

The Times Leader

DATASEAM CEO MEETS WITH FEDERAL CTO

Louisville, KY - Princeton native and Dataseam CEO Brian Gupton was selected as part of a Louisville delegation to meet Obama Administration Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Aneesh Chopra during the annual IdeaFest held in Louisville September 26-29, 2011.

Gupton, representing his economic development company, Dataseam, founded along with Princeton resident Dean Hughes and Louisville native Henry Hunt, had its proof of concept within the Caldwell County School system.

Dataseam utilizes school computers in a virtual computing concept known as a *grid* to engage cancer drug discovery at the University of Louisville's Brown Cancer Center. Since 2005, Dataseam has placed over 15,000 computer workstations in 51 schools systems predominantly within the coal-producing counties of both eastern and western Kentucky.

Chopra, who is the first CTO of the United States, was featured as a speaker at the IdeaFest presented by the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation. He was attending the festival as a guest of Third Congressional District Representative John Yarmuth and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer's Office of Innovation and its director, Ted Smith, who formerly served in Washington with CTO Chopra.

Chopra's presentation focused on innovations in technology within the federal government and specifically as it related to education and healthcare. Following the CTO's presentation, Gupton joined Smith and Chopra as part of a "DC to VC" panel, held as part of the Obama administration's efforts to engage private sector business to relate challenges and opportunities to move next-generation economic development forward on a national level.

Following the meeting, Gupton joined Chopra and Congressman John Yarmuth (KY-3) to meet the University of Louisville and Dataseam cancer researcher Dr. John Trent from the University of Louisville's Brown Cancer Center. Along with other presenters from the university, Trent and Gupton were able to provide a more in-depth discussion of the Dataseam model and opportunities for expansion of its research, workforce development, and education programs.

"Chopra was really intrigued by the public-private partnership model; and what we have been able to produce", relates Gupton, who has been Dataseam's Chief Executive Officer since 2003. Brian states, "The University of Louisville and President Jim Ramsey have been great to work with. They have been a true partner to me both as a student and my eventual work at Dataseam."

Since 2006, the Dataseam grid has allowed the research to grow from the original 8 cancer targets run on 30 workstations at the Caldwell County High School to 250 targets. Twenty-six cancer therapies have been discovered, and 3 have been licensed for further clinical trial. The Dataseam Grid (sm) is the largest of its kind on the planet. Fourteen research teams at the University of Louisville are using it to expedite research in a cost-effective manner and provide a competitive edge in the University's pursuit of federal funding to support the research through the National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF).

Fifty students statewide have been selected as Dataseam Scholars at the University of Louisville and 10 have been selected as Dataseam Educational Scholars at Morehead State University.

As one of the largest providers of professional development in the state, Dataseam has conducted training for nearly 5,000 educators in the last six years. With over 112 school technology coordinators, technicians and educators who have earned Apple professional certifications, Kentucky now boasts the highest per capita number of certified technicians in the United States.

"At over 40,000 educators, our Kentucky educational system is one of the largest employers statewide and specifically the largest employer in 100 of 120 Kentucky counties," states Gupton. "It's important to view them as a workforce as we would those within in manufacturing, healthcare, trade, and service sectors. As such, we need to make sure they are getting access to the latest tools, training, and certification to continue to prepare our next generation of workers and innovative thinkers within these sectors. It is imperative to continue to invest in our existing workforce"

State Representative Mike Cherry (D-Princeton) adds, "Dataseam is funded as part of economic development and diversification efforts of the Kentucky state legislature. Finding cures for cancer and providing opportunity for students to become members of Kentucky's next-generation workforce is something we all can get behind. It's a win-win scenario. I'd also like to take this opportunity to say both as a Princeton native and a state representative how proud I am and we all should be of Brian and the work he has been able to accomplish. He has become another of our Princeton success stories, but is reminded and thankful to where he is from."

"It was a real honor to meet and share the story with Aneesh Chopra", continues Gupton, "he had never heard of anything like it. To represent Kentucky positively in the Federal arena via the Kentucky innovation beginning in Princeton is truly a humbling experience."

###