

IOWA

Information Technology Services

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH SERVICES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Job Announcement	3
About Information Technology Services	3
About Research Services	3
Senior director of research services	4
Leadership opportunities for the senior director	4
Qualifications	5
Benefits at the University of Iowa	6
Research at the University of Iowa.....	7
About the University of Iowa.....	8
About Iowa City	9
Applications and nominations	10

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH SERVICES

The University of Iowa seeks applications and nominations for the position of senior director of research services. The senior director will spearhead a mission-critical unit within Information Technology Services (ITS) and champion the computing needs of the University of Iowa's vibrant research community.

About Information Technology Services

ITS caters to the diverse technology needs of University of Iowa students, employees, and visitors. It provides technical support, resources, and services essential to the core mission and daily operations of the institution. ITS is part of a broader community of campus IT providers known as [OneIT](#). In addition to ITS, OneIT includes the administrative and collegiate IT units outside of University of Iowa Health Care, Iowa's comprehensive academic health system. OneIT collaborates with Health Care Information Systems to deliver jointly managed and interdependent services and technologies. These IT groups work together to provide a seamless experience for technology users and to deliver services in a coordinated, efficient manner.

ITS' mission is to create a welcoming and supportive workplace where everyone feels empowered to be their authentic selves and share ideas. ITS is committed to cultivating a respectful workforce culture where people of all backgrounds and perspectives are empowered to make a positive impact. This commitment is embraced as mission-critical in everything ITS does and is embedded in hiring, incentive, retention, and career-development practices and initiatives.

About Research Services

[Research Services](#) (RS) offers services for research and analysis in high-performance computing (HPC) environments and interactive analysis environments. RS also provides user consultations and assistance navigating research compliance, Institutional Review Board (IRB), and other researcher-facing processes. RS provides grant support outlining institutional computational and storage resources, and helps facilitate use of ACCESS resources. RS provides storage services specified for high availability, HPC, sharing and collaboration, and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for research data storage and computation. Workshops taught by RS staff help researchers discover and use the services.

Services provided by RS:

- Consultations and support: User consultations and staff assistance with security audits, IT security plans, and project consulting.
- Computing services: services for research and analysis in HPC environments.
 - In collaboration with other units on campus, RS support the Argon HPC system, which features about 23,000 central processing unit (CPU) cores and more than 350 graphics process unit (GPU) accelerators.
 - Accounts on the Argon HPC system are available at no cost to University of Iowa faculty, staff, and students who conduct research. Faculty members may sponsor access for research collaborators who are not part of the University of Iowa community and may purchase dedicated compute node capacity for their groups. For more information, visit: [Argon: High Performance Computing](#).

- The Interactive Data Analytics Service (IDAS) supports large-scale and collaborative data analytics using interactive tools such as RStudio, JupyterLab, and Visual Studio Code. IDAS features its own CPUs, RAM, and GPUs.
- The Research Remote Desktop Service (RDSS) provide a Windows virtual desktop environment through which users can remotely access research data and pre-installed analysis software. RDSS offers various statistical software and can be accessed from both on-campus and off-campus using a VPN connection.
- Storage services: Storage specified for high accessibility, HPC, sharing, and University of Iowa Health Care research data files.
- Workshops: Courses taught by staff to become acquainted with RS services.

The senior director of research services oversees a team of approximately 12 individuals, organized into three teams: a Research Compliance Office, Campus Engagement, and Advanced Computing Systems (common services and specialized services).

Senior director of research services

The senior director will work hand-in-hand with ITS and OneIT leadership to craft and execute the vision for campus cyberinfrastructure, ensuring that HPC, specialized applications, and storage services not only meet, but anticipate the evolving demands of scholars, scientists, and creative innovators. By providing strategic oversight of RS, this role will ensure the University of Iowa remains at the forefront of discovery.

In this role, the ability to cultivate strategic relationships is as important as technical expertise. The senior director will serve as the key liaison to ITS leadership, research-intensive units, and national organizations, building partnerships that drive collaborative initiatives and secure funding for future growth. This role will mentor a high-performing team, set organizational goals, and manage budgets to maximize the impact of every dollar spent on research infrastructure. The senior director will oversee a budget of approximately \$2.8 million.

This position is eligible for hybrid work within Iowa, with the expectation that the senior director will be onsite at least 1-2 times per week.

