

Leadership Profile

DEAN

School of Journalism and
Communication





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Executive Summary

The University of Oregon seeks a visionary, innovative, and engaged leader with a passionate commitment to fostering the vital role of journalism and media in a global society to serve as the next dean of the School of Journalism and Communication at the University of Oregon. Reporting to the provost and senior vice president, the Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication is the chief academic and administrative officer for the school and is responsible for guiding the school's eclectic population in creating and fulfilling academic strategies; recruiting and retaining excellent faculty, students, and staff; and managing organizational and financial structures that promote distinction in research, creative scholarship, professional practice, and education.

The dean will work with university administration, faculty, alumni, and other internal and external leaders to promote the national and international visibility of the school and to ensure that resources align with its strategic objectives and potential. The dean is a member of the Provost's Council and the President's University Leadership Team.

Applications, inquiries, and nominations are invited.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Nominations and Applications at the end of this profile.



Fall on the Eugene campus

About the School of Journalism and Communication

Founded in 1916, the School of Journalism and Communication (SOJC) is one of the oldest journalism programs in the nation and remains the only comprehensive accredited journalism and communication program in the Pacific Northwest. The SOJC aims to foster global citizens, scholars, and innovative professionals who value the richness and strength of a diverse community. As one of six professional schools at the University of Oregon, the SOJC has a strong focus on career readiness while contributing to the University Research I mission by integrating theory and practice throughout all aspects of the school's mission. The SOJC has a long and storied legacy of success inside and outside the academy, including sixteen Pulitzer Prizes among faculty and alumni.

The SOJC has close to ninety faculty and more than two thousand students. The school offers undergraduate majors in advertising, journalism, media studies, and public relations, as well as minors in media studies, game studies, science communication, and documentary film production. Additionally, the SOJC offers a Ph.D. and research-focused master's program in Communication and Media Studies as well as professional master's degrees in Advertising and Brand Responsibility, Journalism, Immersive Media Communication, Multimedia Storytelling, and Strategic Communication.

The SOJC operates from campuses in both Eugene and Portland. SOJC Eugene houses the Center for Science and Communication Research, which explores how researchers and communication professionals can share scientific discoveries with the public, and the Experience Hub, which includes a cutting-edge immersive media lab, professional-quality podcast studio, social media analytics lab, a broadcast/photography studio, and editing bays. SOJC Portland is home to the Agora Journalism Center, an exemplar of community-engaged journalism, as well as the Oregon Reality (OR) Lab, a multidisciplinary facility for immersive media and communication innovation.

Mission

From the [SOJC Mission, Vision, and Values statement](#): The School of Journalism and Communication is a community dedicated to excellence in learning, research, and creative projects. We are scholars, professionals, and students studying issues that champion freedom of expression, dialogue, and democracy in service to current and future generations.

While our Pacific Northwest home inspires our exploration of media, technology, and the human condition, our work at the undergraduate and graduate levels has global impact—researching, advocating for and reporting on critical issues such as diversity and equity, the environment, and social and economic justice. Along the way, we facilitate relationships across media professions that promote public advocacy, social responsibility, transparency, and civic engagement.

By integrating theory and practice, we advance communication and media scholarship and prepare students to become professional storytellers, critical thinkers, thought leaders, and responsible citizens in a global society.



Academics

For more information about the school, see:

[Academic Programs](#)

[Hands-On Learning](#)

[Faculty Research](#)

[Facilities](#)



UO Portland Campus

The Position

As the University looks toward its sesquicentennial and implements its strategic plan, [Oregon Rising](#), the spirit of a shared future is emerging across the university.

From Oregon Rising:

The challenges we face across our globe are large and complex; they call for big ideas, cross-disciplinary work, critical thought, and dialogue.

