
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

Vice Provost for Research

The George Washington University (GW), a world-class research and teaching institution dedicated to educating and preparing future leaders, seeks an experienced, creative, and inspiring individual to serve as its Vice Provost for Research.

GW is a destination campus for students and faculty from around the world. Established on February 9, 1821, GW is the largest institution of higher education in the District of Columbia. Approximately 12,000 undergraduate and 15,000 graduate students from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 130 countries take advantage of an educational experience like no other. The University's connections to the world's most influential organizations and institutions, many of which are within walking distance from campus, mean that a GW education is not limited to the classroom.

As GW celebrates its bicentennial in 2021, the University moves in a bold direction, enhancing its reputation as a comprehensive global research university. Within this context, a talented and accomplished research leader has the opportunity to make a significant impact. The Vice Provost will oversee a broad portfolio comprised of sponsored projects, non-sponsored scholarship, research integrity, innovation and entrepreneurship, Program on Extremism, strategic initiatives, and core facilities. The VPR will also oversee or be integral to the University's [70 research centers and institutes](#). The VPR will lead a team of approximately 100 dedicated staff and has four direct reports.

About the University

Chartered by Congress in fulfillment of George Washington's stated desire that a university be created in the country's capital to serve students from throughout the nation, The George Washington University was founded initially as Columbian College in 1821. Its name was changed to Columbian University in 1873, and The George Washington University in 1904.

U.S. News & World Report ranks the University as 56th among national research institutions, 24th nationally among "Best Colleges for Veterans," 30th nationally in "High School Counselor Rankings," and 62nd among "Best Value Schools." The University's endowment reaches nearly \$2 billion. There are approximately 1,600 full- and part-time faculty, including 95 endowed professorships. Combined faculty plus administrative and support staff number over 5,500. GW's main campus is located on 43 acres in the historic Foggy Bottom section of Washington, D.C. The University's remarkable setting is just blocks from

the White House, the U.S. State Department, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, many embassies, and the National Mall. Also nearby are the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and other important national and international organizations. The University also has established academic connections to the Smithsonian Institution; Children's National Medical Center; National Institutes of Health; and public, private, and parochial school systems in the area.

It is an exciting time for research at GW. GW has recently served as a clinical trial site for two vaccines to combat the coronavirus, joined a national network of universities advancing the field of public interest technology, and was selected by the Department of Homeland Security to lead a Center for Excellence that will deliver a specialized MBA program. GW's Program on Extremism has become the go-to source for court documents related to the siege on the U.S. Capitol, and the Global Women's Institute has released a twenty-year study finding that violence against women and girls is preventable. Interdisciplinary teams are exploring misinformation in the digital age, the use of assistive technologies in medicine, and the impacts of climate change on public health, among other areas of research.

More information about GW may be found at www.gwu.edu.

University Leadership

Thomas J. LeBlanc, President

Thomas J. LeBlanc is the 17th president of the George Washington University. Since assuming office, Dr. LeBlanc has focused efforts on enhancing GW's student experience, research, philanthropy and constituent engagement, medical enterprise, and institutional culture.

Before GW, Dr. LeBlanc was Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of Miami and previously served as Dean in the College of Arts, Sciences and Engineering at the University of Rochester. A computer scientist, Dr. LeBlanc's publications include writings on operating systems, parallel programming, and software engineering. He holds a Ph.D. and a master's degree in computer science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a bachelor's degree in computer science from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.

M. Brian Blake, Provost

The George Washington University's Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs is an accomplished researcher and 20-year leader in higher education administration who has strengthened academic and research enterprises, faculty hiring and retention, student success, and diversity at top research universities in the country.

Before GW, M. Brian Blake most recently served as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Drexel University in Philadelphia. An electrical and software engineer by training, Dr. Blake has held faculty, Dean and Vice Provost roles during his career, focusing on interdisciplinary research and education at Georgetown University, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Miami before becoming provost at Drexel. Dr. Blake received a Ph.D. in information and software engineering from George Mason University, an M.S. in electrical engineering from Mercer University, and a B.E.E. from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Academics

The University comprises ten schools, many tracing their origins to the 19th century, with long records of service to the nation and the world. Each has a strong record of international partnerships and activities, and an internationalized faculty and student body.

The oldest and largest, the **Columbian College of Arts and Sciences**, founded in 1821, offers 53 major and 61 minor programs of study, provided by nearly 500 faculty to approximately 8,000 students. It includes The School of Media and Public Affairs, the Corcoran School of Arts and Design, and the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

The **School of Medicine and Health Sciences**, founded in 1824, is the 11th oldest medical school in the country and was the first in the nation's capital. It boasts research-intensive centers in cancer, autism, neuroscience, and emergency medicine, along with clinical experiences for students in the health professions.

