SEARCH PROFILE:

DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND URBAN RESEARCH

University of Pittsburgh

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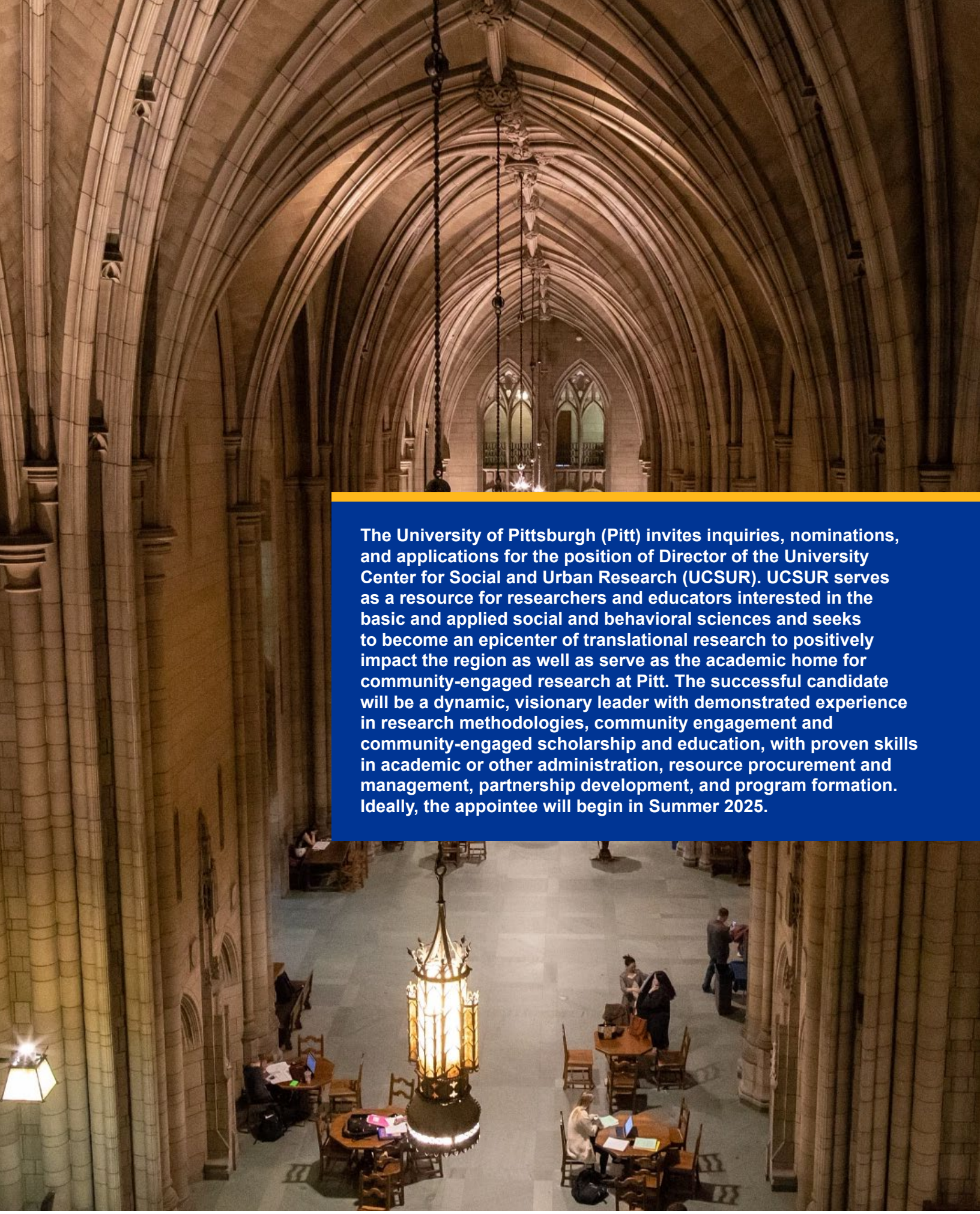

The University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) invites inquiries, nominations, and applications for the position of Director of the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR). UCSUR serves as a resource for researchers and educators interested in the basic and applied social and behavioral sciences and seeks to become an epicenter of translational research to positively impact the region as well as serve as the academic home for community-engaged research at Pitt. The successful candidate will be a dynamic, visionary leader with demonstrated experience in research methodologies, community engagement and community-engaged scholarship and education, with proven skills in academic or other administration, resource procurement and management, partnership development, and program formation. Ideally, the appointee will begin in Summer 2025.

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AND THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Since 1787, it has been possible at Pitt. From research achievements to the quality of its academic programs, the University of Pittsburgh ranks among the best in higher education. As one of the largest and oldest institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania, the University is a state-related public institution and a member of the Association of American Universities. With an enrollment of nearly 30,000 students on the Pittsburgh campus and guided by its strategic plan, Plan for Pitt 2028, Pitt is internationally respected as a center for learning and research.

