Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors

Austin, TX

THE SEARCH

The University of Texas at Austin (UT) seeks a transformative leader to serve as its next Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors (VPR). Ranked among the world's most ambitious and expansive research enterprises, UT offers an extraordinary platform for advancing discovery and innovation. This is a defining moment for the institution, and the VPR will serve as the chief advocate for UT's research mission, guiding its aspirations to become the highest-impact public research university in the world.

UT comprises a large and vibrant intellectual community. Many of its academic programs are ranked in the top 10 nationally, and it is proud to be one of the world's leading research universities, where students and faculty members are supported in their efforts to explore and discover in the arts, humanities and sciences — and across disciplinary boundaries. The University boasts world-class research facilities, including the fastest academic supercomputer in the United States, one of 15 Department of Defense-sponsored University Affiliated Research Centers and one of the newest fully accredited and innovative medical schools at a top-tier U.S. research university. This past year, the University's research expenditures surpassed $1 billion for the first time — a 25% increase from the previous year. This milestone underscores UT's rapid ascent to one of the world's leading research universities. In addition to advancing research, UT is a catalyst for economic transformation, leveraging campus programs and resources that help faculty and students launch startups and commercialize technologies that change the world.

The next VPR will inherit a thriving research enterprise and will be tasked with addressing key opportunities to accelerate the University's momentum in research and impact. This includes reinforcing the infrastructure and systems that underpin UT's growth in research expenditures, strengthening the University's competitiveness for federal and state funding opportunities, expanding biomedical research capabilities in partnership with the Dell Medical School and the University's expanding academic medical center, and leveraging the unique opportunities presented by UT's location in one of the fastest-growing and most entrepreneurial regions in the country. The VPR's management scope is significant, with leadership responsibilities encompassing more than 1,300 researchers and staff across both research support units and major research centers, including the Applied Research Laboratories, Energy Institute,

IC² Institute, Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences and Texas Advanced Computing Center.

The VPR reports directly to the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost (EVPP) and works closely with its leadership to maximize the impact of research as part of the University's academic mission. The VPR will provide key counsel to the President and Provost on developing and supporting a world-class research culture through faculty development, recruiting and retention, as well as the allocation of resources to support the research mission. The successful candidate will bring a distinguished record of research excellence, a deep understanding of the complexities of a major research institution and a strong commitment to fostering a collaborative and innovative academic environment. This person will possess a strategic mindset, an entrepreneurial spirit and the ability to inspire faculty, staff and students to achieve ambitious goals.

UT has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this important search. Confidential applications, inquiries and nominations should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

By virtue of its public mission, culture of innovation, location, size and rich history, UT is one of the highest-impact universities in the world. As the top public university in Texas and the flagship of The University of Texas System, UT is an influential catalyst for scientific, economic and societal progress throughout the state.

Founded in 1883, the University has a main campus that spans 431 acres and a community of almost 54,000 students, 3,500 faculty members and more than 15,000 staff members. In addition to its main campus near downtown, UT extends to the J.J. Pickle Research Campus in north Austin, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in south Austin, the McDonald Observatory in West Texas, the Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas and several cultural and historic sites across the state.

UT has been a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) since 1929. AAU's member universities earn the majority of competitively awarded federal funding for research and collectively help shape policy for higher education, science and innovation; promote best practices in undergraduate and graduate education; and strengthen the contributions of leading research universities to American society.

The University's graduate programs in accounting, petroleum engineering, geology, Latin American history and sociology of population rank No. 1 in the United States. Additionally, UT has many academic programs ranked in the top 25 nationally, and the number continues to rise every year. At the graduate level, 55 programs rank among the top 10, representing 12 of the University's colleges and schools. Almost 40 other programs rank in the top 25. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2024

lists the University as the 50th best university in the world, while U.S. News & World Report ranks UT as seventh among American public universities. UT is among the top producers of doctoral degrees in the nation, and its alumni and faculty have included Nobel laureates, MacArthur Fellowship recipients and other prestigious awardees from academies, foundations and organizations from across the nation and around the world.