Leadership opportunities for the senior director

Evolving research environment

As the academic research environment at the University of Iowa continues to evolve, RS, and in particular the senior director, are called upon to provide not only requested support, but also consultation about what solutions would best meet the needs of the research community. The individual in this role will serve as a leader within the research community and will use their knowledge and expertise to advance the university's already strong research environment. Further, they will build, with researchers throughout the campus, a better shared understanding of the success measures for RS, and how the team will best meet the research needs of all areas of campus.

Leading a dedicated team of technology professionals

Recent changes in leadership for ITS and for RS has have resulted in some departures of key employees and the arrival of new staff eager to contribute to RS' success. The senior director will need to support these new team members, ensure the research community knows who will be providing the support needed, and continue to grow the technical sophistication of all team members in their chosen areas as well as the stability of the team as a whole.

Leveraging the collaborative environment at Iowa

The university as a whole, and ITS/OneIT and RS in particular, function best when collaboration and collegueship are the driving forces for moving the institution forward. The senior director will use their communication and collaboration skills to further build out that sense of collaboration, enhancing current partnerships and cultivating new ones, and ensuring RS's standing within the collaborative framework of Iowa's research landscape.

Serving as a key member of the ITS Leadership Team

In addition to all the opportunities within RS, the senior director will be a key member of the leadership team for the chief information officer, thus helping to set the strategic direction for all of ITS. It will be important to participate actively in the day-to-day work of RS, but also keep an eye on the multi-year strategic direction for all of ITS.

Qualifications

Required

- A master's degree in a field relevant to the position OR an equivalent combination of education and additional related experience.
- Technology experience (typically 10 years or more), including management education or management experience.
- Experience successfully leading a technology team or organization.
- Working knowledge of academic research and research computing environments, including HPC, research storage, and collaboration tools.
- A strong customer service orientation and enthusiasm for the application of technology across a broad range of disciplines.
- Demonstrated and considerable experience successfully managing, developing, and retaining staff.
- Demonstrated ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously within given timeframes.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with technical and non-technical staff from a variety of backgrounds.
- Experience managing budgets.
- Demonstrated job-related experience with and commitment to promoting a welcoming and respectful workplace environment.
- U.S. citizenship, permanent residency, or protected person status is required for International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) compliance.

Desirable

- An advanced degree.
- Experience with grant submissions to academic research funding organizations such as National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Department of Energy (DOE), MacArthur Foundation, Mellon Foundation, etc.
- Understanding of new computing, software and storage practices for university research efforts. For example, areas of mastery could include current large-cluster computing practices, advanced visualization and analytics, or data and informatics practices.
- Experience in a specific research discipline.
- Experience working in a healthcare setting and/or with clinical or medical research.

- Experience working with regulatory regimes such as the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and ITAR.
- Experience supporting technology in a higher education setting
- In-depth knowledge of academic research and research computing environments, including working knowledge of HPC, research storage, high-performance networking, research applications, and collaboration tools.

Benefits at the University of Iowa

There is a lot to love about the University of Iowa; it's where great minds come to work, grow, and thrive. There's also a lot to love about the University of Iowa's world-class benefits package, which includes comprehensive health and dental coverage, life insurance, flexible spending accounts, and more.

At a glance:

- Two different health insurance plan options, including one plan with a \$0 premium for single-only or double-spouse family coverage.
- Dental insurance administered by Delta Dental of Iowa that allows you to choose any provider and has free employee-only coverage.
- Benefit-eligible employees receive \$90 per month in general benefit credits (to reduce the cost of elected benefits).
- Two retirement options, both with highly competitive employer contributions:
 - IPERS: Iowa Public Employee Retirement System; a defined benefit pension 401(a) plan with retirement income determined by a formula based on years of service and salary earned.
 - TIAA: Teachers Insurance Annuity Association; a defined contribution 403(b) plan with immediate vesting
- Time-off benefits including:
 - 16 hours of accrued vacation per month
 - 12 hours of sick leave accrued per month
 - 40 hours of family caregiving leave per year
 - 9 paid holidays.
- Life, disability, and accident insurance; flexible spending accounts, employee discounts, additional voluntary benefit programs, and more.