Big ideas, cross-disciplinary work, critical thought, and dialogue—these ideas resonate deeply for academics and professionals working in journalism and communication today. In the evolving global landscape, the role that media professionals and scholars play in fostering understanding, building trust, and leveraging innovative technologies wisely and effectively has never been more important. The moment is clear for the SOJC: emerging technologies and shifting media ecosystems bring both exciting opportunities and intense responsibilities for journalism and communication fields. The next dean must have a clear vision for the future of journalism education that is grounded in the traditions and history of a democratic society and the SOJC's legacy but not blinded by or locked into the past. The dean must at the same time embrace the future of the communication professions and be willing to do the hard work of creating space for faculty, students, and alumni who can see and achieve that future.

Journalism student interviewing Eugene community members



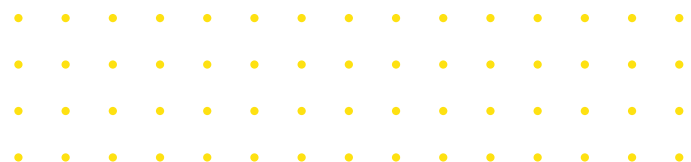
The Position (cont.)

Build Community

The School of Journalism and Communication is built on a strong multidisciplinary foundation with exceptional faculty whose reputations span the fields of journalism and communication to include advertising, media studies, and public relations. The next dean should appreciate the diversity of these disciplines, including how those differences may translate into unique expectations for scholarship, impact, stature, and influence. Through an authentic commitment to strengthening community and a willingness to be present and empathetic, the next dean will advance the school's well-established culture of collegiality and collaboration, enhancing the cooperative relationships that define the SOJC community. These relationships will help sustain a cohesive and inclusive organizational identity that supports cross-disciplinary innovation and shared purpose.

Elevate National Profile

The School of Journalism and Communication has a long and well-established reputation built on an impressive history and world-class faculty. Bringing together related yet distinct disciplines within one school presents an exceptional opportunity for interdisciplinarity and positions the school to lead through ground-breaking scholarship and teaching while continuing to build upon the school's distinguished reputation for advancing in journalism and media ethics. The next dean will engage with the SOJC community to leverage these unique assets and establish the school as a thought leader during a tumultuous time in all areas of communications. The SOJC expects the next dean to participate in national and international conversations about the future of communication, as well as to foster broader community involvement in these conversations. Simultaneously, the dean must understand the role of a professional school in an R1 research institution and be willing to articulate and defend that role. The school has made great progress building a research profile in recent years, and the next dean must be a champion for the school, for impactful scholarship, and for professional education.



The Position (cont.)

Catalyze Innovation

The SOJC seeks a leader who will embrace innovation, including new technologies, in ways that will serve not only the school but also the larger community. The SOJC has made significant strides in this regard through such initiatives as the Immersive Media Communication master's program in Portland and the Agora Journalism Center's work on new reporting frameworks. The SOJC must continue diversifying its offerings in ways that open opportunities for a new community of learners and expand how the school thinks about engagement and civic responsibility. In this way, the next dean will support the school while establishing the SOJC as a thought leader in all areas of communication.

Strengthen Financial Outlook

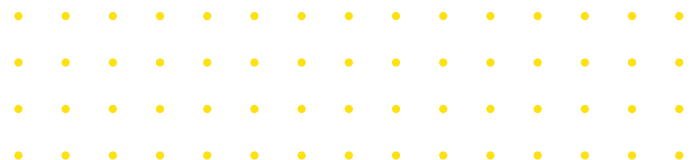
The next dean will need to navigate a changing budget landscape, effectively representing the budgetary needs of the SOJC while finding and supporting new sources of revenue for the school. Success in this role will require willingness to make tough decisions based on a comprehensive knowledge of the school, the university, journalism and communication education, media professions, and the need for research that advances culture and society nationally and globally. As the university's budget model evolves, the dean will participate in a coordinated process that presents opportunities to strategically grow the SOJC's budget by demonstrating effective resource management and leveraging performance-based incentives to benefit the SOJC. A key aspect will be the ability to capitalize on new investment opportunities, such as those arising from institutional online initiatives. Moreover, the next dean must be enthusiastic about fundraising and alumni relations and will engage with relevant state, national, and international professional and academic organizations.



