



**An Invitation to Apply
VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOWLING GREEN, OHIO**

THE SEARCH

Bowling Green State University (BGSU), a doctoral/high research public university in northwest Ohio, seeks an innovative, ambitious, and forward-thinking leader to serve as the Vice President for Research (VPR). This is an exciting opportunity to support a growth-oriented and sustainable culture of research and creative activities at a nationally ranked institution. BGSU has seen a significant increase in extramural funding over the past several years and the University is well-positioned to further increase its research profile under the leadership of an entrepreneurial VPR.

BGSU embraces its role as a public university, acting in the public interest to create public good, and intentionally preparing students for life after graduation. Through excellence in teaching, research, and outreach, the institution facilitates a collaborative, diverse, and inclusive community where creative ideas, new knowledge, and entrepreneurial achievements benefit others in the region, the state of Ohio, the nation, and the world. The Division of Research is integral to the University's efforts to drive academic discovery and economic vitality in the state and beyond, impacting industries through innovation and improving lives.

Reporting to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, the next VPR will join BGSU to lead the Division of Research at a pivotal time as the University continues to make progress on the objectives outlined in its strategic plan, *Forward*. Finalized in 2021, *Forward* demonstrates the institution's commitment to further raising the stature of the research enterprise and creating public good through research, creative activities, partnerships, and engagement. The next VPR's strategic leadership and vision for the Division will be critical to achieving many of *Forward's* goals.

BGSU seeks candidates with the ability to champion a comprehensive University-wide research ecosystem where all faculty, staff, and students are supported and rewarded for their scholarly and creative

accomplishments. The VPR will leverage the University's existing strengths and identify strategic areas for future growth while enhancing the research infrastructure for pre-award and post-award processes as well as research development for faculty and staff. The VPR will also have a critical role in continuing to strengthen BGSU's diverse and inclusive community.

The successful candidate will have an earned Ph.D. or terminal degree along with credentials and achievements that merit appointment as a professor at BGSU. The successful candidate will also have the demonstrated ability to engage and inspire faculty, staff, students, the BGSU community at large, and external constituents around a vision for innovation, research, and creative activities. In addition, the successful candidate will have exceptional interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills, and the ability to lead and manage a talented team of research administration professionals.

BGSU has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. Review of candidates will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Nominations, inquiries, and applications, including a CV and letter of interest, should be submitted in confidence as noted at the end of this document.

ABOUT BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Established in 1910 as a teacher-training institution, BGSU awarded its first bachelor's degrees in 1917. In 1929, the functions of BGSU were expanded to provide four-year degree programs in the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts. The College of Business and graduate programs were added in 1935, the year in which BGSU attained full university status. In 1947, the Graduate School was formed, and BGSU awarded its first doctorate, in English, in 1963.

Beginning in 1946, extension programs of the University were offered in Sandusky, Ohio. During the next two decades, course offerings there were expanded, and in 1965 a regional campus of the University was established to serve Erie, Huron, and Ottawa Counties. That campus is now Firelands College (BGSU Firelands), located in Huron, Ohio. BGSU Firelands, which opened for classes in 1968, offers career and technical education leading to associate degrees in 16 areas as well as eight bachelor's degree programs.

In the 1970s, three new colleges were added to the University's curricular offerings: The College of Health and Human Services, the College of Musical Arts, and the Graduate College. A decade later, the School of Technology was granted college status. The University Honors Program was established in 1978 and was designated as an Honors College in 2013. Most recently, the School of Nursing and the School of Physical Therapy were created within the College of Health and Human Services, and the School of the Built Environment and the School of Aviation were created within the College of Technology, Architecture, and Applied Engineering.

Today BGSU offers more than 200 undergraduate majors and programs within the College of Arts and Sciences; the Schmidthorst College of Business; the College of Education and Human Development; the

College of Health and Human Services; the College of Musical Arts; the College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering; and BGSU Firelands. More than 1,000 undergraduate students across academic colleges are enrolled in the Honors College. The Graduate College offers 17 doctoral programs, 57 master's programs, and a significant number of certificate programs. Approximately 18,800 students are enrolled in the University as of Fall 2022, including nearly 3,100 graduate students. BGSU experienced a 6.9% increase in new first-year undergraduate students starting in Fall 2022 compared to Fall 2021. More than 760 talented and passionate faculty members teach across all majors, with nearly 80 percent holding terminal degrees in their field.

