

Position and Candidate Specification

IOWA

Vice President for Research



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May 2024

Assignment: 72574-004

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The University of Iowa (University or UI) is a leading public university with a widely respected liberal arts and sciences tradition. The UI is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and is known nationally and internationally for its excellence in research: its researchers win approximately \$704 million in external research funding annually. Research has proven to be a key economic driver in the state, with \$369.5 million annual spending impact on the Iowa economy. Founded in 1847 as the state's first public institution of higher education, the university's research enterprise engages all 12 colleges, including the only comprehensive academic medical center in the state and the only accredited college of public health. UI uniquely combines innovative biomedical research and engineering with a strong scholarly grounding in the arts, sciences, and humanities. The university offers a close-knit, collegial intellectual community that attracts the highest caliber of students and researchers from around the world.

University of Iowa faculty and staff increasingly pursue boundary-crossing research and scholarship to address pressing contemporary problems. Over the past three years, the University of Iowa has expanded its investment for researchers across all disciplines. These resources are intended to help researchers be more competitive and successful in securing funding in a time of declining federal dollars; to think beyond their disciplines and institutions, to join major initiatives to address emerging challenges more creatively, and to shepherd investors toward a successful launch of their ideas into the marketplace. The University of Iowa is a leader in research in the areas of neuroscience, medicine and bioengineering, computer modeling, autonomous vehicles, space and weather, and humanities scholarship.

Research and scholarship from UI faculty and staff at Iowa often lead to the discovery of innovations that can improve the quality of life for people in the state, the nation, and world. The UI Research Foundation (UIRF) works to obtain intellectual property protection—like patents and copyrights—on these innovations and partners with industry for the commercial development of new products and services. In FY23, UIRF processed 175 new patent applications, 72 new invention disclosures, and secured 48 new licenses and options for UI technologies.

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) provides resources and support to researchers, scholars, and creators to forge new frontiers of discovery. Through strategic initiatives, administrative and compliance infrastructure, and core facilities, the office facilitates a thriving campus culture of collaboration, creativity, and innovation. OVPR has University-wide responsibility for research policy, coordination with federal research sponsors, compliance, scientific integrity, innovation, and technology transfer. The VPR enables an environment for research to provide clear and consistent policy guidance, oversight, and accountability for all research across the University and UI Health Care. The office is a collaborative, University-wide entity providing overall responsibility for facilitating the research enterprise at UI.

In recent years, the University has seen steady, but somewhat modest growth in its research funding, and its leadership is now focused on prioritizing and investing in the rebuild of the research enterprise, to get UI back to

its strong heritage of research and rise to even greater prominence and realize bolder ambition of creating impact. The next Vice President for Research will be key in the institution realizing these goals.

OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

The next Vice President for Research at UI will fully capitalize on the many and varied opportunities and challenges of the present moment and will be expected to:

- Shape, manage the growth, and develop the agenda of the University's research enterprise, accelerating the development of research excellence across the campus and in clinical settings.
- Lead the University's continued development of innovation, with a distinct focus on fostering interdisciplinary efforts.
- Create a 'client service' orientation to understand the research needs across the institution and be an advocate for resources, structure, and empowerment, to be able to achieve the set goals.
- Instill a sense of urgency and energy to encourage UI to sharpen its research vision and gain greater visibility and prominence in tech transfer and commercialization.
- Serve as the champion and principal spokesperson for the development of efficient and robust research policy and infrastructure.
- Partner with the academic units in faculty hiring and retention, playing an active role in mobilizing resources and finding creative solutions.
- Create a robust yet agile infrastructure, to be able to respond to the most competitive "big ticket" grants, and the ability to bring together the best Iowa has to bear when responding to these opportunities.
- Advocate for the University at the state level with new partnerships and greater resources for research, working with corporate, foundation, and civic entities, as well as with the legislature and Board of Regents while keeping abreast of novel streams of funding and new opportunities.
- Diversify and adapt to a changing federal funding landscape by participating in the national conversation and ensuring engagement with the major sources of federal funding, including NSF, NIH, Department of Education (DoE), Department of Defense (DoD), National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Reports to Barbara Wilson, President