Faculty members have made notable advances in the humanities and sciences, earning such prestigious honors as the National Medal of Science, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant," the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, and election to the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine. The University ranks in the top six educational institutions in funded projects from the National Institutes of Health and topped $1.1 billion in external research expenditures in fiscal year 2023. Alumni have won Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes, led corporations and universities, served in government and the military, pioneered in areas such as MRI and television, conquered Hollywood and The New York Times best sellers list, won Super Bowls and NBA championships, and been inducted into halls of fame. Students come to Pitt from all 50 states, three territories, the District of Columbia, and more than 100 countries. The University has a long history of applied social science research. Pittsburgh's legacy as an industrial epicenter led to one of the first integrated, multidisciplinary social science surveys (The Pittsburgh Survey) being conducted in the region beginning in 1907 with funding from the Russell Sage Foundation.

With four regional campuses in Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown and Titusville, Pitt offers a vast array of opportunities and nearly 750 degree and certificate programs. Over 14,700 faculty, research associates and postdoctoral associates, and staff members are employed on the Pittsburgh campus, and another 700 work at the University's four regional campuses. Pitt offers generous benefits and values work-life balance. The 132-acre Pittsburgh campus, in the vibrant and beautiful Oakland neighborhood, is home to the Cathedral of Learning, a renowned and popular landmark which, at 42 stories, is the tallest academic building in the Western Hemisphere. Affectionally called "Cathy" by Pitt students, the Cathedral houses 31 Nationality Rooms, each designed to reflect the distinct cultures of America's heritage. The Pittsburgh campus is also home to the University's professional and health sciences schools and is co-located with the highly ranked UPMC (formerly University of Pittsburgh Medical Center), an integrated health system and insurance provider. Pitt has served as an integral partner and key player in driving the growth of the education and health services super sector in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region.

The University views the city as an extension of its campus, and Pittsburgh is no ordinary college town. This city is transforming from an industrial capital to a center of education, research, and innovation. As this occurs, Pitt sees its role as a partner and asset in the social, intellectual, and economic development of its broader communities. Pitt actively partners with the surrounding community through a wide array of community-engaged activities, and is nationally renowned for its Community Engagement Centers. The University received the Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement in recognition of its institutional

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AND THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH (CONT.)

commitment to community engagement. The University also holds the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Innovation and Economic Prosperity designation in acknowledgement of its contributions to regional economic engagement, growth, and economic opportunity. Community-engaged scholarship is an important aspect of the University's academic work and several of Pitt's projects and faculty have received national honors in recent years including the C. Peter Magrath & W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Engagement Scholarship award, the Ernest A. Lynton award for Community Engagement Scholarship, and the Advancing Research Impact in Society award for Broader Impacts.

The city of Pittsburgh hosts a high concentration of influential nonprofits and, as an international center of emerging information technology, is home to companies such as Duolingo, one of Google's national offices, and over 140 robotics companies. The city also has a long history in banking and manufacturing and is becoming a leader in advanced manufacturing technologies and nanotechnology.

The city's reinvention since its days as a smoky steel town has received national acclaim and garnered numerous accolades. Pittsburgh is a vibrant, approachable, midsize city with world-class arts and cultural institutions. Wrapped in rivers, intertwined with trails, and packed with parks, Pittsburgh is a green and outdoor city with fantastic urban views and a famed downtown skyline. In the eyes of its many visitors, Pittsburgh offers a surprising and unexpected experience, with natural beauty, unique terrain, and diverse offerings at every turn.

More information about Pittsburgh's many amenities is available on the Visit Pittsburgh website.

THE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND URBAN RESEARCH

University centers at Pitt are unique in their intentional structure to facilitate research and innovation that cuts across disciplinary boundaries and internal and external partners. UCSUR – along with the Learning Research and Development Center and the University Center for International Studies – is one of three such interdisciplinary, research-intensive centers at Pitt. University center directors are members of the Provost's Academic Leadership Team, along with regional campus presidents, deans, members of the provost's cabinet, the university librarian and registrar, and the director of the University Press.

The mission of the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) is to work collaboratively to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves communities and addresses social, economic, health, and policy issues most relevant to society.

Traditionally, UCSUR's specific goals have fallen into four broad domains:

- **Provide state-of-the-art research support services and infrastructure** for investigators interested in interdisciplinary research in public policy and the social, behavioral, and health sciences.
- **Support the community service mission of the University** by providing data and conducting policy analysis for the region.
- **Develop nationally recognized research programs within the center** in a few selected areas—currently family caregiving, elder abuse, technology, and aging.
- **Support the teaching mission of the University** by offering interdisciplinary training and mentoring diverse graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty members.