UT offers more than 150 undergraduate degree programs and 230 graduate programs across its 19 colleges and schools in the sciences, arts, humanities and professions:

- Cockrell School of Engineering
- College of Education
- College of Fine Arts
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Natural Sciences
- College of Pharmacy
- Dell Medical School
- Graduate School
- Jackson School of Geosciences
- LBJ School of Public Affairs
- McCombs School of Business
- Moody College of Communication
- School of Architecture
- School of Civic Leadership
- School of Information
- School of Law
- School of Nursing
- School of Undergraduate Studies
- Steve Hicks School of Social Work

Through a succession of large grants from the National Science Foundation, UT has built a collection of the fastest supercomputers for open research in the world. The Department of Defense has designated UT's Applied Research Laboratories as one of five University Affiliated Research Centers for the U.S. Navy, and the University is a major collaborator with the Army Futures Command, among many other government agencies and organizations.

The University's holdings comprise more than 170 million objects, including a Gutenberg Bible and other rare books, manuscripts, photographs, artworks and artifacts from natural history to pop culture in eight museums and 12 libraries. The Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library was the first presidential library to be located on a college campus. The Washington Post named the Blanton Museum of Art one of the top five college art museums in the country. The Harry Ransom Center is widely regarded as one of the foremost archives and humanities research centers in the world.

During the past 10 years, the UT campus has undergone a significant modernization and expansion of its research, academic and community spaces. Recent new buildings — such as the Gates Computer Science Complex and Dell Computer Science Hall, the G.B. Dealey Center for New Media, the Health Discovery and Health Transformation buildings, Robert B. Rowling Hall, and the Engineering Education and Research Center — have added new state-of-the-art facilities, high-tech labs and dynamic collaboration spaces that are transforming the student and faculty experience.

The University's large student body, storied history, strong and supportive community and richness of tradition have given rise to a proud alumni base of more than 500,000. Among UT's many well-known alumni and former students are Matthew McConaughey, Kevin Durant, Michael Dell, Laura Bush, Jenna Bush Hager, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Wes Anderson, Robert Rodriguez, Renée Zellweger, Owen Wilson, Marcia Gay Harden, Sanya Richards-Ross, Sam Rayburn, James A. Baker, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Brené Brown, James P. Allison, Rex Tillerson, Bill Moyers and Walter Cronkite, as well as current Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

ABOUT THE CITY OF AUSTIN

Located beside the picturesque Hill Country of Central Texas, Austin is the state capital and the fourth-largest city in Texas, which is among the top-five most diverse states in the nation. As the 11th-largest city in the United States, Austin is a vibrant and rapidly growing economic hub, widely regarded as a friendly, active and innovative community. It is consistently regarded as a national creative center that attracts talented people from across the world.

Austin serves as the corporate headquarters for Fortune 500 companies such as Oracle, Dell Technologies, Whole Foods Market, Tesla and many successful tech startups. Austin also hosts research and development offices for major technology-oriented companies such as Amazon, AMD, Apple and Google, which have established their operations in Austin in large part to draw from the highly skilled talent the University produces. U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks Austin among its Best Places to Live in America, and Expedia recently ranked it No. 1 in its 21 Super-Cool U.S. Cities list.

RESEARCH AT UT

At UT, research is the engine that drives discovery, innovation and impact. The University supports cutting-edge research in all disciplines, offering more than 200 dedicated research units and centers. Several research groups report directly to the Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors, but most units are based in individual colleges and schools, where they engage in interdisciplinary research that complements the academic goals of their departments.

With major research initiatives in areas such as artificial intelligence, clean energy and semiconductors, and pioneering scholarship in the arts, humanities and social sciences, UT is dedicated to fostering a collaborative and interdisciplinary research ecosystem.

Research and Innovation — By the Numbers (FY 2023)

- $1.04 billion in research expenditures
- 4,643 externally sponsored projects
- 7,000+ peer-reviewed articles published
- 116 patents issued, U.S & foreign
- 194 invention disclosures filed
- 762 active licenses
- 57 licenses executed

Research-Related Rankings

- No. 7 among U.S. universities in research financed by the National Science Foundation
- No. 3 in the world for most patents granted (UT System-wide), National Academy of Inventors
- No. 28 in the world for overall research, U.S. News & World Report
- No. 22 in the world for arts & humanities research, U.S. News & World Report
- No. 55 in the world for scientific research, Nature Index
- No. 19 most innovative school, U.S. News & World Report

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS (OVPR)

OVPR serves as the cornerstone of UT's expansive research enterprise, providing strategic leadership, operational support and infrastructure to empower faculty members, researchers and students in their efforts. Beyond supporting day-to-day research operations, OVPR plays a central role in leading the University's efforts to catalyze large-scale collaborations, nurture emerging areas of discovery, sustain connectivity in Washington, D.C., with established and novel federal funding mechanisms, and translate academic advancements into real-world solutions that benefit the public good.

