



VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

Vice Provost for Research August 2015

Vanderbilt University, a top-ranked global research university, invites applications and nominations for the position of Vice Provost for Research (VPR). Founded in 1873 and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU) since 1950, Vanderbilt has been home to leaders and world-class programs across a wide range of disciplines, with scholars recognized for ground-breaking research and innovative leadership in higher education. The university seeks a creative and energetic Vice Provost for Research to strengthen the infrastructure for helping faculty and students to pursue basic research and for translating their emerging ideas into funded and high-impact projects. The VPR will also provide leadership in promoting the visibility of the university's research efforts, as well as in developing and expanding international research programs and services.

Vanderbilt University

Vanderbilt University is located in Nashville, Tennessee enrolling more than 12,000 students and employing more than 25,000 faculty and staff. Vanderbilt offers undergraduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences, engineering, music, education and human development, as well as a full range of graduate and professional degrees. The combination of cutting-edge research, strength in the liberal arts, internationally recognized schools of education, law, engineering, business and divinity, and a distinguished medical center creates an invigorating atmosphere where students tailor their education to meet their goals and researchers collaborate to solve complex problems of importance to our health, culture and society.

A leader in higher education access, Vanderbilt is unique among its peers in that its undergraduate students, through the university's Opportunity Vanderbilt program, have their financial needs met with a no-loan grant and scholarship program. Vanderbilt offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate programs in 10 schools and colleges:

- College of Arts & Science
- Blair School of Music
- Divinity School
- School of Engineering
- Graduate School
- Law School
- School of Medicine
- School of Nursing
- Owen Graduate School of Management
- Peabody College of Education and Human Development

According to *U.S. News and World Report*, Vanderbilt is ranked #16 among national research universities. Its professional schools similarly stand out: Peabody College (#3); School of Medicine (#14); School of Nursing (#11); Law School (#17); Owen Graduate School of Management (#27); and Engineering (#35). Vanderbilt is also ranked in the top 20 with regard to U.S. federal research funding for science and engineering, making it one of eight universities to be ranked among the top 20 in both rankings. The university is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Faculty are recognized for their teaching and research, receiving record numbers of awards, grants and contracts each year. 41 Vanderbilt faculty are fellows of a National Academy; 10 of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences; 3 of the American Academy of Nursing; and 105 of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Three Nobel Laureates have served on the faculty.

Vanderbilt includes a pre-eminent, nationally-ranked medical center, with a 1,000-bed teaching hospital discharging nearly 60,000 patients and providing care for nearly 2 million outpatient visits per year. Although Vanderbilt is now in the process of re-organizing the university and medical center as separate not-for-profit entities, a robust academic affiliation agreement will ensure continued “One Vanderbilt” research and education missions. Planning specifies that the medical school basic science departments and centers will be supported by the university, whereas the medical center will support the clinical departments and centers.

Unveiled last year, Vanderbilt’s [Academic Strategic Plan](#) will guide university investments in faculty recruitment, capital planning, academic programs and philanthropic priorities over the next decade. The plan focuses on “improving the human condition through excellence in teaching, research and patient care” and is built on four intersecting themes:

- Offering students a diverse intellectual community focused on the whole person and lifelong learning;
- Investing in multi- and interdisciplinary programs to lead toward solutions for problems facing society;
- Building distinguished programs that offer innovative, effective solutions to pressing health and health care problems; and
- Transforming education models through technology and research.

The university is located in the heart of the vibrant, growing Nashville metropolitan area, dubbed America’s Next “It” City by the New York Times in 2013. The area includes healthcare and entertainment as major industries, a burgeoning Entrepreneur Center, proximity to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as well as a number of other universities, including two Historically Black Universities, all representing opportunities for advancing Vanderbilt’s research mission.

Vanderbilt is the largest private employer in Middle Tennessee and the second largest private employer based in the state. The campus sits on 330 acres and encompasses nearly 20 million square feet of building space. As reflected in the [2014 Financial Report](#), the university has total net assets of \$5.8 billion, an endowment with market value of \$4.0 billion, and an operating budget of \$3.9 billion.

Research at Vanderbilt

From education to neuroscience to nanotechnology to financial markets, Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff are shaping the future with a strong focus on finding practical answers to complex problems. With its more than 120 centers and institutes, Vanderbilt affords its researchers the freedom to look across disciplines for solutions, benefiting from many perspectives.

