Associate Vice President for Research Computing

Leadership Profile

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The Opportunity

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (Rutgers) seeks a dynamic leader to serve as its next Associate Vice President (AVP) for the Office of Advanced Research Computing (OARC). This is a unique opportunity at one of the most respected academic institutions in the U.S.

Founded in 1766, Rutgers is America's eighth-oldest institution of higher learning and an academic, health, and research powerhouse that leverages outstanding talent, resources, and expertise to address challenges and create positive impact in New Jersey and beyond. Rutgers educates across the full educational spectrum: undergraduate to graduate, residencies to postdoctoral fellowships, continuing education for professional and personal advancement, and early childhood and pre-college programs. Rutgers represents inclusive access for students, with a focus on being the national model for outstanding academic programs, social mobility, and educational equity, with purposeful and timely degree completion, career preparation, and lifelong learning. Through the excellence of its scholarly research, partnering health systems, and outreach programs, Rutgers propels the creation, sharing, and application of knowledge, and addresses societal challenges and improves lives in collaboration with local and global partners.

Reporting to the Vice President of Enterprise Application & Research Computing and working closely with the Senior Vice President for Research, the AVP oversees a dedicated team that delivers high-performance computing and research data management services. These services are essential to supporting the university's diverse research community—including clinical and non-clinical researchers, faculty, students, and global collaborators. With a strong focus on faculty needs, the AVP drives innovation and operational excellence, ensuring that Rutgers maintains a robust and efficient research computing environment. This leadership fosters a dynamic environment where cutting-edge research can thrive across disciplines and institutions.

The AVP oversees OARC, an Office of Information Technology division. The AVP will lead a team of experienced research computing professionals to foster partnerships with PI's, researchers, and students to support their research, scholarship, and creative endeavors. As a member of the Vice President's leadership team, they will create and maintain a strategic plan and support a framework for research computing in direct support of faculty research throughout the global network. The AVP will also work closely with other units in OIT, Rutgers University research computing teams, and other partners and service providers to keep research computing at the leading edge in a technically and fiscally sustainable way.

The AVP is responsible for providing strategic leadership, fiscal stewardship, and operational oversight for OARC, which strives to create a seamless ecosystem that allows researchers to maximize the use of a suite of research computing resources with little friction and with minimal administrative overhead to manage rapidly changing compute, data and intellectual property security needs.

The ideal candidate will have deep experience leading research computing, a proven track record of collaboration and faculty partnerships, and the ability to be an effective and persuasive leader. The successful candidate will lead and shape a compelling integrated service offering for the research community.

Organization Overview

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is a leading national research university and New Jersey's preeminent public institution of higher education. Rutgers is a university of access and opportunity for its highly diverse student body of more than 69,000 students from all 21 New Jersey counties, all 50 states, and more than 120 countries.

Rutgers' distinctiveness is singular in the United States. It is the nation's sole university that is a major public research university with membership in the Association of American Universities, a land-grant university, and a colonial college founded before the American Revolution. William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin and New Jersey's last Royal Governor, signed Rutgers' charter in 1766, establishing Rutgers as the nation's 8th oldest higher education institution.

Initially a small, all-male private college with Dutch theological roots, Rutgers' mission expanded in 1864 when it prevailed over Princeton University to become New Jersey's land-grant university, broadening its focus to include the practical arts and sciences. This event laid the groundwork for Rutgers' emergence as a modern institution of higher learning and its eventual designation, through legislative acts of 1945 and 1956, as The State University of New Jersey, a public institution. By 1989, Rutgers had become a major public research university—its stature recognized with an invitation to join the Association of American Universities. The university's mission again expanded in 2013 following legislation integrating into Rutgers most units of the former University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. In 2014, Rutgers joined both the Big Ten Athletics Conference and Big Ten Academic Alliance, another hallmark of distinction. Today, Rutgers plays a crucial role in New Jersey, educating tomorrow's workforce and serving as an economic engine, job creator, employer, trusted resource, and leading provider of health care.

With main campuses in three major New Jersey cities and a footprint that spans the state, Rutgers is the top-ranked public university in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan region. Rutgers–New Brunswick, Rutgers–Newark, and Rutgers–Camden all rank among U.S. News & World Report's Top 50 public national universities and Top 100 national universities. Rutgers is one of the only universities in the nation with each campus ranked in the Top 100.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey includes:

- **Rutgers University–Central**, Central is where central services units are recorded. These central units cover administrative units that support all of the Rutgers campuses. Examples of units within university-wide offices include University Finance and Administration, Institutional Planning and Operations, Office of Information Technology, University Human Resources, Office of Research, and the President's Office as examples.

- **Rutgers University–New Brunswick**, located in central New Jersey, the campus is home to more than 43,800 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

- **Rutgers University–Newark**, with approximately 11,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

- **Rutgers University–Camden**, where more than 5,900 students pursue more than 40 undergraduate majors, and approximately 30 graduate and professional programs through six schools.

