



DALLAS INNOVATES

THE RESILIENCE ISSUE

2021 EDITION
DALLASINNOVATES.COM



*From entrepreneurs to inventors,
meet the people rocketing us to tomorrow.*

COMING OF AGE:
TECH IN DFW

MEET 12
FEMALE FUNDERS

TOP TRENDS
FOR 2021

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THE KICKSTARTER

THE NEW AND THE NEXT IN DALLAS-FORT WORTH.

North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies
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↑ Frank Howard, Co-Founder and CEO of GeneIQ
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THESE ARE NOT NORMAL TIMES.

THAT CALLS FOR RESILIENCE.

THESE STANDOUTS HAVE IT IN SPADES.

↷ Education innovators
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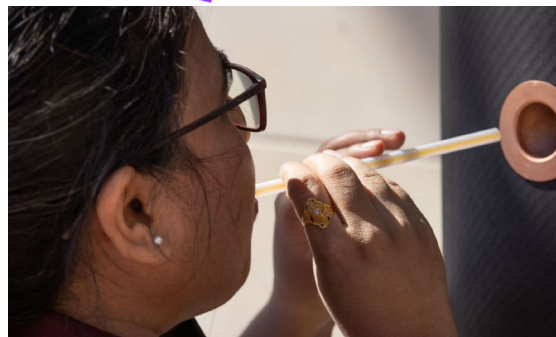
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DISRUPTION BREEDS INNOVATION. NORTH TEXANS ARE A TESTAMENT TO THAT.

In a year far from ordinary, we've witnessed pivots, launches, developments, and big ideas. Our universe of Dallas-Fort Worth trailblazers meet the moment and build the future. Great plans are born from the trenches when we're challenged to be bold, rethink, and do everything in our power to survive—and thrive. ➔

WHAT'S NEXT

NORTH TEXAS
BIO BOOM

Biotechnology is alive—and growing—in DFW. Placing sixth on a list of the top ten emerging life science clusters in the U.S., our region is a destination for the sector. Biotech companies cluster when choosing where to build facilities, invest, and create jobs, even if costs are higher, the Dallas Regional Chamber's Mike Rosa says. We already have stellar success in the space—UT Southwestern Medical Center, for starters, has a funding level of \$470 million annually. Now industry leader BioLabs, a national network of coworking spaces for the most promising early-stage life science companies, is bringing its first central U.S. location to Dallas, where it will provide lab space and wrap-around services to incubate and accelerate biotech. BioLabs landed at Pegasus Park, a future-focused redevelopment unveiled this year by Lyda Hill Philanthropies and J. Small Investments that will enable life science and healthcare discoveries and boost nonprofit resiliency. BioLabs Founder and President Johannes Fruehauf says the Dallas expansion “will foster cross-creativity and collaboration with the region's premier life science and healthcare innovators in North Texas.” —Alex Edwards

PHOTO OF WORKSHIELD: REBECA POSADAS-NAVA; OTHERS COURTESY OF THE COMPANIES

Protecting the ‘Human Element’

Work Shield adapts to the new workplace—home.

Work Shield was born out of a realization that the traditional process for addressing workplace harassment and discrimination was broken. It wasn't working for employees or employers.

The Dallas-based startup creates technology for reporting, investigating, and resolving harassment and discrimination in the workplace. With more people working from home than ever before, it was important to CEO Jared Pope that Work Shield make sure the human voice was still present.

In a world that seems to remove the human element from nearly all transactions, the startup stayed true to its “ethos of protecting employees' voices by ensuring they remain truly heard and listened to,” Pope says.

While the year didn't go as planned, he called it “a blessing in disguise” for the company. With COVID necessitating new solutions, Work Shield was able to create more effective reporting for its clients and increase its client/employer base by more than 250 percent. Soon, Work Shield will be moving its headquarters to a new Dallas location and raising its Series B funding round.

Pope and his team are looking ahead with one vision: “creating safer workplace cultures centered around diversity, inclusion, and equity for all.” —Lauren Hawkins



Work Shield: Jared Pope, CEO, left, and Travis Foster, Chief Legal Officer.

TECH TRENDS

THE DIGITAL
JOURNEY

Each year, Deloitte analyzes how enterprises are accelerating digital change and identifies the trends expected to transform business over the next 18 to 24 months. In a year “rattled by a global pandemic, we've seen organizations embrace technology like never before,” according to Deloitte's Rob Fitzgerald. COVID-19 forced us to become “more adaptable and responsive than we previously thought possible, driving uncomfortable but necessary growth,” says the Dallas-based Technology, Media and Telecommunications partner. Deloitte's 12th annual report says the key forces of change are: continuous strategy engineering, core technology modernization, supply chain advancements, industrialized AI, machine data-focused transformation, zero trust for cybersecurity, digital workplace enhancements, equity tech tools, and personalized virtual interactions. The trends suggest an acceleration of digital transformation makes operations nimbler and more efficient, but also “allow resilient response to fluctuations in demand and customer expectation.” Fitzgerald says. —AE

HEALTHCARE
HERO

Hubert Zajicek, creator of North Texas' Health Hacking Crisis Network, mobilized the community to develop vital solutions.

“It's a rapid reaction force for times of crisis, assembled of people who are able and willing to help tackle any issues that may come up as a result of a national health crisis,” Zajicek says of the Health Hacking Crisis Network (HHCN) he created in 2020. Moving quickly

from idea to execution early in the pandemic, he wanted to connect like-minded people to facilitate innovation and create an exchange of know-how. As a result, HHCN helped fill a vital need in the pandemic: PPE. The network's innovators created cloth masks, face shields, and

even snorkel masks to be converted into personal protective equipment. Some 30,000 cloth masks have been delivered so far. Zajicek, recently honored for positively affecting the quality of life by raising life science research awareness and impacting innovation

by Bio North Texas, also has continued to support entrepreneurs through Health Wildcatters. The Dallas seed-stage healthcare fund and accelerator has invested in over 70 healthcare startups, which have attracted over \$100 million in capital. —LH

