



Deputy Executive Vice President, Knowledge Enterprise
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

THE SEARCH

Arizona State University (ASU) is seeking a strategic, collaborative, and operationally savvy leader to serve as Deputy Executive Vice President of the Knowledge Enterprise (KE). The Deputy Executive Vice President will play a central role in supporting the Knowledge Enterprise in achieving its goals by providing leadership, management, and direction, while advancing key initiatives and managing complex interdisciplinary efforts. As the primary strategic partner to the Executive Vice President, Sally Morton, they will be charged with turning high-level strategy and ideas into tangible, impactful results.

A leading public university based in the metropolitan Phoenix area, ASU is realizing a bold reinvention of higher education as the New American University. Under the leadership of President Michael Crow, ASU has developed numerous programs and units that bridge and transcend disciplinary boundaries to enable the exploration and discovery of new knowledge while developing solutions to serve Arizona and the world at large. The university has strong and simultaneous commitments to educational attainment, innovation, and sustainable outcomes, and assumes significant responsibility for the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its surrounding communities. This strategy is built around intellectual fusion, use-inspired research, and scholarship that addresses today's largest and most essential societal problems.

The Knowledge Enterprise advances a vibrant environment of discovery, interdisciplinary research and innovation, trains and supports entrepreneurs, leads the university's economic development activities, engages with corporate partners and international development agencies, and facilitates technology transfer. It houses several trailblazing multidisciplinary institutes and initiatives and boldly aims to not simply find solutions to grand challenges, but to fundamentally reshape how the world solves problems.

The Deputy Executive Vice President will join KE at a time of exceptional growth and momentum and will be tasked with executing major initiatives and partnerships and ensuring cross-functional integration across KE's diverse units and programs, with a particular emphasis on KE's entrepreneurial, innovation, and industry efforts. They will serve as a high-functioning collaborator, able to quickly adapt to changing priorities and capable of advancing a wide range of projects housed in KE and across the institution, ranging from health, sustainability, engineering, and the physical and biological sciences. They will

exemplify ASU's inclusive values and commitment to excellence, fostering an environment of innovation, collaboration, and operational effectiveness in alignment with the university's [charter](#) and goals.

To be successful, the Deputy Executive Vice President will address key opportunities listed below and outlined in detail on pages 3-4 of this document:

- Translate the Executive Vice President's vision and KE's strategic plan into actionable operational plans
- Lead, manage, and coordinate cross-functional efforts among KE units to achieve integrated outcomes
- Establish and manage high-level partnerships with academic institutions, industry leaders, healthcare organizations, government agencies, and non-profit entities
- Oversee the execution of complex, multidisciplinary projects and major initiatives, monitoring progress, budgets, and outcomes

ABOUT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Arizona State University is leading a bold reinvention of higher education as the New American University. ASU has thrived on an unprecedented combination of academic excellence, entrepreneurial energy, and broad access, and the University's Charter, adopted in 2014, reflects that vision: *ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.*

This New American University is a single, unified institution comprising four differentiated campuses positively impacting the economic, social, cultural, and environmental health of the communities it serves. Its research is inspired by real-world applications blurring the boundaries that traditionally separate academic disciplines.

Since 2004, ASU has become a global leader in sustainability efforts—creating the Global Institute of Sustainability, launching the first School of Sustainability in the country, deploying the largest solar energy portfolio of any university in the U.S., and more. In 2023, ASU joined the prestigious Association of American Universities, highlighting its position as one of the nation's preeminent research universities.

In fall 2025, ASU will enroll more than 158,000 undergraduate and graduate students, with nearly 80,000 joining on one of ASU's campuses and locations, and more than 80,000 enrolled online — demonstrating the University's commitment to educational access and providing world-class education at scale. ASU projects a record-setting 42,900 new first-year, transfer, and graduate students enrolled. A key driver of ASU's enrollment increases is its commitment to being the preferred university choice for Arizona residents, who account for a projected 18,000 new students, including 9,700 of those students who will join ASU from Arizona high schools. ASU is also poised to host a projected 14,600 international students

this year, hailing from 165+ countries. One in three ASU undergraduates are first-generation college students, and more than 60,000 students accessed Federal Pell Grants during the last academic year.

To learn more about ASU, see www.asu.edu.