Aside from health care services, sponsored projects represents the largest source of revenues for Vanderbilt, with awards totaling \$656.7 million in FY2014 (\$525.1 million in the Schools of Medicine and Nursing, and \$131.6 million in the other eight schools and colleges), of which \$344.1 million was NIH funding. In 2016, with the current planned reorganization, the research funding reporting directly to the Provost's Office will increase by approximately 55%. In 2014, the Center for Technology Transfer and Commercialization generated \$7.5 million in licensing revenue.

As a leading research university, Vanderbilt places strong emphasis on securing federal research awards that are highly competitive and rigorously reviewed by its peers. In addition, the university invests heavily in trans-institutional research, offering seed money to start and sustain projects. In November 2014, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos launched the Trans-Institutional Program (TIPs) Initiative, investing \$50 million over a five-year period to support cross-disciplinary research and collaboration – a core pillar of the university's Academic Strategic Plan. In July 2015, 17 new cross-disciplinary projects involving 153 faculty from all 10 Vanderbilt colleges and schools were selected for the initial set of awards from 64 formal proposals received and evaluated by the TIPs Council. The full list of award recipients can be found [here](#).

The Discovery Grant Program, another internal funding program, provides seed funding for research within an identified discipline or field in hopes of increasing its potential to attract external funding. The Research Scholar Grants Program complements the Discovery Grant Program and provides comparable internal funding for research largely in the humanities and social sciences domains. In addition, the Chancellor Faculty Fellows Program invests in a select group of young scholars from across the campus with the goal of ensuring even greater future success.

Vice Provost for Research

Reporting to the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Vice Provost for Research will provide leadership in promoting Vanderbilt's research culture by fostering an environment conducive to research and the creation of knowledge. In addition to oversight of the larger research portfolio, the VPR will have an expanded role with responsibilities for overseeing implementation of the university's new future vision and trans-institutional strategies. The VPR will work closely with the academic deans and department heads to implement the vision and to advance the quality of the research enterprise across campus. The VPR will also work to deepen, widen and strengthen Vanderbilt's international research connections.

In addition to overseeing the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, the Vice Provost oversees the trans-institutional centers and institutes supported centrally by the Provost's Office, the Office of Contract and Research Administration, and the Office of Global Support Services. The VPR also coordinates oversight of animal care, human research protection programs and environmental health and safety with the Medical Center.

Key Priorities for the Vice Provost:

- Develop a clear vision for research at Vanderbilt;
- Advocate for the research and scholarship missions of all disciplines across all schools and colleges;
- Facilitate strategies to enhance extramurally supported research across the schools and colleges from all sources (corporate, foundation, federal, philanthropic);
- Support a cohesive and vibrant international research agenda and strategic vision, and advance the VU brand internationally;
- Motivate and facilitate new faculty-driven interdisciplinary initiatives, including those that enable major research funding opportunities, and ensure a strong affiliation with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center;
- Promote university research accomplishments externally by working with News and Communications for national and international marketing, and ensuring strong connections with Vanderbilt state and federal relations staff;
- Support recognition of faculty excellence via nominations for external honorific awards, and robust networking for such, as well as collaborate on support needed for faculty recruitment and retention;
- Be a visible and vocal leader in national conversations that pertain to basic research, creative expression, international cooperation and diversity;
- Oversee and develop operating structures that ensure the efficient and effective delivery of sponsored programs support services for Vanderbilt University and coordinate for seamless and collaborative shared services, some of which will be coordinated in collaboration with the Medical Center (e.g. training in the research and preparation of grant proposals, authorization of proposal submissions and collaborative arrangements, negotiating and developing contracts, etc.);
- Work closely with appropriate offices and the schools/colleges to ensure compliance with all applicable university policies and government regulations as they relate to research and scholarship.

Candidate Profile

The Vice Provost for Research is a vice provost for relationships, at Vanderbilt, in Nashville and the southeast, nationwide and globally. The successful candidate must demonstrate leadership in relationship building across organizations and have a reputation for doing creative research with an impact. The candidate must demonstrate passion for research discovery, appreciate the importance of different types of research across many different disciplines, and enjoy building bridges across the organization and beyond. The successful candidate will have an earned doctoral degree and a proven track record in securing funding from external organizations, such as government agencies, industry and/or foundations.