For more information:

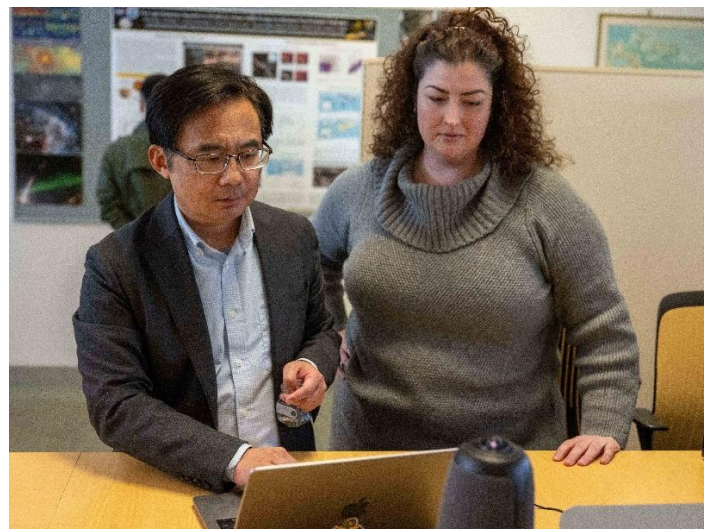
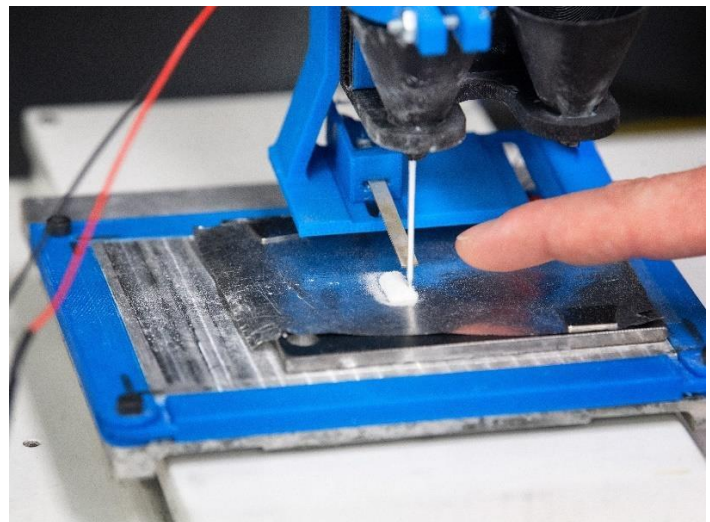
Please visit our [benefits website for regular faculty & staff](#). At the University of Iowa, we value our faculty and staff and are committed to providing a comprehensive benefits package that supports employees' health, well-being, and professional growth.

Research at the University of Iowa

The University of Iowa is one of the nation's premier public research universities. University of Iowa scholars, researchers, and artists have realized remarkable achievements that have established the University of Iowa as a national leader in areas such as space physics, educational testing, creative writing, and healthcare.

- \$534M in FY25 research funding
- 2300+ active sponsored research projects
- 120 new patent applications in FY24
- 1 in 3 undergraduates involved in research

For more information and news on current research happenings at the University of Iowa, visit <https://research.uiowa.edu/news>.



About the University of Iowa

The University of Iowa is one of America's premier public research universities. Founded in 1847, it is the state's oldest institution of higher education and is located alongside the picturesque Iowa River in Iowa City. A member of the Association of American Universities since 1909 and the Big Ten Conference since 1899, the University of Iowa is home to one of the most acclaimed academic medical centers in the country, as well as globally recognized leadership in the study and craft of writing. Iowa is known for excellence in both the arts and sciences, offering world-class undergraduate, graduate, and professional academic programs in a wide variety of fields. For more information, visit [About Iowa | The University of Iowa](#).