Research Support

Central to UT's research success is a network of specialized offices and facilities under OVPR's leadership that provide the strategic support, infrastructure and expertise necessary to empower faculty members and researchers in their groundbreaking work.

- **Research Development (RD):** This standard-setting office, widely considered to be a national leader, empowers faculty members and researchers by providing world-class strategic support to enhance the competitiveness of grant proposals and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. RD offers a vast menu of resources that help researchers align their projects with sponsor priorities and institutional goals including competitive intelligence for funding opportunities and skill-building workshops, and facilitates proposal preparation for large-scale, complex grant submissions in any discipline. RD also facilitates partnerships between campus researchers and the Department of Defense (DoD) to pursue impactful research aligned with national security priorities.

- **Office of Research Support and Compliance (ORSC):** Partners with researchers at UT to ensure the integrity and ethical conduct of research. ORSC provides critical support in areas such as human and animal research oversight, biosafety, conflict of interest management, foreign activity compliance and research ethics education.

- **Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP):** Facilitates the submission, negotiation and management of externally funded research awards. OSP partners with faculty members and researchers to ensure compliance with sponsor requirements and University policies while providing guidance on proposal development, budget preparation and post-award administration.

- **Animal Resources Center (ARC):** Provides comprehensive support for the ethical care and use of animals in research. ARC ensures compliance with federal and institutional regulations, offering services such as animal husbandry, veterinary care and protocol review. By maintaining the highest standards of animal welfare, ARC enables researchers to conduct impactful, responsible studies that advance scientific discovery.

- **Center for Biomedical Research Support (CBRS):** Supports researchers by providing access to state-of-the-art technology and expert guidance to advance scientific discovery. Offering services such as mass spectrometry, microscopy, bioinformatics, high-performance computing infrastructure and transgenic model development, CBRS supports cutting-edge research across disciplines to transform data into groundbreaking insights.

Research Centers and Institutes

UT's research ecosystem is enriched by a network of world-class research centers, labs and institutes that report to OVPR:

- **Applied Research Laboratories (ARL):** Advances national security and drives technological innovation as a DoD-sponsored University Affiliated Research Center. Leveraging expertise in sonar, satellite navigation, acoustics and cybersecurity, ARL develops transformative solutions to complex national security challenges.

- **Energy Institute:** Fosters interdisciplinary research across the spectrum of energy issues, leveraging the expertise of more than 400 researchers from diverse fields. Through partnerships with industry, government and nonprofits, the institute addresses pressing global challenges in energy production, demand, systems and sustainability.

- **Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC):** Enables discoveries that advance science and society as home to some of the world's most powerful supercomputers. The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently selected TACC as part of its Leadership-Class Computing Facility, which will revolutionize America's computational research for the next decade. In 2026 TACC will deploy *Horizon*, the largest academic supercomputer dedicated to open-scientific research in the NSF portfolio. It will provide 10x performance improvement over *Frontera*, the current NSF leadership-class computing system. For AI applications, the leap forward will be even larger, with more than 100x improvement.

- **Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences:** Drives advancements in computational science, engineering and mathematics with applications in fields such as climate science, biomedicine and energy. As a globally recognized leader in computational science, the institute supports over $118 million in active research funding, 25 research centers and groups and faculty members from 24 academic departments across six schools and colleges.

- **IC² Institute:** Drives entrepreneurship, economic development and technological innovation as a catalyst for transformative change. Established as a "think and do tank," IC² bridges academia, industry and community leaders to advance bold solutions that build entrepreneurial ecosystems, strengthen regional economies and catalyze technological innovation to solve social and economic challenges.

DISCOVERY TO IMPACT

While not formally part of OVPR's portfolio, Discovery to Impact (DTI) is an important partner – serving as UT's hub for translating academic research into real-world applications and connecting campus innovators with industry leaders to cultivate ideas and foster commercialization. DTI supports startup creation, technology transfer, intellectual property development and early-stage funding. Through resources such as the UT Seed Fund, and two startup incubators — the Texas Innovation Center and the Austin Technology Incubator — DTI accelerates the journey from research to market.

For campus inventors and entrepreneurs, DTI provides tailored support, including invention disclosure assistance, intellectual property guidance and startup resources. Tools such as the Navigator platform connect researchers and students to over 130 innovation resources across UT, while programs such as the Proof of Concept Awards and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) support provide critical funding for early-stage ventures.

