



University of
Pittsburgh

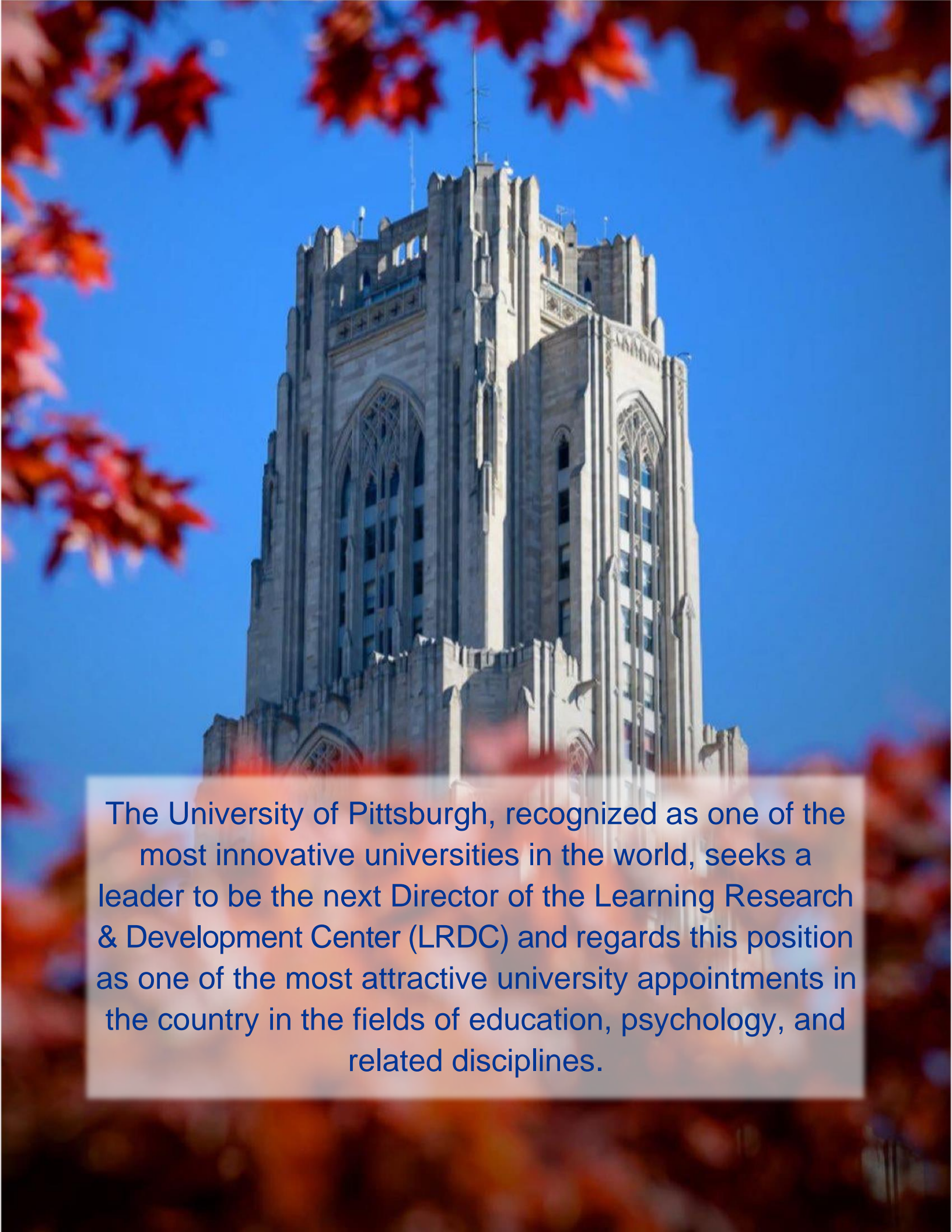


POSITION PROFILE

**Director of the Learning Research &
Development Center**

February 2024

In partnership with Summit Search Solutions, Inc.



The University of Pittsburgh, recognized as one of the most innovative universities in the world, seeks a leader to be the next Director of the Learning Research & Development Center (LRDC) and regards this position as one of the most attractive university appointments in the country in the fields of education, psychology, and related disciplines.



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 a member of the Association of American Universities, a group of 71 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 132-acre Pittsburgh campus is located in the vibrant and beautiful Oakland neighborhood. Pitt [actively engages](#) with the surrounding community through its [Community Engagement Centers](#), community-driven partnerships, and volunteer service. The University was awarded the Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement in recognition of its institutional commitment to community engagement. The Pittsburgh campus is also home to the University's health sciences schools and is colocated with the highly ranked UPMC (formerly University of Pittsburgh Medical Center) and its flagship medical facilities. Pitt has served as an integral partner and key player in driving the growth of the education and health services supersector in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region.