To achieve these strategic goals, UCSUR has maintained a permanent research infrastructure available to both the University and the broader Pittsburgh community with the capacity to:

- conduct high-quality survey research and quantitative data analysis;
- acquire, manage, store, and analyze secondary and administrative data sets, including census data and data of unique local interest;
- obtain, format, and analyze spatial data;
- carry out regional econometric modeling;
- design and carry out descriptive, evaluation, and intervention studies; and
- conduct qualitative data collection and analysis.

Currently, UCSUR research infrastructure is organized under core programs, which carry our research both independently and collaboratively, depending on the nature of the work:

- *The Survey Research Program* (SRP), which is responsible for all aspects of survey research and quantitative data analysis
- *The Urban and Regional Analysis Program* (URA), which acquires, manages, and analyzes secondary and administrative data sets; does regional econometric modeling; and obtains, formats, and analyzes spatial data
- *The Qualitative Data Analysis Program* (QDAP), which supports the collection and analysis of open-ended text data using rigorous data management software.
- *The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center* (WPRDC), which provides the technological and legal infrastructure to serve as a data intermediary with a regional open data infrastructure.

UCSUR oversees a multi-million-dollar research and operating budget, and additional information is available in the Center's annual reports.

Moving forward, UCSUR plans to expand its portfolio of activities, and more aptly work toward its mission, through an increased focus on translation of research for the benefit of society and the region as well as serving as an epicenter for community-engaged scholarship and education.

THE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Pitt intends to build on its recognized strengths as a national leader in community engagement by consolidating and coordinating community-engaged research. UCSUR provides a unique opportunity to create a home for community-engaged research at Pitt and, with inspired and transformational leadership will complement its existing strength in urban and social research to provide the methodological support, professional learning, and intellectual community desired by community-engaged scholars. The next director of the University Center for Social and Urban Research will have broad autonomy to shape the next phase of a long-running and successful center and mold it into the hub for community-engaged research at Pitt, advancing a portfolio of community-engaged research endeavors and becoming a destination for community-engaged scholars seeking an institution that fosters high-impact, socially relevant partnered research.

Reporting directly to the provost, and with a dotted reporting line to the vice chancellor of engagement and community affairs, the director serves as UCSUR's academic and administrative leader and works collaboratively with Pitt faculty and staff—as well as the University and regional, national, and global communities—to develop an innovative and impactful future trajectory for the Center that complements and elevates Pitt's renowned community engagement efforts. The successful director will have the strategic vision to build upon UCSUR's current strengths and to broaden the support of research in the social sciences and urban policy while fostering growth in the Center's research capabilities and fundraising capacity, educational offerings, and community engagement.

Having just celebrated its 50th anniversary, (see the 50 Year Anniversary Report), the Center is well positioned to grow and expand its impact both within the region and nationally. Building on UCSUR's mission to work collaboratively to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves communities and addresses social, economic, health, and policy issues most relevant to society, the new director will provide a vision for UCSUR that capitalizes on University strengths and the University's strategic plan, Plan for Pitt 2028. Specifically, the new director will focus on UCSUR's core mission of improving communities and addressing social, economic, and health disparities, by strategically:

- building meaningful infrastructure around methodology and data sources that support socially responsive research;
- forging a strong connection with Pitt's Community Engagement Centers to leverage Pitt's world-class strengths in community engagement (and engaged scholarship) and to build an even stronger research-translation bond informed by Pitt's considerable depth of expertise in building mutually beneficial partnerships;
- serving as a nexus for existing and future disciplinary centers; and,
- increasing the direct, positive impact of the work done by Pitt in the region and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

THE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY (CONT.)

Given the wide range of faculty expertise at Pitt and academic inquiry undertaken at UCSUR, the director should have an appreciation of different disciplines and a strong sense of how they can work together for greater impact. The Center pulls from diverse funding streams, and the director should have the financial acumen and entrepreneurial spirit to understand and cultivate new resources for UCSUR. The director should also be actively engaged in raising UCSUR's visibility both within the University and the broader community; work collaboratively with other academic leaders to create a vibrant research ecosystem for social and behavioral sciences research at Pitt; enhance UCSUR's convening capability to foster dynamic collaboration; and, relish the opportunity to initiate and mature productive, collaborative partnerships.

