



KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Vice President for Research
and Sponsored Programs
Executive Search

About Kent State University

Now in its second century, Kent State University is an established academic leader in a major population and economic center. Northeast Ohio is home to 4.5 million people, more than 25 Fortune 1000 firms, and one of the nation's top five industrial markets. It is Ohio's leading export region. The region is rich in natural and cultural amenities, including the splendor of the Great Lakes, one of the country's most-visited national parks, the nation's second-largest theatre district, the world-class Cleveland Orchestra, eclectic neighborhoods, and multicultural experiences in settings from urban to rural.

The Kent campus is located on 900 beautiful acres in Kent, Ohio, a city of 30,000, within the greater Cleveland-Akron metropolitan area. It provides the intellectual, scientific, social, economic, and artistic resources of a major research university in a safe and serene campus setting. Kent is regularly cited as a rising college town in America following a \$120-million revitalization of the downtown area and a series of projects, including a hotel and conference center, a new center for architecture and environmental design, a new institutional advancement building, and an esplanade linking town and gown.

Kent State University, with its eight-campus network, is one of the largest universities in Ohio with a total enrollment of more than 41,000 and graduate enrollment of 5,500.

Approximately 28,000 students attend the Kent campus. Kent State is ranked by the Carnegie Foundation as a public research university with high research activity and also strong in community engagement.

Kent State University is home to 10 colleges (Applied Engineering, Sustainability and Technology; Architecture and Environmental Design; the Arts; Arts and Sciences; Business Administration; Communication and Information; Education, Health and Human Services; Nursing; Podiatric Medicine; Public Health), a school of digital sciences, a Centennial Research Park, 50 centers and institutes, and a diverse and highly motivated faculty. Kent State researchers have made groundbreaking discoveries as diverse as developing the world's first liquid crystal display (LCD) to forging breakthroughs in understanding human evolution, led by National Academy of Sciences Chair of Anthropology Dr. C. Owen Lovejoy. Kent State serves the state, nation and the world with excellence through 23 doctoral programs with more than 50 specializations and 50 master's programs in more than 100 areas of specialization. It has strong collaborative ties with major universities, medical schools, health systems, and other industry partners. Kent State employs 5,700 faculty and staff and regularly is listed as one of the Chronicle of Higher Education's Great Colleges to Work For.



Kent State Research and Sponsored Programs

<http://www.kent.edu/research>



The Division of Research and Sponsored Programs (RASP) at Kent State University provides comprehensive service to faculty and research staff, ranging from finding grant opportunities, proposal development and submission, and pre- and post-award administration, to safety training and compliance. The division consists of three primary functions: the office of corporate engagement and commercialization, the office of sponsored programs, and the office of research compliance. RASP plays a proactive role in bringing researchers together from different departments/colleges and Ohio institutions to form partnerships and collaborations on projects of scientific, technological and national importance.

Kent State University researchers are highly focused and successful, and consequently internationally recognized as leaders in their areas of expertise. Below are just a few wide-ranging examples of their success.

One of the areas of research excellence is soft-condensed matter with liquid crystals as its major component. Kent State University's Liquid Crystal Institute is the site of numerous major discoveries and inventions. The very first liquid crystal display (LCD) technology was invented at Kent State and forms the basis of ubiquitous flat panel displays used in computer displays, televisions, and cell phones. Kent State faculty provided the leadership in the establishment of Ohio's first National Science Foundation (NSF) Science and Technology Center on Advanced Liquid Crystalline Optical Materials. The university is pioneering new sustainable energy solutions and has launched a major initiative in solar power, enabled by the flexible behavior of liquid crystals. Researchers also are spearheading the application of flexible materials to biomedical solutions. The work of other university researchers led to the development and licensing of patented biosensor technology with enormous potential to rapidly detect pathogens.

Kent State faculty members in the department of Anthropology have made a string of breakthroughs in understanding human evolution. Research led by Professor C. Owen Lovejoy reconstructed skeletons of human ancestors "Lucy" and, more recently, "Ardi" who lived more than 3 and 4.4 million years ago, respectively, in Ethiopia. Science Magazine published 14 articles summarizing these findings as part of a special issue and later chose this work (as did Time) as the "Science Breakthrough of the Year of 2009.

