GLOBAL **INNOVATION** EXCHANGE
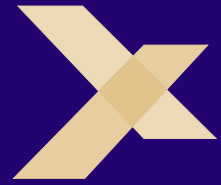
The Global Innovation Exchange or "GIX" will provide students with project-based learning through a pioneering new partnership established jointly by the University of Washington and Tsinghua University at a new facility in the Seattle metropolitan area. While a number of American universities have opened facilities in China, this is the first time a Chinese research university has established a physical presence in the United States. GIX represents a unique and equal partnership between two of the world's leading universities, backed by one of the world's leading companies, with others expected to join, and located in a region renowned as a center for innovation.

Within a decade, we expect that more than 3,000 learners will be studying at GIX, in a holistic, project-based environment. The institute's emphasis on the interplay between technology development, design, and entrepreneurship will prepare students to contribute solutions to a range of global challenges, including on issues such as mobile health, sustainable development, and the continuing advance of cloud computing and the Internet of Things. GIX will open its doors in the fall of 2016 with an inaugural program based on a 15-month master's degree in technology innovation to support the growth in connected devices. The institute will grow with the addition of new degree programs and fields of study over the next decade.

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GIX is based on a recognition that the world's most important problems will benefit from leading faculty and students from around the world working in closer collaboration. GIX will pioneer new forms of teaching and learning by directly connecting world class students and faculty from the U.S., China, and other global research universities with research-led companies and non-profits who can help identify real-world challenges, and provide on-going mentoring and support. It will build upon the UW's deep and long-standing contributions to innovation in the Puget Sound, particularly in computer science & engineering and electrical engineering, and catalyzed recently through a set of initiatives defined as the Innovation Imperative. And the institute will utilize Tsinghua's strengths as the pacesetter for innovation in China and its role as a base for China's scientific and technological advances.

GIX BREAKS NEW GROUND FOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

GIX breaks new ground for international collaboration in higher education. Instead of having one university create a campus or outpost somewhere else, GIX is based on a structure that makes the participating universities equal partners. Tsinghua University and the University of Washington will be equal and joint partners in this new institution, under a governance structure that will enable additional world-class research universities to join as equal partners in the future. Additionally, GIX will engage as lead partners a select number of world-leading research and development organizations – both companies and non-profit research institutions. Microsoft has agreed to become the first of these lead partners, is providing $40 million in initial funding, and is committed to the growth and success of GIX for the long term. This reflects Microsoft's broader commitment to computer science education around the world, including China, and to the growth and success of the Puget Sound region.

GIX further reinforces the Seattle metropolitan area's position as not only a leading hub for cutting edge technologies, such as cloud computing, Internet of Things, life sciences, mobile health and smart cities, but also as a key connection point between the U.S and the dynamic economies of Asia. GIX is based on the conviction that effective work to address major scientific and technical issues on a global scale will require ever-increasing coordination between China and the United States. GIX offers an important vehicle for strengthening technical, economic, and political understanding and cooperation between the world's two leading economies.