With a commitment to experiential learning across disciplines and majors, the University is a charter member of the Accreditation Council for Co-op and Internship (ACCI), which accredits cooperative education programs. The University is consistently recognized for the quality of its teaching and academic programs as well as the success of its graduates. *The Wall Street Journal* ranks BGSU No. 1 in the Midwest as the public university students would choose again for their education. The University also is the country's No. 3 public university for teaching quality, according to the rankings. *Business Insider* ranked BGSU Ohio's No. 1 university for quality and affordability, and the University holds the 2020 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification endorsement, an elective designation that indicates institutional commitment to community engagement. In 2015 the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities named BGSU an Innovation and Economic University, one of nearly 70 institutions awarded the designation since the program was launched in 2012. BGSU ranks first among public universities in Ohio for boosting former students' earnings ten years after college, according to a national ranking by *The Economist*. Finally, the University earned the prestigious 2017 NCAA Award for Diversity and Inclusion.

University Leadership

Dr. Rodney K. Rogers assumed the role as the 12th President of Bowling Green State University on February 23, 2018, after serving in the interim post since January 1, 2018. Before being named President, Dr. Rogers had served as Provost and Senior Vice President since 2012 and, before that, Dean of the BGSU College of Business since 2006. Experienced in both academia and business, Dr. Rogers has a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University, an MBA from BGSU, and a B.A. in music from Ohio Northern University. As President, Dr. Rogers has led efforts to update and reaffirm the University's strategic plan, *Forward*, to reflect the rapidly evolving higher education context in which BGSU operates. He has engaged in philanthropic activities that resulted in major gifts to support student scholarships, professorships, and facility naming. He introduced an innovative academic program in collaboration with Cedar Fair, a Bachelor of Science in Resort and Attraction Management; launched the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program; and partnered with the Ohio Attorney General's Office to create a new Center for Justice Research to support and explore criminal justice-based research and policy initiatives in the state.

Dr. Joe B. Whitehead Jr. was appointed BGSU's Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs in January 2019. In May 2020, his portfolio grew to include the Division of Student Affairs. A trained physicist, Dr. Whitehead is committed to excellence in graduate and professional education, having arrived at BGSU

from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCAT), where he was a professor of physics and a senior adviser for research with the University of North Carolina System. Previously, Dr. Whitehead served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at NCAT, where he was successful in growing enrollment and retention, improving student success, and raising the university's research profile. Earlier, as the Dean of the College of Science and Technology at the University of Southern Mississippi, he led the development of new programs in engineering, science, and logistics. Coming to BGSU marked a return to Ohio as Dr. Whitehead received both his master's and a doctorate in physics from Kent State University.

Strategic Plan: Forward

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, BGSU has recognized the need to refine its existing strategic plan to reflect the University's commitment to creating public good in a shifting higher education ecosystem. After a series of virtual town halls, open comment periods, and roundtable discussions, BGSU released *Forward* in April 2021. This targeted and intentional plan contains four strategic and foundational objectives:

1. *Driving Public Good Through Redefining Student Success:* BGSU aspires to redefine student success, providing an educational experience that meets students where they are and inspires them to be prepared for opportunities and life after graduation. In this way, BGSU drives public good through its graduates who make a difference in their families, communities, and professions.
2. *Creating Public Good Through Research, Creative Activities, Partnerships, and Engagement:* BGSU aspires to be relevant to its communities to support their social, economic, educational, and cultural vitality. BGSU creates public good through the significance of its research, scholarship, and creative activities.
3. *Powering Public Good Through People and Community:* BGSU aspires to be a diverse, inclusive, curious, and engaged learning community where each member belongs and is inspired to achieve excellence.
4. *Supporting Public Good Through Efficient and Effective Processes, Structures, and Technologies:* BGSU aspires to be an organization that achieves excellence and provides its students with an educational experience that is of great value professionally and personally.

More about the strategic plan can be found at <https://www.bgsu.edu/forward.html>.