The Position (cont.)

Leverage the SOJC's Diverse Strengths

The SOJC is a community of scholars, teachers and practitioners, each bringing expertise and recognition to the school's numerous contributions to the university, the community, and society. The next dean will need to take into account the many strengths and sometimes competing commitments of the SOJC when working with the community on the SOJC's vision for the future, its culture, and its day-to-day operations. This work will require balancing research and practice, internal and external relationships, undergraduate and graduate programs, the Eugene and Portland campuses, and the diverse needs of faculty, staff, and students. Doing this work will position the dean to lead the faculty in envisioning the future of the school and strategic planning to fulfill its mission. Additionally, the next dean must engage in strategic messaging that enhances both internal and external communication, embracing all aspects of the school's contributions and establishing the school as a vital contributor within the university and the broader community. These efforts will also prioritize addressing the needs of faculty, staff, and students, empowering them to achieve their full potential.



Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

Minimum Qualifications for the Position

- PhD or highest degree in a field appropriate to one of the School's programs.
- A distinguished record in teaching or comparable experience, research/creative activity, and professional service sufficient to merit appointment as a tenured full professor at the UO.
- Progressive record of executive leadership, including substantial experience in the management of budgets, personnel, and a multifaceted organization.

Professional Competencies

- Commitment to high-quality research, teaching, diversity, and community as important components of academic excellence.
- Strategic leadership and organizational management skills in an academic setting and a track record of successful collaboration and fostering a strong culture.
- Experience with and/or aptitude and commitment to enable successful advocacy and fundraising on behalf of the school.
- Capacity to provide leadership and vision across the school, work well in a collaborative decision-making environment, bring talents and academic values that will support the high aspirations of our faculty, and possess the ability to maintain patience and equilibrium in a job with many demands.
- Commitment to academic freedom and autonomy in academic programs, scholarly pursuits, and the student experience, including preparing students for success after graduation.
- Proven experience in recruiting, developing, retaining and evaluating faculty or professional staff, and a commitment to diversity in areas of hiring, promotion and retention.
- Commitment to principles of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility, and evidence of success in fostering a diverse population and in serving a broad community.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience developing budget policy and ability to oversee a large, complex budget.

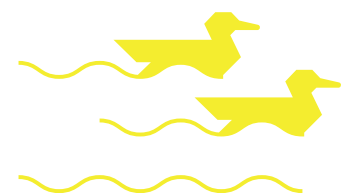
About the University of Oregon

Founded in 1876, the University of Oregon (“UO”) is the state's flagship institution. It brings together more than 24,460 undergraduate and graduate students from all fifty states and over 91 countries and offers 302 undergraduate and graduate degree programs through its nine academic units. The UO is a comprehensive public research university committed to exceptional teaching, discovery, and service. The UO is a Carnegie R1 research university, a member of the Association of American Universities, a member of the Big 10 Athletic Conference, and currently employs nearly 2,000 teaching and research faculty and over 3,800 staff. In Fiscal Year 2025, the UO had \$179 million in grants, contracts, and competitive award expenditures.

The UO serves as an integral economic driver for the state, with an estimated \$2.6 billion annual economic return to Oregon. The main campus spreads over 295 acres and serves as an arboretum and a tree identification classroom. The total university budget was over \$1.4 billion for operations, with an additional \$253 million invested in ongoing capital projects last fiscal year.

Under President Karl Scholz, the UO has embarked upon a comprehensive strategic plan, “Oregon Rising,” which in its second year, centers on four core goals concerning enhancing pathways to timely graduation; becoming a leader in career preparation; creating a flourishing community; and accelerating the University’s impact on the world. With respect to the last goal, the UO has identified four areas of signature scholarship. They are Environmental Resilience, Youth Behavioral and Mental Health, Human Performance and Sport, and Accelerating Innovation and Scientific Impact.

