



Vice Chancellor for Research – Lawrence Campus Position Profile

The University of Kansas (KU) is seeking candidates for the position of Vice Chancellor for Research. The successful candidate will bring a commitment to multidisciplinary research, the vision to energize and support scholarly achievement in all its diversity, and the ability to ensure administrative excellence for the Office of Research and the KU Center for Research (KUCR).

The University of Kansas

Founded in 1865, KU is a major public research and teaching institution of 28,447 students and 2,600 faculty on five campuses (Lawrence, Kansas City, Overland Park, Wichita, and Salina), KU is a center for learning, scholarship, and creative endeavor. Its diverse elements are united by their mission to educate leaders, build healthy communities, and make discoveries that change the world. Since 1909, KU is the only Kansas Regents university to hold membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU), a select group of 62 public and private research universities that represent excellence in graduate and professional education and the highest achievements in research internationally. KU's faculty and students are supported and strengthened by endowment assets of more than \$1.44 billion.

KU has 13 schools, including the only schools of pharmacy and medicine in the state, and offers more than 370 degree programs. Particularly strong are special education, city management, speech-language pathology, rural medicine, clinical child psychology, nursing, occupational therapy, and social welfare. Students, split almost equally between women and men, come from all 50 states and 105 countries and are about 15 percent multicultural. The University Honors Program is nationally recognized, and KU has produced 27 Rhodes Scholars.

KU is committed to expanding innovative research and commercialization programs and has ten core service laboratories and two affiliated centers specializing in fields such as biomedical research, molecular structures, technology commercialization, and oil recovery. KU has service centers statewide that offer training and professional development in law enforcement, firefighting, child development, health education, and public management. In addition, KU is home to the University of Kansas Cancer Center. Eleven other major centers oversee research in life span issues, the humanities, transportation, the environment, biosciences, biodiversity, and polar ice sheets, among others. For more information about KU, please visit <https://www.ku.edu/>.

In the last five years alone, KU Lawrence campus has experienced a tremendous new era of growth. This includes investment in the prestigious Foundation Distinguished Professorships that has brought 12 new internationally recognized faculty researchers to the Lawrence campus (<http://foundation.ku.edu>). At the same time, the Lawrence campus has seen the construction of an unprecedented number of new buildings for research and learning, including in the Earth, Energy & Environment Center (EEE&C) and the Integrated Sciences Building (ISB) in 2018 (<http://places.ku.edu/buildings>).

The **Earth, Energy & Environment Center** physically links the engineering program to the science program. The multidisciplinary facility now houses faculty, staff, and students from multiple fields, including geology, nanoscience, physics, chemistry, and chemical and petroleum engineering.



The **Integrated Sciences Building**, which opened in June 2018, is a distinctive feature of the Central District and Innovation Way.



Campuses

[Lawrence Campus](#) – Considered one of the most beautiful in the nation, KU's central campus occupies 1,000 acres on and around historic Mount Oread in Lawrence, a community of about 90,000 in the forested hills of eastern Kansas. Ten of KU's 13

schools are based here, as are internationally recognized research centers and laboratories.

[Medical Center Campus, Kansas City](#) – This nationally recognized biomedical research center offers educational programs through its schools of Health Professions, Medicine, and Nursing. These academic units operate collaboratively with the University of Kansas Hospital, which provides opportunities for clinical experience and residency positions.

Wichita Campus - The [School of Medicine-Wichita](#) is the state center for community-oriented medical education. In partnership with Kansas communities, it educates students, residents, and physicians through scholarship, patient care, services, and research to improve the health of Kansans.

The [School of Pharmacy-Wichita](#), housed in a new addition to the medical school, provides exceptional training in the pharmaceutical sciences. Faculty in pharmacy practice and basic science provide a firm foundation, and students also study alongside their Lawrence campus counterparts via high-definition video conferencing and two-way classrooms.

[Salina Campus, School of Medicine](#) – Designed to address the critical shortage of rural physicians in the state, this program is ideal for self-motivated students, independent learners who work with a small group of peers and who have a strong desire to practice primary-care medicine in rural Kansas. It is housed primarily in space provided by the [Salina Regional Health Center](#).

