The **University of Oregon** (UO), an AAU-member research university and Oregon's flagship institution, seeks a Director to lead Research Advanced Computing Services, a unit of the University's central Information Services organization. Capitalizing on the reputation the Information Services organization has developed, the Director will bring a new level of vision and creativity and a strategic approach to supporting leading-edge advanced computing technology and services that advance the University's research mission. The Director reports to the Associate CIO for Technology Infrastructure, a direct report to the University’s Vice Provost for Information Services & CIO.

**Research Advanced Computing Services (RACS)**

The organization now known as Research Advanced Computing Services began as a grant-funded institute that in 2013 stood up the University of Oregon’s first computing resource large enough to serve multiple PI’s. This entity was further developed as a core facility within the Office for Research. In 2016, as the UO became a stand-alone public institution and welcomed a new president, central funding grew – as did expectations. In 2020, University leaders moved RACS – as it was then known – from the Office for Research into Information Services to capitalize on IS’s reputation for service delivery, to position RACS to pursue additional funding sources, and to improve its integration with other areas of the University’s technology and capital investments.

Today, RACS is a five-person unit of IS with an annual budget of approximately $1M – largely coming from recurring funding from the Office of the President. RACS receives incremental revenue from certain user fees and from being written into grants. The major system is Talapas, an HPC cluster with approximately 9500 cores, 90 TB memory, 94 GPUs, and over 2 PB storage. Node classes on Talapas include compute, GPU, large memory, and large local scratch. For additional information about RACS, see [https://hpcf.uoregon.edu/](https://hpcf.uoregon.edu/)

**Position summary**

Reporting to the Associate CIO for Technology Infrastructure, the Director of Research Advanced Computing Services (RACS) is responsible for providing strategic leadership, fiscal stewardship, and operational oversight for RACS, including the High-Performance Computing (HPC) Core Facility. In addition to overseeing HPC, the Director is responsible for building out mid-tier services that position RACS as a full-service destination for research computing services. The Director is responsible for aligning the RACS workforce with University objectives for diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as increasing diversity among faculty customer base by lowering barriers to entry to HPC and performing outreach to a broad range of faculty from multiple academic disciplines across campus.
The Director of RACS works to create a seamless ecosystem that allows researchers to maximize the use of Talapas, UO’s on-premises HPC resource, and cloud-based HPC resources with minimal administrative overhead and with the flexibility to address rapidly changing compute, storage, network, and security needs. The Director works to simplify the integration of research instrumentation technology and Internet of things (IoT) devices with University network and IT systems.

The Director engages academic and research stakeholders to create and maintain a unified user interface for students throughout their academic or research tenure at the university. Together with the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) and Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI), the Director of RACS will work on aligning computing resources with research goals.

**Responsibilities and priorities**

The Director of RACS manages an established set of responsibilities while defining and pursuing a set of longer-term goals that will enhance the organization’s capacity and its ability to support University of Oregon research. At the scale of the University and of RACS, the Director will be able to be hands-on in several aspects of the role while always focusing on the larger opportunities.

**Priorities**

- Develop and secure support for a comprehensive plan for research computing at UO that rests on a sustainable business model encompassing multiple funding streams such as University financing, grants, user fees, cost-shares, gifts, endowments, etc.
- Broaden the solution set RACS offers beyond HPC and into research-support services and a University-wide engagement with computational research
- Align with the President’s Initiative on Data Science to help realize its transformative impact on curriculum, instruction, and research
- Leverage the extraordinary $1.5B investment in the Knight Campus with its distinctive approach to innovation and translation
- Re-purpose and revitalize the Faculty Advisory Committee so that it is broadly representative of UO research, is engaged and forward-looking, and is contributing to the Director’s development and ongoing refinement of RACS’ strategy and value proposition
- Develop a strategy with regard to the solutions and services provided by the commercial cloud
- Identify and pursue opportunities to secure grant funding to support RACS’ ongoing growth
- Weaves a measurable commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and access throughout the core mission, culture, and activities of RACS.

**Core responsibilities**

- Serve as the chief evangelist for RACS and for the role HPC can play at the University of Oregon
- Ensure efficient operation of RACS on the basis of a widely understood value proposition, a transparent set of business practices, and a plan for sustainable, strategic investment that integrates upgrades, life-cycle costs, refresh, and replacement considerations
- Develop RACS to be a full-service destination for researchers to obtain HPC and other information technology services and support; collaborate with UO faculty on research projects
• Engage units in the Office for Research & Innovation, IT partners, Knight Campus leaders, and UO’s research centers and institutes in plans to optimize the accessibility and efficiency of RACS services
• Represent RACS to the broader research community, forge new collaborations, increase diversity, and create opportunities for areas that have not historically used HPC services
• Serve as point person for UO HPC core needs with regards to equipment and space requirements
• Collaborate with PI’s to include RACS in proposals for external grant funding to augment Talapas, support RACS personnel, and promote computational research at UO
• Contribute to the successful recruitment and retention of research-active faculty; position RACS as one of the reasons to come to and stay at UO

In managing their responsibilities, and especially in their capacity as the University’s leader in research computing, the Director works closely with an array of sponsors and stakeholders, advisory and governance groups, and campus-wide partners. The Director also represents UO in national and international venues and with vendors and external sponsors and partners such as other research universities and technology providers.

