



## Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation Position Profile

The University of Arizona invites inquiries, nominations, and applications for the position of Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation (SVPRI). The University seeks a dynamic and entrepreneurial leader and scholar who will partner with the President, the Provost, and the faculty to develop a bold, new vision for the University's research enterprise. The SVPRI will be tasked to lead, stimulate, and nurture the culture and capacity for knowledge creation and discovery at the University, creating industry and public partnerships, and moving inventions and technologies to the marketplace.

### **The University**

Established in 1885 and synonymous with academic and research excellence, the University of Arizona (U of A) is recognized as a Carnegie R1 institution and is a member of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). As a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) with more than \$955 million in research and development activity in fiscal year 2023, the U of A is recognized for advancing interdisciplinary scholarship and entrepreneurial partnerships across academic disciplines. With a total faculty of 3,744 and staff of 17,929, the U of A serves more than 40,000 undergraduate students and over 10,000 graduate students.

As the state's land grant university, U of A is committed to improving and enriching the lives of the state's citizens through accessible education and training, groundbreaking research and outreach, and engagement programs within the communities it serves. With an estimated economic impact of \$8.3 billion annually, the U of A's reach spans well beyond the campus borders. With a presence in the state's 15 counties and serving 22 Federally Recognized Tribes, U of A prioritizes connecting communities to the University's research and resources. Through U of A's Cooperative Extension, Arizonans are connected statewide to a network of knowledgeable faculty and staff, and lifelong educational programs that are transformational in Arizona and beyond. Driven by a culture of service, principles of diversity and inclusion, and an entrepreneurial mindset embedded in its culture, the U of A empowers researchers and students by removing academic boundaries and connecting diverse minds to focus on big questions and practical solutions to real-world problems. Through impactful research, accessible education and partnerships with local stakeholders, the U of A addresses challenges faced by citizens across the globe.

In addition to U of A's historic campus in Tucson and its growing presence in Phoenix, the university offers additional educational opportunities via U of A Online and Arizona Global Campus (UAGC). U of A Online offers more than 150 undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificate programs. For more information about U of A online, please visit: <https://online.arizona.edu/>. UAGC offers over 50 associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs. Through accelerated online classes, UAGC students hone the skills needed to succeed in their field. UAGC students are part of the U of A's community of students and alumni who support each other from game day to graduation day and beyond. For more information about the UAGC please visit: <https://www.uagc.edu/>.

The U of A is currently closing in on its \$3 billion Fuel Wonder fundraising campaign. Fuel Wonder aims to harness the power of philanthropy and fuel the spirit of wonder that makes the

U of A such a special place for transforming lives and investigating novel research. For more information about the University of Arizona, please visit: <https://www.arizona.edu/>.

### **Office of Research, Innovation, and Impact**

The Office of Research, Innovation and Impact (RII) expands the U of A's research and innovation enterprise by focusing on translating big ideas into important new knowledge and using the power of that knowledge to improve lives and communities in Arizona and across the globe. Through cutting-edge research and innovation, the U of A expands human potential, exploring new horizons, and enriching life for all. With \$955M in annual research activity, the U of A is a leader in tackling the most pressing and complex challenges, from climate change to planetary defense, and pandemic preparedness to healthy aging. As the state's designated land-grant university, the U of A is dedicated to making a real-world impact.

The U of A also houses many world-class research centers and institutes which serve as hubs of interdisciplinary collaboration. This extensive offering provides faculty, scientists and students with access to not only to the latest instrumentation, but also to experienced staff with expertise in designing and conducting experiments and analyzing data. In addition to high-quality scientific services, many of these facilities also offer training and education. The RII is home to the following facilities and units:

- [Applied Research Building](#)
- [Research, Innovation & Impact](#)
- [Tech Parks Arizona](#)
- [Tech Launch Arizona](#)
- [Grand Challenges Research Building](#)
- [Centers and Institutes](#)
- [Core Facilities](#)
- [Museums](#)
- [Mission Integration Lab](#)
- [Native Peoples Technical Assistance Office](#)
- [Research, Innovation, & Impact Business Center](#)