The UO is in the Willamette Valley, with easy access to snow-capped mountains and scenic coastlines. It is only two hours away from Portland, and one hour away from the state capital in Salem. The area enjoys a mild climate. Nicknamed “TrackTown USA,” Eugene is a green-friendly university city that is home to numerous running, biking, and hiking trails, farmer’s markets, and thriving restaurants. While retaining the feel of a modest-sized town, it has the amenities and economic energy that flow from a population of over 230,000 residents between Eugene and the neighboring city of Springfield.



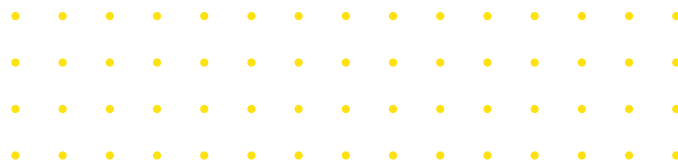
About the Provost

Christopher P. Long



Christopher P. Long is the provost and senior vice president at the University of Oregon. Recognized for values-enacted leadership, Provost Long is committed to the transformative power of liberal arts research and teaching by enriching graduate and undergraduate education, recruiting and retaining world-class faculty, and creating new opportunities for leading-edge research.

Provost Long joined the university in June 2024. He has more than 20 years of academic leadership experience from the public research universities of Michigan State University and Penn State. He identifies integrity, trust, equity, collaboration, and excellence as the core values that inform his leadership as the chief academic officer at the University of Oregon. As provost, he is responsible for the programs, policies, and priorities that shape the university's academic life. Working collaboratively with leadership across the university, the Office of the Provost leads efforts to ensure that students, staff, and faculty can flourish in an environment that cultivates excellence through diversity, belonging, responsible inquiry, trust, and dialogue.



Eugene, Oregon



The Eugene park blocks are a buzzing urban plaza in the heart of downtown

The University of Oregon's home campus is located in Eugene, Oregon. Situated in the southern end of the Willamette Valley, the campus is an hour from the Oregon coast, an hour from the Cascade Mountains, and two hours from Portland. Lovingly referred to as "Tracktown, USA," Eugene is known for its active community of runners, arts and culture scene, and burgeoning "foody" venues with locally grown food and beverages. It is ranked one of the top biking cities in the United States.



To learn more about Eugene, see:

[Eugene, Oregon](#)

Portland, Oregon

Regular interaction with the University's Northeast Portland campus provides opportunities to participate in Oregon's largest media market, as well as the sports, arts, and culture venues of an exciting metropolitan area.



To learn more about Portland, see:

[Portland, Oregon](#)

Nominations and Applications

Review of applications for the Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. To assure full consideration, applications should be received by **January 12, 2026**, and must include:

- A letter of interest addressing the strategic objectives and qualifications identified in the profile;
- A current curriculum vitae; and
- The contact information (email and phone) for five professional references, including their relationship to the candidate.

University of Oregon is being assisted by AGB Search. Application materials should be submitted through the AGB Search portal system here: [University of Oregon Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication](#)

Please direct nominations and expressions of interest or any questions regarding the application process to: UODeanJournComm@agbsearch.com



Laura Woodworth-Ney, Ph.D.