- **Rutgers Health (formally Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences)** was formed in 2013 through the integration of biomedical and healthcare academic units from Rutgers University and the former University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). RBHS prepares nearly 6,800 students to be physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and other health professionals.

Mission

As a leading national public research university, Rutgers has the threefold mission of:

- Providing for the educational needs of New Jersey through our undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs;

- Conducting research that contributes to the health, environmental, social, and cultural well-being of the state, nation, and world, as well as strengthening the economy and supporting businesses and industries; and

- Performing public service in support of the needs of the people of the state and their local, county, and state governments.

Values

The Rutgers community embraces and upholds the fundamental values that define the university:

- academic excellence that's both accessible and affordable;

- building a community where every single member of the university has a voice; and

- serving the common good while making a meaningful difference in the world.

Research with Impact

Rutgers is one of the nation's great research universities, an engine for economic growth, a problem-solver in the short term and for the long haul, and a generator of fresh ideas that open doors to what comes next. Rutgers annually attracts nearly $1 billion in funding to support innovators across the range of human endeavor, increasing more than 40 percent since FY20.

Research with Economic Impact, FY24
- 1,233 active patents

- 104 active startups

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- 1,390 active technologies to license and market

- 255 companies engaged in research with Rutgers

- 300+ Rutgers research centers and institutes

#1 in R&D

- Rutgers devoted more than $969.5 million to research and development, expending more in R&D than all other New Jersey universities and colleges combined in FY24, according to the latest National Science Foundation data.

Reuters: World's Most Innovative Universities

- #73 in the World

National Academy of Inventors: Worldwide Universities Granted U.S. Patents

- #73 in the World

Fast Company: Ignition School

Rutgers is one of "the 50 colleges and universities making an outsize impact on business and society through entrepreneurship and innovation."

A University with Major Impact

Watch this video for a glimpse into why Rutgers is an academic, health, and research powerhouse.

Position Summary

The AVP leads a team responsible for developing, managing, and delivering efficient, high-performance compute and research data management services to the Rutgers clinical and non-clinical research community. Computational and data management services support Rutgers researchers, teaching faculty, students throughout the university's global network, and collaborators at other institutions. The AVP enables excellence and innovation with a strong, faculty centered, efficient, high-performance research computing service portfolio.

Reporting Relationships

Reporting to the Vice President of Enterprise Application & Research Computing.

Responsibilities

- Oversees the Office of Advanced Research Computing (OARC), an Office of Information Technology division.

- Leads a team of experienced research computing professionals to foster partnerships with PIs, researchers, and students to support their research, scholarship, and creative endeavors.

- Creates and maintains a strategic plan and supports a framework for research computing in direct support of faculty research throughout the global network.

- Works closely with other units in OIT, Rutgers University research computing teams, and other partners and service providers to keep research computing at the leading edge in a technically and fiscally sustainable way.

- The AVP will be a key strategic partner with Rutgers faculty, research departments, central and distributed information technology organizations, and programs to advance the institution's research enterprise.

- Develops a deep and broad understanding of faculty, student, and staff expectations.

- Understands the trends and disruptive forces in research computing and research data management.

- Works with university leadership to develop research data governance policies and best practices.

- Advocates for the use of centrally administered research computing hardware platforms.

- Partners with Enterprise Infrastructure to provide the requisite software infrastructure to support researchers.

- Builds a shared, aspirational research computing support strategy for the university and develops a plan to bring this strategy to fruition.

- Works to pursue grant funding for the benefit of Rutgers University and the research community it serves. And, given the current era of data sharing requirements amongst researchers, the AVP will be capable of

building relationships with peer institutions and research partners throughout the country and the world, all while being mindful and intentional about the implementation of risk management frameworks and best practices.

- Provides strategic leadership, fiscal stewardship, and operational oversight for OARC, which strives to create a seamless ecosystem that allows researchers to maximize the use of a suite of research computing resources with little friction and with minimal administrative overhead to manage rapidly changing compute, data and intellectual property security needs.

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been identified as priorities for this position:

- Partner with IT management and become fully integrated into the leadership team at Rutgers. Be perceived as a solid team player who has credibility, integrity, accountability and contributes broadly as a subject matter expert in research computing.

- Work collaboratively and build relationships across Rutgers in an effort to identify and address needs, specifically as it relates to high-performance computing and research computing services. Take the time to learn the culture and demonstrate the ability to listen and work effectively with end users including faculty, students and researchers.

- Evaluate the current research computing environment, including resources, structure, and staff. Identify gaps and opportunities to enable effective research IT operations and a high-performing, service-oriented team.

- Identify technology solutions that appropriately encompass public and private clouds, and on- and off-premise strategies for high-performance computing. Develop partnerships with cloud vendors in the research computing space and identify additional opportunities for external partnerships.

