

Carlson Science and Engineering Library

A Vision to Advance Student Research Skills

► Located in the Computer Studies Building, the Carlson Science and Engineering Library is at the center of research and learning for optics, engineering, and the pure and applied sciences at the University of Rochester and is an integral part of the University's new Science and Engineering Quadrangle. Named after Chester Floyd Carlson, the inventor of xerography and a University benefactor, the library has long been associated with innovation.

In order for the library to support the next generation of researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs, the Carlson Library needs to continue to evolve—it must transform into a 21st-century learning center. One way to do this is to create a hub within the library to support undergraduate students and their wish to pursue advanced research.



The New Carlson Student Research Space

Currently, many students want to delve into such research but lack the foundational skills needed. The experts and resources that can help them are decentralized, or students are either unaware they exist or do not readily know where to find them. The River Campus Libraries' (RCL) vision is to create the Carlson Student Research Space, a collaborative, technology-rich

environment where students who aspire to be researchers can build the skills they need with the help of librarians, faculty members, and staff.

The space will become a nexus for networking, showcasing projects, doing research, and enriching the overall educational experience. With the VISTA Collaboratory, a high-resolution data visualization lab, located adjacent to the Carlson Student



"Ever since the library was established in 1972, it has provided the resources to cultivate the leading thinkers of our times. With advances in technology, it is exciting to think of how it will help future generations learn the skills necessary to make important contributions to their fields and to society."

—Fulei Peng '16

chemistry major and daily user of the Carlson Library



Research Space, students will also be exposed to, and inspired by, cutting-edge research from all domains.

Why We Need It

The space will help students bridge curriculum-based and independent, faculty-directed research by providing a place where the campus-wide research community can meet, thus exposing students to a diverse set of researchers.

The Carlson Student Research Space will also expand on the science and engineering focus and become a resource for students in all disciplines who wish to gain research skills, from the humanities to lab-based sciences. Ultimately, it will equip students with the skills and understanding necessary to fully engage in advanced research.

Carlson Student Research Space in Action

Once open, the RCL envisions the following scenarios taking place.

- Sakura, a graduate student, leads a workshop in chemistry here. Following the workshop, she and one of the undergraduates who attended collaborate on a project. Finding that she has a question regarding her research, Sakura seeks guidance from one of the on-site librarians.
- Lorenzo is a junior looking for a summer research opportunity. He attends the Research Experience for Undergraduates introductory presentation to learn more about how he can get involved in a lab. He approaches one of the student presenters at a post-presentation workshop event and then signs up for future events through an easily accessible digital events calendar.
- Logan heard about the Carlson Student Research Space during his introduction to engineering class. This prompts him to make an appointment online to meet with an engineering peer advisor. During his consultation, the

advisor gives him a few contact names and encourages him to stay for a graduate student presentation. While waiting, Logan is inspired by student projects he sees on display here.

How You Can Help

The Carlson Student Research Space will have a profound effect on student research across all disciplines. It will provide a place where students connect with faculty beyond their department walls and with other experts, including scholars and peers with similar or complementary interests.

Donor support plays a key role in this project. Your generosity will help facilitate the creation of new programs, collaborative spaces, and the technological infrastructure needed to advance the research skills of our students. Gifts can also support endowed staff positions. Such gifts live in perpetuity and become a vital part of the success of our students.

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www.library.rochester.edu

For more information on giving opportunities, please contact
Donna Salmon
 Senior Director of Advancement, River Campus Libraries
 (585) 275-9838, donna.salmon@rochester.edu

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