The **Law School**, created in 1865, was the first law school in the District. It is ranked seventh nationally for International Law and fourth for Intellectual Property Law by *U.S. News & World Report*. It enrolls 1,600 J.D. and L.L.M students from around the world.

The **School of Engineering and Applied Science**, founded in 1884, counts among its distinctions serving as a leading resource for the U.S. government regarding cyber-security policy and research. The School seeks to serve the global community by providing high-quality undergraduate, graduate, and professional educational opportunities, while simulating and promoting innovative fundamental and applied research activities.

The **Elliott School of International Affairs**, first formalized in 1898 from several predecessor programs, was given its current name and configuration in 1988. The Elliott School is ranked eighth globally for undergraduate programs in the Teaching, Research, and International Policy survey of Foreign Policy, and seventh in the world for its graduate programs. With more than 300 events a year, the Elliott School serves as a forum for students, scholars, policymakers, media professionals, and international affairs experts to discuss pressing global issues.

The **Graduate School of Education and Human Development**, established in 1994, offers programs in Counseling and Human Development, Curriculum and Pedagogy, Educational Leadership, Human and Organizational Learning, Special Education, and Higher Education Administration, including a master's degree in International Education.

The **School of Business**, founded in 1928, offers undergraduate programs, the MBA, specialized master's programs, executive education, doctoral programs, and graduate and professional certificates. The host of a nationally recognized and funded Center for International Business Education and Research, the School's International Business programs are ranked ninth nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The **Milken Institute School of Public Health**, founded in 1997, is the only school of public health in Washington, D.C. In partnership with influential health care organizations around the world, faculty and students at the Milken Institute School lead initiatives that combat obesity, improve community health policy, and assess the quality of health care globally. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks the School's graduate programs as 12th in the country.

The **College of Professional Studies**, founded in 2000, serves adult learners and working professionals. In addition to housing the Graduate School of Political Management, the College administers the George Washington Cyber Academy, the AT&T Center for Indigenous Politics and Policy, and the Center for Excellence in Public Leadership.

The **School of Nursing**, the most recently formalized school, was founded in 2010 and has become a national leader in advanced practice registered nurse education, offering state-of-the-art skills and simulation laboratories and optional international practicums.

[GW 's five libraries](#) provide the foundation for research at GW. Librarians and expert staff engage with faculty and student investigators throughout the research lifecycle, from formulating a research question to creating a data management plan. The GW libraries specialize in providing access to, instruction in, and assistance with digital research tools such as analyzing data with Python, statistical inference testing with R, and data visualization with GIS. They also advise students applying for competitive research opportunities through the Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships.

Campus Life

Living at GW grants the undergraduate students the rare opportunity to encounter various new cultural experiences while learning at world-class institutions. GW students engage in more than 450 clubs and student organizations on campus. Whether it is leadership, politics, arts and culture, athletics or service that interests students, GW provides avenues for pursuing many passions as students play an integral role in building an engaging community.

The George Washington University is a hub of learning that stretches well beyond its immediate borders. GW students and faculty members are deeply engaged in the quest to understand the world and solve some of its greatest challenges. The University's vibrant global network of institutional partners, as well as world-class research institutes, ensure that GW's reach is broad, deep, and meaningful.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

George Washington University continuously strives to be the school of choice for more students, the employer of choice for more faculty and staff, a more inclusive life-long community of learners for alumni, and a more effective partner in addressing the challenges of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area community of which the University is a part. The overriding theme that has framed diversity and inclusion efforts and activities at GW is the reality that diversity and academic excellence go hand-in-hand. They are mutually reinforcing objectives. Diversity concerns embody a range of moral, legal, and cultural issues. When it comes to diversity and inclusion, the University's objective is to enhance the academic excellence of GW by making it a more diverse and inclusive community.

Given the diverse demographic population of the Washington, D.C. area and the increasingly globalized world with which the University is engaged, it is critically important to draw from, develop, and benefit from the diverse human resources that frame our world. Given this perspective and objective, diversity is understood quite broadly to include race, ethnicity, gender, income, religion, sexual orientation, intellectual traditions, and more. Therefore, the term "diversity" reflects many complex and longstanding conflicts, challenges, and opportunities.

Campuses

GW comprises multiple campuses and a variety of online and academic centers in Virginia.

Foggy Bottom Campus

GW's [Foggy Bottom Campus](#) combines the academic and residential amenities of a top-notch university with the excitement and convenience of being in the heart of the city. From lecture halls to high tech labs, and small group meeting rooms to open study spaces, students find a wide range of learning environments to fit their needs and aspirations.