Campus and Student Life

The University's primary campus is in the historic city of Bowling Green in beautiful northwest Ohio. This campus comprises 119 buildings on 1,338 park-like acres. The last ten years have seen significant

investment in BGSU's physical profile, with approximately \$500 million committed to improving the campus for all stakeholders. With 30 new or renovated buildings, BGSU has invested in both student and academic life. Students have benefited from new residence halls and dining facilities, a renovated Student Recreation Center and other athletic facilities, and, in partnership with the Wood County Hospital, the Falcon Health Center. Significant renovations have been made to some of the oldest signature buildings on campus, including the Moseley Science Building, University Hall, and the Michael & Sara Kuhlin Center that houses the School of Media and Communication. The Robert W. and Patricia A. Maurer Center opened in 2020 to support innovative business education. The University is preparing to launch a new master planning process in 2023 and 2024 to guide additional improvements to the physical footprint of the campus.

The University Libraries comprises general collections (housed within the William T. Jerome Library) in social sciences, humanities, and sciences; government documents; the Curriculum Resource Center; and is home to three nationally prominent special collections: the Browne Popular Culture Library; the Center for Archival Collections, which includes the Historical Collections of the Great Lakes; and the Music Library & Bill Schurk Sound Archives.

Finances

The University's annual budget is \$422 million, which includes educational, general, and auxiliary budgets for the Bowling Green and Firelands campuses. The single largest revenue stream for the University is tuition and fees. The Bowling Green State University Foundation's assets total approximately \$200 million.

BGSU's most recent and most ambitious comprehensive campaign to date, Changing Lives for the World, ended in March 2021 and raised \$255 million, exceeding the campaign's goal of \$250 million, to create 235 new student scholarships, 12 new professorships, student emergency funding, and more. The campaign, which received donations from 38,000 unique donors across all 50 states and 26 countries, recognizes the strong efforts that have brought the University to where it is today and represents a crucial investment in the University's future for generations to come. Additional information about the capital campaign can be found at <https://www.bgsu.edu/alumni/campaign-conclusion-home.html>.

Location

Bowling Green is a city of roughly 30,000 residents, about 15 miles south of Toledo. The county seat of Wood County, Bowling Green has a picturesque downtown with restaurants, shops, and cafés. The city offers the benefits of a small college town, including a good public school system and private and parochial options. It also provides easy access to the country and the world just a one-hour drive away via Detroit Metropolitan Airport, a major hub for national and global airlines.

The area also offers abundant recreational opportunities. The Toledo Museum of Art's collection of more than 30,000 works of art ranks among the finest in the United States, and the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium

has more than 9,000 animals representing over 800 species. Northwest Ohio is home to miles of shorelines, islands, and riverbanks that provide striking geographies and abundant natural areas. More species of freshwater fish and birds make their home in the region than just about anywhere else in the nation, and an impressive string of parks and reserves makes all this wildlife readily accessible.

Division of Research

BGSU's Division of Research supports the scientific, scholarly, and creative research activities of the institution's faculty, staff, and students. The Division of Research includes the [Office of Sponsored Programs and Research](#), the [Office of Technology Transfer and Services](#), [Animal Research Facilities](#), the [Center for the Future of Forensic Science](#), and the [Office of Research Compliance](#), which includes the [Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#). In total, the Division of Research includes about 20 staff across these units.

The Grants Accounting Office is currently a unit of the Controller's Office in the Division of Finance and Administration. This office oversees the post-award accounting and financial management of grants and sponsored programs for all colleges, departments, and centers at BGSU. The next VPR will be tasked with strengthening the connection between the pre-award services provided by the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research and the post-award services of the Grants Accounting Office to ensure effective and efficient support for faculty, staff, and students.

BGSU's current strategic plan, *Forward*, underscores the importance of research and creative activity in the future of the institution and the vitality of its local and regional communities. In FY2022, the University garnered nearly \$21 million in extramural funding, an increase of more than \$6 million when compared to FY2018 funding. *Forward's* Objective Two highlights BGSU's commitment to creating public good through research, creative activities, partnerships, and engagement, and Initiative Five within this objective is specifically focused on continuing to enhance the support and infrastructure required to significantly enhance extramural funding. The next VPR will have the opportunity to develop and implement a strategy to achieve the ambitious goals that are outlined in *Forward*.

