Kansas State University, the nation’s first land grant university, seeks an experienced and innovative research strategist to serve as Vice President for Research. The successful candidate will provide leadership to the research enterprise of the university and advocate for all scholarly and creative activities that are hallmarks of a research-intensive institution.

Classified as a Carnegie Research University at the High Research Activity level, the University has consistently ranked among the top XX universities as reported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) based on an annual survey of federal and non-federal research and development expenditures. The University’s total expenditures for research and sponsored programs in FY2013 were $151 million dollars. Over the last three fiscal years, the largest federal sponsors were USDA, NSF and NIH. Building on its rich history as a student-centered research university, Kansas State University aspires to become a top 50 public research university by 2025 and expanding research productivity is one of the major themes of the university’s K-State 2025 strategic plan.

The University: Kansas State University (K-State) is a comprehensive land-grant university with an international reputation for excellence in research, undergraduate and graduate on-campus and distance education, extension, and outreach. The mission of Kansas State University is to foster excellent teaching, research, extension, and service that develop a highly skilled and educated citizenry necessary to advancing the well-being of Kansas, the nation, and the international community. The university embraces diversity, encourages engagement, and is committed to the discovery of knowledge, the education of undergraduate and graduate students, and improvement in the quality of life of those served. K-State develops human potential, expands knowledge, enriches cultural expression, and extends its expertise to individuals, businesses, education, and government.

The university has a student enrollment of over 24,000, including 3,300 graduate students, in nine colleges on three campuses located in Manhattan, Olathe, and Salina, Kansas. Students represent all 50 states and more than 90 countries. K-State offers more than 250 undergraduate majors and options, 65 master’s degrees, 45 doctoral degrees, and 22 graduate certificates in multiple disciplines across our campuses.

The National Bio-and Agri-Defense facility (NBAF) is being relocated to Manhattan and it will provide many opportunities for collaborations to be coordinated by the VPR.

Position Responsibilities: The Vice President for Research serves as the university’s Chief Research Officer, providing leadership and expertise in fostering a campus environment that supports collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts and produces high quality research. The position reports directly to the President of the University. The VPR is responsible for encouraging and facilitating the integration and enhancement of research activities across the university’s colleges and multiple research centers and leading university-wide strategic research growth activities. In addition, the
VPR provides leadership for the acquisition of research funding, the planning and development of academic research space, research commercialization, the incubation of new companies and recruiting of corporate research partners, and public outreach.

The VPR also has administrative responsibility for the units which provide support to the university’s research infrastructure and for several independent, interdisciplinary research units including the KSU Research Foundation, Research and Sponsored Programs, Pre-Award Services, Research Compliance Office (including all research compliance, institutional review board and export control committees), the University Veterinarian, the Biosecurity Research Institute, Biotech Core Facility, National Agricultural Biosecurity Center, and Electronics Design Laboratory. The VPR also serves on state, regional, and national committees directed to the promotion and support of research; and oversees technology transfer and economic development activities of the University.

The VPR will seek new ways to support faculty in applying competitively for large federal and foundation grants. In cooperation with individual colleges, the Office identifies grant opportunities as well as providing assistance in preparing major grant applications. The Office plays an important role in assisting faculty in developing appropriate policies and procedures for Centers and Institutes within the University. The Office is responsible for selecting candidates for faculty fellowships and research awards where a limited number of applications can go forward from the University.

Technology Transfer/ Intellectual Property Management: Intellectual property (IP) management represents a growing area of responsibility. The University intends to increase its translational research activities to enhance successful technology transfer. The Office deals with IP issues associated with faculty start-up companies, especially when technology is licensed from the University.

The VPR will
- Encourage collaborative research across the University’s disciplines and help recruit a diverse faculty.
- Be a strong advocate for the Faculty in all areas of research across the University and promote the University as a leader in research.
- Promote and implement activities to insure compliance with Federal and State regulations governing research.
- Respond to legislation and rule-making as it applies to university research.
- Work with a diverse faculty and student body in a wide range of disciplines.
- Collaborate with other institutional officers on the commercialization of intellectual property and technology transfer opportunities.

Qualifications

Qualifications include an earned doctorate from an accredited institution; a visionary leader capable of working well with departments, college deans, business leaders and government agencies at all levels; and excellent oral and written communication skills. As a condition of employment, the successful candidate must have or be able to obtain a Top Secret
clearance. The Top Secret clearance must be maintained while employed at Kansas State University. The ideal candidate will be a proven leader with a national research identity; be able to demonstrate previous administrative success; be supportive of economic development; and conversant with technology and technology transfer issues. The ideal candidate will be able to identify a vision to create and implement collaborative research initiatives, have a distinguished record of research accomplishments, and have experience in administration of research grants and contracts.

The ideal candidate will also have demonstrated success as a collaborator and relationship builder, demonstrating strong interpersonal skills, and ability to build coalitions and collaborative working relationships with a broad range of diverse individuals and groups to achieve results.

The successful candidate will need to show proven success as a strategic leader with accomplishments in developing and growing innovative and effective programs to promote collaborative research and implementing successful interdisciplinary research programs that enhance the standing of the institution and show demonstrated ability as an advocate to foster diversity and promote a collegial and constructive environment based on open communication, positive team building, and effective management.

Inquiries, nominations and applications will be treated confidentially. The search committee will begin reviewing files on November 15, 2013 and continue until an appointment is made. To apply please include a letter of interest, a narrative of experiences that address the full set of qualifications, curriculum vitae, and contact information for five professional references. Application materials should be sent as a single PDF file in electronic format to:

Dr. April Mason  
Provost and Senior Vice President  
and Search Committee Chair  
Vice President for Research Search Committee  
vprsearch@k-state.edu

Kansas State University is an Equal Opportunity employer. KSU actively seeks diversity among its employees. Passage of a pre-employment criminal background check will be required of the final candidate.

Updated 9/15/2013