **resume optimization**, and networking techniques. By teaching students how to effectively **"ace the interview"** and pitch their technical skills to public interest employers, the Center ensures our graduates enter the workforce with a competitive edge in marketability and professional confidence.

Meet and Greet: Ohio Life Sciences

As part of our expanding focus on health innovations, this session connected motivated students with leaders from the **Ohio life sciences sector**. Unlike traditional career fairs, our Meet and Greets utilize a small-scale format to facilitate meaningful, **direct conversations** between students and technical experts. This event highlighted the diverse pathways available in **biotechnology** and **healthcare**, reinforcing the Center's mission to channel top-tier talent into industries that improve and save lives.

Battelle Center Energy Networking Night

In partnership with The **Ohio State University Sustainability Institute**, the event linked students with energy professionals from **ENGIE, Go Sustainable Energy, Leeward Renewable Energy,** and **IGS Energy** to explore career pathways and key skills, strengthening workforce development and industry–academic collaboration.

“More than anything else, SCOPE is about exploring the world from perspectives that might not be found in the classroom alone. SCOPE is a chance for students to better understand how interconnected our world is, see how they can utilize their degree and skills in ways they may not have considered before, and grow their networks to ignite their passion and find the impact they can make on the world.” – **Ethan Rivera**

2026 VISION: Legacy, Leadership, and the Landscape Ahead

As the Battelle Center moves into 2026, our focus shifts from building momentum to scaling institutional impact—expanding how technical expertise is embedded into leadership, policy development, and organizational decision-making across sectors.

LEGACY

20-Year Legacy

From its earliest conception, the Battelle Center was designed to bring scientific and technical capacity into direct alignment with **public leadership**—ensuring that research and innovation are positioned to shape national priorities and long-term outcomes. The Center's earliest years were shaped by a remarkable founding director, **Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan**—an astronaut, scientist, and nationally respected voice in science and education policy.

As the decades unfolded, successive leaders carried this torch forward, expanding the Center's reach and cultivating the programs, partnerships, and student-centered initiatives that define its impact today. Their stewardship cemented the Center's reputation as a **catalyst for interdisciplinary collaboration**—an institution that does not simply observe the intersection of STEM and policy, but actively shapes it.

Today, the Battelle Center builds on this legacy by expanding its role as a platform for applied leadership—where scientific and technical expertise is not only developed, but actively integrated into policy design, institutional strategy, and public-sector problem-solving. In every generation of students who pass through its doors, the Center renews its **founding promise**: to prepare leaders who will influence policy decisions that shape science and engineering, ensuring that innovation ultimately serves the public good.

LEADERSHIP

The INSPIRES Project

INSPIRES (INspiring Students to Pursue Innovation and inquiry Relevant to Earth and Space) is a collaborative initiative between the Battelle Center and M**etro STEM Schools**. Building on our original mission to strengthen the nation's STEM pipeline and support the country's global competitiveness through innovative educational pathways, INSPIRES embodies the same forward-looking spirit that defined the Center at its creation.

- **Mission and Reach:** The project aims to reach over 1,000 students from kindergarten through college, focusing on building a pipeline of skilled space industry leaders.
- **Experiential Learning:** Students engage in project-based modules that leverage International Space Station (ISS) and space-based research. For example, high school students tackle design challenges in physics and biology, while first-year engineering students at Ohio State participate in LEO-based design practicums.
- **Expert Connections:** A key feature is the integration with the Starlab ExpertLink network, which connects students with more than 40 space industry professionals for regular mentorship and project feedback.

LANDSCAPE AHEAD

Veterans Needs Assessment

This project, conducted for the **Ohio Department of Veterans Services** (ODVS), is an empirical, statewide effort to understand the needs of Ohio's nearly **700,000 veterans**.

- **Strategic Purpose:** The assessment is timed to provide the governor-elect in late 2026 with a robust evidence base to make Ohio a national leader in veteran support.
- **Areas of Focus:** It addresses critical gaps in healthcare, education, workforce transition, and housing.
- **Narrative Shift:** Beyond data collection, the project seeks to rebuild the narrative around the "veteran brand," moving from seeing veterans as individuals with problems to be solved to viewing them as skilled leaders ready to contribute to Ohio's workforce.

> " As we look to the future, our team will continue to carry out the legacy of Senator John Glenn and his original intent for the Battelle Center to be a hub of innovation and service. We are committed to scaling applied research, partnerships, and education for public impact, supporting this generation of public leaders and preparing the next to design policies, technologies, and structures that serve the public good. " - **Lisa Frazier**

Acknowledgements

The Battelle Center for Science, Engineering and Public Policy extends its deepest gratitude to the partners, sponsors, and students whose vision and commitment drive our mission to solve society's most complex challenges in the public interest.

Battelle Memorial Institute: A Legacy of Innovation

We celebrate nearly two decades of steadfast partnership with Battelle Memorial Institute, whose foundational gift established this Center in 2006. We are profoundly grateful for their ongoing gift funding, which serves as the bedrock for our most ambitious initiatives. This includes the **INSPIRES project**, which leverages low-Earth orbit research to inspire a new generation of STEM leaders.

Furthermore, Battelle's support for the **Student Communities of Practice and Engagement (SCOPE)** program provides the vital infrastructure for interdisciplinary networking and professional development. We also thank Battelle for their deep collaboration on mission-driven initiatives, ranging from advancing regulatory solutions at CCUS Latin America 2025 in Colombia to our shared efforts with **Metro STEM Schools** to build a robust aerospace talent pipeline.

PITCREWS Summit: Bridging the Gap

We extend a special acknowledgment to the sponsors of the 2025 Public Interest Technology Career Recruiting, Employment, and Workforce Summit (PITCREWS). Their support allowed us to connect **over a 100 students** with **mission-driven career opportunities** in a personalized, high-impact format.

Premier Innovators in Public Interest Technology

We thank **Battelle Memorial** for their premier sponsorship and for hosting the Pre-PITCREWS Workshop, which equipped students with essential strategies for navigating career events and interviews as well as **Invenergy** and the **Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory** for their sponsorship and panel discussions.

Visionaries for the Public Good

We acknowledge the strategic support of **Intel Corporation and Dominion Energy**. These organizations provided students with direct access to elite technical careers in space, energy, and digital technology.

Technology for Good Partners

Our gratitude goes to the **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the Ohio Department of Medicaid, the Columbus City Auditor's Office, and the Ohio Department of Transportation & DriveOhio**. Their participation highlighted critical pathways for technologists to serve within state and local governance.

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs

As our institutional home, the John Glenn College provides the multidisciplinary academic environment where our work thrives. We are grateful for the college's deep institutional support, which has helped refine our mission to focus on experiential learning and the integration of diversity, equity, and inclusion into our leadership training.

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