Senior Associate Vice President for Research

Oklahoma State University invites nominations and applications for the position of Senior Associate Vice President for Research. This position reports to the Vice President for Research, Dr. Kenneth Sewell.

MISSION

Building on its land-grant heritage, Oklahoma State University promotes learning, advances knowledge, enriches lives, and stimulates economic development through teaching, research, extension, outreach, and creative activities.

University and Community

Established in 1890, Oklahoma State University (OSU) is a modern land-grant university, fostering student success through a blend of tradition and innovation. OSU's goal is to become the preeminent land-grant institution in the country through a bold university strategy. Classified as a Carnegie R1 (Very High Research Activity) university, its leaders are advancing the institution further by supporting excellence across the tripartite mission of student instruction, ground-breaking research, and extending the university's knowledge and expertise to the communities we serve. OSU has more than 35,000 students and employs more than 7,000 faculty and staff across its system, with students from all 50 states and more than 100 nations.

OSU has five campuses: Stillwater, which includes the College of Veterinary Medicine; OSU-Tulsa; OSU-Oklahoma City; OSU Institute of Technology in Okmulgee; and the OSU Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa, which includes the OSU Medical Center. OSU also boasts 16 agricultural experiment stations and 77 county extension offices across the state.

The City of Stillwater provides the perfect setting for a comprehensive research university and is important in attracting top faculty members because of the environment the community provides for OSU employees and their families. With a population of more than 48,000, Stillwater is the quintessential college town. It is the tenth largest city in Oklahoma and is conveniently located between the two largest cities in the state, Oklahoma City and Tulsa. As Stillwater's largest employer, OSU is committed to working with business and city leaders to provide economic development opportunities in Stillwater. The city has a diverse economy with a foundation in aerospace, agribusiness, biotechnology, optoelectronics, printing and publishing, and software and standard manufacturing. Stillwater has been named one of the "6th Fastest Growing Small Towns in America" by Forbes.com and one of the top 100 places to live by CNN/Money Magazine.

CORE VALUES

Community: Foster a strong sense of community based on shared governance among student, faculty, staff, and administration.

Respect: Respect and value all individuals, beliefs, and opinions.

Service: Serving others is a noble and worthy endeavor and distinguishing feature of a land-grant institution.

Steward of Resources: Dedicated to the efficient and effective use of resources and sustainability.

Excellence: Seek excellence in all endeavors and commitment to continuous improvement.

Integrity: Commitment to the principles of truth and honesty.

Intellectual Freedom: Believe in ethical and scholarly questioning that respects the rights of all to freely pursue knowledge.

The Division of Research

OSU researchers improve quality of life by bringing new technologies, processes and medicines to the marketplace. Research through innovation is the engine that drives economic development. Research through the social sciences and humanities improves our well-being and understanding of individual differences and points of view. Research in the creative and performing arts enriches our lives and appreciation of the world.

Utilizing world class facilities and 30 research centers and institutes, OSU's faculty and staff are engaged in research across the full spectrum of human endeavor and inquiry, including areas of state, regional and national importance. Our faculty and staff work closely with undergraduate and graduate students during their education, providing them with hands-on experience and mentoring that helps to develop their intellectual capabilities, creativity and entrepreneurial skills. As such, we are creating the next generation of scientists, engineers, scholars, artists and entrepreneurs who will continue this tradition of research excellence. In FY 2024, OSU was awarded 862 grants and research expenditures exceeded $250 million.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Galvanized by the *We Are Land-Grant* strategy, OSU has articulated four priority areas that translate nicely into the broad research priorities that give OSU its character and its focus, both now and for the years that lie ahead.

Nourish the World
This priority encompasses a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to addressing global food security and nutrition challenges. While the core focus lies in production agriculture and nutrition science, OSU recognizes the complex nature of these issues and incorporates expertise from diverse fields such as business, chemistry, biology, engineering, water management, and political science. This holistic strategy aims to develop sustainable food systems, improve agricultural practices, enhance nutritional outcomes, support sustainable ecosystems, and optimize food distribution on a global scale. By leveraging its broad range of expert faculty and fostering collaborative research, OSU aims to make significant contributions toward feeding the world's growing population efficiently and sustainably.

Aerospace Innovation and Application
OSU recognizes the need to take a comprehensive approach to propel the future of flight. This priority combines the strengths of traditional aerospace engineering and aviation training with fields such as advanced autonomy, materials science, human performance, and social sciences. This collaboration tackles not only the technical aspects of next-generation aerospace vehicles that include drones and advanced air mobility as well as their associated components such as propulsion systems and avionics, but also the human element by focusing on pilot performance and safety, and societal acceptance of innovations like urban air taxis and delivery drones. These systems will have a wide range of applications from emergency aid, energy, and crop surveillance, sparking a wide use by nascent industries. By fostering a unique synergy between engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and social scientists, OSU aims to make air travel safer, more

efficient, and pave the way for a thriving aerospace industry and logistics/supply chain industry with strong social integration.

