GOALS

Identify global trends, emerging issues and new models in innovation and research, through a lens of global competitiveness and economic transformation.

Systematize and disseminate information on game-changing innovation-oriented initiatives in the education and research space around the globe.

Catalyze new connections among entrepreneurial, high-performing education and research organizations.
INTRODUCTION
Universities and research organizations are key components of innovation ecosystems and play different roles in economic and social development — they are indispensable for competitiveness and the achievement of improved standards of living and prosperity, at all levels. They are essential for building talent; achieving scientific breakthroughs; creating new technologies, products, companies and industries; and developing local economies. But those roles are not static.

A rapidly transforming world is putting pressure on all the roles that universities and research organizations play. Challenges and opportunities arise when the economy becomes more complex and digital; innovation ecosystems become more sophisticated; new business models emerge; the needs for education, training and workforce development shift; and communities connect globally around the clock and across cultures, geographies and even languages. These transitions change the nature of innovation itself. In response, new models for universities and research organizations are bubbling up all around the globe.

Understanding, anticipating and promoting change in the current models for higher education and research is imperative for competitiveness in the 21st century. The GFCC aims to frame and catalyze a global discussion on this topic through the University and Research Leadership Forum.

UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH LEADERSHIP FORUM
The GFCC University and Research Leadership Forum serves as a living think tank for identification and discussion of trends and the generation of ideas for optimizing enterprises. Through this initiative, the GFCC develops a better understanding of the contributions by global education/research institutions to innovation and competitiveness, facilitates new collaboration, and provides global visibility to relevant experiences and original thought in the field.

Presidents, chancellors, executive directors, rectors, CEOs and directors of prominent universities, laboratories and research organizations from around the globe comprise the Forum. The GFCC Executive Team serves as the Secretariat. The Forum develops an annual work plan and carries it out with the assistance of the Secretariat.

The GFCC University and Research Leadership Forum annual work plan results from conversations among the Forum and includes primary research questions to address during the year. Forum members and the GFCC Executive Team work together over the course of the year to explore the research question. The GFCC publishes an annual report that includes the findings of this collaborative research effort, and features the initiatives of Forum members and other leading education and research organizations. Topics to be discussed by the Forum include university-industry partnerships, how to foster entrepreneurship, new models for intellectual property management and engagement with society.
Every year, the Forum convenes once for a moderated conversation to review findings and plan for the coming year. Activities over the year are coordinated online and through a series of teleconferences. The GFCC provides the necessary project management infrastructure for activities. Forum members provide the resources for implementation of its research agenda.

CONTEXT AND INITIAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Universities and research organizations play an integral role in driving regional, national and global competitiveness. Through the central roles they play in innovation and value creation, they truly constitute the key economic growth engines of the knowledge economy. Indeed, at the same time universities drive innovation, they are being completely transformed by it.

TASK FORCES IN THE FORUM
Two task forces have been established to combine research efforts in the core areas of interest for the forum.

The task force “Optimizing Innovation Alliances” is reviewing different models that universities use to engage and work with industry, government and other key stakeholders in innovation ecosystems. It covers issues such as research agreements, joint ventures, IP licensing, venturing, consortiums and more. The goal for this effort is to develop an operational model to enable Forum members to scale-up proven solutions identified within the group.

The task force “Leveraging Extreme Innovation” is identifying and analyzing new and emerging models for big science and technology projects, leading global initiatives and their stakeholders in philanthropy, industry, government and research. The objective is to develop suggestions and guidelines for Forum members and universities in general to leverage their participation in extreme innovation projects.

Opposite page: Researcher at University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego) conducting research experiment. UC San Diego is a founding member of the Forum. Credit: Erik Jepsen/UC San Diego Publications.

Above: Attendees of the inaugural meeting of the University and Research Leadership Forum. Leaders from 38 universities attended and were joined by the GFCC Board members and a select group of business leaders.
Named after engineer, military leader and public administrator Sir John Monash, Monash University was established by an Act of Parliament in 1958. Established in Melbourne, Monash is a youthful organisation enthusiastic, optimistic and accessible with a total enrolment of 70,071 students.

Monash is consistently ranked among the top 100 universities worldwide and in line with its vision and strategy for the future, Monash will continue to drive for improvement. The ambitions of the Monash strategic plan outline the international excellence in research and education that will be developed from a deeply internationalised, enterprising and inclusive university. Their commitment to collaboration with industry, government, university and community partners across the world is essential to the way Monash aims to realise its goals.

Monash Innovation helps industry, government and community groups connect with Monash researchers and students. The goal in mind is to allow Monash researchers to share their discoveries with the world, and develop innovative solutions to the problems facing our communities, our nation and our globe.

Monash University’s multidisciplinary research and world-leading facilities can address unmet market and community needs. Monash works with partners to identify major challenges, and develops strategies and teams to deliver sustainable impact.

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
President

Professor Margaret Gardner is President and Vice Chancellor of Monash University.

Prior to joining Monash, Professor Gardner was President and Vice Chancellor of RMIT. She has extensive academic experience, having held various leadership positions in Australian universities throughout her career, including the University of Queensland and Griffith University.

Professor Gardner is Deputy Chair of Universities Australia and a Director of the Group of Eight Universities. She is also a Director of Infrastructure Victoria and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG), and was recently made a member of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Inclusion and Diversity Committee.

Professor Gardner has previously been chair of Museum Victoria and chaired the Strategic Advisory Committee and the Expert Panel of the Office of Learning and Teaching (Federal Government Department of Education and Training). She has also been a member of various other boards and committees, including the Australian-American Fulbright Commission, the ANZAC Centenary Advisory Board and the International Education Advisory Committee, which led to the Chaney Report.

In 2007, Professor Gardner was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in recognition of service to tertiary education, particularly in the areas of university governance and gender equity, and to industrial relations in Queensland.
Founded in 1948, PUCRS is a reference in higher education and research in the country and in the world. A Marist university of excellence, aimed at the comprehensive education of students, in their religious, humanistic, scientific, professional and citizen dimensions, which contribute to the development and progress of Rio Grande do Sul and Brazil. Located in Porto Alegre, the capital of Rio Grande do Sul, PUCRS campus offers a true university experience in an environment that implements learning research and growth. PUCRS offers 51 undergraduate programs, more than 1,000 options for certificate courses, 24 Master’s and 21 Doctorate programs.

Tecnopuc—PUCRS’ Science and Technology Park (Tecnopuc) fosters research and innovation by means of concerted actions joining the University, public and private organizations and the government.

Tecnopuc is part of PUCRS’ Innovation and Entrepreneurship Network, Inovapucrs, which is composed by a series of activities and structures that work in synergy to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship at the University.

More than 120 companies and institutions, totaling more than 6,600 professionals, are established in the two park locations. In Porto Alegre, its area is 11.5 hectares, with over 50,000 m² of constructed area. In Viamão, in the metropolitan area, its area is 15 hectares, with 35,000 m² of constructed area.

