

SEARCH PROFILE:

WOLFF CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP COHORT DIRECTOR



**CYVIA & MELVYN WOLFF CENTER
FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

CONTENTS

THE WOLFF CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP	4
RECOGNITION	5
FACTS AND FIGURES	5
THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON	6
FACTS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON	6
THE REGION	6
LEADERSHIP AGENDA	7
NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS	9



The Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship (WCE) invites nominations and applications for the position of Cohort Director.

Due to the continued outstanding success of the Entrepreneurship program and its campus and community outreach, the WCE is seeking to hire a Cohort Director to lead, organize, and execute the oversight of the two cohorts (junior and senior years) from recruitment to graduation. The Cohort Director will work with the Executive Director and the two Program Managers, one for each cohort, and a Program Director, toward the goal of empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs to pursue bold dreams with head, heart, integrity, hands-on experience, and a lasting impact on the community.

LOVE represents our four core values

- Lead authentically
- Own your fire
- Venture boldly
- Envision your life

This is a remarkable opportunity for a skilled and experienced leader eager to utilize their previous, firsthand entrepreneurial experience to successfully mentor students within the WCE in the C. T. Bauer College of Business (CTBCB) at the University of Houston (UH).

The successful applicant will begin at a mutually agreed-upon date, ideally no later than summer 2026.



THE WOLFF CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

William Sherill, an entrepreneurial icon who launched startups and led turnarounds in the fields of real estate development, electronics, manufacturing, banking, and finance, was the visionary founder and leader of The Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship (WCE). The WCE was established in 1991 thanks to the generosity of Cyvia and the late Melvyn Wolff, two of Houston's most respected citizens and important members of the UH family. The WCE was established with an elite cohort of 30 to 40 students who created businesses under the guidance of seasoned **mentors**. In 1995, the Texas State Committee on Higher Education approved the creation of an entrepreneurship major under the Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Core values were woven into the experiential curriculum, and today, a myriad of entrepreneurship education options are available at UH. Mr. Sherill died in 2019. Prior to Mr. Sherill's retirement, Mr. David Cook, a legendary figure in entrepreneurship himself, joined Mr. Sherill at WCE. Mr. Cook's life experiences include service as an information officer in the U.S. Air Force, sales and marketing management at the highest levels of Scott Paper Company, creation of his own companies, and, finally, as Director of the Mentoring Programs for WCE. He worked side by side with Mr. Sherill for several years and, in 2017, was named Executive Director of WCE. David is known for his strong emphasis on providing extraordinarily high value to the student experience within the WCE. Cyvia Wolff continues to play a significant role within the WCE as a fearless and faithful champion, contributing her time, resources, and attention to the students affiliated with the program and frequently offering encouragement to the staff.

Students from 95 majors attend Wolff Center classes and programs, and CTBCB offers certificate, undergraduate, and graduate-level entrepreneurship degree programs.

A Founders' Club with student-led roundtables brings in speakers from specialized fields, showing a synergistic community that supports entrepreneurship endeavors. CTBCB's **RED Labs** Summer Accelerator breathes life into start-ups and their stakeholders.

MISSION

The mission of the WCE is *"to empower the lives of the students as they understand their values, articulate their dreams, and create outcomes."* The WCE is driven to deliver the best educational experience in and outside of the classroom through world-class instructors, mentors, tools, simulations, and technologies. WCE students possess the highest integrity and are encouraged to grow personally and professionally as they learn how to start and operate their own businesses, differentiating themselves through their ability to think, lead, and connect.

The **Four Pillars** of the WCE are:

- A world-class cohort program, including provisions of tools, learning, and transformation leadership for the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders, accomplished with the highest integrity.
- A business-focused Center that empowers the formation of companies, through mentors, education, and the tools necessary to achieve success.
- An engine of inspiration and awareness to the community, promoting the values of entrepreneurship through campus and public schools, competitions, camps, and community partnerships.
- To preserve traditional American values and provide resources for students in the University of Houston.

UH students also benefit from the Wolff Center's outreach to aspiring entrepreneurs in the larger community as they interact with and teach high school students who may get involved through a variety of avenues, including attending summer entrepreneurship camps in the Rio Grande Valley, conducting research, or coaching women in EWOP (Empowering Women Out of Prison).



RECOGNITION

The 2025 Princeton Review rankings named [The Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship](#) in the CTBCB at UH the best entrepreneurship program for undergraduate students in the United States. The WCE has received this honor for the last six consecutive years. The WCE has garnered the top spot a total of eight times and has ranked in the top ten each year since 2007.