Students come to Pitt from all 50 states, three territories, the District of Columbia, and more than 110 countries, and enrollment on the Pittsburgh campus tops 29,000 students, including over 9,000 graduate students. More than 14,700 faculty, research associates, and staff members are employed on the Pittsburgh campus, and Pitt offers generous [benefits](#) and values [work-life balance](#).

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. Pitt researchers have made life-changing advances, ranging from the polio vaccine to television, and they have been widely recognized, including at least three LRDC faculty who have been members of the National Academy of Education. University members have included great thinkers, leaders, artists, sports legends, and those who broke racial and gender barriers, all striving for something greater.

Quick Facts

MORE THAN \$1B IN RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

Externally funded research expenditures hit \$1.16 billion in FY 2023, and Pitt was ranked third in funding from the National Institutes of Health.

A TOP PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

Pitt is ranked No. 32 on the U.S. News & World Report's 2024 list of Top Public Schools in the nation.

\$5.2B PA ECONOMIC IMPACT

A proven economic engine, Pitt contributes \$5.2 billion to communities throughout Pennsylvania.

STRONG STUDENT OUTCOMES

97% of Pitt undergraduates and 94% of graduate/professional students achieve a successful career outcome within six months.

715 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](#).



LEARNING RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The [Learning Research & Development Center \(LRDC\)](#) advances the science of learning by bringing together researchers from the cognitive, developmental, social, educational, and computational sciences. It employs a highly collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to study a wide range of types of learning across varied settings. The center's research on learning aims to contribute both to a just and equitable society and to build a future where everyone can develop the knowledge, skills, and agency they need to fully participate in society and thrive. The LRDC aspires to train the next generation of learning and educational scientists, contribute to the well-being of the region, advance the mission of the University of Pittsburgh, and have a broad and global reach of impact on learning and education.

Since its establishment in 1963, the Learning Research & Development Center has been a leading interdisciplinary center for research on learning and education. The center's interconnected programs of research and development have reflected its mission of stimulating interaction between research and practice across a broad spectrum of problems: from the neural basis of learning through the development of intelligent tutors to educational policy. Among research institutions in learning and education, this interconnected breadth is unique.

An important factor in the LRDC's success is the joint appointments of its faculty members in other units of the University and a strong connection to the School of Education and the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. Today, faculty members hold joint primary appointments in departments and schools across campus. These connections throughout the University have allowed faculty and students to work on cross-disciplinary learning and education projects while supporting graduate training programs. The center's commitment to cognitive research was important in establishing a PhD program in cognitive psychology within the Department of Psychology. Similarly, center faculty members working on intelligent tutoring systems played important roles in establishing the cross-disciplinary Intelligent Systems Program. The LRDC is also home to the Institute for Learning, a professional learning organization that partners with K-12 schools and districts nationwide to support their implementation of research-based teaching and learning practices.

The Director of the LRDC is supported by a director of communications and a director of administration. The director may appoint (at their discretion) an associate director; a senior scientist who is a professor in the School of Education currently serves in this capacity. Overall, the director oversees approximately 150 faculty, staff, students, research associates, and postdoctoral scholars across the center and a total budget of \$55 million.





THE OPPORTUNITY

Director of the Learning Research & Development Center

The University of Pittsburgh regards this position as one of the most attractive university appointments in the country in the fields of education, psychology, and related disciplines. The director of the LRDC reports directly to the provost and senior vice chancellor and serves as a member of the Academic Leadership Team along with regional campus presidents, deans, and other University center directors. The director (i) works with the University's leadership to maintain and strengthen the University's prominence in the field; (ii) promotes and enhances the LRDC's activities in education, research, and public service; and (iii) manages the LRDC, a University-supported center with approximately 150 personnel, including faculty members, research associates, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and graduate and undergraduate students.

The University seeks a leader who possesses the vision, powers of connection, and collaborative spirit and skills required to forge effective alliances and partnerships throughout the campus and with external stakeholders. Given the wide range of faculty expertise at Pitt and academic inquiry undertaken at the LRDC, the director should have an appreciation of different disciplines and a strong sense of how they can work together for greater impact. The director should be capable of nurturing the next generation of learning scientists through mentorship and training.

