



University of
Pittsburgh



POSITION PROFILE

**Director of the University Center for
Social & Urban Research**

January 2022

In partnership with Summit Search Solutions, Inc.



THE PLAN FOR PITT

The University's [strategic plan](#), The Plan for Pitt, identifies how and where the University wants to improve. It calls for:

- Adding institutional strengths and reputational drivers in the areas of academics, research and scholarship, and community service.
- Enhancing the University's capacity to help improve lives, systems and communities.
- Nurturing opportunities for Pitt community members to grow individually and to collectively create, use and share knowledge.

The Plan focuses on success in three areas:

OUR PEOPLE. *Who we are.*

We are a diverse community of scholars, learners, partners and leaders dedicated to a common cause: the pursuit of knowledge.

OUR PROGRAMS. *What we do.*

Our initiatives and operations fuel opportunities of the highest quality in three key areas: academic excellence, research and scholarship, and community service.

OUR PURPOSE. *The difference we make.*

We improve lives and communities—at every scale—by creating knowledge and leveraging our expertise to tackle some of society's greatest and most pressing challenges.



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Focused on impact and the relentless pursuit of change for good, the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) is a top-ranked, public institution in Pennsylvania and member of the Association of American Universities, a group of 64 preeminent doctorate-granting research institutions in North America. Founded in 1787 as the Pittsburgh Academy, Pitt is one of the nation's oldest institutions of higher education and is recognized as one of the most innovative universities in the world, inventing the paths of the future and forging ahead.

The University's 132-acre Pittsburgh campus, in the vibrant and beautiful Oakland neighborhood, is co-located with the University's health sciences schools and the highly ranked University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Pitt has served as an integral partner and key player in driving the growth of the education and health services super sector in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region. Pitt [actively engages](#) with the surrounding community through its [Community Engagement Centers](#), community-driven partnerships, and volunteer service. The University was recently awarded the Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement in recognition of its institutional commitment to community engagement.

Students come to Pitt from all 50 states, three territories, the District of Columbia, and more than 100 countries, and enrollment on the main campus tops 30,000 students. More than 13,600 faculty, research associates, and staff members are employed on the Pittsburgh campus, and Pitt offers generous [benefits](#) and values [work-life balance](#).

Pitt people have defeated polio, unlocked the secrets of DNA, led the world in organ transplantation, and pioneered TV and heavier-than-air flight. University members have included great thinkers, leaders, artists, sports legends, and those who broke racial and gender barriers, all striving for something greater. The University has a long history of applied social science research. Pittsburgh's legacy as an industrial epicenter led to one of the first integrated, multidisciplinary social science surveys (The Pittsburgh Survey) being conducted in the region beginning in 1907 with funding from the Russell Sage Foundation.

Quick Facts

NO. 1 PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE NORTHEAST

In 2021, the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings again named the Pittsburgh campus as the No. 1 public university in the Northeastern United States.

TOP PRODUCER OF U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

For the ninth time in 10 years, Pitt in 2019 was named one of the nation's top institutions for producing Fulbright students by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

14:1 STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

Students at Pitt develop personal relationships with world-renowned faculty members who serve as their mentors.

TOP 20 PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE NATION

Pitt is ranked No. 19 on the U.S. News & World Report 2021 list of Top Public Schools in the nation. U.S. News & World Report also ranks numerous Pitt [graduate](#) and [undergraduate](#) programs as among the best in the nation, including top 10 rankings in Nursing (Bachelors, Doctor of Nursing Practice, and PhD programs), Psychiatry, and International Global Policy and Administration.

\$4.2B PA ECONOMIC IMPACT

A proven economic engine, Pitt contributes \$4.2 billion to communities throughout Pennsylvania.

645 DEGREES AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Pitt is home to 16 schools and colleges that offer a breadth of high-quality undergraduate and graduate programs.

To learn more, click here to view the [University Fact Book](#).



A photograph showing a man with glasses and a red tie pointing at a whiteboard. He is surrounded by three students (two women and one man) who are looking at the whiteboard. The whiteboard has some handwritten notes and diagrams. The text "UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SOCIAL & URBAN RESEARCH" is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SOCIAL & URBAN RESEARCH

The [University Center for Social & Urban Research](#) (UCSUR) was established in 1972 to serve as a resource for researchers and educators interested in the basic and applied social and behavioral sciences. UCSUR's mission has been to work collaboratively to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves communities and addresses social, economic, health, and policy issues most relevant to society. The center carries out this mission by providing research support infrastructure and training in the social and behavioral sciences; collecting and disseminating regional and national policy-relevant data to support research and community development; and conducting original research in focused areas.