Tecnopuc is multisectoral and gathers projects, in the key areas of research and development of PUCRS: Information and Communication Technology (ICT); Energy and Environment; Life Sciences; Creative Industry.

MISSION
Based on human rights, on the principles of Christianity, and on the tradition of Marist education, the Mission of PUCRS is to produce and disseminate knowledge and promote human and professional development, driven by quality and relevance, with the objective of developing a just and fraternal society.

VISION
In 2022, PUCRS will be reference at both national and international levels for the quality of the education it offers and for the relevance of its research, committed to innovation and sustainable development, thus promoting the full education of students and contributing to scientific, cultural, social and economic development.

Dr. Evílázio Teixeira
Rector

Dr. Evílázio Francisco Borges Teixeira is a Professor of Theology and Philosophy, with an emphasis on Hermeneutics, working mainly in the areas of religion, education, university, spirituality and the person. Since December 2016, he has been Rector of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Dr. Teixeira is a writer and Professor of Theology and Philosophy, with a Masters and Doctoral Degree in Systematic Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome) and a Masters and Ph.D. in Philosophy from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas - Angelicum (Rome). He has studied languages such as Italian, English and French at Scuola Dante Alighieri - Rome, Center Studies of English - Dublin and Institut Catholique de Paris. He participated in two educational missions in India (2011) and in Norway (2012), promoted by the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is also a Board Member of the Brazilian Union of Education and Assistance (2013-2016). He was part of the Federasul Board of Directors of 2012 to 2014.

From 2002 to 2004, Dr. Teixeira served as Director of the Pastoral and Solidarity Center of PUCRS, and in December 2004, and was promoted to the post of Vice-Rector until 2016.
Founded in 1878 by Bishop Isaac Hellmuth, The Western University of London Ontario opened its doors to students for the first time in 1881 with four faculties—Arts, Divinity, Law and Medicine. As of 2016, over 27,000 students study at eleven different faculties.

Western aspires to be a leading educational institution in sustainability and stewardship by embedding sustainable practices into its curriculum, operations, and research. With several initiatives covering Energy & Climate, Waste Reduction, Eating on Campus, Buildings & Green Space, Transportation, UTOSS (initiative to reduce paper waste), Water, Sustainable Procurement and Fair Trade Campus, Western has been awarded multiple times for its commitment to sustainability.

The storied past at Western is filled with incredibly notable events that have contributed to global advancement. Sir Frederick Banting was at Western in 1920 when he wrote the 25 words that led to his discovery of insulin. In 1932, Canada’s first French immersion program began at Western, which is still in operation today. Ivan Smith led researchers at Western in 1951, where the team developed the world’s first ‘cobalt bomb’ to treat cancer. This treatment has since increased the cure rate for cervical cancer from 25 percent to 75 percent.

Through its Richard Ivey School of Business, founded in 2012, Western has remained a leader in business education since the university’s establishment. In 1998, Western opened North America’s first campus in Hong Kong for a business school. In addition, the university contributes to the medical community through an HIV vaccine developed by Dr. Chil-Yong Kang in 2012.

From the initial aspirations of Bishop Hellmuth to the internationally known research of top scholars today, Western’s academic leaders have always looked to the future in shaping the university.

**Dr. Amit Chakma**
**President and Vice Chancellor**

Dr. Amit Chakma is the 10th President & Vice Chancellor of Western University. President Chakma arrived at Western in July 2009 after serving the University of Waterloo since 2001 as Vice-President, Academic & Provost, and as a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering. Prior to that, he served as Dean of Engineering and then Vice-President (Research) and International Liaison Officer at the University of Regina. He began his academic career as a professor of chemical and petroleum engineering at the University of Calgary. On November 22, 2012, Western’s Board of Governors re-appointed Amit to a second term as President extending to June 30, 2019.

Dr. Chakma is a graduate of the Algerian Petroleum Institute (Dip. Ing., 1982) and the University of British Columbia (Master of Applied Science, 1984 and Ph.D., chemical engineering, 1987). The author of more than 100 articles, he is an expert in areas related to petroleum research and energy management. His research interests include mass transfer, gas separation, gas processing, membrane separation, petroleum waste management, greenhouse gas control technology, and energy and environmental systems modeling.
The University of Waterloo was established in July of 1957 as the Waterloo College Associate Faculties, which was a semi-autonomous organization within Waterloo College, within Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, and a former affiliate of the University of Western Ontario. In 1959, the Waterloo College Associate Faculties formally separated from Waterloo College and became a university with the passage of the University of Waterloo Act. In 1959, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario passed an act which formally split the Associated Faculties from Waterloo College, and re-established it as the University of Waterloo. The governance was modelled on the University of Toronto Act of 1906, which established a bicameral system of university government consisting of a senate, responsible for academic policy, and a board of governors exercising exclusive control over financial policy and having formal authority in all other matters. The president, appointed by the board, was to act as the institution’s chief executive officer and act as a liaison between the two groups. This university was established in response to the need for new engineers and technicians to contribute to Canada’s growing, post-war economy.

Unwavering commitment to innovation in research, learning and experiential education makes University of Waterloo a celebrated source of talent and new ventures. A research powerhouse and the engine of one of the world’s top-25 startup ecosystems, Waterloo offers the world’s largest co-operative education program, a uniquely entrepreneurial culture and a dynamic learning environment for 36,500 undergraduate and graduate students. The University of Waterloo’s co-op program allows students to integrate their education with relevant work experiences, now with more than 19,000 co-op students and 5,200 employers. The University is also a member of U15, a group of Canadian research-intensive universities. Championing innovation and collaboration, Waterloo builds a better future for Canada and the world.

Dr. Feridun Hamdullahpur
President and Vice Chancellor

Feridun Hamdullahpur was appointed president and Vice Chancellor of the University of Waterloo on March 11, 2011.

A professor of mechanical engineering, Professor Hamdullahpur earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Istanbul, Turkey and his Ph.D. in chemical engineering at the Technical University of Nova Scotia. He was named a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering in June, 2014.

Dr. Hamdullahpur’s central motivation is ensuring that the societal impact of university education, research and scholarship is maximized through constant reform and innovation in the higher education sector.

His focus at the University of Waterloo is to build on the University’s strengths in co-operative education, research, entrepreneurship and equity to ensure Waterloo is recognized as one of the world’s top innovation universities. In 2016, the University of Waterloo was named Canada’s most innovative university for the 25th consecutive year by Maclean’s Magazine.

In 2015, Dr. Hamdullahpur was appointed chair of the new Leadership Council for Digital Infrastructure, an ambitious initiative to build a world-leading digital infrastructure ecosystem for Canada. He is one of 10 global university presidents helping to lead the United Nations’ HeforShe IMPACT 10x10x10 initiative to promote gender equity.