Principal

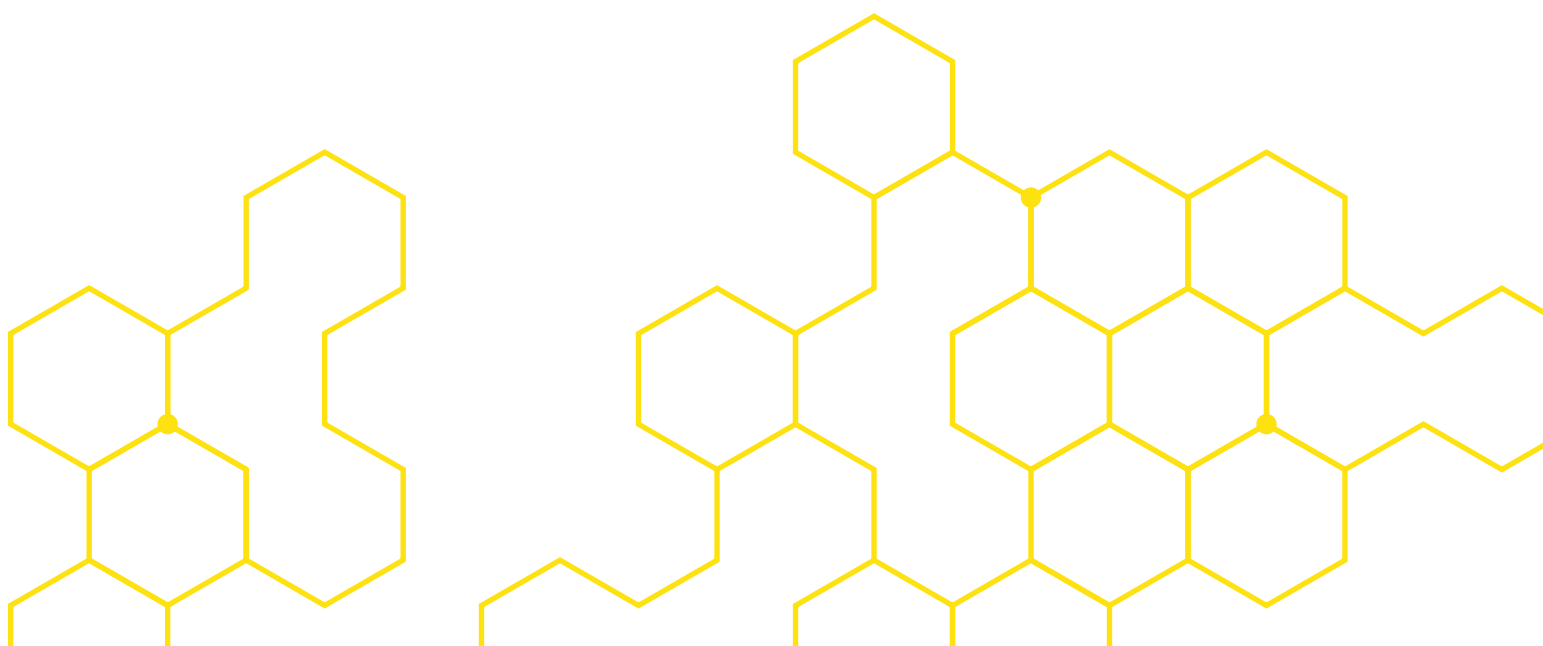
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Concetta M. Stewart, Ph.D.

Principal

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Land Acknowledgement

The University of Oregon is located on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, and continue to make important contributions in their communities, at UO, and across the land we now refer to as Oregon.

University of Oregon EEO Statement

The University of Oregon is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the ADA. The University encourages all qualified individuals to apply, and does not discriminate on the basis of any protected status, including veteran and disability status. The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees with disabilities. To request an accommodation in connection with the application process, please contact us at uocareers@uoregon.edu or 541-346-5112.

UO prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy (including pregnancy-related conditions), age, physical or mental disability, genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, familial status, citizenship, service in the uniformed services (as defined in federal and state law), veteran status, expunged juvenile record, and/or the use of leave protected by state or federal law in all programs, activities and employment practices as required by Title IX, other applicable laws, and policies. Retaliation is prohibited by UO policy. Questions may be referred to the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access. Contact information, related policies, and complaint procedures are [listed here](#).

In compliance with federal law, the University of Oregon prepares an annual report on campus security and fire safety programs and services. The Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report is available [online](#).



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON