THE WORLD IS CHANGING AND OUR STUDENTS NEED US

Throughout the last decade, more and more visionary leaders have been making significant investments in the future of Berks County. With dozens of technological, educational and entrepreneurial opportunities unfolding daily, we must equip our youth with the skills they need to thrive in these environments.

The Albright College Science Research Institute (SRI) empowers young people to boldly create, innovate, explore and invent while experiencing the power of perseverance on the pathways to success.

SRI is poised to inspire an entire generation to excel in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) with its powerful methodology and unique student-driven model. With your help, we can spark creativity and passion where it matters most: within our children.

WHAT IS SCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE?

The brainchild of 25-year teaching veteran, Adelle Schade, SRI is both a learning model and a program for K-12 students that provides authentic learning experiences, fosters personal agency and encourages public/private collaboration.

SRI facilitators guide students in building visionary projects and products. They also assist students in protecting their intellectual property and understanding business opportunities that might be available as a result of their efforts. To date, nine students have pending or provisional patents for their SRI projects.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Through programs offered during and after school and in summer months, SRI encourages students in grades 5 through 12 to create self-directed research projects in the biomedical, genetic, environmental, agricultural, biotechnology and materials sciences. Students can also participate in dance, art, music, the humanities, culinary arts and fashion. Schade imbued SRI with an educational philosophy that encourages students to be involved in their own education. Her Total Experience Learning (TEL) methodology provides a framework for students to bring their natural abilities, strengths and persuasions to their work from the outset.

“Now I understand there's science all around us.” - 7th grade student researching antimicrobial extracts from dandelion root
WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Students who reside outside metropolitan areas do not consistently receive pre-college education in STEAM and intellectual property protections at the same rate as their peers. Science Research Institute bridges the gap for these historically underserved populations and delivers exciting, modern and rich educational opportunities to students in geographical areas where technical innovation is less accessible.

UNIQUE PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Currently, more than 80 organizations nationwide partner with SRI, spanning businesses, scientific industry groups, higher education, professional organizations and foundations. These strategic partnerships supply SRI with the equipment, expertise and materials it needs to provide exceptional learning experiences.

Further demonstrating its mission to uncover the genius that resides in every child, Science Research Institute has enhanced several existing local programs, such as Solve-It Berks and Solve-It Berks Kids. Other ventures include its creation of the Albright TutorDen and the implementation of teacher training with the Berks County Intermediate Unit.

ALBRIGHT COLLEGE AND SCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE: PERFECT SYNERGY

As the oldest college in Reading, Pa., Albright College has long demonstrated a commitment to science and workforce development. Today, that commitment is deeply intertwined with the college’s promise to enhance Reading’s reputation as an innovation center while simultaneously closing the gap on education for all students of academic promise.

In alignment with these goals, Science Research Institute expanded to the Albright College campus in February 2020. The expansion was a natural progression; Albright College students have served as interns and mentors to the program’s middle and high school students since Science Research Institute’s inception in 2015.

“An innovative spirit and creative genius does reside in every child. Our vision for Albright SRI is that all children in Berks County and beyond have opportunities for that spirit and that genius to take root and thrive.” - Jacquelyn S. Fetrow, Ph. D. ’82, Albright College president and professor of chemistry and biochemistry
In 2020, Albright College enhanced its dual enrollment program, allowing 11-12 grade students to earn college credit for their participation in SRI, when accompanying it with a college course. Getting a taste of a sophisticated collegiate environment while still in high school prepares students for success in higher education and prompts them to envision themselves as innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders.

Science Research Institute at Albright College is now embarking on a new journey to provide students from across the nation with powerful, transformational learning experiences — right here in Berks County.

ESTABLISHING A NEW, WORLD-CLASS HOME FOR SRI

In order for Science Research Institute and Albright College to bring innovative learning opportunities to more students and educators, the program needs a dedicated space. Plans are in motion to renovate the historic Leo Camp Building on Albright’s campus into a state-of-the-art facility optimized for experiential learning, elite training, technological exploration and community engagement.

