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Real research. Better scientists.
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Your support of the Undergraduate Research program in RIT's College of Science will help increase the number of scientists and mathematicians working in core and applied sciences, and in turn, will help increase the amount of U.S.-based research and development of new scientific-and economically-beneficial knowledge.

Undergraduate research is one of the best ways to attract students to science and math careers and to better prepare them for those careers. By providing undergraduates the opportunity to do genuine research work, RIT’s College of Science teaches the planning, troubleshooting, problem solving and assessment that aren’t elements of traditional undergraduate science education, but are the foundation of a life in a science field. Through this program, undergraduate students are exposed to the truly exhilarating part of discovery, and also to the challenges and frustrations of research—they learn very quickly that in science, there often is not “the right” answer, and learning that your assumption is wrong is, in fact, progress.

Science and math career preparation is a key benefit to the program, but Undergraduate Research students also benefit from the close mentoring relationships they build with their research faculty members, and from professional skills developed when presenting at conferences and publishing their work. Whether students go on to graduate school or enter the industry workforce after graduation, the Undergraduate Research experience provides a solid foundation for their future careers.

The Emerson Challenge

The Fred L. Emerson Foundation has offered a challenge grant to RIT’s College of Science in support of the Undergraduate Research Program. When RIT secures $750,000 in gifts and pledges by October 1, 2015, the foundation will provide a grant of an additional $250,000 to establish the Emerson Endowed Fellowship Program for Undergraduate Research in the College of Science.

The resulting $1 million endowed fund will provide a permanent, stable and growing source of support for competitive undergraduate research awards, and will enable the College to DOUBLE the number of students selected for full-time summer research.

To help RIT’s College of Science build better scientists and mathematicians for generations to come, please make your gift to the Emerson Challenge at rit.edu/cos/undergraduate_research.
Uniquely RIT

RIT’s College of Science was one of the first institutions exposing undergraduate students to real research, and today encourages all undergraduate students to participate in research work throughout their years of study, including summer research fellowships. Students work side-by-side with College of Science faculty immediately upon entering the university, and over their years of study, they develop close mentor relationships with these faculty members.

Few institutions have actively cultivated an environment in which faculty members engage and include undergraduates in their research interests, but at RIT’s College of Science, it is one of our hallmarks.
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For information, contact:
Mark Gaul
Senior Director of Development
College of Science

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