For companies, entrepreneurs and investors, DTI serves as a vital bridge to UT's cutting-edge technologies and research infrastructure. It facilitates collaborative opportunities through Industrial Affiliate Programs, curates intellectual property for licensing, and offers business development support for startups. Programs such as the Entrepreneurs in Residence and facilities such as the Innovation Lab provide mentorship, resources and tools for ventures to succeed in competitive markets.

DELL MEDICAL SCHOOL

Established in 2014 through a $50 million gift from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Dell Medical School (Dell Med) became the first medical school in nearly 50 years to be built from the ground up at a top-tier American research university. In 2020, Dell Med reached full accreditation by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education and celebrated its first graduating class. The school currently has 13 departments and 10 research centers and institutes. Dell Med represents a transformative approach to academic health sciences, redefining healthcare delivery, biomedical research and medical education to

address society's urgent health challenges. Because Dell Med represents one of the greatest opportunities for expanding UT's research impact, understanding the medical school and its opportunities for growth will be critical for the VPR.

The school aligns seamlessly with UT's aspirations to become the world's highest-impact public research university and forms a key conduit between UT Austin and The University of Texas System. As a cornerstone for growth in biomedical sciences and interdisciplinary innovation, the school amplifies UT's research capacity by attracting competitive federal funding, forging industry partnerships and developing scalable, groundbreaking care models.

The school's far-reaching impact is evident across a number of key areas:

- **Expanding Biomedical Research:** The school has contributed to UT's growing research enterprise and leads advancements in fields such as neuroscience, computational medicine, digital health, AI, therapeutic neurotechnology, population health and cancer prevention.

- **Interdisciplinary Collaborations:** The school fosters innovation through partnerships with UT's Cockrell School of Engineering, Texas Advanced Computing Center and Oden Institute, among others. These collaborations drive groundbreaking advancements, including robotic-assisted surgery, advanced imaging technologies and personalized medicine. Its integration with UT Health Austin, the school's clinical practice, ensures a multidisciplinary approach to addressing complex health care challenges.

- **Health Disparity Research and Community Engagement:** Dell Medical School is deeply committed to improving health outcomes for underserved communities, with a strong focus on community-based participatory research.

- **Workforce Development and Training:** The school prepares the next generation of health care leaders with innovative M.D. and graduate medical education programs. Since 2015, the school has tripled its residency and fellowship programs to 48, with nearly half of its graduates staying in Central Texas to address critical health care needs. Pathway programs have reached more than 4,500 middle and high school students, building a pipeline of future health care professionals.

Expansion

In August of 2023, UT System Board of Regents Chairman Kevin P. Eltife announced plans to launch a monumental health care initiative to accelerate and expand UT Austin's burgeoning medical district into a world-class academic medical center for education, research and patient care. The University of Texas at Austin Medical Center, anchored by Dell Medical School, will start with two new hospitals – a UT Austin specialty hospital and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. UT Austin will build and

operate its new specialty hospital, while MD Anderson will expand its Houston footprint to Austin by building and operating a new, comprehensive cancer center.

The establishment of The University of Texas at Austin Medical Center, with UT MD Anderson Cancer Center adjacent to a new University hospital and access to all of UT Austin's education and research assets, will result in transformative cancer care, provide students at the flagship campus with unmatched experiences, and benefit patients throughout the state and nation. The total investment for these cornerstone projects of the new medical center is estimated at $2.5 billion, and groundbreaking for the hospitals should begin in 2026.

UT Austin and UT MD Anderson already share strong collaborative relationships that include breakthrough research in cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment. That partnership will be able to grow significantly in the new medical center, using the strengths of both institutions, including the Dell Medical School, to provide a higher level of interaction and space for them to conduct research, educate medical students and treat patients shoulder to shoulder in Austin.

LEADERSHIP

President Jay Hartzell

President Jay Hartzell has served as the leader of The University of Texas at Austin since 2020, guiding the institution through a period of transformative growth and innovation. Under his leadership, UT has achieved significant milestones, including surpassing $1 billion in annual research expenditures and expanding its global reputation as a hub for academic and research excellence. Hartzell has been instrumental in fostering a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration, aligning institutional resources to support ambitious initiatives and positioning the University as a key driver of economic and societal progress in Texas and beyond. Hartzell previously served as the 12th dean of the McCombs School of Business at UT, one of the largest and most distinguished business schools in the country.

