

Portland State University
Portland, Oregon

Position Profile

Vice President for Research and Strategic Partnerships
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Prepared by:
Summit Search Solutions, Inc.



Portland State
UNIVERSITY

www.pdx.edu

The Position

Portland State University (PSU) seeks a Vice President for Research and Strategic Partnerships (VPRSP) to lead Research and Strategic Partnerships (RSP) as it continues to expand PSU's research capacity and increase the impact of the University's scholarly and creative work on a local, national, and global scale. Four units reside within RSP and report directly to the VPRSP: Sponsored Projects Administration, Research Integrity, Innovation & Intellectual Property, and Strategic Partnerships. Portland State's University Centers and Institutes, composed of five multi-disciplinary research centers, also report to the VPRSP.

With over \$60 million in annual research expenditures, Portland State University has grown over the past 20 years into a thriving urban-serving research university with notable strengths in the areas of sustainability, the life sciences, engineering, urban planning, and social work. Working with a dedicated research administration team and with the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the VPRSP will further forge PSU's identity as a nationally and internationally renowned research university by strengthening and refining an administrative infrastructure that promotes cutting-edge research and scholarship while reducing the burden of grants administration on faculty. The VPRSP will also work closely with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the deans of the schools and colleges, and with individual faculty members across campus, to promote a culture that rewards, incentivizes, and invests in high-impact scholarly and creative activities while leveraging the talents and expertise available through PSU's rich diversity of strategic partnerships.

The Office of Strategic Partnerships within RSP coordinates university-wide strategic initiatives pertaining to regional economic development and civic innovation. The Office of Strategic Partnerships was established within RSP in 2011 and now directs and manages a robust portfolio of partnership and engagement activities that includes major corporate and civic partners such as Intel, PGE, Daimler, the City of Portland, higher education partners, campus-wide innovation and entrepreneurship activities, and the PSU Partnership Council. The VPRSP will leverage both existing and new strategic partnerships to advance and grow PSU's research agenda. The VPRSP will also play a vital role in more closely integrating and aligning PSU's research and partnership activities for greater impact, a critical next step in the evolution of RSP and the University as a whole.

In addition to this critical work within PSU and the Portland Metro Area, the VPRSP works with the government relations staff at PSU and the VPRs from the other major research universities in Oregon to highlight the essential ways in which research, scholarly, and creative activities contribute to Oregon's vibrant and thriving economy.



Qualifications and Experience

Candidates must possess the following:

- An earned doctorate or other appropriate terminal degree, and/or extraordinary accomplishment in a field of teaching, research, and service
- Experience in the administration of research and scholarship programs, including experience dealing with research compliance issues, funding agencies, commercial enterprises, and the industrial/business sector; experience also nurturing the development of intellectual property
- A personal record of sponsored research, including familiarity with the internal and external mechanisms required to build and sustain a top-tier research program
- Strong administrative and management skills, with a demonstrated ability to successfully plan and implement strategic initiatives and to inspire, motivate, develop, and mentor staff
- Demonstrated experience in creating, supporting, and/or participating in joint community engagement projects involving service, research, or teaching, with external partners such as units of government, businesses, nonprofit and civic partners
- A commitment to interdisciplinary research and the wide-ranging intellectual and scientific interests to understand, appreciate, and encourage the varied work conducted within and across the University
- Integrity and a demonstrated commitment to the highest standards of ethical behavior
- A commitment to promoting and enhancing diversity

Ideally, candidates will also be able to demonstrate the following preferred qualifications:

- Experience interacting with legislative leaders and staff
- Proactive leadership skills, including a willingness to reach out to faculty researchers, keep them appropriately informed and professionally engaged, and work to develop and nurture their success
- The ability to build productive relationships, connecting with all members and constituency groups within a higher education community and connected to it; the ability to work collaboratively with those at the campus, state, and national levels
- Outstanding communication and leadership skills; ability to articulate a vision and inspire the full range of University constituencies, including administration, faculty, students, and external audiences
- An energetic and entrepreneurial spirit to stimulate growth; the ability to identify and pursue a path to success

Key Cultural Competencies:

- Creates an environment that acknowledges, encourages and celebrates differences.
- Functions and communicates effectively and respectfully within the context of varying beliefs, behaviors, orientations, identities and cultural backgrounds.
- Seeks opportunities to gain experience working and collaborating in diverse, multicultural, and inclusive settings with a willingness to change for continual improvement.

