

Cendara University Research Overview

Cendara University is recognized for its dynamic research environment, promoting innovation, collaboration, and societal impact across diverse fields. The university maintains a portfolio of vibrant research centers, robust funding partnerships, prolific faculty scholarship, and a tradition of distinguished achievements.

Major Research Centers

Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation (CII)

Established: 2023

Director: Dr. Lucia Benton

Mission: Fostering entrepreneurship and cross-disciplinary solutions to challenges such as climate change, urban development, and digital transformation.

Current Projects:

- Urban Resilience Initiative (collaborative project with the City of Riverdale)
 - Adaptive Learning Technologies in Higher Education - Community-Based Clean Water Solutions
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Cendara Institute for Biomedical Research (CIBR)

Founded: 1997

Director: Dr. Sven Rahmani

Focus Areas: Cancer biology, regenerative medicine, neurodegenerative disease.

Affiliations: Cendara University Hospital; national pharmaceutical partners

Current Projects:

- “Genomic Approaches in Alzheimer’s Prevention” (NIH-funded)
 - Stem Cell Therapy for Type 1 Diabetes
 - Collaborative Drug Discovery Grants with Lantton Pharmaceuticals
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Center for Global Studies (CGS)

Established: 1998

Director: Prof. Ye-Jin Hwang

Research Priorities: Migration and diaspora, global public health, comparative education

Programs:

- International policy analysis in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme
- Global Vaccine Outreach Assessment
- Transnational Education Models Study

Santoro Digital Humanities Lab

Founded: 2016

Director: Dr. Elliott Voss

Purpose: Integration of digital tools and computational analysis into humanities research

Highlights:

- Mapping Lost Languages Project (funded by Mellon Foundation) - Interactive Digital Oral Histories initiative - Curation of Virtual Reality Literature Exhibits
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Center for Sustainable Futures

Founded: 2010

Director: Dr. Anika Mbogo

Core Research Themes: Renewable energy, climate adaptation, environmental policy

Facilities: 300 kW Solar Array Testbed, Green Roofs Pilot Project

Flagship Initiatives:

- Smart Microgrid Demonstration (Department of Energy/DOE grant) - Urban Biodiversity Index
 - Regional Clean Energy Policy Forum
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Research Funding Sources

Cendara University secures significant research funding from diverse public and private sources. In FY2023-24, total competitive research funding reached \$53.8 million. Key sources include:

Government and Public Agencies

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH):** Multi-year awards for genomics, public health, and neuroscience (total \$14.9M)
- **National Science Foundation (NSF):** Grants supporting engineering education and computational social science (\$9.3M)
- **Department of Energy (DOE):** Funding for sustainability and renewable energy research (\$6.7M)
- **State of Lendera Research Council:** Ongoing support for emerging faculty and seed research (\$2.1M)

Private Foundations & Industry

- **Mellon Foundation:** Digital humanities innovation (\$1.8M)

- **Gardner Health Trust:** Biomedical device research (\$2.4M)
- **Lanton Pharmaceuticals, Inc.:** Joint neuropharmacology research agreements (\$3.2M)
- **EcoPower Solutions:** Industry partnership for campus microgrid testbed (\$1.1M)

University & Alumni Support

- **Cendara Innovation Fund:** Awarding internal research seed grants (\$2.7M)
 - **Alumni Endowed Research Chairs:** Five chairs funded in environmental studies, engineering, education, business, and biology
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Faculty Publications and Scholarly Output

Cendara faculty are actively engaged in producing influential scholarship across all major disciplines. In 2023 alone, faculty authored:

- **412** peer-reviewed journal articles
- **19** scholarly books and monographs
- **34** book chapters
- **77** conference proceedings papers
- **9** patents filed

Recent Notable Publications:

Author(s)	Title	Journal/Publisher	Year
Dr. Maya Lin & Dr. Sunil Nair	“Adaptive Solar Grid Optimization in Urban Campuses”	<i>Energy & Environment</i>	2024
Prof. Yasmin Daoud	<i>Narrating the Nation: Migration Memory in Modern Literature</i>	University of Holden Press	2023
Dr. Haruto Sakamoto	“Neuronal Pathways in Early Alzheimer’s: A Longitudinal Study”	<i>Journal of Neuroscience Advances</i>	2024
Dr. Lana Okoro & team	“Virtual Reality for Cultural Preservation: A Case Study”	<i>Digital Humanities Quarterly</i>	2023
Dr. Felix Olsen	“Understanding Stem Cell Differentiation in Diabetic Models”	<i>Cell Regeneration</i>	2023
Prof. Marla Hayes	“The Impact of Microgrid Policies on Regional Energy Markets”	<i>Journal of Policy Research</i>	2023

Author(s)	Title	Journal/Publisher	Year
Dr. Emilio Vidal	“Smart Wearable Sensors for Public Health Surveillance”	<i>Biomedical Engineering Letters</i>	2024

Scholarly Achievements

Cendara University faculty and research teams have made a mark through high-impact discoveries, awards, and leadership in academic and public forums.

Recent Highlights (2022–2024):

- **Dr. Haruto Sakamoto** awarded the 2023 Lendera Prize in Neuroscience for breakthrough Alzheimer’s research.
 - **Urban Resilience Initiative** (CII) awarded silver in the American Planning Association’s 2024 Innovation Awards.
 - **Dr. Maya Lin** named to the National Academy of Engineering, 2024 cohort.
 - **Prof. Yasmin Daoud’s book** *Narrating the Nation* selected as a finalist for the 2023 Griffin Literary Award.
 - **Center for Sustainable Futures** led Cendara to rank #9 in the 2023 Green Campuses Index.
 - **Santoro Digital Humanities Lab**’s “Mapping Lost Languages” recognized as a 2023 Digital Heritage Project of Distinction by the Digital Humanities Council.
 - **Dr. Emily Shong** elected President of the Lendera State Psychological Association.
 - **Dr. Anika Mbogo** appointed to the National Science Foundation’s Renewable Energy Advisory Panel, 2023-26.
 - **Patents Awarded:**
 - Rapid Saliva-Based COVID-19 Test Kit (CIBR, 2022)
 - Microgrid Control Algorithm for Distributed Solar Arrays (2023)
 - Augmented Reality Fieldwork Platform for Education (Digital Humanities, 2023)
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Research Culture and Support

Cendara University cultivates research through:

- Annual Research Week (April): Showcases student and faculty projects, hosts public lectures, and sponsors the “Cendara Prize for Undergraduate Research.”

- Competitive internal research grants and mentoring for junior faculty.
 - Graduate Research Fellowships (41 awarded in 2023–24).
 - Active support from the Office of Research and Innovation, including workshops on grant writing, ethics, and public engagement.
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Notable Recent Events

- **2023:** Inaugural Cendara Interdisciplinary Research Symposium attracted 400+ participants, including representatives from academia, industry, and government.
 - **2024:** Launch of the “Global Health Futures Lecture Series” by CGS, featuring Nobel laureate Dr. Maria Sosa.
 - **2023:** “Innovation in Action” Hackathon at CII—teams developed solutions addressing urban heat islands, accessible public transit, and disaster recovery communications.
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Cendara University’s research enterprise is propelled by a culture of curiosity, diversity, and community-focused innovation. As it continues to expand its research footprint, the university remains steadfast in its goal: translating knowledge into real-world impact for the 21st century and beyond.