For more information about the RII please visit: <https://research.arizona.edu/>

### **Position Summary**

The SVPRI will report to the President and working in close partnership with the Provost and other executive leaders in aligning research objectives with the U of A's overall academic mission. The SVPRI will also work with the Senior Vice President, Health Sciences to advance the University's overall research mission across all campuses. The SVPRI will also be responsible for developing institutional research policies and procedures, coordinating and providing oversight of research, scholarship, and creative activity at U of A, and serving in a crucial leadership role in defining and meeting emerging future research opportunities.

The SVPRI will serve as an executive officer and chief research official for the U of A. The SVPRI will also work closely with the deans, center directors, research centers, institutes, and various industrial partners to help drive the University's research development agenda. By partnering with industry, businesses, government agencies, municipalities, colleges and universities within and outside the state of Arizona, and non-profit organizations, the SVPRI will play a significant role in sustaining and expanding the U of A's research agenda.

The SVPRI will be tasked with leading the U of A in achieving the goals of its research and economic development agenda. Featuring over 100 world-class research centers and 135 start-ups commercializing U of A inventions, the U of A has contributed over \$1.6 billion in economic output from commercialization activities. The SVPRI will also promote and facilitate intellectual property development and commercialization by supporting translational research to help move discoveries from the conceptual stage through the start-up phase.

Furthermore, the SVPRI will play a critical role in fostering increased business engagement, entrepreneurship, and economic development opportunities by leveraging business development and technology transfer to promote the University's land-grant mission.

### **Opportunities and Challenges**

The SVPRI must be an accomplished researcher as well as an experienced leader and manager. The SVPRI will be responsible for providing the vision, and overseeing the requisite expertise, skillsets, and environments to both initiate and facilitate new directions for research, scholarship, and creative activities, as well as the commercialization of intellectual property and stewardship of the U of A's research enterprise. It is essential that the SVPRI have an appreciation for the research requirements of scholars in all and across disciplines and the ability to foster collaborations between disciplines to develop research capacity, stimulate innovation, and enhance intellectual property development and commercialization across the University. The successful candidate's inspirational and entrepreneurial spirit will be crucial to determining and meeting U of A's future strategic priorities and goals.

Opportunities and challenges for the next SVPRI include:

- **Establishing and Promoting a Bold Vision** – In partnership with the faculty and university administration, the SVPRI will promote a broad view of creative activity and research that engages all disciplines. The next SVPRI must be committed to further strengthening the University's research mission while guiding the Office of Research's efforts in efficiently coordinating the various aspects of the University's research enterprise. The SVPRI must also incorporate emerging practices and trends to develop new initiatives and catalyze forward-thinking and exciting interdisciplinary opportunities. The SVPRI must also find ways to integrate interdisciplinary collaboration across the University to pursue competitive grants, proposals, and funding opportunities.
- **Leveraging the Collective Academic Strength of the Health Sciences with that of their Clinical Partners** – U of A's next SVPRI will join a university that is home to a large Health Sciences enterprise with strong and important clinical partnerships, each with their own vision and mission, yet possessing a shared commitment and passion of U of A's mission, heritage, and dedication to serving the community. The SVPRI will serve as a critical figure in implementing a cohesive plan that promotes cross-university collaboration with the Health Sciences that inspire and support new opportunities for trans-disciplinary and interprofessional initiatives that leverage U of A's collective intellectual and academic capital and resources in a manner that best serves its stakeholders and communities.
- **Increasing Research Productivity and Impact** – The SVPRI will lead the University in building its research capacity and enhancing research productivity by identifying new potential areas for collaboration between faculty and state, federal, and private funding sources. Through these efforts, the SVPRI will have the opportunity to further strengthen the impact of the U of A's research portfolio through the commitment to working across disciplinary boundaries. The SVPRI will also take an active role in identifying strategies for promoting research excellence and the University's commitment to pursuing research and scholarly initiatives that will have a profound impact in their respective fields of study, the state, the country, and the world.
- **Supporting Faculty Recruitment and Development** – The SVPRI will partner with the Provost, deans, department chairs, and center/institute directors in developing and strengthening relationships across the University and will be a champion in the support of faculty recruitment, development, and retention efforts. By employing a collegial, transparent, and collaborative leadership style, the SVPRI will contribute significantly

toward fostering an environment that continues to attract world-class scholars and researchers, supports their professional and intellectual growth, and ensures they remain vibrant and productive members of the U of A community.