About Portland State University

Over the last 66 years, Portland State University has developed from a temporary extension center to its position today as a nationally recognized urban research university, the largest and most diverse in the Oregon state system. The institution was first established as the Vanport Extension Center in June 1946 to satisfy the demand for higher education in Portland for returning World War II veterans. Classes were held in the vacated-for-summer Vanport Junior High School. That first summer session had 221 students. Over 1,410 students registered for the 1946 fall term.

Following the Vanport Flood of 1948, the college became known as "the college that wouldn't die" for refusing to close after the flood. The school occupied Grant High School in the summer of 1948, and then moved to hastily-converted buildings at the Oregon Shipyard, known as the Oregon Ship. In 1953, the school moved to downtown Portland and occupied the vacated buildings of Lincoln High School on SW Broadway Street, including the "scabby" Lincoln Hall, then known as "Old Main." The school in 1955 changed its name to Portland State College to mark its maturation into a four-year degree-granting institution.

Portland State University continued to grow with graduate programs added in 1961 and doctoral programs in 1968. The institution was granted university status by the Oregon State System of Higher Education in 1969, becoming Portland State University (PSU). In 2014 Portland State became an independent public body governed by a 15 member Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Oregon Legislature. The state appropriation and all major academic policies and program changes at Portland State are coordinated through Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission in order to prevent inadvertent duplication of programs and to ensure the continuity of existing integrated programs.

PSU Today

Portland State University's motto is "*Let Knowledge Serve the City.*" The University is an anchor institution, providing the Portland region with a highly educated population, substantial economic impact, and distinctive contributions to its culture. The University promotes access, inclusion and equity as pillars of excellence. It is committed to curiosity, collaboration, stewardship and sustainability; strives for excellence and innovation that solves problems and believes everyone should be treated with integrity and respect.

Mission Statement

- We serve and sustain a vibrant urban region through our creativity, collective knowledge and expertise.
- We are dedicated to collaborative learning, innovative research, sustainability, and community engagement.
- We educate a diverse community of lifelong learners.
- Our research and teaching have global impact.

Portland State University's reputation is built on excellence through accessibility; innovation; collaboration; engagement; sustainability; transformation. The University's programs continue to garner national recognition and rankings and it was named one of the top ten innovative universities in the country (US

News and World Report 2016-2017). To see an up-to-date list of the outstanding PSU rankings and references by Princeton Review, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and other nationally respected organizations, please click on the following link:

<http://www.pdx.edu/profile/portland-state-university-rankings-and-references>

Portland State University has 28,000 students – approximately 22,500 undergraduates and 5,500 graduate students. Some 62 percent of the students are full time, approximately 78 percent are residents of Oregon, and 70 percent are transfer students. The University offers over 200 degree programs at the bachelors, masters and doctoral level. The University has approximately 7,000 employees, including research and instructional faculty, academic professionals, managers, and staff and administrators.

Diversity, Inclusion and Globalization

Since its founding, Portland State has embraced a mission of access to higher education for students across the state. Throughout its growth and development, PSU has remained committed to providing access and opportunity to students from regional, national, and international communities in their pursuit of lifelong learning and diverse educational goals. To this end, PSU has utilized an equity lens in its strategic plan and values diversity and fosters a climate of mutual respect and inclusiveness that celebrates the diversity of its students and supports different points of view and the open exchange of ideas. The University is also committed to building the diversity of its faculty and staff to enrich the educational experience of students both inside and outside the classroom and give them the skills they need to flourish and succeed in a diverse global society.