Competencies and qualifications

Professional competencies:

• 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
• A record of commitment to and/or engagement in activities designed to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion
• Ability to work effectively with faculty, staff, and students from a variety of diverse backgrounds
• Ability to adapt within a rapidly changing technical environment
• 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
• Ability to operate and communicate effectively while meeting deadlines and completing projects
• Good social skills and the marketing savvy to engage and build support among a broad spectrum of users
• The financial acumen to build the financial model in ways compliant with grant funding and other funding sources
• Some experience collaborating in proposal development and/or grant submission and management (e.g. infrastructure grants)
• Forward-looking views about, for example, opportunities created by AI and/or the implications of data science on academic disciplines
• Engagement with computing in service to education as well as research
Minimum qualifications:

- An undergraduate degree and five years of experience in an area of computing and/or information technology services represented in RACS
- Experience managing budgets with multiple funding sources
- Experience leading and supervising personnel

Preferred/additional qualifications:

- Advanced degree in science, computer science, and/or engineering
- Experience managing and protecting restricted data
- Experience working with faculty or clients in a computational domain
- Experience using HPC systems as a researcher
- Experience developing and delivering tutorials, workshops, and lectures on high performance computing at the institutional, regional, and national levels

Information Services

Information Services (IS) is the central information technology unit at the University of Oregon and delivers a broad range of technology and services to the university. Information Services consists of four major functional areas: Customer Experience, which serves as the key contact point for interactions with campus clients and customers; Enterprise Solutions, which manages and supports applications, integration services, identity management and data management; Information Security, which helps protect virtual or physical information; and Technology Infrastructure, which provides administration and support for the software, hardware, and services needed to support the campus IT environment. Information Services also includes the Advanced Network Technology Center. IS collaborates with Research and Innovation and the University’s schools and colleges to support UO’s research, teaching, and learning missions. IS also works closely with the Network for Education and Research in Oregon.

University of Oregon

Founded in 1876, the University of Oregon (UO) is a Carnegie R1 research university, a member of the 65-member Association of American Universities (AAU) and the state’s flagship campus. UO enrolls more than 19,000 undergraduate and 3,600 graduate students representing all 50 states and 99 countries, and is an integral economic driver for the state, with an estimated $2.2 billion annual economic return to Oregon. Since 2014, UO has operated under an independent governing structure that supports its ability to chart new directions, improve entrepreneurial activity, and invent creative programming. Since then, the University has raised over $1.7 billion in support of partnerships and opportunities in academic, research, and innovation excellence. Recent efforts include new initiatives focused on the environment, innovation and entrepreneurship, and the humanities, as well as an interdisciplinary data science initiative.

UO is also proud of the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, a $1.5B initiative specifically designed to fast-track scientific discoveries and the process of turning those discoveries into innovations that improve the quality of life for people in Oregon, the nation and beyond. The Knight
Campus is a bold new effort designed to accelerate the cycle of translating scientific discoveries into innovations that improve quality of life for people in Oregon, the nation, and beyond. Rooted in the University of Oregon’s 60-year history of interdisciplinary collaboration, the Knight Campus catalyzes new research opportunities, forges partnerships with industrial and clinical practitioners, and provides integrated experiential training for the next generation of citizen scientists and entrepreneurs. Initial faculty expertise is in areas such as regenerative medicine, human performance, biofunctional materials, medical devices and biosensors, neural engineering, protein engineering and synthetic biology. The Department of Bioengineering will be housed in the Knight Campus’ spectacular new building that opened in 2020. A second 175,000 square foot building is scheduled for completion in 2025. More information on the Knight Campus can be found at https://accelerate.uoregon.edu/.

About Eugene, Ore.

The University of Oregon is located in the Willamette Valley, a picturesque region known for its excellent wines, abundant recreational opportunities, and outdoor activity, and marked by a progressive, collaborative culture. It sits on 295-acres and features state-of-the-art facilities in an arboretum-like setting. Eugene is a vibrant and growing metropolitan area of over 200,000 people located two hours from Portland and five hours from Seattle. It offers varied cultural and culinary offerings, a pleasant climate, and a community engaged in environmental and social concerns. It hosts several world-class museums and cultural centers, including the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, and the Many Nations Longhouse. Eugene is also a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts; skiing, hiking, fishing, rafting, cycling, and running are all popular pastimes in the area.

To apply

The University of Oregon has engaged Opus Partners to assist this search. Craig Smith, Partner, and Thomas Lapierre, Senior Associate, are leading the search. To seek additional information, or nominate qualified candidates, please email Thomas Lapierre at thomas.lapierre@opuspartners.net. To be considered for the position, candidates must formally apply via Opus Partners and must provide a resume, a cover letter.

The University of Oregon is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.