



Search for  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**JEN-HSUN HUANG AND LORI MILLS HUANG COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION COMPLEX**  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, Oregon



## OVERVIEW

Oregon State University (OSU) seeks a visionary leader to launch and lead its new [Jen-Hsun Huang and Lori Mills Huang Collaborative Innovation Complex](#). When completed in late 2026, the complex will serve as a dynamic space for highly collaborative team-based transdisciplinary research, house one of the nation's most powerful university supercomputers, and provide specialized research and innovation spaces.

Under the leadership of [President Jayathi Murthy](#), the University launched its boldest strategic plan ever: [Prosperity Widely Shared: The Oregon State Plan](#). Under this plan, the University will pursue ambitious research objectives in four areas of focus underpinned by artificial intelligence and high-performance computing, achieve student success, and advance economic and workforce development to elevate Oregon State's global identity as an institution helping to fuel a thriving world.

OSU is poised to take a transformational leap forward in amplifying and catalyzing excellence in meeting the targets set in this strategic plan. Over the last decade, OSU's researchers and

innovators have focused efforts on addressing global challenges through innovative, transdisciplinary collaboration across the sciences, engineering, arts, social sciences, and humanities. In FY2024, faculty-led research expenditures reached \$422 million, reflecting a remarkable 34.5% growth over the past five years.

To continue on this trajectory, the Huang Complex will serve as the University's hub for inter- and transdisciplinary solutions-driven research, underpinned by AI and a supercomputer, described by Jen-Hsun Huang as a "time machine" to accelerate OSU's research in addressing global challenges. The complex will focus on accelerating the application of AI and research computing across OSU's interconnected signature areas of research and innovation. It will catalyze the translation of research into applications through high-impact partnerships with industry, startups, and external stakeholders, while also fostering partnerships with national labs and other research institutions. The complex will support the delivery of interdisciplinary graduate and undergraduate programs that prepare OSU students to help solve the world's most pressing problems, as well as transdisciplinary leadership faculty development and incentive programs.

As the leader of this vision, reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice President, with a dotted line to the Vice President for Research and Innovation, the Executive Director is responsible for building on the vision and implementing the strategies to integrate research, talent, facilities, and commercialization in ways that expand the University's leadership in AI, robotics, climate and marine science, energy systems, and integrated health and biotechnology. The Executive Director represents the Huang Complex to the University community and its many partners and stakeholders. The Executive Director serves as the Huang Complex's chief administrative officer responsible for overall leadership, academic program and research programming and stewardship, fund-raising, management, budgeting, and operations. The Executive Director directly supervises a number of staff and oversees a significant operational budget.

## **OPPORTUNITY AND EXPECTATIONS**

The Huang Complex will support AI-accelerated transdisciplinary research in areas of strength at OSU such as climate and the environment, energy, robotics, integrated health and biotech, in pursuit of both discovery and innovation—with the goal of achieving solutions to the most vexing global challenges. The University seeks an inaugural Executive Director with an entrepreneurial mindset and translational and transdisciplinary research experience to become a visionary and effective leader in facilitating collaborative, large-scale, team-based research in OSU's signature areas underpinned by artificial intelligence and high-performance computing. The Executive Director will oversee collaborative research initiatives, grow the community of participants and expand disciplinary connections, and work closely with the Division of Research and Innovation, the Provost's Office, and OSU's eleven colleges, as well as OSU's unique centers and institutes.

The ultimate goal for the Huang Complex is to become a national model of an infrastructure that drives research growth, innovative translational output, and economic development with impacts for Oregon and the nation, while generating substantial revenue and strong collaborative transdisciplinary and industry partnerships.

The Huang Complex will also contribute to OSU's ongoing efforts to integrate arts, humanities, and STEM research and creative output. Opened in 2024, the Patricia Valian Reser Center for the Creative

Arts ([PRAx](#)) is the centerpiece of this effort and will be an important partner for the Huang Complex, providing OSU with another unique opportunity to achieve lasting transdisciplinary impact.