UCSUR's programmatic strengths fall into four broad domains:

- Providing state-of-the-art research support services and infrastructure for investigators interested in interdisciplinary research in public policy and the social, behavioral, and health sciences.
- Supporting the community service mission of the University by providing data and conducting policy analysis for the region.
- Developing nationally recognized research programs within the center in selected areas.
- Supporting the teaching mission of the University by offering interdisciplinary training and mentoring to diverse graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty members.

To support these efforts, UCSUR maintains a research infrastructure available to both the University and the community with the capacity to:

- Acquire, manage, store, and analyze secondary and administrative data sets, including census data and data of unique local interest.
- Obtain, format, and analyze spatial data.
- Carry out econometric modeling.
- Design and carry out research studies.
- Conduct both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis.

UCSUR's research infrastructure is currently organized into core programs:

- The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC) works in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County to provide a shared technological and legal infrastructure to support research, analysis, decision making, and community engagement. The WPRDC has institutionalized its role as a data intermediary within a regional open data infrastructure.
- The Survey Research Program (SRP) carries out any or all phases of a survey research project. SRP collaborates with Pitt faculty, staff, and students, as well as local, state, and federal agencies, and others working in the public interest. SRP also maintains a regional data registry with information on thousands of individuals who are willing to participate in research.
- The Urban and Regional Analysis Program (URA) analyzes major economic and demographic trends in the Pittsburgh region in national and international contexts. URA data and reports are disseminated widely to state and local policymakers and to community and economic development organizations.
- The Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP) focuses on all aspects of qualitative data collection and analysis. QDAP serves as a resource to the Pitt and broader communities and is able to offer a rigorous approach to coding and analyzing qualitative and mixed-methods data.
- The Gerontology Program initiates, coordinates, and facilitates research on aging in collaboration with Pitt faculty in over a dozen different disciplines. The Gerontology Program also offers a successful graduate certificate program.

UCSUR's future is bright:

UCSUR's next Director has the opportunity to build upon the center's current strengths and drive its exciting next chapter. UCSUR's assets include well-developed data and computing infrastructure, an experienced and dedicated staff, and an entrepreneurial and creative spirit that drives new inquiry. There is also a strong ecosystem at Pitt supporting research in the social sciences and urban policy—spanning disciplines such as arts and sciences, public and international affairs, law, and the health sciences—which offers opportunities for both new and expanded engagement with the center. In addition, there is an institutional focus on developing capacity for large multidisciplinary and multi-university grant submissions, and the next Director should be an integral partner in these efforts.

The University of Pittsburgh has a number of centers, programs, and initiatives that are or could be natural collaborators with UCSUR, including (but certainly not limited to) the [Center on Race and Social Problems](#) in the School of Social Work; the [Center for Urban Education](#) in the School of Education; the [Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation](#) in the Swanson School of Engineering; the [Collaboratory Against Hate Research and Action Center](#) jointly supported by the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University; the [Pittsburgh Collaboratory for Water Research, Education, and Outreach](#) in the Department of Geology & Environmental Science; the [Urban Studies Program](#) in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences; the [Congress of Neighboring Communities](#) and the [Center for Analytical Approaches to Social Innovation](#) in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Pitt's [Community Engagement Centers](#); and the University's [Data Sciences Initiative](#) and [social justice initiatives](#). The next Director has the opportunity to build and strengthen University-wide collaborations with current and future campus and community partners.

Pitt also recently launched a new [strategic plan](#), and UCSUR can contribute across all three pillars of the Plan for Pitt: [Our People](#), [Our Programs](#), and [Our Purpose](#). The next Director will be the architect of UCSUR's future, and the future is bright.



THE OPPORTUNITY

Director of the Center for Social & Urban Research

The Director of the University Center for Social & Urban Research has broad autonomy to shape the next phase of a long-running and successful center. Reporting directly to the Provost, the Director serves as UCSUR's academic and administrative leader and must work collaboratively with Pitt faculty and staff, as well as the University and regional, national, and global communities, to develop an innovative and impactful future trajectory for the center. The successful Director will have the strategic vision to build upon UCSUR's current strengths and to broaden the support of research in the social sciences and urban policy while fostering growth in the center's research capabilities and fundraising capacity, educational offerings, and community engagement.

Given the wide range of faculty expertise at Pitt and academic inquiry undertaken at UCSUR, the Director should have an appreciation of different disciplines and a strong sense of how they can work together for greater impact. The center pulls from diverse funding streams, and the Director should have the financial acumen and savvy to understand and cultivate new resources for UCSUR. The Director should also be actively engaged in raising UCSUR's visibility both within the University and the broader community, should work collaboratively with other academic leaders to create a vibrant research ecosystem for social and behavioral sciences research at Pitt, and should relish the opportunity to initiate and mature productive, collaborative partnerships.

