Charles H. Townes Center for Science

Furman University
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
The places, people, and partnerships that are enriching scholarly life

In the beginning, the centrality of academics drove the campaign. As the final $100 million push began in 2011, academic goals remained at the forefront. And in the end, success was measured chiefly by the completion of myriad projects that strengthened Furman’s tradition of rigorous intellectual inquiry and discourse: funding for professorships, faculty research and teaching, sustaining support for distinctive engaged learning opportunities outside the classroom, and the opening of new doors of access to talented students.

CHARLES H. TOWNE CENTRE FOR SCIENCE

For a student pursuing a degree in the sciences, it seems fitting that the building that will house their studies is named after the scientist whose discoveries transformed how the world works. The Charles H. Townes Center for Science is named for the 1935 graduate who won the Nobel Prize for his role in the development of the laser and the maser. Dedicated in 2006, the $62.5 million facility houses all science departments within its 213,000-square-foot space.

The Townes Center for Science was the first and largest capital project associated with the Because Furman Matters campaign, adding 75,105 square feet and two new buildings to the old science building, Plyler Hall. The state-of-the-art facility incorporates Furman’s hands-on, interactive learning philosophy with an impressive array of cutting-edge research laboratories, computer labs, science libraries, and multimedia class rooms. The center hosts the Timmons Planetarium, a nuclear magnetic resonance lab, and three optics labs.

With its walls of glass and clustered laboratories offering multi-department applications, the Townes Center demystifies the sciences and offers opportunities for collaborative research.

213,000 square feet in the expanded Townes Center for Science
$62.5 million total cost of Townes Center for Science expansion
40 areas of study in the Townes Center for Science

800 donors who made a gift for the Townes Center for Science

75 number of research and teaching laboratories in the Townes Center for Science

24 feet—the diameter of the Townes Center for Science planetarium

FURMAN | SPRING 2016 CAMPAIGN REPORT 5