The inaugural Executive Director will refine a vision and strategy for the Huang Complex; design and implement its organizational structure; hire and supervise staff; fundraise for endowed positions, named spaces, and equipment and support programming; recommend affiliated faculty appointments and faculty strategic hiring plans; and oversee laboratory, seminar, office, specialized research facility, and space allocations. Specifically, the Executive Director is responsible for the following, often in collaboration with other senior leaders, partners and stakeholders:

- Position the Huang Complex as a highly visible catalyst for leading-edge AI-accelerated research in inter- and transdisciplinary solutions-driven research addressing global challenges in climate and the environment, energy, robotics, health, and other fields of strength at OSU, while also serving as a statewide platform for economic development and industry attraction.
- Develop and expand innovation platforms and industry partnerships that establish the Huang Complex as a national leader in turning research into real-world impact. These efforts may include research testbeds, translational programs, co-location with industry, and other initiatives that connect academic excellence with practical application.
- Advance and support the use of AI in research and educational programs across OSU.
- Work with OSU leadership, including all academic deans, to develop a robust organizational structure for the complex that supports inter- and transdisciplinary solutions-based team research in priority areas.
- Design and implement revenue-generating programs and partnership models that leverage Huang Complex facilities for external use by industry, startups, and public-sector collaborators. Ensure these efforts are integrated with existing OSU efforts such as EDIR and the Advantage Offices.
- Partner with the OSU Foundation and OSU Alumni Association on a robust fundraising and engagement strategy.
- Partner with the Division for Research and Innovation support collaborative research and innovation, including infrastructure, economic development, industry connections, and seed funding.
- Lead and scale pathways for the translation of discoveries to external application through commercialization, strategy, management, policy and practice.
- Deepen existing and develop new industry and economic development partnerships in collaboration with the Office of Economic Development and Industry Relations (EDIR) in the Division of Research and Innovation.
- Oversee the operations, use, budgeting and shared management of the Huang Complex, which will house signature research facilities, selected faculty, and some administrative functions.
- Collaborate with the PRAx Executive Director and other relevant partners to develop programs in arts and tech integration.
- Support the delivery of interdisciplinary graduate and undergraduate programs, both in-person and online, that prepare OSU students to help solve the world's most pressing problems.
- Promote inclusive excellence in all activities of the Huang Complex.

The Huang Complex may house centers and institutes that advance the priorities of the strategic plan, some reporting to the Executive Director, some to the Division of Research and Innovation, and some to the Office of the Provost. The Huang Complex will also house the TERA Solutions Hub designed to facilitate and support transdisciplinary research and innovation. The TERA Hub, led by the Division of Research and Innovation, supports OSU's strategic goal to become a university that drives discoveries leading to real-world solutions. The complex will house one of the nation's most powerful university supercomputers to accelerate discovery and innovation in OSU's signature research areas. The complex will house a number of [signature research facilities](#) in addition to the supercomputer; an extended reality theater; an ocean and clean water lab; and an innovation lab.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

*We recognize that leadership potential and professional experience can take many forms. While the listed qualifications reflect our ideal candidate profile, we encourage individuals with a strong commitment to higher education, inclusive leadership, and strategic vision to apply—even if your background does not align with every requirement. We value diverse perspectives and are committed to identifying leaders who can contribute meaningfully to our mission and community.*

The successful candidate will bring most of the following qualifications and characteristics, including a terminal degree in their relevant field, with extensive experience in artificial intelligence applied to solving real-world problems.

**Leadership:** The ability to inspire across and bring together a complex and diverse community; the ability to establish and work with highly functional, diverse teams and to resolve conflict; the ability to lead in a strategic, effective and grounded way in the face of crisis and conflict; the ability to lead, form, and motivate teams in transdisciplinary areas of research.

**Vision, strategic thinking, and capacity for execution:** The ability to articulate a compelling and innovative vision and to inspire and unite a community around it; an equivalent capacity for implementing and operationalizing strategic initiatives. Background or achievements that demonstrate an ability to identify emerging transdisciplinary, translational research opportunities, develop scalable business models, and align with national and global industry needs.

**Entrepreneurial spirit, drive, and experience:** Demonstrated entrepreneurial drive and experience in translating research into economic value. A strong understanding of the funding landscape, with significant experience initiating and managing industry partnerships, launching or supporting startups (whether personally or through mentoring faculty, postdocs, or students), and building externally facing programs. A sophisticated and pragmatic approach to assessing risk and benefit in translational efforts is essential, along with a deep commitment to empowering faculty and students in their pursuit of innovation, commercialization, and economic impact.

**Collaborative and consultative approach:** A collaborator and convener with the capacity to build consensus, advance an overarching vision, and motivate and inspire others to assure its realization; the ability to make and stand by challenging and nuanced decisions and take risks, coupled with courtesy, respect, and a delicate touch; a flexible and creative thinker and problem solver; the humility to admit when one has made an error and adjust accordingly; respect and appreciation for



the role of faculty and readiness to partner effectively with other senior leaders and faculty; the motivation and drive to facilitate the work of others successfully; the fortitude to commit to transparency and authenticity.