Dr. Hamdullahpur was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013.
The University of Helsinki is the most prominent higher education institution in Finland, and an international scientific community of more than 40,000 students and researchers. In international university rankings, the University of Helsinki typically ranks among the top 100. In 2016, the University of Helsinki placed 56th in the Shanghai Ranking, 91st in both the Times Higher Education World University Ranking and QS World University Ranking. The University of Helsinki is the only Finnish university to be a member of the League of European Research Universities, or LERU, an association of 23 leading European universities promoting the conditions and opportunities for basic research in Europe.

The University of Helsinki employs approximately 7,500 people. Of them, 62 percent represent teaching and research staff. The University produces in excess of 10,389 publications every year, a large majority in international collaboration. The University of Helsinki has 11 faculties, covering most fields of study except business and engineering.

The university seeks solutions for global challenges and creates new ways of thinking for the best of humanity. Through the power of science, the University has contributed to society, education and welfare since 1640.

Prof. Jukka Kola
Rector, University of Helsinki

Professor Jukka Kola wants the University to become even more international. “Internationality is not an end in itself, but rather a means to boost the University’s teaching and research,” Kola emphasises. According to the Rector, a more international approach would bring new ideas and methods in its wake. “Finland isn’t home to all wisdom. External influences may be crucial to the University’s success,” he says.

Professor Kola is satisfied that the University of Helsinki has made it into the top 100 in the international university reputation ranking.

“The University has over 30 international Master’s programmes, whose content, attractiveness and visibility must now be improved. It is the only way to boost international applications,” he points out.

“While working in the best interests of the world, especially through its solid research and the solutions produced, the University must also place more and more emphasis on developing teaching and learning—in the best interests of students. This is where the excellent Teachers’ Academy takes on a big role”, says Kola.

Professor Kola emphasises that the thousands of students graduating annually from the University are the greatest and most direct form of community relations and impact.

Professor Kola has served as professor of agricultural policy from 1992 as well as a part-time vice-rector from 2010 until his rectorship. Kola was the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry from 2004 to 2009. He is the 137th Rector of the University of Helsinki.
As one of Europe’s leading research universities, LMU looks back on 500 years of tradition and forward to the challenges and responsibilities ahead. Its excellence in teaching and research embraces a wide diversity of fields—from the humanities and cultural studies through law, economics and social sciences to medicine and natural sciences. An intense interdisciplinary approach fosters the innovation so critical to our global future.

LMU’s faculty—whether they are early career professors or internationally renowned prize-winners—form the foundation of the University’s distinguished record in research. Their expertise, dedication, and creativity underpin the University’s success in the Germany-wide Excellence Initiative, a competition in which LMU has won the largest amount of grant support awarded to a single institution. These resources are being used to enhance our shared pursuit of knowledge, a constantly evolving process.

LMU is home to students from all parts of Germany and more than 130 countries around the globe. They benefit from the University’s uniquely wide array of study programs and its strong focus on research. At all stages of academic training we emphasize the links between research and course content. Our students view their studies as a springboard to a rewarding career, not least because Munich is one of Germany’s major centers for technology and the media.

Academic diversity thrives in an environment that encompasses social skills alongside a critical awareness of values and history. This includes the Munich legacy of the Weisse Rose, the student-based resistance group that opposed Nazism.

Dr. Bernd Huber
President

Dr. Bernd Huber, born 1960 in Wuppertal/Germany, is Professor for Public Finance, and since 2002 President of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) München. He holds a degree in economics from the University Gießen (1984), and received his Ph.D. (Dr. rer. pol.) in 1988 at the University of Würzburg. He completed his post-doctoral thesis in 1994. In the same year, he accepted the Chair in Public Finance at LMU München, and was acting as dean of the faculty before he got elected president. Among his numerous functions, he is also a member of several advisory and strategic councils, of the Scientific Council to the German Ministry of Finance and of the Board of Directors of Venice International University. In addition, he has been the chairman of the League of European Research Universities from 2008 until 2014, and served as referee for the Excellence Initiatives in Spain and France.
Located in Athens, and originally founded in 1875 Smyrna, Deree – The American College of Greece is the oldest American-accredited college in Europe and the largest private college in Greece. ACG is an independent, not for profit, nonsectarian, co-educational academic institution. It is composed of three divisions, which include the PIERCE school for secondary education; the DEREE school for both undergraduate and graduate studies; and the ALBA Graduate Business School. Through its progress as an institution, ACG is now considered to be the oldest, largest comprehensive academic institution, accredited by the United States, that Europe has to offer. It is also the largest private institute of tertiary education in Greece.

PIERCE, the first division of the college, began in Smyrna (present-day Izmir) in Asia Minor as a school for girls. During World War II, the PIERCE premises were used as a hospital, with the school operating in an underground fashion. After WWII, the College returned to Hellenikon, until moving to its new campus in the Athens suburb of Aghia Paraskevi.

PIERCE won the British Council International School Award with Full Accreditation for the academic years of 2015 to 2018. Beginning on September 18, 2015, PIERCE has been working on the application process to offer the IB Diploma Program. The College was authorized to offer this program in September of 2016.

Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, a degree from the DEREE school is globally recognized as equivalent to a degree from an American university. DEREE currently offers four programs of study: School of Business, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Fine and Performing Arts, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

The ALBA school was the first non-state business school formed in Greece. It receives funding from Greek companies as a non-profit educational association, which includes over 85 Greek corporations. In 2012, ALBA Graduate Business School launched its partnership with the American College of Greece to offer graduate business education at the college.

Dr. David Horner
President

David Horner, Ph.D., assumed the duties of president of The American College of Greece on July 1, 2008 and was officially inaugurated as the College’s 7th president on March 7, 2009. Previously, Dr. Horner served as president of North Park University in Chicago from 1987-2004. During his presidency, North Park’s enrollment tripled, a range of master’s degree programs and one doctoral program were initiated, several major campus improvement projects were completed, and the endowment grew six-fold.

Dr. Horner previously served as president of Barrington College, his undergraduate alma mater, from 1979-1985; at the time of his appointment, he was the youngest college or university president in America. He has held faculty positions at the University of Rhode Island, Barrington College, Harvard University and North Park University.

Dr. Horner received a bachelor’s degree, summa cum laude, in philosophy from Barrington College, a MA from the University of Rhode Island, and a MBA and a Ph.D. in higher education administration and policy analysis from Stanford University.
The University of Hong Kong (HKU) is an English-medium, research-led, comprehensive university strategically located in China and one of the fastest growing regions of the world. HKU provides world-class education and research environment with a tradition that exemplifies the core value and best practices of the international academic community. Our aspiration to become the “Asia’s Global University” is an explicit goal set out in the document “Asia’s Global University. HKU: the next decade, our vision for 2016-2025” under the vision of [3+1] I’s, viz. Innovation, Interdisciplinarity & Internationalisation converging to create Impact. We will leverage our incredible talents, assets, and experiences in strengthening ties with strategic partners overseas and in Mainland China in order to foster future global citizens and academic leaders who are equipped to tackle grand challenges of a rapidly changing world. We have a strong international focus but also a distinct Asian perspective. As such, HKU is in a unique position to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and China’s Belt and Road Initiative through innovative talent development, research, knowledge exchange and multilateral collaborations.