Direct reports Jennifer Lassner, Associate Vice President for Research
Aliasger Salem, Associate Vice President for Research
Kristy Nabhan-Warren, Associate Vice President for Research
Marie Kerbeshian, Assistant Vice President, UIRF
Wendy Loney, Director of Operations & Senior Human Resources Director
Carri Casteel, Injury Prevention Research Center
Michael Pentella, State Hygienic Lab
Leslie Revaux, Research Communications
Aaron Kline, Research Development

Other Key Members of President's Cabinet

Relationships - Provost & Deans Council
Chief Innovation Officer
Research Council
Associate Dean's for Research
External partners, funders, federal agencies, and State of Iowa government and civic agencies

The following fall under the oversight of the VPR:

- Division of Sponsored Programs
- Central Research Support Facilities
- Injury Prevention Research Center
- Institute for Clinical and Translational Science
- The University of Iowa Research Foundation
- Obermann Center for Advanced Studies
- Office of Undergraduate Research
- Office of the State Archaeologist
- Public Policy Center
- Research Development Office
- Regulatory compliance units (e.g., Human Subjects Office, Animal Care Unit, and Health Protection Office)
- State Hygienic Laboratory

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Support and enhance the research mission of the University of Iowa and articulate that mission to key internal and external stakeholders.
- Develop strategies to ensure the necessary research infrastructures are available and aligned with existing research strengths and emerging research opportunities.
- Advise the president and executive advisory bodies in decision-making and oversight of general university matters as a member of the President's Cabinet.
- Identify, develop, and nurture innovative and strategic research initiatives, and be a champion for interdisciplinary research. Collaborate on activities related to technology transfer and economic development.
- Serve as liaison with federal and state agencies related to research. Provide strategic guidance for the research enterprise through analysis of current and emerging scientific, policy, financial, and regulatory trends.
- Provide strong financial stewardship of reporting units and advocate for resources to advance the University's research opportunities.
- Contribute to the University of Iowa's mission of student success by engaging students in the research enterprise. Foster a culture of discovery and innovation that is inclusive of all faculty, staff, and students.
- Participate in campus space and facilities planning processes.
- Ensure effective regulatory compliance while collaborating with campus stakeholders to minimize and streamline regulatory burden.
- Work with the research council and other campus advisory bodies on the formulation of policies, in communicating information about the research enterprise, and in reviewing and developing research strategies.
- Pursue and promote, in collaboration with the University's Office of Governmental Relations, federal and state support for strategic research initiatives.
- Foster involvement with national research, policy-oriented organizations and interest groups (e.g., BTAA, AAU, COGR, NCURA and APLU).
- Interact with the Board of Regents, and other Iowa constituent groups, on research and related matters.

The University of Iowa is seeking an innovative, creative, strategic, and organizationally savvy leader with substantive experience managing an operationally complex institution through change. The VPR will be responsible for developing a strong vision to amplify UI's culture of research integrity, operational excellence, and competitive innovation. Leading through influence and collaboration, the VPR will emphasize ambition and excellence, interdisciplinary initiatives, generate excitement, enthusiasm, and buy-in to advance the education and research missions of the University.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Candidates must have a terminal degree and have achieved the rank of full professor with tenure or have demonstrated achievement in research and scholarship sufficient to meet the requirements of the full professor rank.
- Demonstrated experience in administrative leadership managing faculty and staff in a complex, multi-disciplinary research environment.
- Proven record of working with teams from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives.
- Knowledge and demonstrated expertise in one or more of the basic or applied sciences, social sciences, arts, or humanities, with a broad-level appreciation in others.
- Knowledge of and experience in dealing with federal research, foundation, and grant funding programs and processes.
- Strong personal record of research, scholarship, mentorship, publication, and funding, as appropriate for the discipline in which they are trained.

Preferred:

- Experience having established and enhanced ties across schools, including academic health care enterprises.
- A history of enabling innovation by faculty and students and driving research commercialization.
- Experience engaging with research in industry settings.

CRITICAL LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES

Strategic Thinking

Continue to lead committed and diverse constituencies to ever-higher levels of achievement and contribute to UI's overall excellence by:

- Serving as a strong advocate for UI's research mission, strengthening the University's capacity to address changes in research priorities, regulation, compliance, and global and industry challenges.
- Having accessibility and open-mindedness across disciplines and units, with substantial "research cultural awareness" to navigate the vision and strategy in a dynamic environment.
- Understanding challenges and opportunities facing all campus units and UI Health Care while appropriately balancing resources and attention across the whole research enterprise.
- Having the knowledge and foresight to help the University stay ahead of trends and requirements.