The Princeton Review ranks nearly 300 U.S. business schools with entrepreneurship programs, evaluating approximately 40 data points, including experiential learning opportunities, career outcomes, and business success. The most significant measure of success is the number of businesses that are created. WCE alumni have founded over 2,100 businesses in the past decade.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Students from 92 majors attend WCE classes and programs
- Over 4,000 UH students take classes in entrepreneurship each year
- More than 670 mentors from the business community volunteer their hours and expertise, ensuring students have support as they work to create viable businesses

In addition to the undergraduate major in entrepreneurship, a master's degree in the field is now available. UH Honors students may now supplement their degree plan by earning a certificate of entrepreneurship. Programs known as RED Labs Summer Accelerator and RED Launch also nurture fledgling technology startups.

A key and unique value of WCE is its approach to incorporating both "head and heart," building intellectual capacity among student participants while encouraging them to provide practical and far-ranging service to their communities. Five years ago, the WCE took a cohort class to Lockhart, TX, where they have mentored over 400 women in prison who are working on business plans to pursue after their release.



THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

UH's proud heritage of academic excellence dates to its founding in 1927, when its primary focus was training future teachers. At that time, it was known as Houston Junior College, and classes were held on the campus of San Jacinto High School.

Over the years, the institution grew and prospered, becoming the University of Houston in 1934. Two years later, the institution acquired land for a permanent campus, and its first building opened in 1939. In 1947, the institution launched one of its many rich traditions by adopting the cougar, later named Shasta, as its official mascot. The university became a state institution in 1963 and joined the newly created [University of Houston System](#) in 1977.

UH draws strength from its diversity to transform lives and communities through education, research, service, and innovation in a real-world setting. UH is an engine for discovery, conversation, and change that informs and leads to local, state, national, and global partnerships.

With nationally ranked education programs, cutting-edge research centers, world-class libraries, and state-of-the-art facilities, Cougars have the learning resources they need to excel.

FACTS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

- 332,899 Alumni
- 46,000+ Students
- #36 Ranked Social Mobility
- \$232 million Research Expenditures
- 166 Conference Championships
- 895 acres over 4 locations
- 22 [National Academies Members](#)
- 2,800+ Faculty
- 281 Degree Programs
- 74 Early Career Award Recipients since 1996
- 17 Guggenheim Fellowships Awarded to UH Faculty

THE REGION

[Houston](#) is the largest city in Texas and the fourth-largest in the United States. Founded in 1836 and named after General Sam Houston, the city has grown into a dynamic hub of culture, commerce, and innovation. Located near the [gulf coast](#), Houston is known for its energy industry—especially oil and natural gas—as well as its role in space exploration, anchored by [NASA's Johnson Space Center](#). The city's economy is one of the most diverse in the nation, with strong sectors in healthcare, manufacturing, technology, and international trade through the Port of Houston, one of

the busiest ports in the world.

Culturally, Houston is a melting pot, home to one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the country. Its rich arts scene includes world-class museums, performing arts venues, and a vibrant culinary landscape that reflects its diverse global community. The city's sports culture is equally robust, with professional teams in football, basketball, baseball, and soccer. With its blend of Southern hospitality, innovation, and cultural diversity, Houston stands as a symbol of modern urban growth and opportunity.



LEADERSHIP AGENDA

The Cohort Director will report directly to the WCE Executive Director and supervise two program managers and a program director. The Cohort Director will establish and further current relationships with peers and colleagues at the CTBCB and UH, as well as with other academic and co-curricular units at UH, the greater Houston business community, potential donors to the WCE, regional and national entrepreneurship leaders, and current students, alumni, and friends of the WCE.

Working in tandem with the Executive Director of the WCE, the Cohort Director will:

- Inspire and lead the WCE cohorts
- Have primary managerial responsibility of the WCE cohorts, including people, programs, academics, enrichment opportunities, competitions, community outreach, rankings, student experience, and team culture
- Lead and manage the Program Managers and Program Director
- Represent WCE's interests internally at UH alongside the Executive Director
- Ensure WCE's future legacy
- Work alongside the Executive Director to ensure that a "culture of trust and inspiration" is primary vs. a culture of "command and control"
- Assist Executive Director in engaging stakeholders to see a "big picture" vision
- Assist with finding donor support, in conjunction with advancement officers and others, and in collaboration with the Executive Director
- Inspire and lead the WCE Cohort Program to regional and national prominence
- Create passion and energy in developing the next generation of entrepreneurs
- Foster excellence in each cohort, in classrooms, and support programs
- Oversee student experience through mentors, internships, competitions, retreats, and ever-changing improvement
- Maintain, promote, and infuse the "head and heart" values of WCE
- Lead cohorts through exceptional instruction driven by a desire to instill purpose and value in each student's mind and heart

LEADERSHIP AGENDA (CONT.)