The Vice Provost for Research must be entrepreneurial, a collaborative leader and visionary. The candidate will have had prior administrative and leadership experience at a research organization, whether university, industry or agency. The ability to steward a strategic planning process for the role of research at the university, while coordinating it with priorities in all of the units, is a must. The successful candidate will be highly proactive – actively seeking ways to enable research.

The Vice Provost for Research will be a strong communicator, able to get the word out broadly and effectively about research opportunities and successes. The VPR will demonstrate a genuine desire to build up others and will embrace student immersion in research. The ideal candidate will care deeply about undergraduate and graduate education and understand the role that research plays in the overall mission of the university. The VPR will be an innovative and creative problem solver, with a willingness to take risks. The successful candidate will be easily able to adapt, will have unquestioned, unassailable personal and academic integrity, and will embrace Vanderbilt's culture of collaboration, creativity and civility.

Vanderbilt University Leadership

Nicholas S. Zeppos, Chancellor

A distinguished legal scholar, teacher and executive, [Nicholas S. Zeppos](#) was named Vanderbilt University's eighth chancellor on March 1, 2008. Chancellor Zeppos has led a number of important initiatives at Vanderbilt, including the planning processes for The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons, a landmark transformation of the first-year experience, and College Halls at Kissam, the next phase of the university's unique living-learning residential college system.

In a bold move to strengthen Vanderbilt's commitment to admitting undergraduates on the basis of accomplishment and achievement, rather than their ability to pay, Chancellor Zeppos created an expanded financial aid program in 2009. By replacing undergraduate need-based loans with grant and scholarship assistance, this transformative initiative opened the university's doors wider to highly talented and qualified students of all economic, cultural and geographical backgrounds. The expanded aid program is a top university priority.

Prior to being named chancellor, Zeppos served from 2002 to 2008 as Vanderbilt's chief academic officer, overseeing the university's undergraduate, graduate and professional education programs as well as research efforts in liberal arts and sciences, engineering, music, education, business, law and divinity. He joined the Vanderbilt community in 1987 as an assistant professor in the Law School. He subsequently served as associate dean, then as associate provost before being named provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs in 2002. He served as interim chancellor of the university from August 2007 until March 2008, when he was appointed chancellor.

Chancellor Zeppos serves on the National Security Higher Education Advisory Board; the Foundation for Educational Exchange Between Canada and the United States of America (Fulbright Canada) Board of Directors; and as co-chair of the Senate-appointed Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education. He also currently serves as president of the Southeastern Conference.

Susan R. Wentz, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

A prominent biomedical scientist, [Susan R. Wentz](#) became provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs on July 1, 2014. For the five years prior to her appointment, Provost Wentz served as associate vice chancellor for research at Vanderbilt. In that role, she promoted research discoveries, provided the optimal infrastructure to support basic science research, and designed strategic planning for Vanderbilt's basic science research efforts. During that time, she also served as senior associate dean of biomedical sciences and professor of cell and developmental biology in the School of Medicine, where she spearheaded the basic science education and post-doctorate training of more than 600 graduate

students and more than 500 post-doctoral fellows and several trans-institutional graduate programs. In 2013-2014, Wentz took on the additional role of co-chairing the executive committee of the university-wide academic strategic plan to set the course for Vanderbilt's future.

For nine years prior to joining Vanderbilt as chair of Cell and Developmental Biology in 2002, Wentz served on the faculty at Washington University School of Medicine. Provost Wentz continues to lead an academic research laboratory, and her work studying the mechanism for highly selective, bidirectional exchange of proteins and genetic material between the nucleus and cytoplasm has been nationally recognized.

In 2011, Wentz received the Women in Cell Biology Senior Career Recognition Award from the American Society of Cell Biology and in 2010 was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2010 she received a prestigious MERIT (Method to Extend Research in Time) award, given only to the best scientists in the nation, from the National Institutes of Health to continue her research on nuclear pore complexes. She was recently named a "2014 Woman to Watch" by Nashville Medical News.

Nomination and Application Process

Inquiries, nominations and applications are invited. Interested candidates should submit confidentially, in electronic form (Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF files preferred), a curriculum vitae and letter of interest to VU.VPR@russellreynolds.com.

Vanderbilt University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer. The University actively encourages applications and nominations of women, minorities and persons with disabilities and applications from candidates with diverse cultural backgrounds.

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