GW's community members can explore the world through their tastebuds with restaurant offerings from different ethnic traditions or go on a food excursion to check out restaurants in D.C.'s lively neighborhoods. The campus is near a variety of museums, parks and attractions or hop on the Metro, a bus or bike share for adventures all over the city.

Mount Vernon Campus

The [Mount Vernon Campus](#) is located just a few miles from the bustle of downtown Washington. Affectionately known as "The Vern," it provides a traditional college-campus atmosphere. The Vern is home to residence halls, academic buildings, athletic facilities, dining options, a library and an outdoor challenge course, all surrounded by rolling green hills. A 24-hour shuttle service provides easy access between Foggy Bottom and The Vern. Roughly one-third of GW's first-year class resides on the Mount Vernon Campus, and it is home to a growing number of innovative living and learning communities for students who want to combine a small-college experience with the resources and opportunities available at a major university.

Virginia Science and Technology Campus

Spanning 122 acres in the Northern Virginia Technology Corridor, the [Virginia Science and Technology Campus](#) serves as GW's hub for discovery through dynamic research and academic programs. The campus is home to 17 research labs, centers, and institutes advancing knowledge in a wide range of interdisciplinary areas. Innovative academic offerings include the School of Nursing, along with a number of graduate and certificate programs.

GW Online and Virginia Academic Centers

Beyond the main campuses, GW has academic centers in Alexandria and Arlington, VA, that provide graduate education opportunities to working professionals near their homes and workplaces. The University also offers more than 100 online programs in areas ranging from nursing to engineering.

Research

GW is a globally recognized research university with approximately 70 [centers and institutes](#) and research in cutting edge projects in social sciences and international relations, arts and humanities, health, public policy, global security, and science and technology. GW's proximity and connectivity to numerous international, federal, regional, and local institutions that serve as research sponsors, partners and recipients is crucial enhancing a research infrastructure in the future. The University has a strong base of faculty conducting basic and applied research across disciplines forming the foundation for transdisciplinary research that addresses large-scale societal challenges. Led by the Board of Trustees, the President, and the Provost, University leaders are committed to supporting the growth of comprehensive high impact research at GW. Facilities such as the Science and Engineering Hall, Miliken Institute School of Public Health, Corcoran School of Art, and high-impact research centers and institutes across GW provide a foundation upon which to build preeminent research. The University totaled over \$204 million in research expenditures in FY20, including \$166.7 million in total federal expenditures.

The Role of the Vice Provost for Research

Research and innovation are driving forces advancing GW as an academic institution and society as a whole. The Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR) works to strengthen existing initiatives and expand into new multidisciplinary fields. The Office works in tandem with faculty to facilitate all phases of the external and internal funding processes and support faculty and student research initiatives. The Vice Provost will offer new ideas and insights to key leaders, provide input and feedback on initiatives, and champion programs that promote research across the University.

The VPR reports directly to the Provost & Executive Vice President (Provost & EVP), and serves on the Provost & EVP's leadership team along with the areas of Academic Planning; Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement; Enrollment and Student Success; Faculty Affairs; Libraries and Academic Innovation; and Auxiliary Academic Enterprises.

Opportunities and Challenges for New Leadership

Moving further into the 21st century, research is crucial to top-notch education and central to the University's mission. GW sees research as an essential pathway to becoming a preeminent University, which provides the next Vice Provost for Research the opportunity to build a world-class research operation at the University.

Establish a vision. GW is a globally recognized comprehensive research university. However, strong leadership and a strategic research plan will be needed to continue strengthening the University's research operation. Further investments in new faculty and research facilities create an opportunity for GW to leverage its traditional strengths in the humanities, social sciences, policy, and law to develop unique interdisciplinary collaborations with STEM-based fields. The VPR will also collaborate with GW's robust health and medicine programs to assist with growth in the clinical research arena. This is an opportunity for the Vice Provost to visualize and shape the future research direction at the University. The Vice Provost will be a critical leader in determining the incremental steps necessary to grow and strengthen the current infrastructure to support research and scholarship.

Strengthen the research ecosystem. There is ample opportunity for the VPR to optimize a research culture at the University. The current research ecosystem will need attention and investments to realize the University's aspirations. GW recently completed a faculty-led [research ecosystem review](#), which has resulted in substantial recommendations to strengthen GW's research efforts. The VPR will work with the University's faculty and staff to implement these recommendations. The VPR will be integral in strengthening a research-oriented culture at the University to increase faculty opportunities to meet and collaborate across disciplines, enhance opportunities to connect development activities, and research, improve clinical research infrastructure, and integrate research with the teaching mission.