Change Leadership

To pursue excellence in research and innovation, the VPR will:

- Bring visionary leadership to the office, growing and organizing the office to best support the development, promotion, and application of UI's intellectual property and its researchers, students, and facilities.
- Establish processes and practices to encourage and reinforce innovation. Lead changes consistent with university strategy and gain buy-in with key constituents.
- Set clear goals and create a culture celebrating positive change and experimentation, engaging people in a reasoned way.
- Be persistent in the pursuit of institutional priorities and strategic direction.

Collaborating and Influencing

In an institution that values shared governance and community, build consensus and support for strategic and tactical initiatives by:

- Serving as an intellectual leader among the faculty and displaying the highest aspirations in developing and fulfilling the University's research mission.
- Collaborating with faculty, deans, the president, provost, and other colleagues across the University and UI Health Care, as well as community advocates, external partners, and federal sponsors in promoting University research priorities.
- Supporting community initiatives and goals through visible, vocal, and proactive leadership.
- Being the enabler, ambassador, convener, and advocate for research at Iowa, putting the institution definitively 'on the map.'

Other Personal Characteristics

- Intellectually curious.
- Excellent communication skills, strong listener. An enabler.
- Focus on action, even in the face of ambiguity and complexity.
- Transparent, authentic leader with high integrity.
- Persuasive and persistent.

Founded in 1847 as the state's first public institution of higher education, the university's research enterprise engages all 12 colleges, including the only comprehensive academic medical center in the state and the only accredited college of public health. UI uniquely combines innovative biomedical research and engineering with a strong scholarly grounding in the arts, sciences, and humanities. The Iowa Writers' Workshop was the first creative writing degree program in the United States; since its founding in 1936, the workshop has been home to thousands of remarkable writers. The program claims among its graduates winners of virtually every major literary award, including 31 winners of the Pulitzer Prize; eight U.S. Poets Laureate; and numerous winners of the National Book Award, MacArthur Foundation Fellowships, and other major honors. In federal fiscal year 2023, the Carver College of Medicine was ranked 47th for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding and is currently ranked 19th among public institution medical schools in primary care by *U.S. News & World Report*. Many college faculty members are internationally renowned for their research, with memberships in the National Academies of Sciences, National Academy of Medicine, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The University offers a close-knit, collegial intellectual community that attracts the highest caliber of students and researchers from around the world.

The University of Iowa, located in beautiful and diverse Iowa City, has won international recognition for achievements in medicine and allied health professions, the sciences, the humanities, and the arts. As a major national research university with a strong liberal arts and sciences foundation, the University of Iowa is respected for its excellence in education, passion for discovery, and tradition of public service. The university is a top producer of Fulbright Scholars and has highly ranked programs across all disciplines. The university has world-renowned research programs in neuroscience, genetics, hydraulics, vision, speech and hearing, muscular dystrophy, and cystic fibrosis, and has recorded major innovations in bio catalysis, biomedical engineering, biomedical sciences, and medical education. Iowa scientists have been pioneers in space research, designing and building research instruments for more than 50 successful U.S. satellites and space probes. It also has developed the most technologically advanced driving simulator in the world, having led for decades in the development of advances in vehicle performance and safety, working with manufacturers and governmental agencies around the world. The visual and performing arts have a vibrant presence on campus, with a large art collection in the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art and hundreds of performances available to students and the community each year. Despite its size, scope, and stature, the University of Iowa has the feel of a much smaller community where people know each other and collaborate extensively.

The university is focused on five priorities and goals:

- Excellence in teaching and learning.
- Innovative research and creative discovery.
- Welcoming and inclusive environment.
- Holistic well-being and success.
- Transformative societal impact.