Centers and Institutes

BGSU is home to nationally and internationally known research initiatives, interdisciplinary centers, and institutes in several fields, including the [Center for Family and Demographic Research](#), the [Center for the Future of Forensic Science](#), the [Center for Photochemical Sciences](#), the [Great Lakes Center for Fresh Waters and Human Health](#), the [Great Lakes and Watershed Studies](#), and the [National Center for Family and Marriage Research](#). The Division of Research works closely with faculty and staff in securing external funding to support their research and creative activities.

Significant Recent Research Achievements

- Researchers affiliated with the Center for the Future of Forensic Science made a lifesaving discovery in response to the national opioid epidemic. They scientifically proved that the laundry detergent OXICLEAN™ will deactivate fentanyl. That research finding is helping law enforcement and other first responders prevent accidental exposure to the deadly drug.
- Researchers with the Great Lakes Center for Fresh Waters and Human Health conduct critical research that address issues in Bowling Green's own backyard – the toxic algal blooms that plague Lake Erie and impact freshwater sources around the world.
- Faculty with the Center for Photochemical Sciences are studying the uses of light-responsive chemical compounds for beneficial applications in health, industry, agriculture, and other fields. Their research includes work to develop degradable polymers that could become an alternative for traditional plastics, which do not decompose in nature.
- Faculty in the Department of Sociology and its Center for Family and Demographic Research and its National Center for Marriage and Family Research are contributing to the understanding of evolving social patterns and how family structure in the United States is linked to the health and well-being of children, adults, families, and communities. Their findings are helping to guide public policy and program decisions.
- Longtime BGSU researcher Dr. Peggy Giordano was the 2022 co-recipient of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology, awarded by Queen Silvia of Sweden, the top international prize in criminology. The honor comes as a result of Giordano's career-long work researching crime, in particular examining why people commit crimes and how they might break the pattern of criminal involvement.
- BGSU Creative Writing faculty members have won numerous awards, including multiple National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship, an Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council, and a Barnard Poetry Prize.
- Faculty in the College of Education and Human Development are redefining PreK-12 education through funding from the Ohio Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education, and the National Science Foundation to develop and research innovative, collaborative, culturally responsive models that prepare teachers and leaders.

ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

The VPR is the chief research officer at BGSU and reports to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. The VPR explores potential new areas for research and creative pursuit at the institution, provides leadership and coordination of interdisciplinary research programs, leads University-wide efforts to create a stronger research and creative activity ecosystem, and assists in developing linkages between the University and federal and state funding agencies, industry, and local and regional constituencies.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

The new Vice President for Research will join BGSU at an exciting period in its history. The institution is poised to leverage its long-time strengths in undergraduate and graduate education, student-engaged research, and applied research to support its goal of being a public institution for the public good.

Specific opportunities for the VPR include:

Amplify BGSU's culture of research that extends to all academic disciplines

The VPR will be a champion of research, scholarly, and creative activities across all disciplines, and will partner with academic deans, the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate and Professional Programs, the Senior Director of the Center for Regional Development, and other leaders across the University to enhance and sustain a vibrant culture of research. This individual will identify resources that drive innovation while taking advantage of BGSU's excellence in the arts and humanities, business, education, engineering, health sciences, natural sciences, social sciences, and technology. In addition to creating new programs, systems, and processes that proactively support junior, mid-career, and more established faculty in their pursuit of grants and other sources of funding, the VPR will facilitate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations that capitalize on faculty expertise to address complex societal challenges.

Leverage BGSU's existing strengths to further grow the research enterprise

BGSU has an opportunity to grow its research enterprise both by deepening its investment in several centers of research that are nationally and internationally recognized and by helping to nurture additional hubs of research excellence, especially those that champion interdisciplinarity. The VPR will lead strategic efforts to align investments with those areas, providing BGSU faculty and staff with the tools and resources necessary to move quickly when new opportunities emerge. The VPR will work closely with academic deans and the Provost's office to offer competitive start-up packages in order to attract promising new faculty who will meaningfully contribute to BGSU's production of high-impact research.

