



CENTRAL
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs



Position Profile

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The Opportunity

Central Michigan University (CMU) invites nominations and applications for the position of **Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs (VPRSP)**. Central Michigan University (CMU) is classified as a Carnegie Research 2 (R2): High Research Spending and Doctorate Production institution, with high research activity and doctoral education. The Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs (VPRSP) reports to the Provost/Executive Vice President and provides senior leadership across the university to develop and implement a clear vision for advancing and strengthening CMU's research enterprise. As a senior member of the university's leadership team, the VPRSP advises institutional leadership on research strategy, policy, investment, and risk, and represents CMU internally and externally on matters related to research, scholarship, creative work, and innovation.

The VPRSP cultivates a strong culture of scholarship, creative work, research, development, and innovation; advances institutionally aligned, interdisciplinary, and community engaged research initiatives; expands strategic research initiatives and partnerships; and further develops the university's infrastructure and administrative support for research and compliance in ways that enable institutional growth.

The VPRSP provides leadership for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, which includes Research Compliance, Laboratory and Field Safety, and Animal Facilities (vivaria), and encompasses functions pertaining to sponsored programs, partnerships ([state, federal, and private](#)), intellectual property and technology transfer, human subjects research, biosafety, and export control. The VPRSP ensures these functions operate in a coordinated and efficient manner that supports responsible growth in research activity. Effective July 1, 2026, the number of employees in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs will be 20.5 FTE, with four employees reporting directly to the VPRSP.



Supervisors are expected to support the Leadership Standards of CMU and foster a culture that inspires excellence. The Leadership Standards define how we lead and treat others on our team. As leaders, it is our responsibility to seek input from our teams to continuously improve our leadership abilities and our demonstration of the standards. Additionally, it is our responsibility to encourage and support the growth and development of those whom we lead. At CMU, we encourage employees to grow both personally and professionally, and thus advance CMU's culture of excellence. The VPRSP models CMU's Leadership Standards through transparent decision making, collaboration, respectful engagement, and advocacy for faculty and staff success.

Key Responsibilities

- Supports the Leadership Standards of CMU and fosters a culture that inspires excellence.
- Provides strategic leadership to advance, expand, and elevate CMU's research, scholarly, creative, and innovate enterprise to align with strategic priorities.
- Facilitates and supports research, scholarship, and creative works consistent with the expectations of a Carnegie Research 2 (R2) institution engaged in significant graduate and undergraduate education.
- Leads efforts to engage on and off-campus communities to promote research and creative opportunities for faculty and students.
- Serves as the Research Integrity Officer (RIO) for CMU, responsible for the coordination and implementation of the university's Research Integrity and Misconduct Policy, compliance with federal and state research-misconduct regulations, and ensures that all allegations of research misconduct are promptly and fairly assessed and investigated in accordance with federal standards.
- Assists in the development and distribution of training on research ethics and integrity and regulatory requirements and serves as a liaison to external funding agencies and oversight bodies.
- Provides leadership and oversight to the Offices of Research Compliance and Laboratory and Field Safety and ensures university compliance with all federal and state guidelines and regulations related to research.
- Enhances and strengthens the infrastructure and organizational support required to enable increased research and creative endeavor activity, external funding, and technology transfer at CMU, enabling it to be capable of handling significant fluctuations in research activity and funding.



Key Responsibilities

- Engages government agencies, foundations, and other public and private partners to proactively identify and promote public and private research funding opportunities.
- Collaborates with the CMU Research Corporation in creating a hub for innovation to enable and support entrepreneurial activity based on CMU intellectual property and expertise, including the tech transfer process.
- Advances innovation and translational activity through effective support for intellectual property creation, technology transfer, commercialization and related activities as well as experience in securing and managing sponsored research programs.
- Acts as an advocate by cultivating a research ecosystem that reduces barriers to participation and success, supports investigators across disciplines and career stages, and enhances access to resources, guidance, and opportunities that advance scholarly, creative, and sponsored research.
- Collaborates with and brings investigators together to conceptualize and develop large-scale, multidisciplinary research initiatives and translates them into compelling funding requests.