Our campus reflects both the vibrancy and plurality of Hong Kong and the diverse and cosmopolitan nature of a modern, progressive Asian society. Our programmes are benchmarked against leading global institutions and are internationally competitive. We are committed to training and nurturing future leaders and talents equipped to tackle the grand challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Our deep connections with strategic partners all over the world coupled with our distinct advantages in Greater China provide exceptional opportunities for students and staff to make meaningful contributions to the building of knowledge and the advancement of society. By so doing, not only are we supporting student and staff engagement with the global community, we are training them to effectively apply their skills and talents locally and globally.

Prof. Peter Mathieson
President and Vice Chancellor

Professor Peter Mathieson is the fifteenth President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, and assumed office in April 2014. Born and educated in the United Kingdom, he was awarded an unconditional offer of a place to read Medicine at the London Hospital Medical College in 1978 and qualified from the University of London with First Class Honours in 1983. He was awarded a Ph.D. by the University of Cambridge in 1992. He then became Director of Studies for Clinical Medicine at Christ’s College, Cambridge. He moved to Bristol in 1995 as the foundation Professor of Renal Medicine at the University of Bristol and Honorary Consultant Nephrologist, North Bristol NHS Trust.

Professor Mathieson was elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 1999. In 2007, he was elected as President of the Renal Association and also became Head of the University Department of Clinical Science at North Bristol. In the same year, he was appointed as Director of Research & Development for the North Bristol NHS Trust.

In 2008, Professor Mathieson was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Bristol, and in May 2012, he also became the founding Director of Bristol Health Partners.
Established in the late 11th century, the University of Bologna is considered to be the oldest university in the Western world. Beginning at a time when masters of grammar, rhetoric and logic began to devote themselves to law, the university observed and participated in the development of the European world. Today, the Alma Mater Studiorum paves the way for innovation through an increasingly rich programme catalogue, cutting-edge research and a constant and increasingly broad international perspective.

With a community of more than 81,000 students, the university is among the largest in Italy, offering more than 200 degree programs and two-year specialized courses across 33 departments and 11 schools. 4,000 graduates are enrolled in Ph.D.s and 3rd cycle programmes. The university also encourages its students to take up internships in sectors spanning industry, commerce, public institutions and professional firms, and runs a job placement service for graduates that supports their entry into the job market.

As a comprehensive research university, the Alma Mater invests in the multidisciplinary cross-cultural approach and in the inseparable connection between research and teaching. The University of Bologna tasks itself not only to produce and transmit culture for the present, but to anticipate and guide demands, needs and values that have yet to be revealed, and for which it does not yet have sure strategies.

The University of Bologna will join GFCC members Imperial College of London and UC San Diego as a founding member of our University and Research Leadership Forum, a new initiative included in the 2016 Action Agenda that was launched at the close of the 2015 Global Innovation Summit and GFCC Annual Meeting in Saudi Arabia.

The University and Research Leadership Forum will serve as a living think-tank, discussing and promoting ideas on the role of universities as economic drivers and imperatives for competitiveness. The first meeting will be held in London during the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Professor Francesco Ubertini
Rector, University Of Bologna

After a Ph.D. in Mechanics of Structures at the University of Bologna, a post-doc study grant and a research fellowship, Professor Francesco Ubertini became university researcher in Construction Sciences at the then-Faculty of Engineering and, from 2001 to 2007, associate professor. In 2007, he became a full professor of Mechanics of Solids and Structures at the University of Bologna.

From 2010 to 2015, he was Head of the Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering (DICAM) and a member of the Academic Senate of the University of Bologna, as representative of the Heads of the Technological Area. From 2012 to 2015, he was also a member of the Research Group and the Internationalisation Group.

Professor Ubertini is Vice President of UniAdrion since 2016. In 2016, he was awarded the Thomas Hart Benton Mural Medallion by the President of Indiana University in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the partnership between Indiana University and the University of Bologna. In the same year, he was admitted into the Golden Register in his home city of Perugia.

He is a member of the Academy of Sciences of the Institute of Bologna, of the Observatory of the Magna Charta Universitatum Council for the period 2016-2020 and member of the Academic board of the Ph.D. degree programme (third cycle programme) in civil, chemical, environmental and materials engineering and tutor of the University of Bologna’s Collegio Superiore.
Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) was established in 1997 and has grown to be one of the most prominent private universities in Malaysia. Offering a wide range of industry-relevant engineering, science and technology programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, it aims to produce well-rounded graduates with excellent leadership qualities and communication abilities. UTP has produced more than 14,000 graduates and currently has an enrolment of over 1,200 foundation, 6,000 undergraduates and 1,200 postgraduates from more than 66 countries around the world.

In less than two decades since it was established, the university has attained prestigious national and international recognitions. UTP has made its debut in the 2016/17 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings, entering in the 601-650 band. It is the only Malaysian private university to make it into the rankings. UTP has also made its first appearance in the QS Top 50 under 50 and is ranked in the 91-100 band. The ranking is based on the world’s best universities that are less than 50 years old.

The university has improved its standing in the QS Asian University Rankings 2016, moving up to 127th place from the ranking range of 151–160 last year. UTP was ranked 288th for the 2015 QS World University Rankings by Faculty for its Engineering and Technology Faculty. UTP has also made a commendable achievement in the QS World University Rankings by Subject in 2016. QS has recognised UTP as amongst the world’s elite institutions in four of the 42 subjects featured in the rankings. UTP is also rated a four-star institution by QS, with a maximum 5-star rating in 5 areas out of 8, namely employability, internationalisation, innovations, facilities and inclusiveness. Apart from the QS rankings, UTP has also, for the first time, made the list in The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2016-2017.

Professor Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim bin Abdul Mutalib
Vice Chancellor, UTP

Professor Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim bin Abdul Mutalib graduated from University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia with a Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering.

At Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Professor Dr. bin Abdul Mutalib was appointed as Lecturer II and became the founding Head of Programme for Chemical Engineering in 1998. He designed the curriculum for the Chemical Engineering programme and developed necessary support resources. In 2000, he was appointed as the Director of Research and Consultancy. Among his immediate responsibilities included development of the Research & Development (R&D) and Consultancy master plan for UTP.

In view of his past experience and contributions in management positions, he was reappointed to the university management position as the Dean of Faculty of Engineering in 2013. During his tenure, the faculty of engineering continued to progress strongly and has improved its QS World University ranking to the world’s top 300.

At the national level, he was involved in the development of Programme Standard for Engineering and Technology Programme for Malaysian Quality Agency in 2012, which is used as the standard for national accreditation for all universities. Due to his immense contribution, he had the privilege of working as a Reviewer with numerous groups including the National Research Grant Schemes such as IRPA, E-Science, FRGS and TechnoFund.