To be effective in growing the research enterprise, the VPR must be committed to developing new and innovative approaches to funding and supporting research and creative activities which support BGSU's commitment to being a public university for the public good. The VPR will have a visible presence on campus, across the state, and in Washington, DC, to further develop the institution's relationships with industry partners and government officials and agencies, such as NSF, NIH, DOD, IES, and NEH.

Enhance the research infrastructure for pre-award and post-award processes as well as research development for faculty and staff

In recent years, the Division of Research has taken steps to provide more research infrastructure to better serve faculty and staff. The next VPR will further advance this effort by evaluating current infrastructure

and technology in the Division and identifying gaps as well as opportunities to deliver research support services more efficiently to a broad range of faculty and staff. Working with colleagues from across the University, the next VPR will develop pre-award programs for graduate students and faculty to ensure that everyone at BGSU has access to a wide range of resources for, and support in, accessing external grants and other funding sources.

Currently, the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research and the Grants Accounting Office are administratively located in different units. The next VPR has an opportunity to work with the Provost and the Chief Financial Officer to explore new programs and structures to develop a seamless relationship between these units with a goal of enhancing faculty and staff support through each grant's lifecycle.

In addition, working closely with their staff in the Office of Research Compliance, the VPR will promote the highest standards of safety and integrity to ensure research is fully compliant with federal, state, local, and University regulations and policies while remaining nimble to support the needs of researchers, regulatory offices, and funding agencies.

Strengthen the Office of Sponsored Programs and ensure the Division of Research attracts top talent

The next VPR will build a strong organizational culture within the Office of Sponsored Programs and across the Division of Research, setting priorities for the Division and bringing new ideas around how to efficiently offer a range of services that best support BGSU's growing research ecosystem. The next VPR will work with all staff—new and existing—to build an inclusive community that leverages the full team's experience and knowledge and fosters a service-oriented culture. The VPR will support educational opportunities for staff and will assist in the development of opportunities for upward mobility within the organization. They will be a highly accessible leader with exceptional interpersonal and management skills, including experience building and integrating high-performing units, and have expertise mentoring, recognizing, and rewarding staff for outstanding performance.

Continue to build and strengthen BGSU's diverse and inclusive community

BGSU is committed to a vision of educational and research excellence that embraces the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion as an integral part of the academic mission. The next VPR will demonstrate a personal commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and will work closely with the Division of Diversity and Belonging to further develop and implement the Division of Research's Diversity and Belonging Action plan.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

The successful candidate will meet the following minimum credential requirements:

- Earned Ph.D. or terminal degree along with credentials and achievements that merit appointment as a professor at BGSU.
- Progressively responsible experience managing complex research programs in higher education or industry.
- Understanding of the importance of compliance with regulatory laws, policies, and procedures as it relates to the research enterprise.
- A track record of proactively embracing and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within an organization.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills; verbal and written communication skills; and the ability to effectively lead and work collaboratively with diverse constituencies.

The successful candidate will possess many, if not all, of the following preferred skills, qualities, and credentials:

- Demonstrated ability to engage and inspire faculty, staff, students, the BGSU community, and external constituents around a vision for the research enterprise.
- A record of leading and managing a talented team of research administration professionals.
- A commitment to shared governance and data-informed decision-making.
- Experience working collaboratively with faculty, administrators, and staff in academic units to develop research priorities.
- Demonstrable commitment to facilitating and developing innovation catalyzed by academic discovery.
- The capacity to represent the University to external agencies and partners.
- Strong evidence of an entrepreneurial mindset and astute budgeting and financial acumen.
- Knowledge of federal funding agencies and funding priorities.
- Familiarity with the dynamics of working in a unionized environment.

TO APPLY

BGSU has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. Review of candidates will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Nominations, inquiries, and applications, including a CV and letter of interest, should be submitted via [the search page](#) on the Isaacson, Miller website.

Jeff Kessner, Partner
Robin Dougherty, Managing Associate

Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Bowling Green State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer, is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment, and strongly encourages applications from women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities regardless of age, gender identity, genetic information, religion, or sexual orientation.