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

- Work closely with the Executive Director to understand the breadth and depth of the WCE, build relationships with key stakeholders, plan strategy, and build trust
- Work closely with the Executive Director to create and develop a succession plan for an effective and seamless transition of leadership in the future

EDUCATION

A graduate degree in business administration, entrepreneur studies, international business, public policy, or academic leadership is preferred; an undergraduate degree will be considered.

EXPERIENCE

- Real-world, market-place business experience
- A successful track record as an industry professional
- Prior experience in business leadership and/or startup ventures
- Prior experience in leading multi-dimensional ventures
- Prior experience in leading youth groups and teams/projects

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

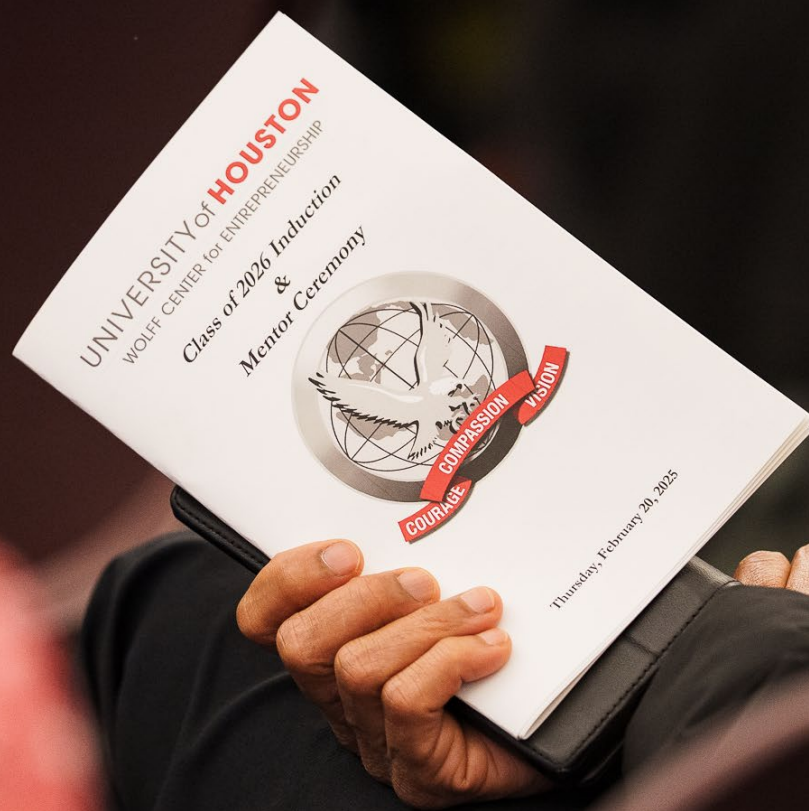
The ideal Cohort Director will possess the education, experience, and personal characteristics necessary to advance the WCE, both now and in the years ahead.

- Able to commit significant time and energy to WCE and its students
- Obsession to bring value to students
- Genuine humility
- A sense of humor, creating a welcoming environment for everyone
- Shares the “head and heart” values of WCE
- Portrays impeccable integrity, guided by a carefully considered understanding of ethical principles
- Has unique industry-focused entrepreneurial values
- Creative pragmatic problem solver who is energized by challenges and change
- Possess strong relationship skills that foster trust and teamwork, driven by a focus on excellence
- A strategic thinker
- Has respect for other entrepreneurs

SALARY

In addition to the excellent benefits package provided by UH, the salary range will be \$120,000 to \$160,000, depending upon experience and years of service.





NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Academic Search is partnering with WCE to conduct this search. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications are invited. When submitting a nomination, please include the nominee's full name, title, position, and email address.

Those considering applying are encouraged to request a confidential conversation with Dr. Alan "Al" Cureton, the Senior Consultant leading the search (alan.cureton@academicsearch.org).

All confidential applications and nominations should be sent electronically to wolffcohort@academicsearch.org. An application must include the following documents (in three separate PDF attachments):

- A detailed **cover letter**, addressed to the search committee, expressing your interest in this position and explaining the ways you meet the qualifications and expectations in this profile; and
- A current **full resume or curriculum vitae** that includes relevant responsibilities and accomplishments

- A list of five **professional references**, including each person's name, position, institution/organization, email address, and phone number. (Candidates will be asked to sign a release before references are checked)

DEADLINE

This position remains open until filled. The Cohort Director is expected to begin by July 1, 2026, or earlier.

EEO STATEMENT

The University of Houston provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including gender and pregnancy), genetic information, age (over 40), disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity or status, gender expression, or any other legally protected status except where such distinction is required by law.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting The Wolff Center For Entrepreneurship in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations. Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute.