Provost Rachel Davis Mersey

Appointed to her role in 2024, Rachel Mersey is known for her bold and strategic leadership, prioritizing faculty development and student success, and fostering a vibrant intellectual community. She has been a steadfast advocate for interdisciplinary research and creative endeavors, driving initiatives that bring together diverse academic units to tackle complex global issues. Mersey also served as the inaugural director of global research partnerships at Meta, then known as Facebook, where she built and led the international team that created the infrastructure for the company to share privacy-protected data with academics in order to better understand the impact of Facebook and Instagram on the world. She joined UT's Moody College of Communication in 2020 as the associate dean for research.

ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

The VPR at UT will serve as the strategic leader and advocate for one of the nation's most dynamic and expansive research enterprises. Reporting directly to the EVPP and working closely with UT's President, the VPR will set a bold vision that aligns with the University's aspiration to become the highest-impact public research university in the world. The VPR will strengthen external partnerships and expand relationships with funding agencies and private industry. They will also address critical operational challenges, including modernizing research infrastructure, streamlining compliance systems, addressing the evolving challenges of research security in a competitive global environment and enhancing support for principal investigators. By allying with Dell Medical School, the VPR will expand UT's biomedical research capabilities, ensuring that the University remains at the forefront of health sciences and innovation. As the public face of UT's research enterprise in the state and in Washington, D.C., the VPR will champion the University's achievements and advocate for its priorities, elevating its visibility and influence on a national and global stage. This is a unique opportunity to lead transformative change at a university poised to redefine the future of research, scholarship and creative endeavors.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

The successful candidate will step into a pivotal leadership role at one of the nation's premier research institutions and help to advance the University's mission by focusing on the following key opportunities and challenges:

Continue the tremendous successes of UT's research enterprise with an inclusive and expansive vision

UT's renown as one of the nation's most powerful research universities has grown by leaps and bounds during the past years by leveraging existing areas of strengths and defining new areas of excellence. The VPR will continue this momentum and further expand the research enterprise in unique ways, including the growth of biomedical research that ties into UT's traditional strengths across engineering and computing sciences, the physical and natural sciences, and in concert with Austin as one of the nation's most dynamic and fast-changing metropolitan regions. As a tier one, AAU university with established excellence in the social sciences, arts and humanistic pursuits, the VPR will build an inclusive, shared vision for the future of the institution that leverages the tremendous span of its scholarly endeavors. The VPR will experiment and innovate with ways to build a lasting culture of research that encourages development and growth among faculty at all career stages. The VPR will engage the expertise of UT's talented faculty, its Associate Deans for Research across the University, the extraordinary and dedicated talent within the ranks of OVPR and its Center and Institute Directors, and key partners across Austin, the UT System and the state of Texas, among many others, to create cross-pollinating and transformative ideas that continue to affect Texas, the nation and the world.

Partner with University leadership to advance UT's impact

UT has a strong tradition of grassroots scholarly collaborations that serves as the source of its intellectual spark and impressive achievements. The VPR will act as a unifying force, rallying academic units and coalescing energy around large-scale, cross-pollinating ideas that span disciplines, approaches and methodologies. This person will be a trusted thought partner and advocate for the research enterprise with the President and Provost providing direct input on tenured faculty hiring decisions, promotion and tenure review, faculty hiring initiatives and major resource allocation. The VPR will be a bridge builder and advocate for new thinking about how incentives, resource prioritization and strategic initiatives can support the research mission.

Catalyze research across UT and the Dell Medical School

The creation of the Dell Medical School at UT in 2014 represented a great leap forward for the University's ambitions as a research and translational powerhouse. The University sees Dell Med as a key pathway to igniting a new and unique era of research excellence that leverages UT's traditional areas of strength while defining new opportunities for growth in the biomedical and health sciences across a spectrum of excellence, and which interconnects throughout the broad University of Texas System. Dell Med forms a conduit with the Texas Medical Center in Houston — the world's largest medical complex — and its MD Anderson Cancer Center, with which Dell Med has formed a shared agreement to create Central Texas' first comprehensive cancer center. UT's ambitious plans also include the establishment of a hospital staffed and operated by MD Anderson, as well as a second, specialty UT hospital. Dell Med also aims to establish a Clinical and Translational Science Institute with UT Health San Antonio. All told, the future of biomedical research across Texas is incredibly ambitious, and the VPR will place Austin as the keystone in a seamless and intricate web that spans geographies, modalities, systems, cultures and disciplines.