Albright College, Science Research Institute and its current business partners have begun collaborating to create an environment that encourages innovation — complemented by access to research-grade equipment, exposure to cutting-edge technology and introductions to modern sciences by skilled mentors.

BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

Science Research Institute’s new home within the Camp Building is slated to open by June 2022 and will be designed specifically with the needs of its students in mind. Participants will have hands-on experiences with high-level scientific resources including:

- Cell culture facilities
- Materials and glass science laboratory
- Advanced imaging equipment including an electron microscope, confocal imaging and fluorescence imaging
• A 750-square-foot greenhouse to incorporate horticulture and agricultural sciences
• Labs dedicated to computer science, agriculture, histology, etc.
• Two large common areas to encourage interaction, collaboration and camaraderie

Later phases will expand Science Research Institute’s footprint within the building and add spaces that support some of Albright College’s most creative and innovative programs and STEAM disciplines for more synergistic Science Research Institute collaborations. These projections include a flexible theater performance area, classrooms, laboratories and studio spaces for music industry studies, fashion merchandising and digital communications.

FORECASTING THE FUTURE

By 2030, Albright College and Science Research Institute aim to cultivate a national reputation for closing the gap on education for all students of academic promise, regardless of their socioeconomic status or cultural background. Together, their programs and philosophies will:

• Prepare students to have a significant competitive advantage as they pursue higher education and enter the workforce
• Protect and promote student discoveries
• Foster mentorship of Albright College undergraduate students
• Provide a first-hand look at college life and expand academic opportunities such as dual enrollment
• Create professional development initiatives for high school educators through Albright’s School of Professionals Studies graduate program
• Replicate the program across the state, particularly in suburban and rural areas with the potential to tap into underdeveloped talent, spur innovation and increase economic development

“Science Research Institute is one of the most exciting projects driving the reinvention of Berks County as a hub of innovation and creativity.” - Kevin Murphy, president and CEO, Berks County Community Foundation
Because Science Research Institute is just beginning its journey towards structure, scale and sustainability, interested individuals and organizations have a rare opportunity to become an integral part of its mission and vision while simultaneously fueling the revitalization efforts of an entire community.

**PEOPLE ARE TAKING NOTICE: SRI AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

Since its inception, Science Research Institute enrollment has increased 800% and its innovative students have been recognized nationally and internationally for their work in the STEAM disciplines:

**2020**
- Top 4 STEM Programs in USA
  - District Administrator Journal
- SRI Student named Top 300 High School International Scholar
  - Science in Society, Regeneron (83 countries)

**2019**
- FFA Sustainability State Champions, High school division
- PA State Champion Most Innovative Research Project Award
- PA Governors STEM Competition
- SRI student named Genius Olympiad International Finalist
  - Environmental and Sustainability Division 2nd Place
  - USA National Competition
- Eight SRI students named State Agri-science Champions - FFA
- Three SRI State Champions, PA Most Original Idea Award, Excellence in Botany Award, Best in State Award
  - Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science

**2017**
- SRI student places 2nd internationally in Biomedical Research
- INTEL ISEF (86 countries)

**GETTING INVOLVED: SUPPORT SCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

To bring the new Camp Building to life and support SRI in realizing its potential, we need help from the community and leaders like you. Science Research Institute is built upon the foundations of collaboration and synergy; we know that we’ll be better, smarter and more innovative with your support.

There are several ways for you to engage with Science Research Institute. In addition to traditional avenues such as donations, sponsorships and naming opportunities, we welcome business and educational leaders to collaborate with us by sharing their expertise and wisdom.

To learn more about how you can get involved, contact: Brian Pinto, assistant vice president of major & planned giving at bpinto@albright.edu or 610-929-6728

“You can teach a student a lesson for a day, but if you teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.” - Clay P. Bedford, President of Kaiser Aerospace & Electronics and More