- **Promoting Service Orientation and Excellence** – The SVPRI will be a focal point in promoting a service-oriented organizational culture within the 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. The SVPRI will lead the Office’s continual efforts to streamline and enhance services provided to increase efficiency and effectiveness both pre- and post-award. Moreover, the SVPRI will have the unique opportunity to serve as a key collaborator and leader in the strategic alignment of research priorities across the University.
- **Maintaining, Renovating, and Developing Infrastructure** – The SVPRI will serve as a passionate voice and significant partner in ensuring that the University’s facilities and infrastructure remains safe, accessible, and commensurate with the needs of the University’s faculty. In working with the University’s academic, research, and faculty leadership, the SVPRI will help determine critical needs, institutional priorities, and guide the discussion on areas for potential and necessary investments.
- **Economic Development and External Partnerships** – In leading the Office of Research, the SVPRI will spearhead the University’s engagement with external partners including leaders of federal and state agencies, foundations, not-for-profit organizations, and industry. In so doing, the SVPRI will work to expand the University’s intellectual property development and commercialization potential by partnering with these key stakeholders to create strategies that leverage research collaborations within and outside of the University to establish new revenue streams and increase research funding and productivity.

### **Required Qualifications**

The successful candidate must possess an earned doctorate or other terminal degree and national distinction as a scholar, researcher/practitioner, and educator with the accomplishments required for appointment as a tenured full professor. While it is preferred that the successful candidate for the SVPRI position exhibit substantial administrative leadership experience at a research university or comparable setting, exceptional candidates who have demonstrated a high degree of national or international scholarly and administrative success outside of academia will be considered. In particular, the most competitive candidates will have:

- Experience serving as a principal/co-principal investigator on numerous significant externally-funded grants.
- A record of success in leading through innovative organizational change in a transparent and inclusive manner.
- Experience building teams and promoting increased collaboration, multidisciplinary partnerships, and interdisciplinary research and scholarship.

Furthermore, it is strongly desired that the SVPRI possess many of the following experiences, abilities, and skills, as well as a willingness to discuss and develop strategies to address any areas in which the candidate needs to develop:

### **Desired Qualities and Characteristics**

- An appreciation of and interest in the full spectrum of university disciplines, as well as a commitment to promoting this full research spectrum—including interdisciplinary scholarship, creative work, and research-oriented community engagement—both internally and externally.

