

The **Center for Advanced Research in Forensic Science (CARFS)** is funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Justice to facilitate discovery in forensic science as a current Industry-University Cooperative Research Center (IUCRC). From 2017-2022 more than 40 researchers from our partner universities (Boston University, Florida International University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University, and the University of South Alabama) collaborated with 20 industrial partners to solve problems at the forefront of forensic science and promote innovation and commercialization of the technologies they cooperatively developed.

CARFS is Groundbreaking

CARFS is the only forensic science focused IUCRC in the country. An IUCRC is a collaborative effort among industry, universities and government partners for the purpose of conducting pre-competitive research of shared value. This model has been successfully utilized and refined for over 40 years. These stakeholders partner to advance critical technologies from early stage research to the marketplace.

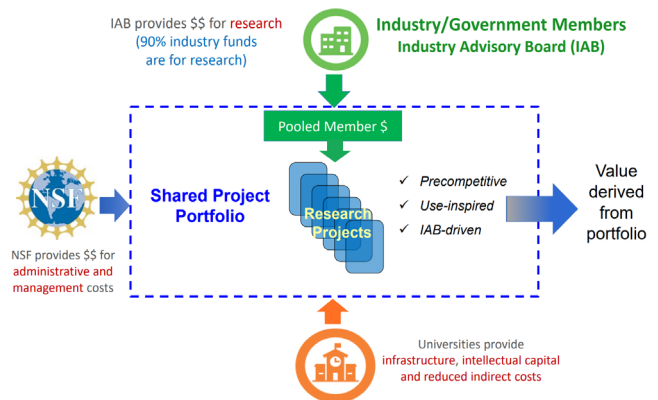
The mission of NSF IUCRCs is to grow the U.S. innovation capacity by developing long-term partnerships among industry, academe, and government. Industry and NSF funds are leveraged to support and train the next generation workforce within a global context. Faculty and students complete user-inspired research projects with continuous feedback from industry partners to solve real-world needs. The Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) votes on research projects to fund. Faculty, students, and industry mentors / collaborators meet

regularly and monthly progress reports are generated. At semi-annual meetings there are IAB discussions and brainstorming. CARFS works on research that is transformative and helps reshape the frontiers of knowledge of industry relevance.

Membership Structure

- The center membership fees are pooled to fund competitive research projects based on votes from IAB members. At least 90% of program income must be used to support the direct costs of research.
- Members vote to select projects and set their funding levels. Voting rights are assigned based on membership fees with members assigning their funds to the project(s) they choose. Memberships are \$50,000 with ½ memberships at \$25,000 and double memberships \$100,000. Double members get to vote twice for governance issues, like changing bylaws, etc.
- Semi-annual meetings are held in spring/fall for project selection and reporting.

IUCRC Program Framework



Research Foci



Research-Driven Forensic Science Solutions

The groundbreaking nature of the center promotes innovation in: product development, techniques, strategies and methodologies for application by stakeholders in the community. To solve the most complex problems facing forensic science today, the center unites forensic science thought leaders who conduct multi-disciplinary research in state-of-the-art laboratories, facilities and institutes with expertise in several forensic disciplines.

CARFS Member Benefits

- **Access to talent** - Opportunity to mentor and train outstanding next-generation students to attain the skills for work in your industry.
- **De-Risk R&D** - Share risks of early-stage research leading to disruptive business opportunities.
- **Research Cost Avoidance** – Save internal research dollars through access to facilities, infrastructure, and lower human capital costs
- **Leverage Research Dollars** – Earn higher return on investment when research is jointly funded and leveraging the support from the NSF, NIJ and partners. For example, one full membership of \$50K can access up to \$1M in research projects and resources (20:1 ROI).
- **Access to Network** – Learn from interacting with center participants including forensic leaders in academia, government labs and companies.
- **Access to Intellectual Property** – Gain royalty free non-exclusive licenses on intellectual property produced in the center.
- **Access to Research Products** - Gain access to the entire center research portfolio including reports, papers and presentations.

Government Members



Industry Members



University Sites



Join us in creating the future of forensic science.