[Edwards Campus, Overland Park](#) – Established in 1993, the KU Edwards Campus provides KU's high-quality education, research, and public service to greater Kansas City. Through its graduate and undergraduate degree-completion programs, the Edwards Campus provides adult learners the necessary tools to further their careers.

For more information about KU, please visit <https://www.ku.edu/>.

Location

Lawrence is located in northeast Kansas just 40 miles west of Kansas City. With the University of Kansas as a thriving central enterprise, the city offers a wide range of events and activities for a very dynamic population. Students and faculty keep the city bubbling for nine months of the year, but the influence of the university is year-round in the cultural offerings of the city, the food and restaurant options and the broad range of outdoor activities appropriate for the very young and the very seasoned residents.

Arts venues include the Lawrence Arts Center, the Spencer Art Museum, the Lied Center and Theatre Lawrence. For outdoor enthusiasts the city and its surrounding area offers natural lakes, hiking trails, and bike routes. The city has an award winning school district, is easy to navigate, and offers parking that is plentiful and often free.

Position Summary

The mission of the KU Office of Research is "to facilitate innovation, creative activity, discovery, and the application and dissemination of knowledge" across all academic disciplines. The Vice Chancellor for Research on the Lawrence campus leads KU in accomplishing that mission in collaboration with academic leaders, faculty, and staff, as well as with business and community partners. The Vice Chancellor advocates for research on and off campus, implements research

integrity requirements, and, through the [KU Center for Research \(KUCR\)](#), oversees the administration of research grants and contracts. In grants administration, the Vice Chancellor ensures that KU research staff provide essential support for research investigators by negotiating contracts, providing proposal and post-award services, administering compliance oversight, managing and constructing research facilities, and handling financial services. The Vice Chancellor also has oversight of activities related to technology commercialization and business and industry outreach.

In addition to membership on the University's senior administrative team, the Vice Chancellor for Research serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of the KU Center for Research, Inc. (KUCR). KUCR is a not-for-profit research foundation that operates for the benefit of the university under the administrative jurisdiction of the KU Office of Research. KUCR is governed by a Board of Trustees that includes university and community members. The ex-officio officers of the Board are KU administrators. KUCR was incorporated in 1962 to develop and administer sponsored programs in engineering and related interdisciplinary areas at KU. Effective July 1, 1997, KUCR's services expanded to encompass all sponsored programs conducted throughout the Lawrence campus. KUCR is the entity responsible for submitting all proposals for external support of research, instructional and service projects. In addition, KUCR manages all cash flow operations, including the investment of corporation resources.

The Vice Chancellor for Research reports to the Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor and works closely with the Chancellor and the senior leadership team at KU.

Direct reports to the Vice Chancellor for Research include:

- Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Research
- Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Assistant Vice Chancellor, Office of Research
- Executive Director of the Division of Fiscal Affairs, KU Research; Chief Financial Officer, KUCR

The Office of Research is also home to the KU's Office of Research Centers and Institutes encompassing the University's more than over 60 interdisciplinary research centers and institutes that bring faculty and students together to pursue research, teaching and community outreach on a broad range of topics. KU's Research Centers and Institutes support interdisciplinary research interactions that span at least two schools/colleges within the University and by definition welcome the participation of researchers with a broad range of skills, capabilities, and areas of emphasis. This approach brings together diverse teams of researchers with the capacity to identify, analyze and propose solutions to complex social, technological and scientific problems. The resulting multidisciplinary interactions establish an environment in which teams of KU researchers frequently succeed in achieving a national reputation for scholarly excellence and the work they do is aligned with local, national, and global needs and provides direct benefits to individuals, groups, and the public good.

For more information regarding KU's Research Centers and Institutes, please visit <http://researchcenters.ku.edu/>.

