With a generous lead grant from the Allegheny Foundation, Carnegie Mellon University has announced plans to build a new Scaife Hall. The building will feature expanded, technology-rich labs; modern, flexible classrooms; and spaces that facilitate formal and informal collaborations.

“State-of-the-art labs and classrooms are critical for educating the next generations of world-class engineers,” says Allen Robinson, Raymond J. Lane Distinguished Professor and department head of mechanical engineering. “With reconfigurable classrooms and other modern learning spaces, we can accommodate both the growing number of mechanical engineering students and the need for flexible project spaces for hands-on courses.”

While the future of engineering education requires a different type of classroom, the future of research requires a very different type of laboratory. The new building will accelerate multidisciplinary collaboration and support research in emerging fields such as biohybrid robotics and nanoengineered materials.

The new building will more than double the size of the existing one, expanding the footprint on Frew Street, forming an engineering and maker quad with Hamerschlag and ANSYS Halls, and creating a new entrance to campus. The new Scaife Hall, a $75 million project, will offer another important improvement: the opportunity to develop a stronger sense of community between the students, faculty, researchers, and staff. As mechanical engineering students outgrew the existing building’s smaller classrooms, their classes were not close to the faculty offices. Robinson saw this as an obstacle. “We want to encourage the ‘light bulb’ moments that result from informal interactions that sometimes only happen when you bump into your professor in the hall and start up a conversation.”

For more information about how you can make a difference in the future of engineering education and research, please contact:

Gena Henry
• Associate Dean for Advancement
• College of Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University
• 412-268-5342
• ghenry@cmu.edu