



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
ARLINGTON

### **Vice President for Research**

President Vistasp Karbhari and the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) invite applications and nominations for the position of Vice President for Research (VPR).

#### **President Vistasp Karbhari**

A visionary leader and accomplished scholar, Dr. Vistasp M. Karbhari took office in June 2013 as the eighth president of UTA. Under his leadership, UTA has achieved Carnegie R-1 status, was named a Hispanic-Serving Institution, and is ranked as the top educational institution in the State of Texas for Veterans and for the performance of first generation students, in addition to having nationally ranked programs in each of UTA's schools and colleges. A prolific researcher, President Karbhari is an expert in the processing and mechanics of composites, durability of materials, infrastructure rehabilitation, and multi-threat mitigation, and has authored or co-authored more than 460 papers in journals and conference proceedings and edited or co-edited six books. He holds one patent and has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than \$37 million in research projects. As president, he is committed to advancing UTA's national and international profile while strengthening excellence in research and teaching and ensuring the success of UTA's students in campus-based and online degree programs in Texas and around the world, ensuring access and excellence at an affordable cost.

#### **The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA)**

Founded in 1895, UTA is a Carnegie Research 1 institution with more than 100 years of academic excellence and tradition located in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metroplex with a total annual economic benefit to the state of \$22.2 billion. The University is a rapidly growing center of research excellence, one of the largest universities in the State of Texas, and the third fastest growing in the nation. UTA offers state-of-the-art facilities that encourage students to be critical thinkers and challenges them to engage with the world around them in ways that make a measurable impact. UTA offers more than 180 degree programs across nine colleges to nearly 60,000 students on campus or engaging in online coursework each year. Supported by over 900 full time faculty and over 4,000 staff, students receive real-world experiences through academic, internship, and research programs that help them contribute to their community and, ultimately, the world. UTA faculty and students come from a range of cultures, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds. UTA is accredited by the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges](#) to award baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. In addition, many of UTA's academic departments and schools have received national accreditation from specific agencies. Some additional points of pride include the following

- Washington Monthly ranked UTA #1 in North Texas among national Universities.
- In its pioneering university rankings, Times Higher Education ranked UTA #4 in the U.S. and #70 worldwide among universities for its success in delivering the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- U.S. News and World Report ranked UTA sixth among national universities for undergraduate ethnic diversity.

- Military Times ranked UTA No. 1 nationally on its “Best for Vets” list.
- UTA has 16 fellows in the National Academy of Inventors.
- UTA has 6 members in the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.
- UTA is ranked No. 1 in Texas and No. 11 in the country for bachelor’s degrees awarded to African-American students; No. 1 in Texas and No. 23 nationally for master’s degrees awarded to African-American students; and No. 1 in Texas and No. 22 in the country for master’s degrees awarded to all minority students.

As an R1 university, UTA exceeded \$115M in total research expenditures in 2019—representing a growth of 30% in three years. UTA also exceeded the criteria to become a Texas Tier 1 university for the first of the required two years and expects to be provided this designation and the specially designated NRUF legislative funding at the end of this fiscal year (<http://reportcenter.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/data/2019-national-research-university-fund-eligibility/>). In addition, UTA is one of only 14 universities in the U.S. designated as R1 and also as a Hispanic Serving Institution. UTA’s research enterprise continues to grow significantly and is driven by its Strategic Plan—[Bold Solutions, Global Impact](#)—focused on enabling a sustainable megacity and based on four theme areas of Health and the Human Condition, Sustainable Urban Communities, Global Environmental Impact, and Data-Driven Discovery. The continued growth of UTA has fueled a robust faculty hiring program (with over 160 faculty hired in the past 3 years and over 80 positions being advertised for the current academic year across all colleges) and investments in the research infrastructure and last year UTA opened the Science & Technology Engineering & Innovation building, a \$125M state-of-the-art facility for life and health science research, which also houses the North Texas Genome Center. Construction plans are underway to add a new Social Work and SMART Hospital Building to enhance teaching and research infrastructure, adding further opportunities for enhanced research and innovation in health sciences.

With roughly 110 patents issued in the last five years and a growing portfolio of licensed technologies, UTA is strongly focused on the public impact of its research and works closely with industry in the region, state, and across the country to transition research results into use. UTA has a robust entrepreneurship program and works closely with TechFW to assist faculty and student led start-up companies. In addition, its innovation activities are fueled through the UTA Research Institute (UTARI) in Fort Worth which emphasizes corporate based R&D partnerships, and through being the host for the US Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension Program for the State. As a means of enhancing student entrepreneurship and catalyzing startups, UTA also directs a donor funded student entrepreneurship fund for startups, one of the largest in the nation. UTA has 16 fellows of the National Academy of Inventors, which is the most of any university in Texas, and the fourth highest in the nation. For more information about UTA, please visit <https://www.uta.edu/>.