On 1st November 2017, he assumed the position of Vice Chancellor for Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS.
Located in Kuala Lumpur, the University of Malaya is highly esteemed as the oldest university in Malaysia. Malaya’s history traces to Singapore, through the establishment of King Edward VII College of Medicine in 1905. Malaya’s roots began in 1949 in Singapore when it merged with King Edward VII College and Raffles College (est. 1929).

Within its first decade, Malaya experienced much growth, which resulted in two designated divisions within the university. One formed in Singapore, while the other was created in Kuala Lumpur. In 1960, it was decided that the two divisions would become autonomous universities, thus creating the National University of Singapore and the University of Malaya. Legislation established the University of Malaya in 1962.

In 2012, the university received autonomy status from the Ministry of Higher Education. Today, Malaya has a faculty team of over 2,500. Studies at Malaya range over a wide variety of disciplines, including: Faculty of Law, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Built Environment, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Faculty of Business and Accountancy, Faculty of Education, Academy of Malay Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Academy of Islamic Studies, Cultural Centre, Sports Centre, and Center for Foundation Studies.

As of 2017, the University of Malaya maintains a ranking as 114th in the world by the QS World University Rankings, establishing it as the top-ranked institution of learning in Malaysia.

Datuk Ir (Dr) Abdul Rahim Hj Hashim, FASc
Vice Chancellor

Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Abdul Rahim Hj Hashim was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Malaya on November 1, 2017. He graduated in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom in 1976 and later received an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering from the same university in 2006.

He worked for PETRONAS for 32 years from September 1976 to December 2008 and held some important and key positions. As a professional engineer, he sat on the Board of Engineers Malaysia and was Chairman of the Engineering Accreditation Council of Malaysia (2007–2012). He is currently an Advisor of Institute of Materials Malaysia, a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, a member of the Board of Engineers National Monitoring Committee, a board member of SIRIM and Deleum Berhad, a public listed company and a Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau MyCEB’s Kesatria.

In October 2016 he was admitted as a William Pitt Fellow by the Pembroke College of Cambridge. He is the Past President of the International Gas Union (2009-2012), the Immediate Past President of the Malaysian Gas Association (2003-2015) and Past President of the Asia Pacific Natural Gas Vehicle Association (2003–2009). He attended the Harvard Advance Management Program in 1997.
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), also known as Tecnológico de Monterrey or simply as Tec, is a private, nonsectarian and coeducational multi-campus university based in Monterrey, Mexico. Founded in 1943 by industrialists in the city of Monterrey, ITESM has since grown to include 31 campuses in 25 cities throughout the country. Since its foundation, it has become one of the most recognized of its kind in Latin America.

ITESM was the first university to be connected to the Internet in Latin America and in the Spanish-speaking world. Its business school maintains the top ranking in the region, according to The Economist. It is also one of the leaders in patent applications among Mexican universities. Students at the Ignacio A. Santos School of Medicine have consistently achieved some of the highest marks in the National Exam for Medical Residencies. The medical school offers the only dual MD-Ph.D. program available in Mexico, which is in partnership with the Houston Methodist Hospital.

The Institute retains eight international sites in the Americas, in cities such as Buenos Aires, Argentina; Bogotá and Medellín, Colombia; Guayaquil and Quito, Ecuador; Panama City, Panama; Lima, Peru; and Miami in the United States.

ITSEM also possesses 15 liaison offices with the objective to forge international partnerships and negotiate professional internships, as well as knowledge exchanges. These partnerships take place with local universities, companies, and civil institutions. Currently, liaison offices are located in Belgium, Canada, China, France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, and the United States, in a total of 17 cities.

Salvador Alva has been a renowned business leader with a solid career in several world-class companies. Amongst his achievements, the promotion of investment for new industry entrepreneurship stands out.

After obtaining his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, he started a successful professional career at Cervecería Moctezuma, where he held several management positions in the areas of logistics, new business development, planning and marketing over ten years.

He then joined PepsiCo Group, where he led different divisions throughout 24 years of accomplished goals until he was appointed president of the Latin American region and member of the global executive board.

Throughout his successful career, he has been known for promoting a culture of organizational transformation that focuses upon the development of skills, empowerment, innovation, and entrepreneurship. In 2005, due to his entrepreneurial vision and management skills, Fortune magazine recognized him as one of the most influential minority leaders in the United States.

On September 12, 2011, the board of the Tecnológico de Monterrey System appointed him new president of the Tecnológico de Monterrey System, taking office on October 3 of that year. As of December, 2013, he has been president of Tecnológico de Monterrey.
The University of Auckland is ranked internationally as New Zealand’s leading university and among the top six to eight universities in Australasia. Established in 1883 as a constituent college of the University of New Zealand, the University of Auckland places the advantages of a university education “within the reach of every man and woman of Auckland.” It is now a large, comprehensive public university, grounded in its civic roots in New Zealand’s most diverse city. Much of its special character is conferred by the University’s and the nation’s place in the Pacific, by its acknowledgement of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, and by the achievements of its predecessors. The University’s Council, staff, students, alumni, benefactors, and friends are committed to the ideal of the University as an internationally distinguished community of scholars, upholding academic freedom and institutional autonomy. The University of Auckland is dedicated to critical inquiry and intellectual discourse, to scientific discovery and a sustainable future, to social and cultural development, to social justice and equity, and to innovation and wealth creation.

The mission of the University of Auckland is to be a research-led, international university, recognized for excellence in teaching, learning, research, creative work, and administration. Additionally, for the significance of its contributions to the advancement of knowledge and its commitment to serve its local, national and international communities.

Professor McCutcheon completed his Bachelor’s degree with first class honours at Massey University in 1976, and was then appointed to the lecturing staff of that university while undertaking a Ph.D. in metabolic physiology. From 1982 to 1984 he was a postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University, New York, while the recipient of a Harkness Fellowship. His research interests included how biological processes such as foetal and neonatal growth and lactation are regulated. He was appointed Head of the Department of Animal Science at Massey University in 1990, Assistant Vice Chancellor (Research) in 1994, and Deputy Vice Chancellor in 1999.

In November 2000, Professor McCutcheon was appointed Vice Chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington. On 1 January 2005 he took up the position of Vice Chancellor of The University of Auckland. He also chairs the University’s research commercialisation company, Auckland UniServices Limited.

Professor McCutcheon has served in an advisory capacity to a number of Government agencies and producer boards, and been a director or board member of: the New Zealand Dairy Research Institute; the Wellington Regional Economic Development Trust; the Wellington College of Education; the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research; Universitas 21 and U21 Global; The University of Auckland Foundation; and the UK and US Friends of The University of Auckland. In 2004-5 he was Chair of the New Zealand Vice Chancellors’ Committee. He is presently Chair of the Universities New Zealand Research Committee.
The University of Oslo (UiO), is the oldest and largest university in Norway and is recognized as one of Northern Europe’s most prestigious universities. The University of Oslo (UiO) was founded in 1811 and is Norway’s oldest and premier institution of higher education. UiO has contributed substantially to research, innovation, and education in and outside of Norway.

