



HLC Accreditation 2020-2021

Evidence Document

Wichita State University

Office of Research

WSU Membership in the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)

Additional information: This evidence include the Oak Ridge Associated

Universities (ORAU) News Release, March 18, 2021 available at:
<https://www.ora.u.org/news/releases/2021/ora-u-welcomes-new-board-members-new-consortium-institutions.html> and the WSU Application for Membership in ORAU.

ORAU welcomes new board members, new consortium institutions

March 18, 2021

OAK RIDGE, Tenn.—ORAU recently announced the election of three new board members and welcomed three new institutions to its [127-member university consortium](#).

The following leaders are newly elected members of the ORAU board of directors, who will begin serving in June:

- [Marilyn A. Brown, PhD](#), interim chair and Regents' and Brook Byers Professor of Sustainable Systems in the School of Public Policy at Georgia Tech.
- [Francis Otuonye](#), associate vice president for research in the Office of Research and Economic Development at Tennessee Technological University.
- [Thomas Russell, PhD](#), president and CEO, Defense Science and Technology Consultants, LLC.

Re-elected to the ORAU board of directors were: [Deborah L. Crawford, PhD](#), vice chancellor for research, University of Tennessee; [Kathleen M Gainey](#), lieutenant general, US Army (retired); [Major Gen. Dennis M. Kenneally](#), executive director, Southwest Defense Alliance; [Karen Kerr, PhD](#), managing director, Exposition Ventures; [Cordell M. Overby, PhD](#), associate vice president for research and regulatory affairs, University of Delaware; [Kenneth Rueter](#), president and CEO, UCOR; and [Diane Grob Schmidt, PhD](#), adjunct professor in the Department of Chemistry, University of Cincinnati.

Additionally, [Joseph A. Heppert, PhD](#), vice president for research and innovation at Texas Tech University, was named vice chair of the ORAU Council of Sponsoring Institutions. [Janice S. Blum, PhD](#), interim vice chancellor for research and graduate education, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; and [Terik Tidwell](#), director of STEM innovation, Johnson C. Smith University, were elected to the joint nominating committee for the ORAU Board of Directors and Council of Sponsoring Institutions.

ORAU also announced the addition of the following universities to its consortium as sponsoring institutions, which are institutions of higher learning that grant doctoral degrees in multiple STEM fields and are among the nation's top research universities:

- [Florida A&M University](#), a public Historically Black College or University, accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.
- [University of Maryland, Baltimore County](#), a public research university accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.
- [Wichita State University](#), a public research university accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

“We’re honored to have these distinguished individuals and institutions help us continue in our mission to advance national priorities and serve the public interest by integrating academic, government and scientific resources globally. Together we will build upon the momentum our team has created to strategically position ORAU for the future,” said ORAU President and CEO Andy Page.

About ORAU

ORAU provides innovative scientific and technical solutions to advance national priorities in science, education, security and health. Through specialized teams of experts, unique laboratory capabilities and access to a consortium of more than 100 major Ph.D.-granting institutions, ORAU works with federal, state, local and commercial customers to advance national priorities and serve the public interest. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and federal contractor, ORAU manages the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Media Contacts

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December 10, 2020

Mr. H. Andy Page
President and CEO
Oak Ridge Associated Universities
P.O. Box 117
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0117

RE: Sponsoring Institution Membership Application

Dear President Page:

Wichita State University is pleased to submit this letter of application for consideration as a Sponsoring Institution member of the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU).