### **Location**

The University of Texas at Arlington is located in the middle of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, one of the nation’s fastest growing and economically vibrant metropolitan areas and serves as the headquarters for 23 Fortune 500 and 42 Fortune 1000 companies. Arlington is easily accessible and is located next to the DFW airport which is the 4<sup>th</sup> busiest airport in the world with 66 international and 191 domestic destinations, serving as a global hub and gateway.

Arlington, Texas (<https://www.arlingtontx.gov/home>), is one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation and has a growing reputation for being entrepreneurial as well as diverse, affordable and “best places to live” ([https://www.arlingtontx.gov/visitors/relocate/live\\_in\\_arlington\\_tx/accolades\\_and\\_rankings](https://www.arlingtontx.gov/visitors/relocate/live_in_arlington_tx/accolades_and_rankings)). Located at the center of the Dallas Fort Worth metropolitan area in northeast Texas, the city is home to more than 380,000 residents, making it the seventh-largest in the state. It is also the hometown of three professional sports teams, the Texas Rangers, the Dallas Cowboys, and the Dallas Wings (whose home court is UTA’s College Park Center). For more information regarding Arlington and the region please visit <https://www.uta.edu/admissions/visit/arlington-region>.

### **The Office of the VP for Research**

UTA’s Office of the Vice President for Research is responsible for planning, coordinating, and enhancing programs of excellence in research and creative activity and facilitating translational opportunities and technology transfer activities that move research to practice. The Office supports university-wide strategic growth activities in research, creative activity, and innovation, including catalyzing and enhancing an inter-, trans- and multi-disciplinary environment synergizing strengths across all colleges and between UTA and the community. The Office seeks out the untested boundaries of knowledge with research centers in every discipline and partners with local businesses to commercialize discoveries and bring research to practice through corporate, state, federal and community partners.

The Office of the VPR provides oversight for:

- **Grant and Contract Administration** – Research grants and contracts, including pre-award, post-award, contract agreements, and research reporting.
- **Regulatory Compliance** – Oversight of human subject research (IRB), animal research (IACUC), export control, research conflict of interest.
- **Innovation and Commercialization** – Intellectual property including technical disclosures and patents, NDAs, IP licensing, entrepreneurial start-ups.
- **Core Research Facilities** – Core facilities through the Shimadzu Institute for Research Technologies ([http://www.uta.edu/sirt/research\\_centers.php](http://www.uta.edu/sirt/research_centers.php)), including: the Centers for Nano Technology Research, Advanced Analytical Chemistry, Bio-Molecular Imaging, Environmental Forensics, Materials Science, the Animal Care Facility, and the North Texas Genome Center (<https://northtexasgenomecenter.com>).
- **Research Centers** including the UTA Research Institute (<https://www.uta.edu/utari/>) and the Organized Centers for Research Excellence.
- **Undergraduate Research** (<https://www.uta.edu/research/vpr/research-opportunities/undergraduate/>) – including the McNair Scholars Program (<https://www.uta.edu/student-success/learning-center/mcnair-scholars/index.php>) and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (<https://www.uta.edu/research/vpr/research-opportunities/undergraduate/Programs/lsamp.php>).
- **Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center** – The Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension Program for the state of Texas, (<https://tmac.org/about/>).
- **Seed grants** – Seed funding for developing new research programs is provided through the Research Enhancement Program (<https://www.uta.edu/research/administration/departments/gcs/find-funding/internal-funding-opportunities.php>) and Interdisciplinary Research Program (<https://www.uta.edu/president/initiatives/irp.php>).

The Office of the Vice President for Research is supported by a staff of 103 and a budget of nearly \$8 million. UTA’s total research expenditures for 2019 were more than \$115 million amongst the following units:

College of Architecture Planning and Public Policy	\$2,135,225
College of Business	\$1,628,526
College of Education	\$447,026
College of Engineering	\$39,293,978
College of Liberal Arts	\$1,446,548
College of Nursing and Health Innovation	\$7,288,121
College of Science	\$25,075,834
School of Social Work	\$1,737,442
Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center	\$9,817,787
UT Arlington Research Institute	\$4,846,981
Office of the Provost	\$1,091,744
Office of Vice President of Research	\$6,020,243
Other Units	\$15,927,037

For more information about the Office, please visit <https://www.uta.edu/research>.

