Help Fuel the Sciences at NC State

The university seeks passionate campus and community members to support the construction of a cutting-edge STEM research and education facility.

Every modern challenge and opportunity facing human society involves the sciences. Rising to these challenges requires the sciences to work together holistically. Chemists, biologists, physicists, engineers and mathematicians must partner to tackle new diseases, global change and sustainable agriculture. New technologies are making it ever easier for these researchers to work together, particularly as they study molecules — the fundamental chemical building blocks of human bodies, medicines, fertilizers and energy systems alike. The new Integrative Sciences Building (ISB) and Integrative Sciences Initiative will transform teaching, research and discovery in chemistry and other STEM fields at NC State by employing the latest technology, solving major societal challenges and, in doing so, training a new generation of interdisciplinary scientists ready for the future. NC State’s bold vision will position the university as a world leader in a new, more integrated science united around the study of the world’s molecular building blocks.

The new building will be a grand space in which students are trained in research while doing science alongside peers, faculty and researchers from other disciplines. After working in the building, STEM students will leave NC State ready to work in government, industry and academia with an understanding of not only the latest science and technology but also how to work together in teams.

Meanwhile, the ISB will be a hub for researchers across campus to come together around shared projects that will transform the future of medicine, agriculture and daily life. The building will be a hub that connects existing centers of excellence on campus and, through additional investments, also enlivens the Brickyard, making the entire area a hive of scientific innovation and education. At the center of this hive will be three extraordinary new core labs that transform the ability of NC State to create new kinds of molecules, image and visualize molecules and work to develop technologies that use these molecules to fast-track new technologies.

Physically, the ISB will be an impressive building. Standing five stories tall and covering more than 150,000 square feet, it will be the centerpiece of Main Campus. This will include teaching and student research spaces and cutting-edge core labs, all built with interdisciplinary science in mind. The ISB will communicate with D. H. Hill Jr. Library via outdoor gathering spaces that symbolize and facilitate the intellectual flow between the two buildings. The library, for example, will host think tank-style meetings that bring thought leaders together at NC State around key issues in scientific innovation, particularly those related to molecular sciences.

In preparation for the new kinds of integrative science this building will make possible, NC State has already begun to develop an innovative undergraduate curriculum that will reimagine how the sciences are taught and will embrace interdisciplinary coursework, starting with introductory chemistry and biology courses. In the coming years, STEM education and research at NC State will be fundamentally transformed.

The state of North Carolina has pledged half of the funding needed to complete this project. Now, NC State is inviting its alumni, friends and supporters to learn more about how they can be a part of this dynamic initiative and help the ISB train and educate the workforce of the future. For more information, please visit go.ncsu.edu/isb-science.

“NC State’s historic support for interdisciplinarity includes our faculty clusters, the N.C. Plant Sciences Initiative, three academies and more. With the Integrative Sciences Building and Initiative, we take the next step in breaking down barriers to solve great societal issues.”

— Warwick Arden, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
Facts and Figures About the Integrative Sciences Building and Initiative

12,415
The number of jobs created in North Carolina by NC State’s economic development partners in fiscal year 2022. Many of those jobs are STEM-related, and with more high-tech science companies launching or locating in the state each year, North Carolina’s need for a robust talent pipeline in the sciences has never been greater.

153,000
The square footage NC State will gain for scientific research and education via the ISB.

1926/1960/1969
The construction years for Polk Hall, Cox Hall and Dabney Hall, respectively. These NC State facilities dedicated to scientific study are too old to be retrofitted to the ISB’s standards, which led university leaders to recognize the critical need for a new facility.

1/3
NC State produces one-third of UNC System graduates with a STEM degree. With more students entering the university each academic year and with ever-greater demand for STEM graduates in the public and private sectors, there has never been a better time to invest in these scholars.

1/2
With the state of North Carolina pledging half of the funding for the ISB’s construction, NC State is already well on its way to paying for this extraordinary new facility. With the support of the Wolfpack, university leaders expect to see the ISB completed by October 2026.

21
The total number of molecular sciences-focused startup companies spun off through NC State’s Office of Research Commercialization. With the ISB’s help, that number could grow rapidly in coming years, extending NC State’s positive impact on the people of North Carolina, the nation and the world.

NC State is the only institution in the UNC System to offer a biochemistry major and has innovative training programs in the chemistry of life. It is clear that there is a pressing need to provide state-of-the-art teaching and research space to prepare the STEM workforce of tomorrow, and the ISB is uniquely suited to this goal.

“NC State has a track record in the development of diverse teams to tackle interdisciplinary problems. We are primed to leverage these learned experiences to unite faculty and students studying the molecular sciences in the Integrative Sciences Building and are uniquely suited to do so.”

— Joshua Pierce, Director, Integrative Sciences Initiative

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