The renovated Charles L. Tutt Library averages 1,800 visits per day, and undergraduate connections with librarians are up 25 percent.
The dramatic transformation of this space has garnered attention from far beyond campus, including several notable awards. It’s the largest academic library to achieve net-zero carbon emissions. A total of 318 photovoltaic panels and 80 geothermal wells helped make that possible.

In 2017, Tutt Library won the Innovation Award from the National Association of College and University Business Officers in recognition of its status as a carbon-neutral, net-zero energy facility. Earlier this year, the library was one of six libraries that received the American Institute of Architects/American Library Association Library Building Award for best library architecture and design. The library also won a 2019 Architizer award.

Library Director JoAnn Jacoby believes that several aspects of the renovation appealed to award committees:
- the flexible design of classrooms;
- the addition of large windows; and
- that the number of seats was doubled.

“The renovation has brought campus together as a community to discover, share, and create knowledge,” Jacoby says. “The library is averaging 1,800 visits per day, and undergraduate contact with librarians is up by 25 percent.”

Students and faculty from across the disciplines work together in collaborative areas and technology-rich spaces like the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson GIS Lab, Ryan Data Viz Lab, and the Class of 1967 Tech Sandbox. Now, 43 percent of faculty report visiting the library more than they did prior to the renovation, and they credit the library’s “open and inviting spaces” for the change.