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## BUSINESS

### Carnegie Mellon University Receives Record \$150 Million Gift From Richard King Mellon Foundation

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SENIOR CONTRIBUTOR | EDUCATION

**T**oday the Richard King Mellon Foundation announced its largest-ever gift — \$150 million to Carnegie Mellon University (CMU).

The first \$75 million will serve as the lead gift for the construction of a new science building on the CMU campus in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The second \$75 million will go toward a new robotics innovation center and an institute focused on advanced materials and manufacturing to be located at Hazelwood Green — a former steel mill site in the city.

**The New Science Building** will be a \$210 million project to be located on Forbes Avenue next to the Carnegie Museums in the Oakland neighborhood. It will be designed to facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration and will include classrooms, research and teaching labs and other spaces for students and faculty researchers.

**The Hazelwood Green initiative** further advances the redevelopment of Hazelwood Green, where a former steel mill was once located, into a center for innovation and economic development. Two translational research projects will be featured: a 150,000 square-foot expansion of CMU's Manufacturing Futures Institute (with the help of \$30 million from the new Foundation gift) and the construction of a new Robotics Innovation Center (with \$45 million from the Foundation).

In a press release, CMU President Farnam Jahanian said, "Pittsburgh's future — and

the future of U.S. innovation and global competitiveness — are inextricably linked to scientific and technological advances, and how well organizations, communities and industries can stay ahead of the rapid pace of change. Carnegie Mellon is positioned at the forefront of science and innovation's great promise, and this visionary grant will fuel the research and activities that will build this exciting future. The entire CMU community joins me in thanking the Richard King Mellon Foundation for this extraordinary grant and for its faith that CMU will continue to enhance the Mellon family's legacy of investment in science, technology and industry. This is yet another example of the Foundation's visionary leadership delivering incalculable benefits to the Pittsburgh region and to the nation."

"This historic investment will help Pittsburgh to control its economic destiny and to reassert its rightful place as the national leader in the most important industries of today and tomorrow, with access to everyone who wants to be part of the story," added Sam Reiman, director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, in the same release. "The Hazelwood community has been waiting for more than 18 years, since the J&L mill closed, for the site to become a source of jobs once again. And this past year reinforced the importance of local manufacturing to a healthy region. This historic investment is the first of many steps to achieve our vision of making Pittsburgh a global leader in advanced and additive manufacturing, robotics, and the

creation of technology jobs that are accessible to the entire community."

The grant will be paid out over multiple years, with the intent that it will stimulate cross-disciplinary research and innovation, which in turn will lead to practical discoveries, transformed industries, and the creation of new high-tech jobs and startup companies in and around Pittsburgh.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation and Carnegie Mellon have a long-term relationship that's involved partnering on several projects stretching back to the 1960s. The Foundation's support has included grants establishing CMU's School of Urban and Public Affairs, now known as Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy and creating the university's Department of Computer Science, now called the School of Computer Science. In addition, Foundation funding also has helped the university develop its expertise in the life sciences and energy as well as in manufacturing research.

With this newest grant, the Foundation's support for CMU, including personal gifts from its founders, has now reached \$300 million over the years. The grant is the latest major commitment to CMU's \$2 billion capital campaign, *Make Possible: The Campaign for Carnegie Mellon University*.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation was founded in 1947 and has become the largest foundation in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and one of the 50 largest in the world. Its 2020 endowment was valued at \$3.1 billion.

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