Wichita State University (WSU) is celebrating its 125th year, and as a non-profit institution of higher learning, continues to focus on providing students with an affordable education, while increasing the economic prosperity of our community by providing talented graduates who meet their employer's needs, and by working closely with businesses on innovative solutions to their challenges. Wichita is the largest city in Kansas, with major demands for a STEM workforce; it ranks #1 of the 100 largest US metro areas in the percentage of jobs involving STEM occupations, as well as #1 in manufacturing jobs as a percentage of all jobs. Wichita ranks #3 in the highest concentration of engineers per 1,000 employees. WSU is dedicated to its mission of being an essential educational, cultural and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good, and thereby grants PhD degrees in nine STEM fields, in addition to four doctoral degrees, 41 master's degrees, and 70 undergraduate programs. In the 2020 academic year, the University awarded 2,372 baccalaureate degrees, 677 master's degrees, and 115 doctoral/PhD degrees. Through concerted institutional efforts to promote cultural competency, global awareness and inclusivity, WSU has become the most diverse university in Kansas, and the #2 university in the nation in the number of TRIO programs. WSU has also experienced a 47.6% growth in the number of first-generation college students over the last five years. As Kansas' only urban public research university, Wichita State University offers tremendous opportunities to nearly 16,000 students and 575 faculty members. WSU is recognized for its dedication to being student-centered and innovation driven. For the last nine years, WSU has been the #1 transfer destination in Kansas. The College of Engineering is the highest ranked engineering school in Kansas, and ranks in the top 50 in the nation. In addition to doubling the number of engineering baccalaureate degrees awarded in just nine years, the College boasts having the highest industrially funded Aerospace Engineering department in the nation.

Wichita State University is currently classified as a "High Research Activity" doctoral university according to the Carnegie classification. Using currently available HERD data, WSU is ranked #17 in the nation for 3-year growth (10.6%) in R&D expenditures (2015-2018) at US public institutions without a medical school; WSU has more than doubled its research expenditures in the last five years and continues to grow, with \$206m in research expenditures from all sources in FY2020 and \$164.7m total awards. The most renowned research center at WSU is the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR), which just received a new \$13.5m award from the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center for continued applied research on emerging



materials for high-speed missile applications. This adds to such projects as its Digital Twin Program, which helps the military maintain and repair aircraft such as the B-1 Bomber and Blackhawk helicopters; and its designation as America Makes 3rd Satellite Center for 3D printing research and application, which focuses on 3D printing applications in aerospace. NIAR is housed on the Innovation Campus, where the new Wayne and Kay Woolsey Hall for the Frank Barton School of Business, Deloitte's Smart Factory @ Wichita, and NetApp's Wichita Site are being built. Deloitte and NetApp are just two of the 13 businesses with major operations on the Innovation Campus. The Innovation Campus includes Airbus (Engineering Center), Dassault Systems (3DExperience Center for advanced manufacturing), the Martin Defense Group, and Hyatt Place. Other research centers at Wichita State University include the Applied Psychology Research Institute, the Center for Economic Development and Business Research, the Center for Energy Studies, the Center for Entrepreneurship, the Center for International Business Advancement, the Center for Physical Activity and Aging, the Center for Real Estate, the Center for Women's Studies, the Community Engagement Institute, Ennovar - Institute of Emerging Technologies and Market Solutions, the Environmental Finance Center, GoCreate, the Public Policy and Management Center, and the Regional Institute on Aging. In an effort to help diversify and grow the economy, while providing an important platform for creating new academic and applied programs for students, Wichita State University is also moving forward on a facility to house the National Institute for Digital Transformation. This is part of WSU's Convergence Sciences initiative. WSU's Convergence Science Initiative has awarded \$1.2 million to four interdisciplinary teams of researchers who are working to solve complex issues such as educational access for refugee learners, health disparities among vulnerable populations, community resiliency to natural disasters, and creating methods for sustainable 3D printing.

An example of Wichita State University's ability to innovate in response to community and global needs has been exemplified by its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. WSU innovators and business partners joined forces to collect and manufacture personal protective equipment and disposable stethoscopes to protect healthcare workers. WSU researchers amplified their efforts on potential treatments, including a 3C-like protease inhibitor to block human coronaviruses replication, which is licensed and being developed by Cocrystal Pharma for treating COVID-19. WSU also opened the Molecular Diagnostic Lab, which is a state-of-the-art facility that has the capacity to process 32,000 COVID-19 tests per week with a 24-h turnaround time on results. Two recent graduates of WSU's Innovation Design MS program, who are part of the apparel start-up company, Montana Shirt, are finalists for a \$1m prize pool in the XPRIZE contest for designing a better mask.

Given the strengths of Wichita State University in aerospace, digital transformation, health care disparity, and sustainability, among other STEM areas, and its commitment to innovative research, we believe WSU will benefit from becoming an ORAU Sponsoring Institute, and that our membership will provide a strategic and collaborative partner to the ORAU consortium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Coleen Pugh'.

Coleen Pugh, PhD
Associate Vice President for Research
Dean of the Graduate School