The center pulls from diverse funding streams, and the director should have strong financial acumen and the ability to understand and cultivate new resources for the LRDC. The director should also be actively engaged in raising the LRDC's visibility, both within the University and nationally and internationally, and should work collaboratively with other academic leaders to create a vibrant research ecosystem for learning science at Pitt.

The successful candidate will be:

- A leader who can develop and enrich the role that the LRDC plays in enhancing the University's mission to provide high-quality research and programs, advance learning sciences, and engage with the community.
- A strategic and visionary thinker who understands the rapidly changing landscape of higher education and can develop and execute a strategy to position the center as an innovative entity that can adapt to new realities while maintaining strength in areas of historic excellence.
- An entrepreneurial leader, who will explore new opportunities for the center to increase its reach, impact, and national and international reputation.
- An individual who is fully committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Required Qualifications:

- An earned terminal degree in a relevant discipline of study.
- A strong record of learning-related research.
- A strong record as a teacher and scholar commensurate with the appointment of full professor at the University of Pittsburgh.
- Administrative management ability consistent with the center director's responsibilities.
- The ability to develop and lead multidisciplinary/transdisciplinary collaborative initiatives.
- The ability to work collaboratively across the institution, cultivate and maintain collaborative relationships, and represent the work of the center within and beyond the institution.
- An understanding of education and instruction and an appreciation of how the LRDC's people and scholarship can support the University's missions.
- The ability to generate research funding from external sources.
- Demonstrated commitment to enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.
- Knowledge of critical areas of current and future research for the center, particularly in the areas of the learning sciences, including generative AI, cognitive neuroscience, and developmental science.

Additional Preferred Qualifications:

- Evidence of the ability to develop and implement strategic plans that drive institutional improvement.
- Evidence of the ability to implement successful community engagement.
- Evidence of the ability and willingness to engage in raising funds from philanthropic sources.
- Skill in promoting staff professional development and advancement.
- A record of or interest in university service commensurate with the status of "dean" in a relevant school or department at the University of Pittsburgh.
- Membership in highly regarded disciplinary or interdisciplinary societies.
- International recognition as an established scholar in a specific discipline.





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 **March 29, 2024** will be given first consideration. Applications should include a curriculum vitae and a letter of interest that also addresses the qualifications described above. All applications and nominations will be held in confidence. To apply online, go to: <https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=su407>

For more information or to offer recommendations:

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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, Kansas, Maryland, New York, and North Carolina.



ABOUT PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

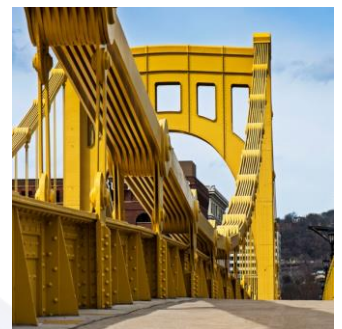
The University of Pittsburgh views the city as an extension of its campus, and Pittsburgh is no ordinary college town. The city has transformed from an industrial capital to a center of education, research, and innovation. Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University are less than a mile apart and close physical proximity facilitates strong institutional collaborations. With six universities within city limits, Pittsburgh is a vibrant and dynamic educational environment.

The city 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, and over 140 robotics companies. The city also has a long history in banking and manufacturing and is becoming a leader in advanced manufacturing technologies and nanotechnology.

As the birthplace of AI and now a global leader in the growing robotics industry, Pitt is on the cutting edge of technology, further reflected in the development of the BioForge biomanufacturing facility at Hazelwood Green, targeted to open in 2027. Pittsburgh's transformation into a global innovation hub is broadly built around a booming "eds and meds" economy—with Pitt and the affiliated [UPMC](#) among its leading institutions of influence.

Pittsburgh's reinvention since its days as a smoky steel town has received national acclaim and garnered numerous [accolades](#). Pittsburgh is a lively, approachable, midsize city with world-class arts and cultural institutions, as well as multiple foundations of note that support education. Wrapped in rivers, intertwined with trails, and packed with parks, Pittsburgh is a green and outdoor city with fantastic urban views and a famed downtown skyline. In the eyes of its many visitors, Pittsburgh offers a surprising and unexpected experience, with natural beauty, unique terrain, and diverse offerings at every turn.

The city is also home to three major professional sports teams: the Pittsburgh Steelers (NFL), the Pittsburgh Pirates (MLB), and the Pittsburgh Penguins (NHL). Sports play a significant role in creating the culture of the city and are supported by a vibrant local community.



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:

Visit [Cool Pittsburgh](#) - Take a [video tour](#) - Check out [VisitPITTSBURGH](#)