Today the UiO is the country’s largest public institution of research and higher learning. UiO has ambitious goals for increasing its contribution to academic developments internationally, as well as for resolving the challenges facing society today. The overriding goal of UiO’s Strategy 2020 is to strengthen our international position as a leading research university through a close interaction across research, education, communication, and innovation.

**INNOVATION**

UiO contributes to innovation directly through commercialization of the research findings of its academic staff and students as well as through cooperation with business partners and the public sector. The most important contribution to innovation, however, is made through the education of degree candidates, excellent research, and the exchange of knowledge with important stakeholders in society.

**Dr. Ole Petter Ottersen**

Rector

Dr. Ole Petter Ottersen is the University of Oslo’s rector (President) for the period 2009–2017. Professor Ottersen graduated from the University of Oslo as MD in 1980, and gained his doctorate in medicine in 1982. He was Vice-Dean of Research at the Medical Faculty 2000–2002, and from 2002 to 2009 he headed the Centre for Molecular Biology and Neuroscience, one of Norway’s centres of excellence. Ottersen chaired a national Functional Genomics Program under the Norwegian Research Council, and from 2006 to 2009 he was Chief Editor of “Neuroscience”—the journal of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO). He chaired the Lancet-University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health whose report was launched in February 2014. Ottersen serves as a board member of the Oslo University Hospital. Professor Ottersen has received a number of awards for his research, including the Anders Jahre Medical Prize for young scientists in 1990, The Lundbeck Foundation Nordic Award for Outstanding Research 2005, and the Anders Jahre Award for Medical Research (main award) in 2008.
Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) is an academic community that helps defend and develop the human being and his cultural heritage through research, teaching and community services. Universidade Católica Portuguesa, founded in 1967, is a public, non-State funded university and a full-member of the Portuguese Rector’s Council. UCP promotes a humanist knowledge model in the Christian tradition across several areas, ranging from the life sciences and biotechnology to humanities, law, social sciences, business and economics. UCP boasts amongst its alumni a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, several of the top CEO’s in the world, and recognized leaders in politics, law, economics and the arts. It is the founding institution of the University of Saint Joseph in Macau and was involved in the setting up the Catholic University of Angola.

**EDUCATION**

Universidade Católica Portuguesa is a national university with four campuses and has a student body of nearly 11,000 students. UCP’s strategy is highly focused on internationalization, which does not simply mean attracting foreign students but a comprehensive approach to education, embracing global challenges and opportunities in research training, and creating a community of knowledge that is internationally relevant.

UCP is a top European university with faculties ranked in the Financial Times, Association of MBAs and Eduniversal rankings, amongst other rankings and accreditations. UCP works to promote excellent science, to strengthen community development, and boost the quality of higher education in Portugal while strongly engaged in the global education dialogue. Strongly committed to work with and for society, UCP is a university open to the world, laboring to enrich dialogue across disciplines, cultures and individuals.

**RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

UCP aims to serve by providing innovative ideas and excellent research and by promoting high quality education. Built locally to inspire globally, UCP has an international vocation led by the humanist Catholic tradition. UCP aims to promote research and teaching by fostering a continuous interdisciplinary dialogue that cultivates the relation between Faith and reason. In addition to the commitment to fundamental research, the University is recognized for the social impact of its research agenda and for its contribution to the formulation of policy. With an international agenda, the goal of UCP’s strategy is to advance research and impact knowledge production in several areas (Economic and Digital Culture; Environment, Health and Sustainability; Citizenship and Social Responsibility; Memory, Change and Innovation), to foster international and intersectoral cooperation, and to contribute to the global innovation agenda.

**Dr. Isabel Capeloa Gil**

Dr. Isabel Capeloa Gil is the rector of Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) for the period 2016–2020 and Full Professor of Culture Studies at the Faculty of Human Sciences. Professor Capeloa Gil studied in Lisbon (University of Lisbon), Munich (Ludwig-Maximilian University), Chicago, and holds a PhD in German Studies from UCP. Previously, she was Vice-Rector for Research and Internationalization (2012–2016) and the Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences (2005–2012).

Having grown up in Asia (Macau), Professor Capeloa Gil has a special interest in researching issues of diversity and conflict and has structured her work around the exploration of the disciplinary boundaries between literature, the arts, and other disciplines. She was a founding member and is a senior researcher at the Research Centre for Communication and Culture (CECC), where she coordinated the research group Culture, Art and Citizenship (CULTCIT). Isabel Gil is furthermore Honorary Fellow at the IGRS, School of Advanced Studies, University of London and holds a position as Invited Professor at USJ (Macau). An advocate of strengthening doctoral education, she has been involved with the Council for Doctoral Education at the European University Association. Isabel Gil has held several visiting professorships in Germany (Saarbrücken, Munich, Hamburg), Ireland (National University of Ireland), Italy (Univ. Ca Foscari, Venice), Brazil (PUC-Rio de Janeiro) and in the United States.

She believes firmly that global engagement in higher education is key to advance stronger values for a more equitable world.
Since its foundation in 1973, the University of Minho has been the main player in a multileveled innovative project: a pedagogical and organisational project which is devoted to research and social intervention. In its totality, this University includes about 19,000 students in different cycles of studies, over 1100 Ph.D. holders within a teaching and researching staff of the highest competence, and a technical and administrative structure with qualified human resources. What the University has to offer and the merits of its research centres have earned international prestige. This institution is also proud of the interaction it has with diverse social agents, namely within the economic, productive and social fabric of society.

The University's campus, as well as several of its main infrastructures, are located in Braga and Guimarães. These Portuguese cities are based in the extremely rich historical heritage of the peninsular peoples and of the very foundation of Portuguese nationality and have been able to embrace the challenges of knowledge and of modern times. Thus, Braga and Guimarães are points of reference for the identity of the region of Minho, an identity that the University takes on with pride, and from where it opens itself to the world as a multicultural and multilingual space.

It is from this reality and these surroundings that the University of Minho—this great project of knowledge—is built.

