Vice Dean for Innovation

Background
In 2016, Princeton adopted a strategic framework that “identifies key goals and major priorities for the University and that will serve as a guide for allocating University resources and prioritizing new initiatives.” The framework states that “Princeton needs to find ways to cultivate interaction between its faculty members, researchers, and students and their counterparts in the non-profit, corporate, and government sectors” and envisions the growth of networks and infrastructure that allow Princeton to connect with non-academic partners who can help it carry out its teaching and research mission and enhance its impact on the world.

Princeton has made considerable progress in this direction since the adoption of the strategic framework, as exemplified by the opening of the Princeton Innovation Center, the premier coworking space for science startup companies in New Jersey, and a significant increase in corporate funding in support of research. Providing academic leadership for innovation and entrepreneurship activities across campus is the natural next step for building on this positive momentum. The Vice Dean for Innovation will serve the faculty and other members of Princeton’s research community by becoming the natural point of entry for innovation and entrepreneurship activities across campus.

Position Description
Reporting to the Dean for Research, the Vice Dean for Innovation (VDI) will be responsible for creating and implementing campus-wide programs and initiatives to advance Princeton’s ambitious goals in the area of knowledge and technology transfer, with emphasis on innovation, entrepreneurship, commercialization, and partnerships with industry.

- Through effective communication and outreach, the VDI will become the natural point of entry and onboarding for innovation and entrepreneurship activities across campus.
- Working closely with the Office of Technology Licensing, the VDI will enable faculty and other researchers to translate their work into commercial or non-profit endeavors by connecting them with resources and opportunities.
- Working closely with Corporate Engagement and Foundation Relations, Technology Licensing, and Advancement, the VDI will expand ties with industry, external entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, alumni, and other potential partners.
- The VDI will be responsible for fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among Princeton’s faculty, students, and other researchers through a robust set of workshops, training, networking opportunities, and access to legal and business expertise.
- Working closely with academic units, the VDI will lead efforts to establish industrial affiliate programs.

The VDI is a 50% time position.
Qualifications

- Appointment as a Professor at Princeton University.
- Proven track record of involvement with innovation and entrepreneurship activities.
- Strong track record of scholarship and research that will elicit support and respect from the faculty.
- Ability to communicate clearly and persuasively, orally and in writing, to faculty, entrepreneurs, investors, and alumni.
- Strong management and leadership skills.
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- Ability to work with a broad range of constituencies (faculty, students, alumni, VCs) and academic or administrative units.