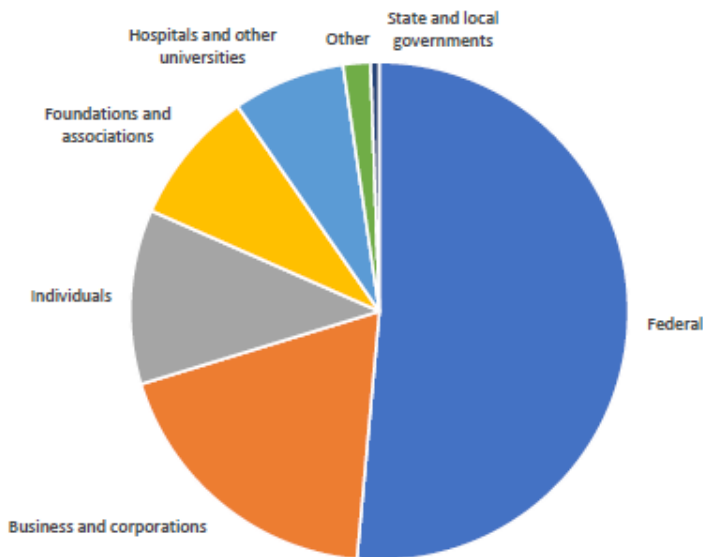
FACULTY

The University of Iowa’s distinguished faculty includes more than 6,000 faculty members, including full-time, part-time, and complimentary appointments. More than 1,400 are tenured or tenure-track, 1,073 are clinical-track, 55 are research-track, and 309 are instructional-track faculty. Within these faculty tracks, 49 percent are women and 14 percent are racial/ethnic minorities. The remainder of the faculty is composed of fixed-term faculty members, including those holding adjunct, visiting, and complimentary faculty appointments. Twenty-five faculty are members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. For the eighth consecutive year, the university has been named a top producer of Fulbright students for 2023–24 with 15 recipients. These grants support students to conduct research, attend graduate school, undertake creative projects, or serve as English teaching assistants abroad. Across the humanities and arts, faculty bring their worldclass research and artistry into classrooms, studios, and labs, giving students the unparalleled opportunity to learn right from the source of the latest innovations in knowledge and practice.

RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Total external funding (which includes gift commitments and charitable grants supporting research through the UI Center for Advancement) totaled \$704 million in FY23, which ended June 30, 2023. Meanwhile, grants and contracts that support discovery at the university totaled \$561 million. Between FY22 and FY23, federal research funding to the UI increased 16.5% for a total of \$363 million. Federal agencies accounted for 52% of total external funding to the university. Funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services accounts for 52% of the university’s federal funding portfolio.