Dr. Antonio M. Cunha
Rector

Dr. Antonio M. Cunha was born in Braga, Portugal, in 1961.
Full Professor of the Polymer Engineering Department (DEP) of University of Minho (UMinho).
Research activity at IPC (Institute for Polymers and Composites—I3N Associate Laboratory). UMinho, developing several projects under the frame of national and European programmes, in the fields of structure development in polymer processing, non-conventional moulding techniques and tools and natural polymers.
Author of 120 refereed ISI-WoS papers, 3 books (editor) and 4 patents.
Dean of the School of Engineering of UMinho from 2005 to 2009.
Member of the Executive Board of PIEP (Innovation in Polymer Engineering) from 2001 to 2009 and CEIIA (Engineering and Innovation Centre for Automotive Industry) from 2005 to 2009.
Rector of University of Minho since 2009.
President of the Portuguese Rectors Conference since 2014.
Chairman of Instituto Internacional Casa de Mateus, 2010 to 2016.
Chairman of CEER Foundation (consortium Northern Portugal / Galician Universities), 2010 to 2016.
Member of the Portuguese Engineering Academy.
Golden Insignia of the University of Santiago de Compostela.
Gold Medal and Honorary Citizen of Guimarães.
Since its inception in 1973, Qatar University (QU) has served as Qatar’s primary institution of higher education. With more than 17,000 students in its ranks, it is today a beacon of higher education and academic and research excellence in the GCC region. Nine colleges — Arts and Sciences (CAS); Business and Economics (CBE); Education (CED); Engineering (CENG); Health Sciences (CHS); Law (LAWC); Medicine (CMED); Pharmacy (CPH); and Sharia and Islamic Studies (CSIS) — offer the widest range of academic programs in Qatar tailoring them to meet the needs of Qatari society — 31 Bachelors, 26 Masters, 4 Diplomas, and 6 Doctoral programs.

With the vision to be regionally recognized for distinctive excellence in education and research and to be a catalyst for the sustainable socioeconomic development of Qatar, the university is the national institution of higher education in Qatar. It provides high quality undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare competent graduates, destined to shape the future of Qatar. The university community has diverse and committed faculty who teach and conduct research, which addresses relevant local and regional challenges, advances knowledge, and contributes actively to the needs and aspirations of society.

Qatar University is advancing its goal to become a leader of economic and social development in Qatar through signed agreements, and academic partnerships with industry, government, academia, business and civil society in Qatar and beyond.

Qatar University will join GFCC members Imperial College of London and UC San Diego as a founding member of our University and Research Leadership Forum, a new initiative included in the 2016 Action Agenda that was launched at the close of the 2015 Global Innovation Summit and GFCC Annual Meeting in Saudi Arabia.

The University and Research Leadership Forum will serve as a living think-tank, discussing and promoting ideas on the role of universities as economic drivers and imperatives for competitiveness. The first meeting will be held in London during the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Dr. Hassan Rashid Al-Derham
President

Qatar University’s 6th President Dr Hassan Rashid Al-Derham is recognized for playing a major role in advancing research activity at both university and national levels.

Dr Al-Derham assumed the position on 15 June 2015. He was previously Vice-President for Research from 2007 during which he guided QU to its current position as leader of research excellence in the GCC region, which was enhanced by its continuous success in winning the largest percentage of grants in the National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) and Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP) under the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF).

He also served in several earlier roles at QU including Associate VP for Research and Head of Civil Engineering at the College of Engineering.

He holds a Ph.D. and Post-Graduate Diploma in Construction Project Management from University of South Wales, UK which followed obtaining a Master’s Degree in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech, USA. His undergraduate is in Architectural Engineering from North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University, USA.

During his term as VP for Research, Dr Al-Derham successfully developed and implemented the organization’s research policies, procedures, and priorities as well as an ambitious research road map fielding strategic national priorities.

Additionally, under his leadership, several research centers were initiated including the Gas Processing Center, Qatar Road Safety Studies Center, Qatar Mobility Innovations Center, KINDI Lab for Computing Research, Laboratory Animal Research Center, and the Biomedical Research Center. He also led the inauguration of the organization’s multi-million-dollar Research Complex.

Dr Al-Derham’s research interests include construction productivity, project optimization, legal contracts and procurement. In 2009, along with his research team, he won Best Paper of the Year in ASCE Journal of Construction Engineering and Management. He is also a member of several professional international societies and organizations.
Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) was established in 2001 as a partnership between Cornell University and Qatar Foundation. It is part of Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. WCM-Q has a tripartite mission to provide excellence in medical education, clinical care and biomedical science.

**Education:** WCM-Q’s innovative six-year Medical Program leads to the Cornell University M.D. degree. This integrated program comprises a two-year pre-medical curriculum focused on the basic sciences and a four-year medical curriculum that provides comprehensive training designed to produce some of the world’s most highly skilled physicians.

**Clinical Care:** WCM-Q educates physicians who will lead 21st century healthcare in Qatar through partnerships with Hamad Medical Corporation, Aspetar Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, Sidra Medical and Research Center, Feto Maternal Center and the Primary Health Care Centers.

**Research:** Working closely with Qatar Foundation, HMC, SIDRA and HBKU, WCM-Q is conducting cutting-edge biomedical research that has established Doha as a leading regional and international research hub. Study areas cover the continuum of basic, translational, clinical and population research, with a special focus on the most pressing health concerns facing Qatar and the region, such as obesity, diabetes and metabolic syndrome.

Javaid I. Sheikh, MD, MBA
Professor of Psychiatry and Dean

Dean Javaid Sheikh is an internationally renowned medical executive and creative thought leader in global academic medicine. During his tenure as Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) since 2010, Professor Sheikh has pioneered innovative educational and research programs enabling WCM-Q to become widely acknowledged as a leading institution preparing “Global Physicians” for the 21st century.

Dean Sheikh serves on a number of national health policy committees including the Qatar Council on Health Practitioners Board. Professor Sheikh also co-edits Innovations in Global Health Professions Education journal, providing an international platform for profiling conceptual and technological innovations in global health professions education.

Prior to joining WCM-Q in 2007, Dean Sheikh built a distinguished career at the prestigious Stanford University School of Medicine in California as a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Associate Dean and Chairman of the Board of the Palo Alto Institute for Research and Education.
King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is an international, graduate-level research university located along the Red Sea in Saudi Arabia. KAUST is dedicated to advancing science and technology through interdisciplinary research, education and innovation. Curiosity-driven and goal-oriented research is conducted by students, faculty, scientists and engineers to address the world’s pressing scientific and technological challenges related to food, water, energy and the environment.

KAUST was founded in 2009. By 2013, it was reported that the university was one of the fastest-growing in the world, with respect to high-quality output of research.

Through distinct research collaboration and education at the graduate level, KAUST strives for the advancement of science and technology. Such advancements include innovation in economic and social institutions in Saudi Arabia and beyond. Knowledge dissemination for positive initiatives involve the following core values at KAUST: collaboration on global challenges, contribution to science innovation, and promotion of a thriving international community.

KAUST’s success thrives on interdisciplinary collaboration across nationalities and cultural backgrounds, within its collegiate community. In pursuit of its advancement mission, KAUST looks to its Academic Divisions and Research Centers. The university invests in its participants to generate innovative ideas of tomorrow in science and engineering. This is accomplished through long-term research programs which catalyse the intellectual potential of seeking knowledge.