Duties and Responsibilities

As KU's Vice Chancellor for Research, the successful candidate will:

- Provide leadership, strategy, and mission to the Office of Research that aligns with the University mission and strategy;
- Administer the budget for research and research infrastructure;
- Provide oversight of the research foundation and expands research funding from external resources;
- Through oversight of the research foundation KUCR, guide university-wide research enhancement and compliance activities including: the formulation and promotion of research policies and guidelines; promotion, leadership, and coordination of multidisciplinary research programs; and the oversight of technology transfer and economic development activities;
- Foster research collaboration among faculty at the University through oversight of research centers and by encouraging cooperative efforts among deans and research center directors;
- Collaborate and partner with the KU Medical Center and with the business community to expand the University's applied research capacity, intellectual property development, and transfer of technology;
- Facilitate and strengthen the University's research infrastructure and competitiveness and advise the Provost on research competitive issues;
- Work to increase external financial support for research at the University with a focus on large multidisciplinary and collaborative research programs that build upon KU's strengths and unique capabilities; and
- Provide oversight of KU's national industrial security program (NISP) and be able to obtain and hold a US security clearance.

Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities and challenges for the next Vice Chancellor for Research include:

- **Strengthening Ties Across KU** – The Vice Chancellor for Research will serve as a strategic advisor to the Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor and will assist in developing and strengthening relationships throughout the institution by employing a collegial, transparent, and collaborative management style. By partnering with leadership in Academic Affairs and Deans of the University's 13 schools, the Vice Chancellor will be an important voice in the development of new policies, procedures, and initiatives in support of faculty recruitment, development and retention. This will allow the University to foster an environment that continues to attract world-class scholars and researchers, supports their professional and intellectual growth, and ensures they remain vibrant and indivisible members of the KU community. In addition, the Vice Chancellor will help promote a service-oriented Office of Research that engages center directors, senior faculty, principal investigators, junior faculty, graduate students, and professional staff to accomplish and realize the University's research mission. Moreover, the Vice Chancellor will have the unique opportunity to not only strengthen ties across the main campus in Lawrence, but to also serve as a key collaborator and leader in the strategic alignment of research priorities across all KU's campuses.
- **Expanding Funding Opportunities** – As one of 34 public AAU Universities, the University of Kansas has a strong reputation for its creative activity, engaged scholarship, and impactful research. Nevertheless, federal and state funding remains

unpredictable, competition amongst institutions has increased, while new regulatory requirements have raised costs. In order to successfully respond to the myriad challenges facing research universities, the Vice Chancellor for Research will be empowered to take an entrepreneurial approach by increasing and developing new revenue streams while simultaneously serving as an effective steward of fiscal resources. By seeking partnerships with private industry, foundations, non-profit organizations and other sources of funding, the Vice Chancellor will help secure the University's future by diversifying the University's research portfolio. In addition, the Vice Chancellor will help promote the University's efforts to increase technology transfer and secure and monetize intellectual property,

- **Promoting a Bold Vision** – By promoting a broad view of creative activity and research that engages all disciplines, the Vice Chancellor for Research will help renew and affirm the University's commitment to research, while also exploring new strategic possibilities. In particular, the Vice Chancellor must be ready to solicit, aggregate and coalesce a wide range of perspectives to promote increased collaboration and develop new initiatives to galvanize multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research. The Vice Chancellor will lead the University in harmoniously and efficiently coordinating the various aspects of the research mission, including seed-grant funding, pre-award and post-award administration, compliance, communications, technology transfer, amongst others. The VCR should be attentive to new emerging practices and trends in research, local issues facing the State of Kansas and the region, and the significant global issues and challenges meriting the marshalling of the University's intellectual, fiscal, and human resources.
- **Streamlining Processes and Harnessing the Power of Technology** – the Vice Chancellor for Research will play a pivotal role in streamlining administrative, compliance-related, and record-keeping activities and supporting new strategic uses of technology. To be successful, the Vice Chancellor will need to work closely with professional staff and faculty in ensuring policies, processes, and procedures are delineated and effectively implemented. Moreover, the Vice Chancellor will explore the employment of new technologies in the service of assessment and research analytics, and new communications technologies for engaging internal and external stakeholders.
- **Maintaining, Renovating, and Developing Infrastructure** - The Vice Chancellor for Research will also serve as an indispensable voice in ensuring that the University's facilities and infrastructure remains safe, accessible, and commensurate with the needs of the University's high-performing faculty. Through partnership and consultation with the Deans, Center Directors, and faculty, the Vice Chancellor will help determine institutional priorities, explore possibilities for renovations and upgrades, and guide conversations on new areas of potential investment.