Optimize relationships. The VPR will need to be a strong relationship builder to ensure effective relations and communication exist between the research administration and University leadership, academic leadership, and faculty. There will also be strategic opportunities to enhance processes, communication, and transparency in how research administration supports faculty members in their research endeavors. There is an opportunity to enrich the education experience of GW students by increasing opportunities to work and publish with faculty. That integration of the teaching and research missions of the University will also help develop a strong community. Finally, the VPR should work with the leadership in Academic Affairs to promote relationships and collaborations across the disciplines at the University.

Enhance diversity and inclusion. A truly diverse and inclusive faculty can only achieve research excellence in its demographics and in its thinking. Demographic and disciplinary diversity and inclusion invite a

broader circle of faculty, staff and students who can contribute to prominence. Intellectual diversity and inclusion are critical to flourishing of a comprehensive research university that prioritizes interdisciplinary research. The VPR will establish a diverse, inclusive, and equitable research environment and allow for internal collaborations to spur intellectual curiosity and strong collaborations at the University. The next VPR should understand and appreciate research across all academic disciplines to ensure equity in research support and foster interdisciplinary collaborations among faculty. The VPR also has the opportunity to establish GW as a leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion by fostering research whose subject-matter concerns these areas.

Utilize an ideal location. GW's location in Washington, D.C., makes it a destination for faculty and students who are drawn to working, studying, and living in the political and policy hub of the United States. Nevertheless, the identity's value is not sufficiently or strategically leveraged to advance high-impact research at the University. GW is well positioned to utilize its location to enhance its network and relationships with key partners to advance its research agenda through its proximity to multiple government offices, museums, cultural institutions, libraries, embassies, and research agencies. The next VPR will leverage the growing high-tech corridors in Northern Virginia to create strategic relationships with corporations coming into the region.

Desired Qualifications and Characteristics

The successful candidate for this position will be an experienced, strategic, and visionary leader with an earned doctorate and the academic credentials required for a tenured faculty appointment at the rank of professor in an academic department of the University. Experience with securing external support from private research-oriented foundations and government funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of Congress, the Folger, and the National Science Foundation, and a broad vision for research at the University that includes support for unfunded research will be crucial. A record of demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, effective communication skills, and the interest in and ability to interact successfully with internal and external constituencies is desired.

Significant experience in a highly complex research enterprise, a collaborative leadership style, the highest standards of personal ethics and integrity, and an understanding of a variety of research initiatives and creative endeavors are essential qualities for the next VPR. Candidates should possess a strong working knowledge of the academic enterprises within a higher education setting with a deep appreciation for how research intersects with the educational mission of the University. The successful candidate will be a relationship builder who can promote interdisciplinary research and understand GW's commitment to shared governance.

In addition, the ideal successful candidate will have professional qualifications, skills, experience and personal qualities that may include those below:

- Appreciation for GW's mission and a commitment to its ambitious goals of becoming a recognized research university;
- Demonstrated ability to provide strategic leadership in multi-disciplinary, transdisciplinary and campus-wide research and scholarship;
- Experience as a researcher;
- Demonstrated experience building a high-functioning cross-disciplinary research operation in the sciences, humanities, social sciences, health fields, and other areas in which GW specializes, preferably at a comprehensive university or similarly complex research organization;

- Demonstrated experience in forging relationships across an institution;
- Track record of leadership and innovation in the national and international research environment;
- A willingness to take strategic and calculated risks to support innovative endeavors in research;
- Ability to enhance the educational and research missions of the University by creating further opportunities for global collaboration among students and faculty members;
- Senior administrative experience;
- Knowledge of the role of philanthropic foundations in research and scholarship;
- An understanding of how to engage students at the undergraduate and graduate levels, visiting scholars, and post-docs in University research endeavors;
- Effective communication skills and the ability to develop efficient processes to ensure timely support of research initiatives.
- Knowledge of national and international research trends;
- An understanding of how the measurement of success varies across disciplines;
- Experience with personnel and budgetary management in a complex environment;
- An understanding of contemporary higher education and the development of research infrastructure;
- Awareness of and actionable ideas to address the increasing precarity of the humanities and social sciences in higher education;
- A commitment to shared governance and shared decision-making;
- Ability to inspire trust and build relationships across all University constituencies;
- High emotional intelligence and exceptional interpersonal and communication skills;
- Demonstrated interest in providing a supportive environment for individuals from all backgrounds; and
- Strong commitment to and appreciation of best practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education.

Contact Information

The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Applications should include a letter of candidacy that responds to the opportunities, challenges, and the desired attributes for the Vice Provost for Research and a complete résumé or vita. For best consideration, all applications, nominations, and confidential inquiries should be sent as soon as possible to:

Ms. Shelly Storbeck, Managing Partner

Ms. Julie E. Tea, Partner

Mr. Brian Bustin, Senior Associate

Storbeck Search

GWUResearch@storbecksearch.com

484-263-5534



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