**Position Summary**

Reporting directly to President Vistasp Karbhari, the Vice President for Research oversees the University’s research enterprise and working in conjunction with the Provost, Dr. Teik Lim— following a unique matrix organization that integrates university wide academic and research efforts across UTA’s Colleges and four research themes—the VPR plays an integral part in the recruitment, advancement, and retention of tenured and tenure-track faculty. As a member of the President’s Leadership Council, the VPR provides university-wide leadership for research and innovation and leads the development of a research enterprise to assist the University in carrying out its mission and goals.

The VPR takes the lead role for growing the research, innovation, and entrepreneurial enterprise at UTA in alignment with the University’s strategic plan and facilitates UTA’s growing partnerships with State and Federal agencies as well as corporate partners. The VPR works with the Deans, Associate Deans for Research, and faculty across campus to identify opportunities, develop competitive proposals, enable successful research programs, build research partnerships, and communicate research accomplishments.

Under its Strategic Plan, UTA has made key investments in top researchers, robust strategic partnerships, and key facilities over the past five years and expects the VPR to continue this ambitious and aggressive program of advancement focused on the four strategic themes of Health and the Human Condition, Sustainable Urban Communities, Global Environmental Impact, and Data-Driven Discovery. Key opportunities in addition to enhancing current strengths are growth in areas that provide the continuum from fundamental to applied and translational research.

It is expected that the VPR will develop and implement an ambitious and aggressive plan for growth of the research and innovation enterprise resulting in enhanced research expenditures, doctoral programs and graduates, intellectual property generation, and translation of research into practice. The VPR will be responsible for not only strengthening existing areas of

excellence, but continuously developing new areas within the University and in partnership with corporate, government, and community partners. The VPR will also have the opportunity to build new Centers and create exciting new partnerships across the metroplex and globally.

### **Qualifications and Characteristics**

The successful candidate will possess a distinguished record of professional and administrative experience in research, creative activity, and innovation in a complex organizational environment, comprehensive administrative leadership and superior interpersonal and management skills, and a commitment to UTA's mission, vision, and its students. In addition, they should have a demonstrated ability to inspire others to engage in a collaborative environment to innovate, create, and advance the research and development mission of the University, with a demonstrated history of promoting ethical behavior and social responsibility. The successful candidate will have knowledge of the national and international research agendas and enterprise and proven ability to interact with agencies at the state and national levels to build a research and innovation enterprise at UTA. The successful candidate will have demonstrated success in obtaining extramural funds at the institutional level as well as experience with research infrastructure development, budgeting in a complex environment, grants and contract administration, and strategic planning with accountability measures.

It is expected that the VPR will drive a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion, attracting candidates with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives and ensuring a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for all employees. The VPR will be a champion of customer service, foster professional growth at all levels of the university, and will sustain UTA as a destination workplace that attracts and retains top level team members committed to institutional mission and values.

In addition, the ideal candidate will possess:

- A PhD degree and exceptional reputation as a researcher in his or her field, including professional awards and honors;
- Demonstrated ability to develop a vision for research leadership and experience implementing a strategic vision;
- Demonstrated ability to manage large research programs, including experience working with funding agencies;
- A successful record developing large interdisciplinary research teams and externally funded programs;
- A successful record of building research partnerships with other universities, federal labs/institutes, the corporate and non-profit sectors, and cities/communities;
- Experience with aspects of research compliance: financial, conflict of interest, human subject research, animal research, export control;
- Demonstrated success leading an organization at the executive level: VP, interim VP, or head of a major operating unit with skills in budget management, personnel management and development, and meeting institutional goals and milestones;
- The highest level of personal integrity;
- Strong communication skills and demonstrated ability to engage successfully with internal and external constituencies;
- Demonstrated experience in enhancing innovation and entrepreneurship as a means of providing leadership in new directions to enhance the University's impact and reputation.

**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 via e-mail is strongly encouraged. Nomination letters should include the name, position, address and telephone number of the nominee. All nominations and applications will be handled in confidence. Applications will remain confidential until the selection of the finalists for on-campus interviews, whose names and application materials will be made public.

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](mailto:apsearch@storbeckpimentel.com)  
Refer to code "**UTA-VPR**" in subject line

UTA is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action institution. Minorities, women, veterans, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Additionally, the University prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation. A criminal background check will be conducted on finalists. UTA is a tobacco-free campus.