Responsibilities:

- Develop a strategic, collaborative vision for UCSUR's future.
- Expand the funding base for UCSUR through grant funding and philanthropy.
- Direct and expand UCSUR's presence within the University and broader community.
- Grow UCSUR's collaborations, internally and externally.
- Advance UCSUR's profile and impact among urban and social research centers at peer institutions.
- Integrate the center into efforts that support the University's [strategic priorities](#), such as the [University's Data Science Initiative](#).

- Broaden and deepen UCSUR's community engagement efforts in alignment with the University's commitment to community engaged scholarship.
- Lead UCSUR in conducting and promoting research of impact across the social and behavioral sciences.
- Build and support diverse and collaborative teams.
- Oversee the UCSUR staff.

Required Qualifications:

- An earned terminal degree in a relevant discipline of study.
- A track record of research, teaching, and service sufficient to be awarded a tenured faculty position in a relevant school or department at the University of Pittsburgh.
- Administrative experience consistent with the Center Director's responsibilities.
- Experience developing and leading multi-disciplinary/trans-disciplinary collaborative initiatives.
- Proven ability to generate research funding from external sources.
- Demonstrated commitment to enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Familiarity with an array of social and behavioral science research methods and data sources.
- Strong communication skills.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Demonstrated record of developing and implementing strategic plans that drive institutional transformation.
- Track record of successful community engagement.
- Experience with and interest in raising funds from philanthropic sources.
- Understanding of education and instruction, and an appreciation of how UCSUR's people and data can support the University's academic missions.
- Experience providing continuing education on cutting-edge methods and data collection and analytic techniques to social and behavioral sciences researchers.
- Skill in promoting staff professional development and advancement.





PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

The University of Pittsburgh, in consultation with Summit Search Solutions, Inc., will begin a confidential review of application materials immediately and continue until the position is filled; parties who apply by **Friday, March 4, 2022** will be given first consideration. Applications should include a curriculum vitae, and a letter of interest that addresses the opportunities and qualifications described above. All applications and nominations will be held in confidence. To apply online, go to: <https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=su286>

For more information or to offer recommendations:

Caitlin Hummel

Senior Consultant
Summit Search Solutions, Inc.
Direct: 585-880-7550
chummel@summitsearchsolutions.com

Beth Baldino

Senior Consultant
Summit Search Solutions, Inc.
Direct: 828-216-6606
bbaldino@summitsearchsolutions.com

The University of Pittsburgh is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and diversity. EOE, including disability/vets.



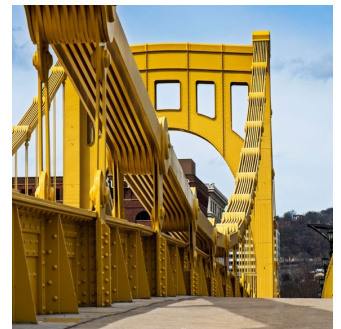
Summit Search Solutions, Inc. is a boutique executive search firm dedicated to serving the education and nonprofit sectors nationwide. Summit has a team of experienced recruiting consultants in strategic locations across the country including: California, Colorado, Kansas, Maryland, New York, and North Carolina.



ABOUT PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The University views the city as an extension of its campus, and Pittsburgh is no ordinary college town. The city is transforming from an industrial capital to a center of education, research and innovation. Pittsburgh hosts a high concentration of influential nonprofits and, as an international center of emerging information technology, is home to companies such as Duolingo, one of Google's national offices, a Facebook Reality Lab, and multiple autonomous vehicle development efforts. The city also has a long history in banking and manufacturing and is becoming a leader in advanced manufacturing technologies and nanotechnology.

The city's reinvention since its days as a smoky steel town has received national acclaim. LinkedIn named Pittsburgh a top city to launch a career, and U.S. News & World Report lists it as a top place to retire. With an extensive network of urban parks, as well as world-class arts and cultural intuitions, National Geographic named Pittsburgh number 3 on "[The Cool List 2019](#)," and listed the University's Cathedral of Learning as the don't-miss spot. Pittsburgh feels like a big small town, with all the advantages of a large city, Midwestern friendliness, and East Coast vibrancy.



City of Bridges

Pittsburgh's [440-plus bridges](#)—more than even Venice can boast—span three major rivers and countless streams, creeks, valleys, and ravines.



To learn more about Pittsburgh:

- Take a [video tour](#)
- Check out [VisitPITTSBURGH](#).