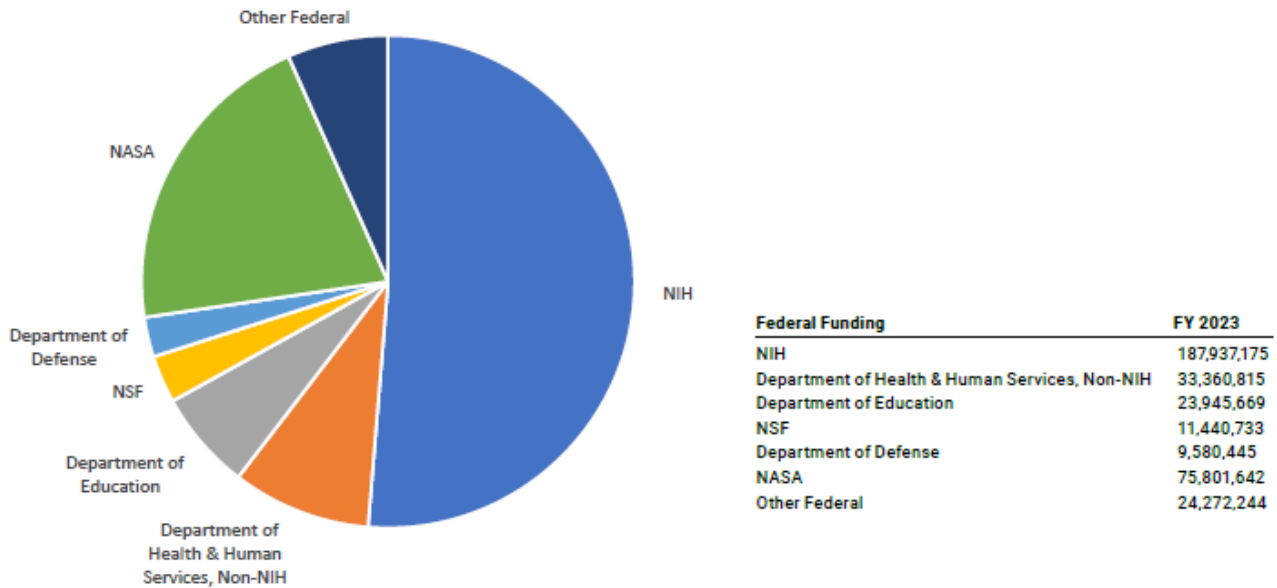
External funding by source, FY 23



The negative amount shown in State awarded dollars resulted from a contract timing issue in FY23 which will be offset in FY24

Source of Funds	FY 2023
Federal	366,338,723.00
Business and corporations	134,220,805.00
Individuals	80,587,445.00
Foundations and associations	62,457,996.51
Hospitals and other universities	51,899,250.00
Other	12,648,384.00
State and local governments	(4,010,866.00)

Federal funding by source, FY 23



Fiscal year 2023 saw a broad range of funding success. Funding from NASA exceeded \$75 million in FY23, more than doubling the FY22 total of \$35 million. Funding from the National Science Foundation increased 21 percent, from \$9.5 million to \$11.4 million. A record number of young investigators secured highly competitive, prestigious awards from various federal agencies to advance high-impact research programs in FY23. Included were four researchers from the College of Engineering and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who received CAREER awards, the most prestigious awards in support of early-career scholars available from the National Science Foundation. This ties a record number of CAREER awards for Iowa in one year.

At Iowa, there has been tremendous research success within the health sciences colleges, garnering significant grant support, leveraging cross-campus research centers, and developing interdisciplinary partnerships. The Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (ICTS), established in 2007 by the Iowa Board of Regents, received the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from The National Center for Advancing Translational Science and is one of more than 60 academic medical institutions across the country working to speed the translation of research into improved patient care. The ICTS, with a recent \$28 million grant renewal, includes a Clinical Research Unit and partners with all 12 colleges on campus and has a special emphasis on working in community partnerships between the academic medical center, local health care providers, and the rural patient population. The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust has committed a transformational \$45 million grant to Iowa that allowed for the creation of a comprehensive and cross-disciplinary neuroscience center that conducts research to find the causes of—and preventions, treatments, and cures for—the many diseases that affect the brain and nervous system. The Diabetes Research Center, a premier research institute focused on advancing knowledge of pathophysiology of diabetes, was created from a generous \$25 million gift from the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Substantial biomedical research is also being conducted at the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center (Iowa’s only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center), the Abboud Cardiovascular Research Center, and the UI Institute for Vision Research.

Other examples of research distinction include the Healthier Workforce Center of the Midwest, one of the 29 research centers in the College of Public Health, which received a \$16.3 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to protect and preserve worker safety and health through the application of research-proven best practices. Additionally, the College of Education Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development received a nearly \$2 million NSF grant to better identify and support rural Iowa middle school students who have high potential for academic success to inform national workforce development. The Obermann Center for Advanced Studies received a \$3 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a "humanities without walls" project that developed new avenues for collaborative research and teaching in the humanities.

The university continues to build infrastructure within the campus and in Iowa City to support a growing and diversified research portfolio. Established in 1989, the University of Iowa Research Park leases building sites and space to growing technology companies that require sustained research relationships with UI. The park is also home to the UI business incubation program, which includes amenities and facilities to support new business ventures that use advanced technology. The program has nurtured nearly 100 UI spinouts and other new ventures since it was created in 1984. The business incubator program benefits from strong university, state, city of Coralville, and private sector support. For faculty researchers, the UI Research Foundation (UIRF) facilitates the transfer of technologies and inventions from the lab to the global marketplace. The office manages a variety of intellectual properties arising from research programs throughout UI and is the resource for faculty and staff researchers in the areas of patent prosecution, outgoing material transfer agreements, marketing, and licensing.

At Iowa, research is an extraordinarily collaborative endeavor at all levels. Nearly 25 percent of undergraduates and virtually all graduate and post-graduate students are engaged in research and scholarship by the time they graduate, some supporting work by faculty and others working on their own experiments and studies. Annually, about 1,300 graduate students are supported as graduate research assistants, many funded by external grants, and the Graduate College provides fellowship support to nearly 450 graduate students each year. Since its inception on 2006, the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) has awarded more than \$7 million to more than 4,200 students for fellowships. Research is woven into the curriculum for many majors and meets the experiential learning requirement for students in the University Honors Program.

