

Carnegie Mellon

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY HISTORY

INTRODUCTION



Andrew Carnegie

The story of **Carnegie Mellon University** is unique and remarkable. After its founding in 1900 as the Carnegie Technical Schools, serving workers and young men and women of the Pittsburgh area, it quickly became the degree-granting Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1912. “Carnegie Tech,” as it was known, merged with the Mellon Institute

to become Carnegie Mellon University in 1967. Carnegie Mellon has since soared to national and international leadership in higher education—and it continues to be known for solving real-world problems, interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation.

The story of the university’s famous founder—**Andrew Carnegie**—is also remarkable. A self-described “working-boy” with an “intense longing” for books, Andrew Carnegie emigrated from Scotland with his family in 1848 and settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He became a self-educated entrepreneur, whose Carnegie Steel Company grew to be the world’s largest producer of steel by the end of the nineteenth century.

On November 15, 1900, Andrew Carnegie formally announced: “For many years I have nursed the pleasing thought that I might be the fortunate giver of a Technical Institute to our City, fashioned upon the best models, for I know of no institution which Pittsburgh, as an industrial centre, so much needs.” He concluded with the words “My heart is in the work,” which would become part of the school’s official seal, designed by Tiffany and adopted in May 1912.

The Mellon family of Pittsburgh and its foundations later became strong and visionary supporters of Carnegie Tech and Carnegie Mellon. Thousands of faculty and staff, students and alumni, corporations, foundations and friends have joined this great educational venture. Carnegie Mellon would not be Carnegie Mellon without their vision, service and commitment.

PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS

- Arthur A. Hamerschlag, 1903–1922
- Thomas S. Baker, 1922–1935
- Robert E. Doherty, 1936–1950
- John C. Warner, 1950–1965
- H. Guyford Stever, 1965–1972
- Richard M. Cyert, 1972–1990
- Robert Mehrabian, 1990–1997
- Jared L. Cohon, 1997–

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Hamerschlag

Andrew Carnegie chose **Arthur Hamerschlag** to head the Carnegie Technical Schools because of his fine reputation in trade schools in New York. Mr. Hamerschlag supervised the construction of buildings designed by architect Henry Hornbostel. He administered the original schools: the School of Science and Technology, the School of Fine and Applied Arts, the School for Apprentices and Journeymen, and the Margaret Morrison Carnegie School for Women, which was named for Andrew Carnegie’s mother.

President Hamerschlag led the school to bachelor’s degree status and a new name, the Carnegie Institute of Technology, in 1912. Carnegie Tech’s first master’s degrees (in architecture and physics) were granted in 1914, and its first doctoral degree (in engineering) was completed at the end of 1919 and conferred in June 1920. Tech granted the first undergraduate degree in drama in the United States in 1917. Carnegie Mellon’s research tradition also began under President Hamerschlag, with the founding in 1916 of the Division of Applied Psychology.



Baker

At the beginning of Dr. **Thomas Baker**’s administration, it was finally possible for a landscape architect to replace the mud of constant construction with lawns and trees. An open-air theater and stone shelter for streetcar commuters were built, and the class of 1923 erected the Senior Fence. Night school enrollment continued to rise because of the president’s outreach to local companies.

President Baker was a strong advocate of research in pure and applied science, supporting the establishment of research laboratories for metals, coal, chemistry and physics, and organizing three international conferences on bituminous coal. With a background in university and preparatory school teaching, Dr. Baker emphasized the importance of instruction in English throughout the curriculum.



Doherty

Robert Doherty, an electrical engineer with a corporate background, also believed in the need for a broader education for engineers. President Doherty developed a new kind of education, which started a revolution at Carnegie Tech and across the nation. It became known as “liberal/professional education” and as “the Carnegie Plan” for its origin at Carnegie Tech. Under the Carnegie Plan, students were taught to think independently and to become problem solvers in their science and engineering courses; one-fourth of their courses were required to be in the humanities and social sciences and these courses also emphasized problem solving.

Research and a commitment to the development of the local region were major emphases of President Doherty. Government-funded research grew out of World War II, including the Nuclear Research Center, which Tech operated until 1969. President Doherty was a driving force in the Pittsburgh Renaissance and joined Richard King Mellon’s initiative to form the Allegheny Conference on Community Development in 1943, serving as its first chairman.

William Larimer Mellon, then chairman of Gulf Oil, offered President Doherty an endowment to found a business school to provide interdisciplinary education, which Mr. Mellon believed was needed by managers in local corporations and not available elsewhere. His foundation endowed the Graduate School of Industrial Administration (GSIA), which opened in 1949 and was named the Tepper School of Business in 2004.



Warner

Dr. **John Warner**, a Carnegie Tech chemistry professor and dean of graduate studies, became president in 1950 and led the school during its mid-century “golden period.” Hunt Library, the Scaife Hall of Engineering and the GSIA building were constructed. The industrial administration programs grew rapidly, fostering research and adding undergraduate business, doctoral and executive education programs to the master’s program.