Faculty members in the department of psychology are internationally recognized for their research in adult psychopathology, biopsychology, child and adolescent psychology, and cognitive, health and social psychology. Projects in the department of psychology are actively funded by a myriad sources, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and other public and private sources. Dr. Katherine Rawson, an associate professor and a past of the Presidential Early Career Award, conducts ground-breaking research which capitalizes on well-established principles in basic memory research and on recent advances in the theory of meta-cognitive monitoring. Psychology faculty are also leading the Initiative for Clinical and Translational Research which has built collaborations with SUMMA Health System doctors and research personnel. The Institute also provides clinical training for our students and provides a means of employing our research findings in clinical settings.

Kent State University physicists form an important segment of the international team of researchers studying high-energy collision of gold ions at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC), a 2.4 mile-circumference particle accelerator at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, N.Y. They have been instrumental in the discovery of the most massive anti-nucleus, the first of its kind containing an anti-strange quark. This discovery is of significance in solving one of the fundamental puzzles of physics and has implications in the search for dark matter.

From the neuroscience lab to the hospice bedside, Kent State researchers in fields from psychology to nursing to speech pathology and audiology are investigating neurodegeneration, stress, anxiety, depression, trauma, obesity, communication disorders and other syndromes in pursuit of existing new therapies to alleviate suffering. Through the College of Public Health, Kent State is become a leader in addressing community health issues. Its faculty members engage in cutting-edge research that seeks answers to some of society's most difficult public health problems including preventing violence, responding to natural and manmade disasters, curbing substance abuse, and improving the delivery of health care.

Kent State long has been on the forefront of pedagogical research. Faculty are developing and disseminating innovative approaches to teaching and learning that are made possible by multimedia and networked technologies and are conducting far-reaching research in STEM education.

The Center for Scholastic Journalism has partnered with the Knight Foundation, the Reynolds Foundation, and the American Society of News Editors to become a national leader in instruction of high school journalism teachers and serving as the preeminent national resource for information about youth journalism and scholastic journalism education.

The School of Library and Information Science is one of the nation's leaders in children's literature. Its Marantz Picturebook collection, comprising over 21,000 picture books from the past 40 years and catalogued by illustrator, serves as a resource for scholars throughout the nation. The School also is the annual host for the prestigious Virginia Hamilton Conference on multicultural literature for children and young adults.

Created in 2007, Kent State University's Centennial Research Park provides space and support for specialized companies to thrive and grow near the university and its partners. The 41,000 square-foot research park houses two high-tech start-up companies that have their roots in liquid crystal research activities launched at Kent State.

Opportunities and Challenges



Kent State seeks to increase its level of research activity and portfolio as an important element of its future as a research university. In so doing, Kent State will assume a leadership role in advancing the frontiers of knowledge, which will improve the lives of Ohioans and people all over the world as well as enhance the education and research experience of graduate and undergraduate students.

A recent independent assessment of Kent State's research infrastructure and capacity will help inform the President and Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs in charting future directions. The assessment revealed that while external funding has declined in recent years, faculty scholarship is highly respected and ranks high in impact factors of quality in areas such as memory and cognition, stress disorders, post-traumatic stress and terrorism, and communication and motivation. There is high expectation and commitment for the research enterprise, and the Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs will have the opportunity to work with a highly motivated community of faculty, staff and students.

In spite of its recent success, the university recognizes it faces a number of challenges on its path to becoming a leading research institution. RASP will need to be responsive to these challenges by:

- Bringing research and funding opportunities to the right individuals or groups of researchers who can take advantage of them, identifying existing but unrecognized collective strengths of Kent researchers, and helping them focus on solving new scientific problems;
- Identifying gaps in the needed research expertise/capabilities of Kent faculty and leading in the development of a plan to hire researchers with needed strengths, forming new coalitions and collaborations across campus, Ohio, and the nation to open doors to new research and conduct of research in a manner that increases Kent State's influence and recognition;
- Evaluating and strengthening research infrastructure necessary for efficient conduct of research, evaluating and restructuring shared research facilities, increasing their use and availability to researchers and local companies;
- Providing needed services and training to researchers to meet all state and federal requirements for safe and ethical conduct of research;
- Proactively interacting with Ohio's political leadership in Columbus and Washington, DC to remain abreast of the latest developments and find ways to put Kent researchers in a position of advantage;
- Building relationships with funding agencies to make them aware of research endeavors and capacities at Kent State and to stay current on agency funding priorities, Helping faculty establish a personal repertoire with program directors at funding agencies, providing resources to facilitate periodic in-person interaction between them, and facilitating greater participation of undergraduate, local school teachers, and high school students in research activities.

