70 Years of Progress Through Partnerships
For seven decades, The Sherwin-Williams Company has partnered with Case Western Reserve to advance business, education and society.
The two organizations have prospered through shared leadership that has shaped innovation and influenced sound business practices.
Edward Mason Williams, the son of Sherwin-Williams co-founder Edward P. Williams, served as director of Sherwin-Williams at the turn of the century and was a trustee of Adelbert College and Cleveland College in the 1920s and 30s.
In the 1970s, Walter O. Spencer, a graduate of Cleveland College, led Sherwin-Williams as CEO and served as the university’s chair of the Board of Trustees.
Trustee emeritus Frank Thomas Krotine, an alumnus of Case Institute of Technology and Case Western Reserve, served as senior vice president of corporate research and development at Sherwin-Williams.
Dr. John Weaver served as the Director of Research at Sherwin-Williams from 1936 – 1979, as well as an adjunct Chemistry and Macromolecular Science Professor at Case Western Reserve.
Jack G. Breen, who graduated from Case Western Reserve in 1961, served as CEO of Sherwin-Williams for 20 years.
Today, Sherwin-Williams and Case Western Reserve leadership continue in the collaborative framework set up by their predecessors.
With a shared interest in molding the potential of tomorrow’s leaders, The Sherwin-Williams Company and Case Western Reserve have jointly invested in the next generation.
As a part of a diversity recruitment strategy, Sherwin-Williams has supported the work of LaShonda Korley, Assistant Professor of Macromolecular Science and Engineering.
Each year, Sherwin-Williams employees take part in the Leadership Excellence Experience in partnership with Case Western Reserve’s Weatherhead School of Management.
By supporting Case Western Reserve’s world-class programming, The Sherwin-Williams Company has proven its commitment to the community.
As a sponsor of E-week, Sherwin-Williams has helped shed light on the important role of engineers in society and has helped showcase Case Western Reserve’s technological breakthroughs.
In support of Case for Community Day, Sherwin-Williams donated supplies and funds to restore a home in Cleveland. Its employees worked alongside Case Western Reserve students, faculty and staff in this annual day of service.
With a shared enthusiasm for the pursuit of breakthrough research, The Sherwin-Williams Company and Case Western Reserve have developed laboratory findings into real-world applications.
In the 1940s, Sherwin-Williams housed a chemistry lab in Western Reserve’s Power House. The lab was directed by Oliver Grummitt, a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry.
Case School of Engineering faculty members Charles Rogers, Joe Payer and Gary Michal have all worked hand-in-hand with the professionals at Sherwin-Williams.
Case Western Reserve faculty members continue to work with Sherwin-Williams on vital research projects.
Case Western Reserve University &
The Sherwin-Williams Company

Leadership, investment, outreach and breakthroughs for the future of business and society