KEY UNIVERSITY OF IOWA FACTS

- Located in Iowa City, Iowa
- Has 11 academic colleges comprising the colleges of Business, Education, Engineering, Dentistry, Law, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and a Graduate College.
- Has more than 50 major buildings that are situated within walking distance of one another, giving the campus a strong sense of community.
- Enrolls more than 30,000 students and has more than 6,000 faculty and 17,000 staff.

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The FY24 operating budget is \$5.3 billion.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LEADERSHIP



Dr. Barbara J. Wilson, President

Dr. Barbara J. Wilson began her term as the 22nd president of the University of Iowa on July 15, 2021. Based on the university's comprehensive excellence and creativity across the disciplines as well as its strong sense of community, her leadership priorities are focused on people. In her first year, the university finalized a new five-year strategic plan, launched transformative faculty recruitment and retention programs, and, through the recently inaugurated First Gen Hawks program, saw increased retention rates among students who are first-in-family to attend college. As well, President Wilson and her development team raised more than \$400 million to support student, faculty, and health care initiatives, including the largest gift in the 175-year history of the University of Iowa.

President Wilson earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree and Ph.D. in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She came to Iowa most recently having served as the executive vice president/vice president for academic affairs of the University of Illinois System. Prior to that, she served as head of the Department of Communication, vice provost for academic affairs, executive vice provost for faculty and academic affairs, Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and interim chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. President Wilson was a member of the Illinois faculty at Urbana Champaign for 21 years. She was also a professor of communication at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of Louisville.

President Wilson's research focuses on the social and psychological effects of the media, particularly on youth. She is coauthor or coeditor of four books and more than 80 research articles, book chapters, and technical reports. In 2008, she was elected as Fellow of the International Communication Association.

President Wilson is a native of Appleton, Wisconsin. Her spouse, John Lammers, is a retired professor of communication. They have two grown daughters.

ABOUT IOWA CITY

There's a reason people relocate to the Iowa City area. Picture a top-notch educational and research institution offering some of the nation's best (and largest) health care facilities. A variety of arts and cultural events, hiking and biking trails galore, a mix of independent shops and major retailers, along with local breweries and farm-to-table restaurants. Combine these with a welcoming and safe community, and it's easy to see why the Iowa City area is often ranked as one of the most livable communities in the nation. In summertime, Iowa City sponsors weekly live music downtown, and year-round renowned poets, writers, artists, historians, scientists, and others speak or perform at university or local venues. Excellent public schools, safe and comfortable neighborhoods, and a highly educated population mean Iowa City frequently appears on "best-place-to-live" rankings in national publications. The nearby countryside, scenic state parks, and the Iowa River provide many opportunities for walking, biking, kayaking, and boating. Twenty miles north is Cedar Rapids, Iowa's second-largest city, home to the Eastern Iowa Airport and a population of about 120,000. And Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, and Minneapolis/St. Paul are within easy driving distance.

Key Facts

- Iowa City population: 75,233 (2022 U.S. Census)
- Iowa City metro area population: 180,088
- Year established: 1839
- Average high/low temperature: 62 degrees F/40 degrees F
- Median age: 26
- Median household income: \$54,879
- Iowa City is a welcoming community with more than 20 percent of its population from racially diverse backgrounds.

For additional information on University of Iowa, please visit <https://uiowa.edu/>

THE SEARCH PROCESS

Spencer Stuart, a global executive search and leadership advisory firm, has been retained by University of Iowa to help identify and recruit the new Vice President for Research. For confidential nominations and expressions of interest, subject to the limits of Iowa's Open Records Law (Iowa Code Chapter 22.7), please contact Spencer Stuart at iowaVPR@spencerstuart.com.

Successful candidates will be required to self-disclose any misconduct history or pending research misconduct investigation including but not limited to sexual misconduct in prior employment and provide a related release and will be subject to a criminal background and credential check.

The University of Iowa is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment free from discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy (including childbirth and related conditions), disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, or associational preferences.