ABOUT KNOWLEDGE ENTERPRISE

Knowledge Enterprise (KE) is a fast-growing research and innovation ecosystem that drives ASU's research portfolio. It advances ASU's global leadership in interdisciplinary research, discovery, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and aims to provide public value, benefiting local, national, and global communities. Through collaboration, community investment, and interdisciplinary approaches, ASU is redefining how global challenges are addressed.

ASU has more than doubled its research expenditures over the last decade, reaching \$904 million in FY 2023. Additionally, more than 250 companies have launched based on ASU innovations, attracting \$1.4 billion in external funding. The university ranks #1 in the U.S. and #9 in the world for global impact in research, outreach, and stewardship, and has been ranked the #1 Most Innovative School by [U.S. News & World Report](#) for ten consecutive years.

Knowledge Enterprise is composed of operational units that support ASU researchers and innovators and university-wide institutes focused on global grand challenges. They include the Biodesign Institute, Core Research Facilities, Corporate Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development, Global Security Initiative, Humanities Institute, Institute for Social Science Research, International Development Initiative, J. Orin Edson Entrepreneurship & Innovation Institute, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, Learning Engineering Institute, The McCain Institute, NewSpace Initiative, Research Operations, The T. Denny Sanford Harmony Institute, and Skysong Innovations. To learn more about the Knowledge Enterprise units, institutes, and initiatives, please see **Appendix 1**.

Knowledge Enterprise is led by Executive Vice President, [Sally Morton](#), and supported by a broader leadership team focused on functions such as research partnerships, finance, operations, and strategy.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Translate the Executive Vice President's vision and KE's strategic plan into actionable operational plans

- Work closely with the Executive Vice President to set ambitious goals, prioritize initiatives, evaluate requests, and ensure that efforts align with KE's strategic objectives.
- Craft a long-term strategy focused on partnerships, product portfolio management, and external revenue growth.

- Drive the implementation of major research and innovation initiatives across the Knowledge Enterprise, ensuring projects advance from concept to successful execution.
- Constantly scan and evaluate KE projects, especially high value initiatives, to ensure a path to success. Evaluate and consult, as needed, to ensure that there is a clear direction and an executable operations plan for all KE projects across the University.

Lead, manage, and coordinate cross-functional efforts among KE units to achieve integrated outcomes

- Organize and streamline efforts in Entrepreneurship & Innovation.
- Break down silos and promote collaboration to address complex challenges that span multiple disciplines and organizational areas.
- Enhance operational efficiency within KE by implementing best practices in project management, financial stewardship, and administrative processes.
- Work with leadership to ensure compliance with university policies and relevant regulations, and to foster an environment of continuous improvement in support of research excellence.

Establish and manage high-level partnerships with academic institutions, industry leaders, healthcare organizations, government agencies, and non-profit entities

- Act as a primary liaison to external partners to initiate new collaborations and sustain ongoing strategic relationships that advance ASU's research and innovation agenda.
- Engage corporate partners across priority sectors such as human health, microelectronics, planetary health, national security, space exploration, and water.

Oversee the execution of complex, multidisciplinary projects and major initiatives, monitoring progress, budgets, and outcomes

- Remove barriers to success by facilitating resource allocation, improving operational processes, and resolving cross-unit challenges.
- Ensure that initiatives are delivered on time and meet quality expectations.
- Integrate various projects and assets across the enterprise, including government and private funding sources.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Required Qualifications:

- Doctoral degree (Ph.D or equivalent terminal degree) in a relevant field (or combination of fields) and at least 10 years of related administrative leadership experience in research-driven organizations, including 5 years in a senior supervisory or executive role.
- A strong record of scholarly or professional achievement and experience managing large teams or complex projects.

Desired Qualifications:

- An in-depth understanding of how large research universities operate – including knowledge of academic structures, research funding processes, compliance requirements, and the culture of faculty-driven research environment.
- Demonstrated ability to take broad strategic initiatives and develop detailed implementation plans, managing these through to completion.
- Skills in program/project management and operational execution in complex organizations.
- Proven skill in leading and motivating diverse, multidisciplinary teams.
- Ability to recruit, develop, and inspire talent, and create an inclusive, collaborative working environment that spans multiple fields.
- Ability to effectively partner and build alliances with stakeholders in academia, industry, government, clinical/health sectors, and non-profits.
- Experience adeptly navigating different organizational cultures to find common ground and drive joint initiatives.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including the ability to convey complex ideas in clear, non-technical language.
- Uncompromising integrity, sound judgement, and discretion.
- Ability to think across disciplinary boundaries and spot opportunities at the intersection of fields.
- Prior appointment as a tenured faculty member or research director.