Enhancing Human and Animal Health

OSU research leaders recognize the fundamental linkage between human and animal health. This priority leverages OSU's expertise in veterinary medicine, physiology, microbiology, pathobiology, genomics, and toxicology as core disciplines, while also incorporating roles from bioengineering, computer science, social sciences/business, entrepreneurship, and basic chemistry and biology. OSU aims to advance understanding of human and animal health and performance, detect and mitigate the impact of zoonotic diseases, employ data science/AI for early diagnosis of diseases, develop innovative prevention and treatment strategies, and enhance preparedness for future health crises. By fostering collaboration between veterinary and human medical research, integrating multidisciplinary domain expertise for novel solutions, and promoting entrepreneurial ventures in health technologies, OSU seeks to make significant contributions to global health security, improve public health outcomes, advance human and veterinary medicine, and support the viability of critical ecosystems.

Powering a Growing World Population Sustainably and Responsibly

This research priority showcases a comprehensive approach to addressing global energy challenges. This priority leverages a wide range of expertise, from electrical and petroleum engineering to geology, chemistry, economics, and energy accounting, covering both traditional and cutting-edge energy solutions. The strategy encompasses traditional oil and gas technologies alongside renewable sources like solar, wind, and hydrogen, as well as advancements in energy storage, rare earth elements, and critical minerals. OSU energy research aims to drive innovation in energy efficiency, develop viable extraction methods, and create new technologies. OSU seeks to contribute to global energy security and support economic growth through energy R&D.

FUNCTIONAL AREAS

In addition to providing OSU-wide leadership for the research enterprise, the Division of Research operates a number of functional offices and processes on behalf of the institution. Below is a thematic listing of those areas, along with a few example components.

- Institutional-Level Research Strategy/Policy
  - Mid-/Long-Term Initiative Planning
  - New Policy Development
  - Policy Updates/Revisions
- Faculty-Facing Research Programs
  - Liaising with Associate Deans for Research
  - Internal Grants
  - Startup Packages
  - Grantsmanship
- Student-Facing Research Programs
  - Management of VPR-Level Programs
  - Support of Undergraduate Research
- Research Capacity and Competitiveness
  - NSF EPSCoR
  - NASA EPSCoR
  - Grant Writers

- Central Research Unit Management
  - Institution-Level Institutes
  - Core Facilities
- Central Sponsored Programs Administration
  - Coordinating OSU Decentralized Sponsored Programs Infrastructure
  - Contract/Agreement Management
- Public-Facing Outreach and Communications
  - Publications
  - Outreach Events and Platforms
- Federal Relations
  - Liaising with Delegation/Staff
  - Lobbyist Management
- Research-Based Economic Development
  - Technology Commercialization
  - Technology Acceleration
  - Research Park Management
- Research Cyberinfrastructure
  - High Performance Computing Center
  - Regional Supercomputer
- Research Integrity
  - Research Integrity Officer
  - Management of Research Misconduct Allegations/Investigations
  - Responsible Conduct of Research
- Research Compliance
  - Full Spectrum of Compliance Domains (IRB, IACUC, Biosafety, etc.)
- Research Security
  - Federally-Compliant Research Security Program (as per NSPM-33)
  - Insider Threat Program
- Security Clearance Management
  - Controlled Unclassified Information Management
  - Export Controls

The Position

The Senior Associate Vice President for Research (SAVPR) at OSU functions as a "number two" to the Vice President for Research (VPR). As such, the SAVPR serves as the senior member of the VPR leadership team which is composed of two additional Associate Vice Presidents and three Assistant Vice Presidents. The SAVPR has delegated authority in most areas to stand in for the VPR when needed, and is often called upon to fill in temporarily when leadership vacancies occur throughout the Research Division. Thus, breadth of knowledge/experience across the Division's functional areas ***and*** deep management skills are critical.

The specific operational portfolio of the next SAVPR is ***not*** expected to exactly match that of the most recent incumbent. Rather, the successful candidate will work with the VPR and the VPR leadership team to identify the portfolio components at the intersection of the SAVPR's interests/skillsets and the functional areas of the Research Division (described above). The result will be a dynamic portfolio that allows the SAVPR to create demonstrable positive impact on the OSU research enterprise, while simultaneously broadening the leadership purview. The latter aspect is important both for the SAVPR's professional development and for being able to truly fill in for the VPR when needed.

The Senior Associate Vice President for Research must possess an earned doctoral degree, and have academic credentials and previous experience that merit a tenured appointment in an academic unit within the University. Other minimum qualifications include:

- professional and administrative experience in Research in a complex organizational environment;
- demonstrated record of administrative leadership, personnel management, effective communication, and informed decision-making;
- demonstrated record of inspiring and facilitating others to engage in a collaborative environment to innovate, create, and advance the research mission;
- demonstrated record of working effectively with faculty and administrators to create collegial relationships that promote research; and
- demonstrated ability to work cooperatively with people in a wide variety of interests and disciplines to foster high productivity in research, scholarly and creative activities

The successful candidate should be eligible to obtain and possess a Top Secret Security clearance, should have a full range of knowledge of functions within the Research Division, and preferably already at the rank of full professor at a research university.

Application Process

Although applications and nominations will be accepted until a successful candidate has been appointed, interested parties are encouraged to submit their materials by December 14, 2025 to receive optimal consideration. Nominations and application materials, which should include a letter indicating the applicant's interest, experience and qualifications for the position, and curriculum vitae, must be submitted online at https://jobs.okstate.edu/jobs/senior-associate-vice-president-for-research-stillwater-oklahoma-united-states

For additional information, please contact our search consultants at Buffkin / Baker:

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