

The rapid emergence of a host of new technologies should cause us to pause and consider the many ramifications on society of implementation—not just technological challenges, but also about ethics, policy, fears, and threats to public well-being. This thought process needs to begin before the technologies become cemented into our lives, which is why education highlighting emerging topics in science and technology and the controversies surrounding them should begin at the P-12 level. Dawn or Doom is a free and open to the public conference at Purdue where the focus is on benefits and risks surrounding some of the technologies that are both the most disruptive to current practices and being adopted the fastest. Leading Purdue faculty, plus select outside experts, showcase their many perspectives related to this technology explosion, explore conditions that will foster innovation and investment into the next generation, and address the big-picture issues where both optimism and pessimism are warranted. High school students in attendance will benefit from listening to experts propose views of the future on topics that they hear about in the news and experience already in their lives—space travel, drones, omnichannel shopping, food safety, water security, virtual reality, and even the pros and cons of social media and how it will integrate even more prominently in our lives. Dawn or Doom is one of just two such university events in the nation, and provides an opportunity for students to consider the technologies that they will be living with in the coming decades.