Advance critical research infrastructure to meet the moment and define the future

The VPR will inherit a dedicated team of faculty and staff members with a wide diversity of expertise and functional strength. As UT's research enterprise continues to expand significantly, OVPR must address the challenges of scale and growth while positioning itself for future leaps. The VPR must understand the value, importance and challenges of supporting world-class researchers and scholars while meeting the complex regulatory requirements of a research university, particularly one with the incredible breadth of UT. This person will enhance a culture of excellent customer service, collaboration and careful attention to compliance to ensure that faculty members across the University are well supported in scholarly endeavors at all scales and across all disciplines. In addition, the VPR will leverage this healthy culture to recruit and retain excellent office staff. The VPR will also partner with the President and Provost to set priorities for resource allocation, risk mitigation and help design funding strategies to ensure a world-class research infrastructure.

Deepen and strengthen connections to research funders

The VPR is the chief spokesperson for the research enterprise at UT and must be a tireless supporter of and advocate for the University's impact on people and place. UT has benefitted from significant federal support from a tremendous diversity of agencies, achieving success with the largest and most sophisticated funding mechanisms and partners, including the NSF AI Institutes, Engineering Research Centers, the ENGINES Program and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). At the same time, UT's endeavors across the arts, humanities and social sciences have never been stronger, and in recent years UT has seen deeper engagement with the National Endowment for the Humanities, along with prestigious grants from private foundations such as the Mellon Foundation, the Knight Foundation and the Spencer Foundation. The VPR will also build and expand critical research partnerships with other institutions such as MD Anderson and Army Futures Command. As state and federal priorities evolve, the VPR will ensure that the University's research enterprise continues to be nimble, responsive and proactive in sustaining these critical connections now and in the future.

Champion a culture of innovation and impact across the University

Entrepreneurial innovation and economic transformation are among the highest priorities of the University, whose impact across the state of Texas approaches $9 billion annually. The Office of the VPR will maintain strong ties to UT's Discovery to Impact pipeline, which forms the key conduit by which scholarship at the University translates to real world application and which interfaces with the astonishing entrepreneurial spirit of the broader Austin region. The VPR will bring a renewed focus on innovation and translation across the University, working with offices and functions within and outside OVPR to define systems and pathways by which faculty members and scholars across all ranks can bring their efforts to bear on real-world problems near and far.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal candidate will be a distinguished scholar and visionary leader who embodies UT's commitment to excellence, innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration. The person will possess a proven track record of advancing transformative research, evidence of success in strategic leadership and a documented ability to build dynamic partnerships across academia, government, industry and the broader community. Strong candidates will have some combination of the following qualifications and characteristics:

- A terminal degree in a represented academic discipline is required, along with the ability and credibility to provide intellectual leadership to UT's broad research community.
- A record of having substantially advanced research and scholarship in a represented academic discipline and the ability to be appointed at the tenured Full Professor rank.
- A visionary and collaborative leader who exercises superb judgment, evaluates trends, anticipates emerging areas, and defines adaptive and collaborative strategic priorities.

- Exceptional tact and diplomatic skills, with the ability to navigate complex research environments, balancing the needs and priorities of multiple stakeholders while fostering collaboration and resolving conflicts.
- A proven record of achievement in building, modernizing and sustaining research infrastructure to support scalable growth of a university's research enterprise.
- A proven ability to bridge diverse academic disciplines, integrating STEM fields with the humanities, arts and social sciences to advance large-scale and multidisciplinary research initiatives.
- Deep ties to senior leadership in government, business and industry communities; demonstrated experience in securing major research funding from multiple sources.
- Effective management of a complex organization within a large university or comparable public or private sector research organization.
- A record of leading organizational and cultural change in a complex research environment, and the empathy and presence to nurture an organization through such transformation.
- Experience advocating for institutional resources to strengthen infrastructure and enhance research impact.
- Excellent communication skills to represent the University persuasively and compellingly to a broad range of internal and external audiences, including strong listening skills.
- A strong advocate for translating research into real-world solutions, with experience leveraging technology transfer, commercialization and public-private partnerships to maximize societal impact.
- Knowledge and understanding of the current legislative, regulatory and public policy environment affecting research.

TO APPLY

All inquiries, nominations, referrals and applications should be sent in strict confidence to:

Andrew Lee, Managing Partner
Vijay Saraswat, Partner
Raul Bernal, Senior Associate
https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-texas-austin/vice-president-research

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