Required Qualifications

- Doctorate or equivalent combined with an academic record sufficient to be granted advanced rank and tenure in one of the university's academic departments.
- Five years of successful leadership experience in research administration within a large, complex organization, preferably in a public research university setting.
- Demonstrated record of significant scholarship, research, or creative activity, including success in securing external funding.
- Demonstrated ability to facilitate and attract support for research, scholarship, and creative works—from the public and private sectors—consistent with the expectations of a university fully engaged in both graduate and undergraduate education.
- Demonstrated ability to supervise and support the growth of a professional staff.
- Demonstrated commitment to ensuring that all members of the university community can thrive.
- Experience developing and supporting innovation through intellectual property, tech transfer, commercialization, and related activities.
- Commitment to research and creative activities as a core component of the academic enterprise and the ability to engage the entire institution around research, creative activities, and innovation to advance the university's mission.
- Experience in overseeing compliance programs including, but not limited to, human subject research, animal research, biosafety, and export controls.
- Experience in building collaborations with public and private sector organizations, higher education systems, and leaders and organizations in the community, region, and state.
- Understanding the needs of faculty from early career to senior level and to effectively support their research, creative activities, and innovation goals and objectives.
- Demonstrated ability to build positive, respectful relationships and communicate effectively—both verbally and in writing—with people from a wide range of backgrounds, identities, and perspectives.
- Demonstrated experience in the procurement and management of sponsored research programs.
- Demonstrated understanding of federal, state and regional funding agencies and mechanisms.
- Experience in research policy development and implementation.
- Proven ability to foster collaboration and bring together investigators across disciplines to develop large-scale research initiatives that foster a clear and compelling funding opportunity.
- Demonstrated ability to interpret and implement effective budgeting and fiscal management.
- Demonstrated experience working with senior-level leaders to advance institutional research and strategic initiatives.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience leading complex academic or industry organizations as a vice president, dean, or comparable senior leader.
- Training or certification in grants management, research administration, and other relevant specialties.
- Experience supporting proposals in medical research and clinical trials.
- Demonstrated ability to maintain research productivity under fluctuating budgets and funding levels.
- Demonstrate success in supporting and leading institution-wide, multidisciplinary research initiatives that align with strategic priorities.



About Central Michigan University

Central Michigan University (CMU) is a nationally recognized public research university located in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Founded in 1892, CMU has grown into one of Michigan's leading institutions of higher education, serving more than 14,000 students on its main campus and through a wide range of online and off-campus programs.

CMU offers more than 200 academic programs across undergraduate, graduate, specialist, and doctoral levels, spanning fields such as business, education, health professions, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and STEM disciplines. The university is committed to providing a comprehensive, student-centered education that prepares graduates for meaningful careers, leadership, and lifelong learning.

Designated as an R2: Doctoral University with High Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, CMU is recognized for its growing research enterprise and its impact across Michigan and beyond. Faculty and students engage in research that addresses real-world challenges, including environmental sustainability, public health, education, and community development.

CMU is also distinguished as an "Opportunity University," reflecting its strong commitment to access and student success. The university combines broad access to higher education with strong career outcomes, with nearly 95% of graduates employed or continuing their education shortly after graduation.

The university fosters a vibrant campus community with more than 400 student organizations, extensive study abroad opportunities, and a strong emphasis on experiential learning. CMU also serves learners beyond its main campus through online programs and regional centers, extending its reach across Michigan and beyond.

With a mission centered on impact, learning, and leadership, Central Michigan University is dedicated to advancing knowledge, supporting student success, and contributing to the economic and social vitality of the communities it serves.



About Mount Pleasant

Centrally located in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, Mount Pleasant is a city of over 21,000 permanent residents and is the county seat of Isabella County (population 70,000). This region has a population of 400,000+ and includes nearby Bay, Midland, and Saginaw Counties. The area is easily accessible via US Highway 20 and Interstate 127 and is served by five major airports within a two-hour radius.

CMU is proud to have a strong, historic, and cooperative relationship with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Mount Pleasant has more than 3,000 enrolled members.

Historic downtown Mount Pleasant has more than 100 locally owned businesses. Enjoy specialty shops, art galleries, lively bars, fine dining, and events such as holiday parades, art installations, and movie and concert series.

More than 15 local parks provide opportunities for hiking, picnicking, kayaking, fishing, swimming, sledding, cross-country skiing, and creative outdoor play for children. Golfers have access to almost a dozen courses within a few miles of the city center. Isabella County is home to nearly 1,000 local farms. Purchase homegrown produce at the farmers market or visit one of several U-pick farms.

Enjoy performances from national touring comedians and musicians, try your hand at the gaming tables, or splash in the family-friendly waterpark at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort. Visit the [Mount Pleasant Area Convention and Visitors Bureau](#) for information.



Application & Nomination Process

How To Apply

Greenwood Asher & Associates is assisting Central Michigan University in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted.

Please submit full application packets [here](#).

Submission of resume and cover letter as PDF attachments is strongly encouraged. The search will be conducted with a commitment to confidentiality for candidates until finalists are selected.

Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made.

Compensation

Salary will be competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Nominations and inquiries should be directed to:

Jim Johnsen, Ed.D.

Vice President of Executive Search
jimjohnsen@greenwoodsearch.com

Ann Bailey, Ph.D.

Senior Executive Search Consultant
annbailey@greenwoodsearch.com

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CMU is an Equal Opportunity Employer and institution. CMU does not discriminate against persons based on age, color, disability, ethnicity, familial status, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, height, marital status, national origin, political persuasion, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, race, religion, sex, sex-based stereotypes, sexual orientation, transgender status, veteran status, or weight. CMU offers of employment are subject to and contingent upon satisfactory completion of all pre-employment background checks.