The Position

Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs

Kent State University invites applications and nominations for the position of Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs. This is an extraordinary opportunity to join a new president and a 105-year-old institution at a time rich with potential. Kent State finds itself at an exciting and transformative moment in its history, marked by strong growth in its undergraduate and graduate enrollments to more than 41,000 students across eight campuses; fundraising success; and a \$200-million investment in academic facilities, including nearly \$100 million in new construction and renovations in the university's science corridor.

Kent State recently welcomed Dr. Beverly J. Warren as its 12th president. Dr. Warren is building upon the positive momentum at Kent State, and seeks an innovative partner as Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs to join a major national public research university capable of achieving still more for its students, the citizens of Ohio and beyond. As evidence of the prominence of this position and the importance of research at Kent State University, the successful candidate will report directly to President Warren.

The Vice President serves as the senior research officer responsible for the university's research activities, providing critical leadership in partnership with the President at the start of her tenure. The Vice President will serve as a collaborative member of the senior administrative cabinet, and will assist Kent State in further enhancing its reputation as a major public national research university with national and international reach.

The Vice President heads the Division of Research and Sponsored Programs, providing instrumental leadership in guiding institutional strategic planning for research, sponsored program development and research infrastructure, and operations. The division is composed of the offices of Corporate Engagement and Commercialization, Sponsored Programs, and Research Compliance.

The Vice President encourages and supports investigators; facilitates multidisciplinary projects; seeks out new sources of funding; strives to connect campus units in new ways in order to train students and retain top faculty; guarantees



the ethical, informed, and safe conduct of research; and fosters institutional and industry collaboration and technology transfer. Given Kent State's strength in the Arts, the Vice President will foster and facilitate outstanding creative endeavors.

The Vice President will have excelled in conducting and managing a research program, and will possess the leadership qualities and abilities to help Kent State accelerate its position as a premier modern research university. Fundamentally, the preferred candidate will have excelled at improving a university's research administration, and can demonstrate notable successes in incentivizing and encouraging research.

The preferred candidate will have an earned doctorate from a research university, broad experience with externally funded research, research credentials demonstrating accomplishment at a level equivalent to the rank of full professor in his/her field of scholarship and research; and administrative leadership experience in a relevant research environment.

In addition the candidate should have demonstrated success as an administrator and fiscal manager; a record of success in procuring and managing sponsored research programs; and experience in research policy formation, compliance issues, and implementation. The successful candidate will have demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively with various internal and external constituencies, promote interdisciplinary research, and work with a culturally diverse population.

Procedure for Candidacy

Applications should include a letter of application and curriculum vitae. Applications and nominations will be accepted until the position is filled. Confidential review of materials and screening of candidates will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Kent State University is being assisted by Harris Search Associates for this search. Please contact Jeffrey Harris, Managing Partner, for further details.

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Kent State University has a strong commitment to serve its highly diverse community. As such, Kent State University welcomes applications from women, persons from underrepresented minority groups, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups, and others who would enrich the university's research, teaching, and mission. Kent State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



Harris Search Associates

INNOVATION + TALENT

Harris Search Associates, an IIC Partners member firm, is a leading global executive search and board advisory consulting firm. Our practice is focused on identifying and attracting leaders to support the growth of clients in the areas of research, science, engineering, academic medicine and commercial enterprises. Clients include the foremost universities, research parks, institutes, academic medical centers and commercial organizations driving global innovation and discovery.



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| Australia | Finland | Mexico | Switzerland |
| Austria | France | Norway | Taiwan |
| Belgium | Germany | Poland | Thailand |
| Brazil | India | Romania | The Netherlands |
| Canada | Ireland | Russia | United Kingdom |
| Chile | Italy | Spain | United States |
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