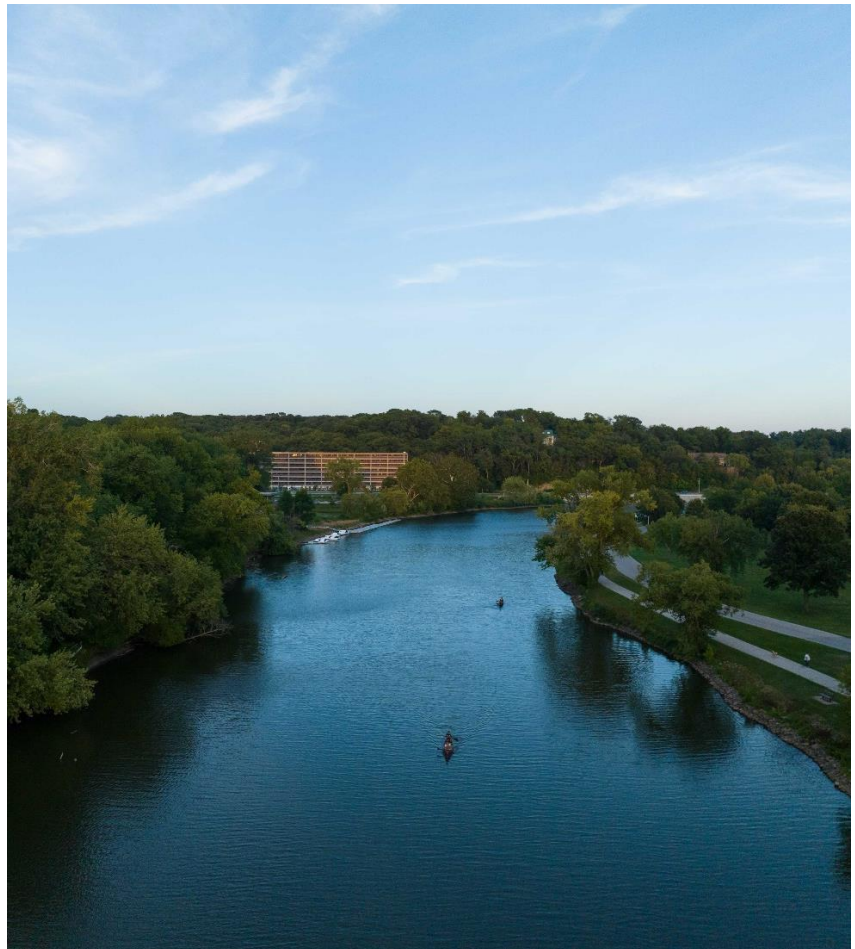
About Iowa City

Iowa City and its surrounding communities offer world-class health care, top-ranked schools, Big Ten athletics, and a vibrant social scene. Recognized among the best places to live, the Iowa City metro area is safe, welcoming, and growing.

- Work-life balance is encouraged at the University of Iowa and in its surrounding communities.
- University of Iowa Health Care provides access to sought-after specialists at a nationally ranked hospital and children's hospital without leaving the area.
- Iowa City and its surrounds have top-ranked public schools and private school options across multiple communities, with area high schools known to produce above average college-ready students.
- Iowa City is home to more than 50 parks, nature areas, and open spaces. The Johnson County trail system is interconnected with the university and surrounding communities, making it easy and enjoyable to explore by bike.

Des Moines, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Kansas City are just a road trip away, giving you the chance to explore some of the country's largest cities.

For more information, visit <https://hr.uiowa.edu/living-in-iowa>.



Applications and nominations

AGB Search is pleased to assist the University of Iowa with this leadership search. To apply for the senior director of Research Services position, candidates are requested to submit the following:

- i. resume;
- ii. a letter of interest that addresses how the candidate's experiences and qualifications connect with the required/preferred characteristics and priorities as expressed in this position profile; and
- iii. contact information for five references (to be contacted with candidate's permission at a later date), with an indication of your relation to each reference.

For best consideration, applications should be submitted by **Oct. 31, 2025**, to the [AGB search portal](#). The search will remain open until an appointment is made.

Nominations and expressions of interest in the position are encouraged. Please direct them to IowaResearchServices@agbsearch.com or the AGB Search consultants listed below:

Margaret Plympton, Ed.D.

Principal

margaret.plympton@agbsearch.com / 484.554.4542

Kimberly Templeton, JD

Principal

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Anne Hoffman

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Advancing Higher Education Leadership

Successful candidates will be required to self-disclose any conviction history and will be subject to a criminal background check and credential/education verification.

Equal Access/Opportunity Statement

The University of Iowa is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment free from discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy (including childbirth and related conditions), disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, or associational preferences.

Persons with disabilities who need assistance or accommodations with the application or interview process may contact University Human Resources/Faculty and Staff Disability Services, (319) 335-2660 or fsds@uiowa.edu.