**Record of successful fundraising:** Demonstrated success in garnering a robust and diverse funding portfolio to meet the needs of an organization or a significant initiative. A strong understanding of the federal, industry, and philanthropic funding landscapes. Ability to collaborate with funding organizations to help shape priorities for research investments.

**Record of advancing inclusive excellence:** A demonstrable commitment to and record of vigorous leadership in advancing inclusive excellence at a systemic level and for organizational change; exemplary skill in communicating and collaborating with individuals and groups with diverse identities and lived experiences; successful and significant track record in removing barriers to access, success and inclusion in higher education, and in affirming the importance of diversity to the University in all its forms.

**Management, financial, and operational strength:** Exceptional management, planning, and financial acumen; demonstrated ability to be responsible for the fiscal and operational success of an organization or large initiative; experience successfully integrating external funds and revenue generation.

**Communication skills:** Ability to build trust and foster open dialogue among diverse constituent groups and colleagues and to advocate effectively for the University within and beyond the University community; an articulate and authentic communicator who can inspire and engage others to come together around a shared vision; an outstanding listener.

**Interpersonal skills and personal qualities:** Self-awareness and a high degree of emotional intelligence; optimism and openness to new ideas and diverging opinions; strong conflict management skills; persistence and flexibility; a collegial, accessible, and consultative approach; absolute integrity.

*Note that candidates who possess an earned doctorate with a distinguished record of professional and scholarly accomplishments and contributions that justify an appointment as a professor or associate professor with tenure at Oregon State University may be considered for tenure.*

## **OSU IN CORVALLIS, OREGON**

Founded in 1868 and recognized as one of only three land, sea, space, and sun grant universities in the U.S., Oregon State is an internationally renowned public research institution that draws students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries. OSU is Oregon's statewide university, with its main campus in Corvallis, OSU-Cascades in Bend, the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, and the OSU Portland Center. Oregon State delivers more than 110 online degrees and programs through a nationally ranked Ecampus. Oregon State supports programming in all 36 Oregon counties, including agricultural research and Extension centers, The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, and research forests. The University serves over 38,000 students, with more than 5,000 faculty and staff, and a \$1.84 billion annual budget.

OSU's main campus is in Corvallis, a community of approx. 60,000 located in the heart of western Oregon's Willamette Valley. Corvallis is 90 miles south of Portland. The Pacific Coast and the Cascade Mountains are nearby. Corvallis is a vibrant college town; ranked as the fourth-best overall college city in America by WalletHub. [The Imagine Corvallis 2040](#) campaign demonstrates Corvallis's commitment to making itself a livable, diverse community. Known for prioritizing environmental responsibility, Corvallis sits within easy access to Oregon's finest natural recreational and scenic areas: ocean beaches, lakes, rivers, forests, high desert, wine country, and the rugged Cascade Mountain and Coast ranges. The University's branch campus, OSU-Cascades, is in Bend, which is world-famous for both its outdoor pursuits and pristine beauty. Today, Bend and Central Oregon represent Oregon's fastest-growing region and one of its most dynamic economies.

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Oregon State University has retained Isaacson, Miller to assist in the Executive Director search. Julie Filizetti is leading the Isaacson, Miller team that includes Phuong Ta and Ibaad Nazeer.

We invite your questions, nominations, and referrals. Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until an Executive Director is appointed. Visit the [Isaacson, Miller website](#) for all inquiries or to apply.

University contacts: Search Advisory Committee Chair: Dr. [Belinda Batten](#), Senior Advisor to the Provost for Special Projects; Search Administrator: [Gigi Bruce](#), Chief Assistant to the Provost



*OSU is an Equal Opportunity Employer, including disability, protected veteran, and other protected status.*

*OSU is a fair chance employer committed to inclusive hiring. This job has "critical or security-sensitive" responsibilities. If you are selected as a finalist, your initial job offer will be contingent upon the results of a job-related pre-employment check (such as a background check, motor vehicle history check, sexual misconduct reference check, etc.). Background check results do not automatically disqualify a candidate.*

*This position is designated as a critical or security-sensitive position; therefore, the incumbent must successfully complete a criminal history check and be determined to be position qualified as per University Standard: 05-010 et seq. Incumbents are required to self-report convictions and those in youth programs may have additional criminal history checks every 24 months.*

*Final candidates for this position must complete a sexual misconduct reference check, per University Policy 05-010. An offer of employment will be contingent upon satisfactory results from the sexual misconduct reference check.*