



Rhode Island's Knowledge Economy

Welcome to Providence's Knowledge District

Home to 35,000-plus students, seven great colleges and universities and leading hospitals and research centers, Providence is drawing America's best and brightest entrepreneurs to forge the frontiers of science, medicine and commerce.



New England's 2nd largest city. Providence is situated on the busy Boston-Washington corridor, with ready access to multi-billion dollar markets and all major forms of transportation – rail, air, interstate and port. We're also home to 40-percent more knowledge workers than the national average, enjoy the 4th highest per capita NIH funding, and have a reputation as one of America's most livable cities.

Formerly the world capital of jewelry manufacturing, this district has transformed itself to a center of design and innovation excellence. It is the locus of groundbreaking research, bioengineering, life sciences, health care and green technology.

Witness Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School, Lifespan and Care New England, the Tech Collective, and the RI Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. We're also home to Isis Biopolymer, EpiVax, NABSys, Kilguss Research Institute, Brown Laboratories for Molecular Medicine, COBRE for Cancer Signaling Institutes, the Slater Technology Fund and Coro Center of Lifespan.

Steps away in our central downtown core are IBM at Brown University's Center for Computation and Visualization, RI School of Design, Brown University and its Brain Science Institute, URI's Institute of Immunology and Informatics, Kennedy Plaza, a thriving creative economy and bustling government and financial district.

It is in this area that we're also launching an award-winning, multi-million dollar mass transit initiative that will make transportation easy, convenient and business-friendly.

Come to Providence's Knowledge District - this is the place to be!



“As Rhode Island continues to drive forward its high-tech, high-wage initiatives, Providence is quickly becoming the mecca of the state’s Knowledge Economy, aptly recognized as the Knowledge District. Dozens of technology leaders – ranging from research and development to clinical trial to manufacturing; from start up to industry renowned and established bioscience and biomedical device companies – have come to call Providence home. And, with state-of-the-art hospital and university facilities, the location, the infrastructure, the low cost of living, the talent, the education, and the future of bioscience are all right here in Providence. We know, because we’re right in the middle of it.”

Kathie Shields, executive director, Tech Collective- R.I.’s Bioscience Industry Association

“As CEO of a rapidly-growing biotech company in the Knowledge District, I am an avid proponent of the Knowledge District as the future hub of biotechnology research and development in Rhode Island. I believe that Providence and the State of Rhode Island are poised to become leaders within the national biotech landscape, and the co-location of so many important key players in one area of the city is critical to the realization of this goal.”

Annie DeGroot, director, Institute for Immunology and Informatics, University of Rhode Island (I’Cubed); and founder, CEO & president, EpiVax, Inc.