Before computer science had a name, GSIA professor Herbert Simon and doctoral student (and later Carnegie Tech professor) Allen Newell “created a thinking machine” in December 1955. During several preceding years, Carnegie Tech had been discussing the possibility of a program in this new field, and in 1956, GSIA and the psychology, electrical engineering and mathematics departments established the Computation Center. In 1958, the Center began offering the first programming course in the nation for freshmen, and it was immediately popular.

Computing became part of both research and coursework throughout Carnegie Tech during the Warner years. By 1965, Tech was rated with MIT and Stanford as having the best computing programs.



Stever

The administration of President **Guyford Stever**, a scientist and former MIT administrator, brought major changes for Tech, including further development of computer science. Building on a decade of computing research and teaching, and generously funded by Richard King Mellon and Constance Mellon, the Department of Computer Science was formally created in 1965 to offer a Ph.D. program.

The year 1967 was transformative in the university’s history: Carnegie Mellon University was created by the merger of Carnegie Institute of Technology and the Mellon Institute, the nation’s first major research institute. Founded in 1913 in Pittsburgh by Andrew W. and Richard B. Mellon, the Mellon Institute in the 1960s focused on both basic and applied research.

The School for Urban and Public Affairs opened in 1968 (and was re-named the H. John Heinz III College in 2008). Also funded by Richard King and Constance Mellon, the school grew out of the couples’ interest in addressing the problems of cities.

In 1969, the forerunner of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences opened as a coeducational, liberal arts college. Later that year, the decision to phase out the women’s college, Margaret Morrison Carnegie College, was made and the last class graduated in 1973. In 1970, the College of Engineering and Science was divided into the Carnegie Institute of Technology (engineering) and the Mellon College of Science.





Cyert

President **Richard Cyert's** vision for Carnegie Mellon would catapult the university to remarkable growth in strategic research areas as well as an excellent national reputation. An economist, behavioral scientist and former dean of GSIA, President Cyert initiated strategic planning and the concept of focusing on fields in which the univer-

sity's strengths would give it a comparative advantage among universities.

In 1988, the computer science department in the Mellon College of Science became the School of Computer Science. With Dr. Cyert's leadership, the Robotics Institute, Software Engineering Institute, and Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center were established.

Dr. Cyert believed that another innovation, the "Andrew" computing network, would be "perhaps the most significant development in higher education in the twentieth century." The Andrew network, developed at the university and named after Andrew Carnegie and Andrew Mellon, linked all the thousands of computers on campus to make Carnegie Mellon the first university to have a completely wired campus.



Mehrabian

President **Robert Mehrabian**, an internationally recognized materials scientist, led a university-wide strategic planning process and focused Carnegie Mellon on revitalizing undergraduate education. A vice provost for education was named to focus on undergraduate education and student life, curricula were revised, and the Undergraduate Research Initia-

tive was established and is now a hallmark of Carnegie Mellon education. These initiatives in undergraduate education were later recognized by the Higher Education Research Institute.

During Dr. Mehrabian's presidency, the "Wireless Andrew" system was developed in the mid-1990s, building on the university's wired network infrastructure and giving students, faculty and staff increased freedom to learn and connect anywhere on campus. Also central to campus life, the University Center was constructed as part of President Mehrabian's major building program and provides fitness, dining and meeting facilities, a career center, post office, interdenominational chapel, bookstore, and art and computer stores.



Cohon

Carnegie Mellon's current president, **Jared Cohon**, a leading authority on environmental and water resource systems analysis, came to Carnegie Mellon in 1997 from Yale University where he was dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. In 2007, he was reappointed to a third five-year term. In 2008, the university completed

a successful Middle States reaccreditation and launched a new 10-year strategic plan.

During Dr. Cohon's administration, the university has soared to a leading role on the world stage. In October 2009, Carnegie Mellon ranked 27 in the THE-QS World's Top 200 Universities rankings, including ranking 9 in engineering and information technology. Carnegie Mellon has greatly increased its research and educational partnerships throughout the world, currently offering graduate degree programs in a dozen countries. The university also opened an undergraduate campus in Qatar in 2004. A Silicon Valley, California, campus offering graduate degrees was founded in 2002.

On the Pittsburgh campus, the Gates Center for Computer Science and the Hillman Center for Future-Generation Technologies opened in fall 2009. The nation's first "green" dormitory was constructed in 2003 and the Purnell Center for the Arts opened in 1999 as home to the School of Drama. The Collaborative Innovation Center opened in 2005 to facilitate collaboration between corporate and university researchers to make research breakthroughs available to society more quickly. Among its tenants are Google, Apple, Intel, and a Microsoft-sponsored educational robotics lab.



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