LOCATION

This position is located in Tempe, Arizona. To learn more about Tempe and the greater Phoenix area, please see **Appendix II**.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/arizona-state-university/deputy-executive-vice-president-knowledge-enterprise>. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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Isaacson, Miller

Arizona State University is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. For more information, please visit: <https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html> and <https://www.asu.edu/titleIX/>

APPENDIX I: ABOUT KE UNITS, INSTITUTES, AND INITIATIVES

Biodesign Institute: The [Biodesign Institute](#) is focused on improving health, protecting lives and sustaining the planet. With its world-class facilities, cutting-edge technologies, and a talented and diverse team of scientists and engineers, the Biodesign Institute is a trusted resource for addressing the world's most pressing challenges. Its research and accomplishments have created a proven track record driven by a commitment to innovation, collaboration, and making a real-world impact. By leveraging expertise in biotechnology, engineering, and advanced analytics, the Biodesign Institute is ready for what comes next.

Core Research Facilities: ASU's [Core Research Facilities](#) provide high-level research equipment and expertise to support discovery and innovation. They are a cost-effective, one-stop shop that translates ASU's transdisciplinary expertise and wide array of equipment into solutions for each client. They include 30 distinct facilities in six focus areas.

Corporate Engagement and Strategic Partnerships: [Corporate Engagement and Strategic Partnerships](#) connects organizations with ASU faculty, staff, and students for mutual success. Partnerships are designed to be individualized, transformative, and impactful. Connections are made with private industry, local governments, and community leaders to drive economic development that promotes human well-being.

Economic Development: The ASU [Office of Economic Development](#) supports Arizona's business attraction, retention and expansion strategies to help improve local and regional communities and improve their economy.

Global Security Initiative: The [Global Security Initiative](#) (GSI) convenes world-class interdisciplinary researchers and experts in mission-critical areas in support of national security. To produce tools, technologies, and programs that are impactful and useful to policymakers and implementers GSI leverages ASU's unique capabilities – its breadth of expertise, strength in interdisciplinary teaming, global footprint, advanced infrastructure, and leading educational platforms – to meet the mission needs of defense, security, and intelligence communities.

Humanities Institute: The [Humanities Institute](#) supports research and creative engagement with what it means to be human in a constantly changing world. This institute connects university and partner communities in celebrating the best of what the humanities can accomplish across cultures, time, and space.

Institute for Social Science Research: The [Institute for Social Science Research](#) supports the social sciences at ASU by helping students and faculty develop the research skills needed in today's world.

International Development Initiative: The [International Development Initiative](#) is dedicated to driving global change through a collaborative, accountable, and impact-driven approach to addressing the world's development needs. It works in partnership with universities, governments, the private sector,

non-governmental entities, and local communities to solve development problems and act as an engine of transformational change around the world.

J. Orin Edson Entrepreneurship + Innovation Institute: From self-guided lessons to collaboration spaces and mentorship opportunities, the [Edson E+I Institute](#) offers resources for anyone to find the entrepreneur in themselves, whether they are ASU students, faculty, or a member of the community. Edson E+I programs include incubator initiatives, pitch competitions, university and community-embedded programs, and support.

Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory: Since 2019, the [Global Futures Laboratory](#) has drawn on ASU's deep commitment to use-inspired research. Its ongoing endeavors in sustainability, responsible innovation, and service to the global community in which we live are explored across five core spaces: Discovery, Learning, Solutions, Networks and Engagement. Its work is deployed locally, regionally, and globally, through its headquarters on the Tempe campus, its centers in Hawaii, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Bermuda, and across its diverse network of partners around the world.

Learning Engineering Institute: ASU's [Learning Engineering Institute](#) (LEI) aims to transform learning environments and experiences to empower equitable student engagement, improved learning outcomes, and success across large, diverse populations of learners. Drawing on behavioral, design, computer, and data sciences, the LEI advances research and development around educational technology to develop data-informed, technologically enhanced innovations in learning and instruction. The LEI's transdisciplinary approach includes systematically collecting large-scale learning data while respecting data privacy, analyzing data to make better predictions, and rapidly iterating new approaches to improve outcomes.

