

2025



DING

MIDWEST

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

We will find a way or
we will make one.

WHAT IS D!NG?



Born in Indiana, The Defense Innovation Networking Group (D!NG) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that catalyzes innovation and advancement in the defense sector. National security is a national effort. D!NG's first – and home – region is the Midwest, and is growing to both national and international reach. D!NG facilitates growth opportunities for individuals and businesses through collaborative education, workforce development, and vital knowledge transfer. Our mission is to fortify the nation's defensive capabilities and protect the warfighter by focusing on the one thing that matters most - the people.

In simple terms - we will find a way or we will make one.

We are building up our Midwest defense ecosystem to better serve the warfighter and strengthen our national security—and the best part is, we're just getting started. With eyes on future growth across the Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Central Plains, and D.C., we're expanding our reach and impact. Join us as we find a way or make one!

OUR BOARD

Our board members were meticulously chosen, not just for their specialized technical and economic knowledge, but also with a geographic strategy in mind. Each member's location was carefully considered to contribute to the realization of the "Crane to Fort Wayne Highway" (and everywhere in between) concept.



HEATH MURRAY

Executive
Director



STEVE BRYANT

Board Member
Bloomington



GREG SAPP

Board Member
NSWC Crane



AARON RAMSEY

Board Member
Purdue



NICK DARRAH

Board Member
Fort Wayne



VIRGINIA CAUDILL

General Counsel/
Operations

OUR ADVISORS

D!NG's Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) serves as a strategic think tank, offering diverse insights and expert guidance across sectors. Comprised of industry leaders, the IAC operates in an advisory capacity—bringing real-world experience, technical depth, and unique perspectives that help shape D!NG's mission and amplify its impact across the defense innovation ecosystem.



KAYLEE DIAMOND
NSWC Crane



TOMMY JONES
OUSD(R&E)



CHAZE PATRICK
INVETS
Southern IN



CIAN MANSFIELD
Student Defense
Liaison



TOM FOURNIER
NATO DIANA/
New England



JASON CLARK
Central Midwest
Carpenters Union
(CMC)/ OH/KY/IN



MARK LITECKY
Xbow Industries
Great Lakes Region

WHAT WE DO



ROADSHOWS

Our Defense Roadshows meet the unique needs of communities—whether you're an entrepreneur, manufacturer, innovator, nonprofit, or non-traditional business. We showcase the **successes and challenges** of working with the U.S. Department of War, driving connection, collaboration, and opportunity statewide.



EVENTS

Welcoming industry, academia, government, and nonprofits, D!NG informal happy hours create down-to-business connections among attendees, VIPs, speakers, leaders, and decision-makers.



PAID SERVICES

- Ecosystem Mapping
- DoW Strategic Planning
- Workforce Development

Partnering with D!NG isn't just a collaboration—it's a bold declaration that your organization stands for action, integrity, and innovation.

WHY WE STARTED

KCARC faced an issue with renewing its CAGE codes as a Federal Government vendor. The D!NG presenters promptly responded and provided invaluable assistance, enabling KCARC to navigate the situation confidently. This support is crucial for KCARC, as the specific CAGE code generates around \$5 million annually, funding its mission to support individuals and families with special needs. D!NG's help ensures KCARC can continue providing employment opportunities and services to nearly 400 individuals with special needs. KCARC is grateful for D!NG's support in sustaining its mission. – *Nash Dunn, KCARC President*



I've experienced first hand how D!NG connects local businesses with a network that can help underserved businesses work through issues within their DoD contracts. The Rural Roadshow was beneficial to Martin County, not only did they broaden their network of resources, but they learned of innovative ways to expand their businesses."

Jessica Potts, Executive Director, Martin County Alliance



"D!NG has been pivotal in helping Warrant Technologies connect with other entities in our ecosystem. From walking potentially interested parties up to our booth or personnel at Buy IN to frequently sending resumes of qualified individuals looking for placement, D!NG has shown themselves to be an eager advocate and insatiable partner of small business. The volunteers at D!NG are quick to reach into their network of knowledge and stakeholders to provide the networking group with all the insights and connections they have. Warrant appreciates the support and opportunities that D!NG brings to the table."

Bruce Bolin, Project Manager, Warrant Technologies

IMPACT

D!NG's first two years. This is just the beginning.



FINANCIALS

D!NG succeeds only because of the many donors, partners, and champions who generously support this mission. *Thank you!*

Financials	
\$45,250 DONATIONS	\$22,660 IN-KIND DONATIONS
\$115,000 GRANTS RECEIVED	\$69,837 PROGRAMMING INVESTMENT
\$13,645 ADMIN & DEVELOPMENT	1 Team

CONTACT US



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