Qualities and Characteristics

KU seeks a Vice Chancellor for Research with exemplary academic achievements, together with strategic leadership ability; outstanding interpersonal skills; entrepreneurial spirit and high energy with the ability to serve as a visionary and strategic thinker; and a passion for KU's mission.

The successful candidate for the Vice Chancellor for Research must have the ability to work closely with the Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor, senior executive officers, deans, center directors, and other administrative staff. S/he must have the necessary attendant communication skills to lead and/or collaborate with a wide-range of internal and external stakeholders. In

addition, the following qualities, characteristics, experiences, abilities, and skillsets have been identified as potential indicators of future success for the next Vice Chancellor for Research:

- A collegial and approachable leadership style that actively solicits input and welcomes feedback. The ability to synthesize various perspectives into an inspiring and unified vision for the University's research mission;
- An inclusive and collaborative approach in establishing priorities, identifying opportunity costs, and determining the mechanisms and means by which institutional goals are achieved;
- Promoting a broad view of creative activity and research that demonstrates an understanding of the various ways, environments, and forms in which it is conducted;
- A management style that emphasizes transparency and provides clarity regarding university-wide policies, procedures, and guidelines;
- The ability to engage various academic units (e.g., schools, departments, programs, centers, etc.) to promote increased collaboration, multidisciplinary partnerships, and interdisciplinary research;
- An awareness of the revolutionary potential of technology in the research enterprise, including IT, data analytics, digital assessment tools, and communication technologies;
- Advocating for research effectively at the local and state-level, including the ability to articulate issues of importance to the legislature and effectively communicating the University's contributions to the public;
- The ability to stimulate intellectual curiosity across the University and fostering an environment where faculty and students are continuously encouraged to pursue new lines of inquiry and paths to discovery;
- An appreciation of the need to strategically align and harmoniously balance the University's instructional and research missions;
- The ability to manage and provide oversight for budgeting, accounting, internal controls, and financial reporting for research and sponsored program activities;
- A commitment to engendering trust, creating a culture of integrity and ethics, and ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulatory requirements; and
- A strong desire to understand and appreciate the history of the University of Kansas, as well as its region, environment, and community.

Required Qualifications

The successful candidate will possess the following:

- An earned doctorate or other terminal degree;
- The ability to build and sustain collaborative partnerships and business, industry, philanthropic organizations, state agencies, and other universities;
- A distinguished research record in her or his own discipline;
- Extensive professional experience in research and research administration;
- Demonstrated understanding of federal appropriations processes and the roles of federal and other sponsors such as philanthropic organization in research development;
- Demonstrated ability to work with a diverse faculty in a wide range of disciplines and the vision and administrative expertise to create and implement innovative research and scholarly initiatives while enhancing the diversity of the university community; and
- The ability to maintain and expand positive relationships on the campus and across the university using the input from a wide variety of constituencies and stakeholders;
- The ability to obtain and hold a US security clearance.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience working in a research-extensive public university;
- Experience with successful technology transfer; and
- Experience working collaboratively with an academic medical center.

Application and Nomination Process

The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and will continue to accept applications and nominations until the position is filled. Applicants must submit a current curriculum vitae and a letter of interest describing relevant experience. Submission of materials will be accepted electronically. Nomination letters should include the name, position, address and telephone number of the nominee. All nominations and applications will be handled in confidence.

Applications and letters of nomination should be submitted to:



Alberto Pimentel, Managing Partner
Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates
6512 Painter Avenue
Whittier, CA 90601
Email: apsearch@storbeckpimentel.com
Refer to code "KU-VCR" in subject line

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