The next director has the opportunity to build and strengthen University-wide collaborations with current and future campus partners. In addition to Pitt's Community Engagement Centers, the University has a number of centers, programs, and initiatives that are, or could be, natural collaborators with UCSUR, including (but certainly not limited to):

- the Center on Race and Social Problems in the School of Social Work;
- the Center for Urban Education and the Office of Child Development in the School of Education;
- the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation in the Swanson School of Engineering;
- the Urban Studies Program in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences;
- the Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory in the Department of Geology & Environmental Science;
- the Center for Analytical Approaches to Social Innovation in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs;
- The Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security at the School of Law;
- The Pittsburgh Study in the School of Medicine;
- The Center for Health Equity, the EMBRACE Center and the Center for Health, Environment, and Engaged Research in the School of Public Health;
- The Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI);
- the University's Responsible Data Science Initiative and multiple social justice initiatives;
- the Collaboratory Against Hate research and action center jointly supported by the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University; and,
- The University Library System and Pitt IT.

Among the key priorities for the new director will be to:

- **Develop and implement a compelling strategic vision and plan for the Center that includes deepening UCSUR's community engagement efforts in alignment with the University's commitment to community engaged scholarship.**
- **Increase funding support for the Center's activities from multiple sources with priority on attracting federal research funding.**
- **Enhance the visibility and integration of the Center within the University of Pittsburgh and increase engagement with faculty and students.**
- **Advance UCSUR's profile and impact among urban and social research centers at peer institutions.**
- **Strengthen support for university-wide strategic initiatives, such as the University's It's Possible at Pitt "moonshot" initiatives.**
- **Deepen and broaden UCSUR's collaborations with local, regional, and national partners to carry out impactful and publicly relevant work.**

QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will be a dynamic, visionary leader with demonstrated experience in research methodologies, community engagement and community-engaged scholarship and education, with proven skills in academic or other administration, resource procurement and management, partnership development, and program formation.

It is strongly preferred, but not required, that candidates have a record of academic excellence commensurate with appointment at the rank of professor in a unit of the University. At a minimum, candidates must be eligible for a faculty appointment including appointment stream classifications. An earned terminal degree from an accredited institution in a relevant discipline of study is required.

In addition, the successful candidate will also have:

- A demonstrated record of success as an energetic leader with a history of high-impact publications, funded research, and relevant experience in community-engaged research and understanding of translational practice.
- Experience building and leading community-engaged research projects and developing dynamic action-research partnerships and collaborations with both internal and external partners.
- Persuasive and inspirational communication skills to represent the Center's work to a wide range of audiences (e.g., community members, policymakers, funders, academic peers), increase the visibility of the Center, and enhance the Center's convening ability.
- A strong understanding of the funding landscape and a proven track record of fundraising including federal, state, and foundation grants, contracts, earned income, and other resource development strategies germane to the support of the Center. Experience raising philanthropic funds is a plus.
- Knowledge of and experience in financial management (e.g., budget development, management, and forecasting)
- Demonstrated organizational leadership experience in academic, not-for-profit, government, or similar settings, and the ability to leverage reasoning, collaboration, creativity, and intuition to make sound decisions.
- Management and leadership experience mentoring and supervising staff and creating a positive, inclusive, and inspirational work-culture.
- Experience promoting staff professional development and advancement, as well as mentoring emerging researchers and scholars.
- A demonstrated abiding commitment to social justice, diversity, inclusion, excellence, and integrity, and possess a proven ability to inspire, motivate, and facilitate the success of others.
- An appreciation of the importance of supporting and maintaining strong research infrastructure to facilitate dynamic collaborations and innovative research.
- A strong interest in listening and learning and enthusiasm for continuing the collegial spirit and strong sense of community that has long inspired the loyalty of UCSUR staff and collaborators.

APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Academic Search is assisting the University of Pittsburgh in this search. Nominators and potential candidates may arrange a confidential conversation about this exciting opportunity with one of the two Senior Consultants leading the search: Dr. Cynthia M. Patterson (cynthia.patterson@academicsearch.org) or Dr. Maria Thompson (maria.thompson@academicsearch.org).

When submitting a nomination, please send the nominee's full name, title, position, and email address to UPITT-UCSUR@academicsearch.org.

To apply, a candidate should submit the following in three separate documents (pdf preferred) to UPITT-UCSUR@academicsearch.org:

1. A letter of intent addressing how the candidate's experiences align with the opportunity and qualifications articulated in this document.
2. A current CV/resume.
3. Contact information for at least five professional references, including email addresses and a brief note on the candidate's working relationship with each. References will not be contacted without the prior knowledge and approval of the candidate and at a later stage in the search.

The deadline for initial consideration is **Monday, January 13, 2025**. Review of applications will continue until the search is completed.

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to championing all aspects of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within our community. This commitment is a fundamental value of the University and is crucial in helping us advance our mission, which includes attracting and retaining diverse workforces. We will continue to create and maintain an environment that allows individuals to discover, belong, contribute, and grow, while honoring the experiences, perspectives, and unique identities of all.

The University of Pittsburgh is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and values equality of opportunity, human dignity and diversity. EOE, including disability/vets.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting University of Pittsburgh 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.

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