Campus Development and Community Partnerships

Portland State University has developed a reputation as a national model for urban universities that enhance their region by working with partners to solve problems. Advancing community partnerships remains a strategic, core value of PSU as articulated in PSU's current [Strategic Plan](#). PSU remains committed to the further and ongoing evolution of a dynamic, energetic, and inviting University District. The University has invested in infrastructure improvements— such as the streetcar and light rail systems — that enhance the quality of the urban experience.

The PSU campus consists of 49 acres and 50 buildings, including 11 residential student-housing properties. Since 2000, Portland State has added more than 1 million square feet of new space through real estate acquisitions and has plans for new capital investments. The University's special emphasis on the values and practices of community engagement reinforces the potential for successful economic development partnerships and makes PSU a catalytic institution with a sphere of influence that expands well beyond its contributions to a vibrant and active downtown. For more information about Portland State University, click here: <http://www.pdx.edu/aboutpsu>



Portland

Big city excitement and small town charm make Portland, known as "the City of Roses" one of the most popular cities on the west coast. Situated approximately 70 miles from the Pacific Ocean where the Columbia and Willamette Rivers meet, Portland enjoys a magnificent setting, combining sparkling waterways with lush greenery rarely found in urban settings. Portland is home to approximately 610,000 residents and the population of the surrounding metropolitan area is approximately 2.35 million. Portland is widely recognized in national surveys and rankings as one of America's most livable cities. Click here to learn why metro Portland has become a top national tech destination:

<http://www.techtownportland.com/>

Portland's historic old town, many galleries and museums, Saturday Market, Waterfront Park and an abundance of fine restaurants keep residents and visitors busy and satisfied. The performing arts in the area offer classical music, jazz and blues as well as theater and dance. Portland is just a short distance from the spectacular Columbia Gorge and Multnomah Falls, windsurfing at Hood River, valley wineries, skiing at Mt. Hood, and the drama of the Oregon coast.

Portland is known for its extensive park system of more than 200 parks. These encompass such areas as the elm shaded South Park Blocks in the downtown area and Washington Park, home of the Rose Gardens and the Japanese Gardens. Portland's Forest Park, at nearly 5,000 acres, is the largest park within a city in the U.S. and has nearly 50 miles of walking trails.

Portland's award winning mass transit system is one of the most extensive and advanced in the U.S. and includes buses and the MAX, an urban light rail line, as well as a downtown transit mall.

On clear days, the Cascade Range volcanoes **Mount Hood** and **Mount St. Helens** loom on the Portland horizon. Both snowcapped peaks are just a short drive from the city. Stretching above 11,000 feet, Mount Hood is Oregon's highest point. It's a downhill and cross-country skiers' paradise and summer training home for the US Olympic ski team with its year-round snow. During the spring and summer, campers pitch their tents on glassy mountain lakes along the **Pacific Crest Trail**.

If it's ocean you're looking for, the **Oregon Coast** is a year-round playground for adventure-seekers and beachcombers alike. Along the scenic coast Highway 101 you'll find quaint beach towns and wind-wracked headlands hundreds of feet above the crashing Pacific, and miles of un-peopled beach, all of which is accessible to the public by law. Wild flowers grow atop massive cliffs, and eons of wind and angry waves have carved giant boulders into caves and lovely cathedral-esque hollows.



Inquiries, Nominations and Applications

While applications and nominations will be accepted until the position is filled, **interested parties are encouraged to apply by February 16, 2017.**

To apply online, go to <https://www.highereddecisions.com/sss/> and select this vacancy. Please submit a PDF version of your curriculum vitae and letter of interest upon application. Your letter should address your motivation for considering the position as well as your ability to lead collaboratively and enhance research. All applications and nominations will be held in confidence.

For nominations or further information:

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Portland State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, and seeks candidates who are committed to the highest standards of scholarship and professional activities and a campus climate that supports equality, diversity and inclusion.



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