- Develop a vision for the implementation of artificial intelligence solutions and continue to advance the technology capabilities of the OARC.

- Cultivate a supportive and energizing culture that recognizes staff and promotes career growth and development, aiding in recruitment and retention.

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Candidate Qualifications

Education/Certification

- A Master's degree in a relevant field is required.

- PhD, or advanced degree in science, computer science, or engineering preferred.

Knowledge and Work Experience

- At least eight (8) years of experience managing complex, large-scale advanced research computing environments, along with a minimum of seven (7) years of experience supervising and leading technical staff required.

- Experience working closely on collaborative clinical/translational applications preferred.

- Experience with large-scale data warehousing preferred.

- Experience managing and protecting restricted data preferred.

- Experience working with faculty or clients in a computational domain preferred.

- Experience using HPC systems as a researcher preferred.

- Experience developing and delivering tutorials, workshops, and lectures on high performance computing at the institutional, regional, and national levels preferred.

Leadership Skills and Competencies

- Experience managing budgets with multiple funding sources.

- Experience in senior level leadership of clinical and/or non-clinical research.

- Excellent organizational change management and project management skills.

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including the ability to explain technical concepts to audiences with a wide range of technical skills and build support among a broad spectrum of users.

- The ability to lead a high-performing, customer-oriented team dedicated to advancing the University's research mission.

- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills and ability to think creatively.

- Ability to work effectively with faculty, staff, and students from a variety of diverse backgrounds.

- Ability to adapt within a rapidly changing technical environment.

- Ability to operate and communicate effectively while meeting deadlines and completing projects.

- The financial acumen to build the team's economic model in ways compliant with grant funding and other funding sources.

- Some experience collaborating in proposal development and grant submission and management (e.g., infrastructure grants).

- Forward-looking views about, for example, opportunities created by AI and the implications of data science on academic disciplines.

The Community

New Brunswick, New Jersey

New Brunswick, New Jersey is a city in Middlesex County nestled within the New York City metropolitan area. With a population of 55,266, New Brunswick is noted for its ethnic diversity and growth; the Hungarian community continues to exist, alongside growing Asian and Hispanic communities that have developed near Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

Due to the concentration of medical facilities in the area, including Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Saint Peter's University Hospital, as well as Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick is known as the "Healthcare City." To be a distinguished center of medicine, you need the winning combination of the best research, human talent, and teaching – New Brunswick is leading in all three areas. The city has five nationally recognized hospitals, global biotechnology and pharmaceutical corporations, internationally recognized medical research facilities, and is part of the country's largest medical school. The world headquarters for healthcare giant Johnson and Johnson has been located in New Brunswick since 1886, and the company remains one of Middlesex County's greatest corporate partners.

Also known as the "Hub City," downtown New Brunswick draws thousands of patrons each year to award-winning productions at the State Theatre, George Street Playhouse and the Tony Award-winning Crossroads Theater.

Athletics is also part of the city's fabric. In 1869, the birth of intercollegiate football took place in New Brunswick as Rutgers and Princeton played the first intercollegiate game. The college football experience lives on today at the newly expanded Rutgers Stadium, which attracts more than 50,000 fans each game day.

The vibrant city of New Brunswick, with its restaurants, theaters, parks, medical centers and corporate headquarters, is the geographic midpoint of New Jersey—just 41 miles from New York City and 66 miles from Philadelphia. The Jersey shore, Appalachian Mountain trails and pristine Pine Barrens biosphere are also only an hour away. Adjacent town Franklin Township was recently ranked as one of the top 25 places to live in America.

For additional information, please visit: https://www.cityofnewbrunswick.org/

Procedure for Candidacy

Please direct all nominations and applications to Nick Giannas and Scott Dethloff through the WittKieffer Candidate Portal by clicking here. Candidates can also find this portal via the WittKieffer website at www.wittkieffer.com and select the "Become a Candidate" button.

Nick Giannas	Scott Dethloff
Senior Partner, Information Technology Practice	**Senior Associate, Information Technology Practice**
630-575-6185	**630-575-6176**

The salary range for this position is $189,155 to $289,413 including benefits

It is university policy to provide equal employment opportunity to all its employees and applicants for employment regardless of their race, creed, color, national origin, age, ancestry, nationality, marital or domestic partnership or civil union status, sex, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, disability status, liability for military service, protected veteran status, affectional or sexual orientation, atypical cellular or blood trait, genetic information (including the refusal to submit to genetic testing), or any other category protected by law. As an institution, we value diversity of background and opinion and prohibit discrimination or harassment on the basis of any legally protected class in the areas of hiring, recruitment, promotion, transfer, demotion, training, compensation, pay, fringe benefits, layoff, termination or any other terms and conditions of employment. For additional information please see the Non-Discrimination Statement at the following web address: https://uhr.rutgers.edu/non-discrimination-statement.

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