Cornell Tech – A new campus in New York City focused on digital technology for the 21st century

On September 13, 2017, Cornell University dedicated its Cornell Tech Campus on the southern end of Roosevelt Island. This followed a year-long competition in 2011 to win the bid under former Mayor Bloomberg, and five years of operation out of the Google Building in midtown Manhattan. The mission of the campus is “to develop pioneering leaders and technologies for the digital age.” In this talk, we will present the history and the vision for the future of the Cornell Tech Campus. Moreover, we will discuss the novel approaches taken on the campus to reinvent and integrate graduate education across a wide range of disciplines (technical as well as professional) relevant to digital technology development and commercialization to achieve this lofty ambition. Some of the lessons learned on this nimble, highly experimental campus have translated to our main academic campus in Ithaca. Thus, Cornell Tech can serve as a model for universities seeking to stimulate their local tech ecosystem and thereby grow their local economy.