- A vision for growing, supporting, and integrating a large and vibrant health sciences research portfolio within the University's broader research enterprise.
- A deep appreciation for the integral role of undergraduate and graduate education in the research mission.
- An understanding of faculty careers and capacity to foster faculty development programs centered around research and economic development.
- A record of service on or with national organizations relevant to providing input into research policy.
- A history of successful leadership in a complex, multi-faceted organization, particularly in times of transition and growth; ideally, in a large, public university setting.
- The ability to administer the full spectrum of a large and complex research support enterprise, ranging from strategy to operations to impact.
- The ability to create and lead federal and industry research partnerships.
- An understanding of the importance of compliance and regulatory matters, coupled with the ability to engender trust and create a culture of integrity and ethics.
- The capacity to leverage research to foster entrepreneurship and economic development.
- The ability to delegate responsibility, manage people effectively, foster the professional development staff, hold people accountable for their decisions and actions, and make sound decisions regarding personnel matters.
- Exceptional communications skills, including the ability to listen to others and incorporate their suggestions in the decision-making process.
- The ability to serve as the chief advocate for the research enterprise and represent the University to internal stakeholders, the community, and state and national leaders.
- Superior diplomatic and interpersonal skills, including an ability to listen to and consider dissenting opinions, solve problems, and communicate decisions.
- A deep commitment to and proven track record for fostering an academic environment that values, promotes and champions inclusive excellence.
- The ability to envision, articulate and implement strategic goals, establish assessment mechanisms and re-align resources as necessary within a large, complex environment.
- International awareness and a commitment to building the U of A's global reputation.
- An understanding of and sincere appreciation for the U of A's unique history, land-grant mission, traditions and role within Arizona and the region, as a land-grant, Hispanic Serving Institution, situated in the borderlands region and on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples.
- A collaborative, compassionate, and inspirational leadership style that values shared governance and transparency and empowers faculty, staff, students, and members of the broader UA community.
- A high degree of cultural proficiency and emotional intelligence.
- Understanding the consequences of financial and budgetary decisions.
- Ability to optimize organizational operations to support, sustain, and manage change, including realigning positions and resources to make the organization agile and financially efficient.
- An active management style characterized by consistent engagement and consultation with senior leaders, coupled with the ability to engage key stakeholders in open and transparent discussions.
- An ability to advocate on behalf of research centers, institutes, libraries, and other research-related units to illustrate their value to the University leadership, government entities, and corporate partners.
- An awareness of the revolutionary potential of technology in the research enterprise and a commitment to oversee intellectual property development and commercialization.
- Knowledge of professional and local resources that can be utilized to support scholarly endeavors.

- Experience working in a multi-campus environment and addressing diverse stakeholder needs across the organization.
- The ability to build and sustain collaborative partnerships with business, industry, philanthropic organizations, state agencies, and other universities.

### **Tucson, Arizona**

Located in a valley surrounded by five mountain ranges, Tucson has the amenities and atmosphere of a major university city, along with desert and mountain landscapes and a climate conducive to year-round outdoor sports and activities. Tucson is a great place to enjoy the influence of multiple cultures and languages, with a rich history influenced by its proximity to Mexico and the presence of 22 federally recognized Indian Tribes in Arizona. With over 1 million residents, Tucson is also the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in North America, with traces of centuries-old Hohokam communities still visible in petroglyphs throughout the region.

Set in the lush Sonoran Desert only 65 miles from Mexico and surrounded by mountains, forests, monuments, and national parks, this unique environment is famous for mild winters, stunning sunsets, outdoor adventures, and a multicultural population that reflects the rich diversity of the Southwest. With 350 days of sunshine annually, Tucson and surrounding Southern Arizona is an ideal place for hikers, bikers, swimmers, triathletes, tennis players and golfers. The city is also a thriving hub of economic and commercial activity in the Greater Southwest, home to numerous medical and research centers, and a site for high technology industries, from optics to film.

Beyond technology and the great outdoors, Tucson and the surrounding area are well known for their rich cultural and scientific offerings, including opera, theatre, ballet, mariachi festivals, rodeo, Tucson Humanities Festival, the Poetry Center, Biosphere 2, the Kitt Peak National Optical Astronomy Observatory, the historic San Xavier Mission, and world-class museums, including the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Center for Creative Photography, the Pima Air and Space Museum, and the Tucson Museum of Art. Most recently, Tucson was designated as the United States' first City of Gastronomy by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

### **Application / Nomination Process**

The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and will continue to accept applications and nominations until the position is filled. Applications should include a current curriculum vitae and a letter of interest describing relevant experience and interest in the position. Submission of materials via email is strongly encouraged. Nomination letters should include the name and contact information of the nominee. Applications and letters of nomination should be submitted by email to:



**Alberto Pimentel, Managing Partner**

**Matthew Herrera, Senior Associate**

Email: [apsearch@spaexec.com](mailto:apsearch@spaexec.com)

Refer to code "UofA-SVPRI" in the subject line

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