Quick Facts

• The College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at Johnson C. Smith University, in partnership with the College of Computing and Informatics at UNC-Charlotte, has been awarded the National Science Foundation Cyber Corp.: Scholarship for Service Grant. JCSU will receive $339,189 for the five-year grant, which will provide support for students to study in the field of cyber security.

• Diverse Issues in Higher Education continues to rank JCSU 18th in the nation in graduating African Americans in computer and information sciences. National figures for matriculation and retention of underrepresented STEM students hover around 14 percent, yet JCSU’s STEM retention ranges from mid-70 to mid-80 percent.

• The New York Times recently reported a shortage of female students in STEM. At Johnson C. Smith University, females make up half of the College of STEM student body, which far exceeds the national average.

• On October 25, 2012, Johnson C. Smith University broke ground on a 62,000-square-foot Science Center that will enable the College of STEM to increase enrollment and create an optimal learning environment. The facility is funded by a $25 million gift from The Duke Endowment.

• During the summer of 2012, 79 of the nearly 350 STEM majors explored a variety of transformational scientific and technical fields of study as interns and researchers at universities, businesses and industries throughout the U.S.

• Through the OASIS program and HBCU-UP, students receive success coaching, mentoring and academic tutoring services, as well as financial support to present their research at local, regional and national conferences.

The College of STEM

MISSION

To transform STEM education from traditional to market driven. To prepare, educate and train our graduates to be competitive in the new economy and the newly established graduate programs.

STRUCTURE

A STEM complex will be created that includes a new science center, the Technology Center and the Davis Science Hall which will be remodeled to serve as the STEM Student Support Center.

Academic programs will be offered through six market-driven centers:

The Center for Renewable Energy
The Center for Medical Informatics
The Center for Electronics and Cyber Security
The Center for Robotics
The Center for Analytics
The Center for Bioinformatics

FUNDING AND DETAILS

The Center for Cyber Security, located in the Technology Center, is funded by a $400,000 congressionally directed grant. The Center for Robotics is partially funded by a grant from the Department of Defense. The other centers will be located in the new Science Center, scheduled to open in September 2014, with a groundbreaking in October 2012. The new LEED Certified 62,000-square-foot center will be the largest building on campus.
A crisis exists in preparing students for the competitive global marketplace when it comes to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-related careers, according to national data published by the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Johnson C. Smith University is responding to these national and global needs with a progressive plan that will prepare students to compete for jobs and opportunities for post graduate education.

To step up to the STEM challenge, the University is expanding the entire College of STEM program and modernizing campus facilities. Such improvements will be funded through the University’s comprehensive campaign: Tomorrow Is What We Make It. The $150 million campaign will seek funds from public and private sources over the next few years to upgrade campus facilities and construct several new academic and student-centered buildings including a new Science Center.

“The new Science Center will house four of six newly created education centers including:

- The Center for Renewable Energy
- The Center for Medical Informatics
- The Center for Analytics
- The Center for Bioinformatics

The remaining two centers, the Center for Electronics and Cyber Security and the Center for Robotics, will be located in the JCSU Technology Center.

According to Dr. Magdy Attia, dean of the College of STEM, “at JCSU we are building a unique model for colleges by expanding beyond the traditional STEM education model and incorporating a multidisciplinary, market-driven approach in our curricula. Our plan for a new Science Center reflects this vision and is a critical tool in our success with this initiative. Johnson C. Smith University must ensure that our graduates have a more contemporary curriculum that develops the expertise they need.”

In addition to a heightened vibrant campus experience for students, the broader Charlotte community will also gain a resource from the new Science Center by creating the JCSU STEM Innovation Center which will serve the community around JCSU by providing training, mentoring, innovation, think tanks and brainstorming sessions, and STEM summer camps for students, teachers and Charlotte area professionals.

The 62,000 square-foot facility has been designed with students in mind. The JCSU leadership worked for months with architects to create an optimal learning environment infused with natural light, opportunities for interaction among students, faculty and visitors and interdisciplinary campus collaboration. Designed with three public floors and a semi-private basement, the building will feature a common atrium space, classroom/administrative wings with teaching labs and faculty offices. A 250-seat tiered lecture hall/auditorium and atrium will accommodate guest lecturers, conferences and other multi-purpose events for the campus and community.

Once complete, the center will enable the College of STEM to increase enrollment from 300 to 450 students by 2016.
In October 2011, The Duke Endowment strongly demonstrated its support for the Science Center by pledging $25 million toward its construction. An additional $10-15 million is needed for technology, equipment, operating and endowment support to strengthen the STEM College programs and outreach to the community and region. A Science Center Campaign Cabinet, represented by distinguished alumni and friends from across the country, is leading the fundraising campaign for this initiative.

“We are excited about the Science Center and what it means to our students, alumni and the community,” said Sharon Harrington, assistant vice president for Institutional Advancement. “We are counting on our supporters – alumni, friends, foundations and corporations – to contribute to this effort and join us as we continue to transform the face of STEM education.”
Various opportunities exist to commemorate your gift to the new Science Center through the naming of designated spaces in the facility. These special recognition opportunities are extended to interested donors who would like to have their names or the name of a loved one permanently associated with the establishment of this new facility on campus. Your support of JCSU powerfully affirms the lead role the University has in producing the next generation of science innovators for our community and beyond.

**Auditorium Seating Naming Opportunity**

The new Science Center will position the University to equip students and faculty with a cutting-edge learning and research environment. Be a part of this historic building by leaving your mark on one or more of the tiered seats that will be featured in the Auditorium/Multi-Media Lecture Hall. Only 250 naming opportunities exist and are available for a contribution of $500.

To secure your seat or obtain additional information on Science Center naming opportunities, please contact Sharon Harrington at sharrington@jcsu.edu or 704.330.1437.

**Other Naming Opportunities**

- The Science Center Building
- Centers for New Science and Technology Laboratories
- The Atrium – signature three-story entry space
- Auditorium/Multi-Media Lecture Hall
- Core Instructional Laboratories
- General Purpose Classrooms
- Administrative and Faculty Offices
- Conference Rooms