The McCain Institute at ASU: The [McCain Institute](#) is a nonpartisan organization inspired by Senator John McCain and his family's dedication to public service. It is a part of Arizona State University and based in Washington, D.C. Its programs defend democracy, advance human rights, and empower character-driven leaders. Its unique power to convene leaders across the global political spectrum enables it to make a real impact on the world's most pressing challenges. Its goal is action, not talk, and like Senator McCain, it works to create a free, safe, and just world for all.

NewSpace Initiative: To advance space access and exploration further, academic and commercial space enterprises must leverage value-added expertise, facilities, and focus to drive the future of this industry. The ASU Space Technology and Science ([NewSpace](#)) Initiative is creating academic-commercial partnerships that brings together the most brilliant minds in the space industry sector for an unprecedented collaborative effort. ASU NewSpace leads the integration of academic and commercial space enterprises using ASU's core strengths in space science, engineering, and education.

Research Operations: ASU [Research Operations](#) offers services and support to researchers throughout the entire research life cycle, from locating funding opportunities to commercializing new technologies.

T. Denny Sanford Harmony Institute: The [T. Denny Sanford Harmony Institute](#) at Arizona State University is working toward a world where every child has the opportunity to experience harmonious relationships with the people in their lives. The institute advances this goal through rigorous research, evidence-based and scalable solutions, education and mentoring, and collaborative partnerships.

Skysong Innovations: [Skysong Innovations](#), LLC is a separate and independent private nonprofit, which substantially increases flexibility and speed in its deal-making and venturing activities. With Skysong Innovations' support, ASU has become one of the top-performing U.S. universities in terms of intellectual property inputs (inventions disclosed by ASU researchers) and outputs (ASU innovations advanced through licensing deals and start-ups). Skysong Innovations was established in 2003 as an Arizona limited liability company, formerly known as AzTE.

APPENDIX II: GREATER PHOENIX

Bioscience Core

Biomedicine is one of the fastest growing fields in both research and health care, and the [Phoenix Bioscience Core](#) is home to some of the highest concentrations of research scientists and complementary research professionals in the region. Experts in precision medicine, genomics, molecular medicine, cancer research and health care analytics converge and collaborate, all while drawing on the wealth of resources offered by one of the fastest growing research institutions in the nation.

Business and Industry

Arizona is home to a surging industrial ecosystem, early-stage entrepreneurs, and tech-savvy millennial talent who are breaking new ground across a wide range of industry growth sectors. What's more, Arizona offers a robust portfolio of programs and resources supporting both large and emerging tech companies. The state's rich startup culture continues to thrive and is a preferred choice for technology companies seeking growth. Leading startups have collectively taken advantage of Arizona's high-skills talent base. Arizona's solid reputation and assertive stance on innovation led Fast Company to rank Arizona No. 1 in the country for "entrepreneurial activity."

Climate

Enjoy 300 days of sunshine a year and an average temperature of 76 degrees.

Arts and Culture

Greater Phoenix is a rich arts and culture environment with diverse museums, theater, concert halls, and cultural centers, such as the renowned Heard Museum, Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona Science Center, Phoenix Symphony, Arizona Opera, Ballet Arizona, and the Arizona Theatre Company.

Outdoors

Phoenix has a number of lakes just a short drive away, offering opportunities for boating, sailing, windsurfing, water and jet skiing, fishing, and more. The area is home to dozens of parks and preserves — both in and around the city — with hundreds of miles of multiuse trails for hiking and biking. The state is home to three national parks, including the Grand Canyon and other popular destination spots like Sedona.

Sports

All four of Arizona's major professional sports teams — Arizona Cardinals (NFL), Phoenix Suns (NBA), Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB), and Arizona Coyotes (NHL) — call the metro Phoenix area home, as do the Phoenix Mercury (WNBA), Arizona Rattlers (IFL) and Phoenix Rising FC (USL). The area has over 170 golf courses.

Cost of Living

Greater Phoenix offers the diverse amenities of a major metropolitan region without the high cost of living. As the fifth-largest state in the U.S. and one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing regions in the nation, living and working here is both exciting and affordable.

Low Tax Position

Low personal income taxes and low effective property tax rates offer affordability and opportunities for everyone to thrive.