The Academic Divisions’ prowess in research extends through the graduate program at KAUST. After exposure to the university’s cutting-edge facilities and top research capabilities, graduates of each program are able to build upon their experiences throughout the global knowledge economy.

Nadhmi A. Al-Nasr began his career with Saudi Aramco in 1978, just days after obtaining his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM). A third-generation Saudi Aramco employee, Al-Nasr spent his first three years in Engineering Services. In 1981, he began working on the execution of the Kingdom’s Master Gas System. In 1984, Al-Nasr worked on the refinery program, Southwest Refinery and later on the Ras Tanura Refinery through until 1986 when he was promoted to project manager and responsible for all Ghawar oil field capital programs. In 1991, he began managing the massive and aggressive crude expansion program in the Ghawar oilfield, ensuring the Kingdom’s ability to fill the production gap caused by the loss of oil output from Iraq and Kuwait during the Gulf War. This entire program was commissioned and completed in 1993. In 1995, became Manager of the Shaybah Development Program. After the completion of the Shaybah project, Al-Nasr became manager of the Facilities and Planning Department until 2001, and later transferred to Corporate Planning as manager of the Long Range Planning Department where he was responsible for preparing company strategy and business plans. In May 2003, he became Managing Director of Saudi Petroleum Overseas Ltd. London and the following year was named Executive Director of Community Services.

In 2006, Al-Nasr was named Vice President of Engineering Services and in the same year, became Vice President of the KAUST Development Program, a long-held dream of King Abdullah.

Al-Nasr served as the Interim President of KAUST at the University’s inception in 2006 and since 2008, has served as KAUST Executive Vice President of Administration and Finance. KAUST opened its state-of-the-art campus in September 2009 and graduated its inaugural class in December 2010. In July 2017, Al-Nasr was appointed interim president of KAUST.
A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU’s mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to over 9,500 undergraduate, postgraduate, executive and professional, full- and part-time students, SMU is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU has an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, and relevant multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities from USA, Europe, China and India, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector, through its research institutes, centres and labs. SMU’s city campus is a state-of-the-art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. www.smu.edu.sg.

Professor Arnoud De Meyer
President

Professor De Meyer is the fourth President of Singapore Management University. Previously, he was Director of Judge Business School at the University of Cambridge. He was associated for 23 years with INSEAD and was founding Dean of INSEAD’s Asia Campus in Singapore.

Professor De Meyer has a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, MBA and Ph.D. in Management from the University of Ghent in Belgium. He also pursued his studies as a visiting scholar at the Sloan School of Management, MIT (USA). His research interests are in manufacturing and technology strategy; the implementation of new manufacturing technologies; the management of R&D; how innovation can be managed more effectively; project management under conditions of high uncertainty; management and innovation in Asia; the globalisation of Asian firms; and e-readiness in Europe. His work is published widely in academic journals and he has written several books.

Professor De Meyer serves on several boards including the Human Capital Leadership Institute, National Research Foundation, Singapore International Chamber of Commerce, Singapore Symphonia Company Limited and Temasek Management Services. He is an external director of Dassault Systèmes SA (France) and also Chair of the Strategic Advisory Committee of VITO, the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (Belgium).
With its 26,000 enrolled students, the University of Zurich (UZH) is Switzerland’s largest university. Founded in the year 1833, UZH was Europe’s first university to be established by a democratic political system; today, UZH is one of the foremost universities in the German-speaking world. Made up of seven faculties covering some 100 different subject areas, the University offers a wide variety of Bachelor’s, Master’s and Ph.D. programs. In addition, UZH’s continuing education programs offer excellent learning opportunities.

EXCEPTIONAL
As a member of the “League of European Research Universities” (LERU), the University of Zurich belongs to Europe’s most prestigious research institutions. Numerous distinctions highlight the University’s international renown in the fields of medicine, immunology, genetics, neuroscience and structural biology as well as in economics. To date, the Nobel Prize has been conferred on twelve UZH scholars.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE
The academic excellence of the University of Zurich brings benefits to both the public and the private sectors not only in the Canton of Zurich, but throughout Switzerland. Knowledge is shared in a variety of ways: in addition to granting the general public access to its twelve museums and many of its libraries, the University makes findings from cutting-edge research available to the public in accessible and engaging lecture series and panel discussions.
Imperial College London is one of the world’s leading universities. Our mission is to achieve enduring excellence in research and education in science, engineering, medicine and business for the benefit of society.

Imperial staff and students work across disciplinary boundaries and collaborate each year with academic, corporate and charitable organizations in over 100 countries. With our partners we define excellence in new and unexpected ways to improve health and wellbeing, understand the natural world, engineer novel solutions and lead the data revolution. The rigor of an Imperial education gives our students the ability to apply their knowledge to real-world problems. We bring pioneering discoveries, innovations and inventions to society and are recognized as one of the most impactful and innovative universities in the world.

Imperial is a founding member of GFCC’s University and Research Leadership Forum and host of the 2016 GFCC Annual Meeting and Global Innovation Summit.

**Prof. Alice P. Gast**

President

Professor Alice P. Gast became President of Imperial College London in September 2014.

Prior to her appointment at Imperial, Professor Gast was the 13th President of Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, USA, from August 2006 to August 2014. Other leadership roles include serving as the Vice-President for Research and Associate Provost and Robert T. Haslam Chair in Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 2001–2006.

Professor Gast’s academic interest is in surface and interfacial phenomena, in particular the behavior of complex fluids. She has co-authored numerous scientific publications and a classic textbook on colloid and surface phenomena. She was a faculty member at Stanford University from 1985–2001, being promoted to full professor in 1995. She was also affiliated with the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory.

Professor Gast is a member of a number of international advisory committees and boards including the Board of Trustees for the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia; the Academic Research Council for the Singapore Ministry of Education; and the Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of Malaysia. She was made a United States Science Envoy to the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2010. In 2012, she was appointed to the board of directors of Chevron Corporation.
King’s College London is a public research university located in London, United Kingdom, and a founding constituent college of the federal University of London. King’s was founded in 1829 by King George IV and the Duke of Wellington and received its royal charter in the same year.

King’s is regarded as one of the world’s leading multidisciplinary research universities, ranked 21st in the world by the 2016/17 QS World University Rankings and 27th in the world by the 2015/16 Times Higher Education. Looking ahead at a world that depends on being better connected, King’s already has the advantage of having disciplines that connect across different cultures, subjects, institutions and geographies.

**Professor Ed Byrne AC**
**President & Principal**

Professor Ed Byrne has been President & Principal at King’s College London since 2014. He began his career in Adelaide after graduating with first class honours from the University of Tasmania in 1974. He was made Neurology Registrar at Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1978. He finished his neurology training and completed his doctorate at the Institute of Neurology Queen Square in 1982 and was awarded the Queen Square prize for neurological research. In 1983, he was appointed Director of Neurology at St Vincent’s Hospital and Professor of Clinical Neurology at the University of Melbourne in 1992.

The University of Melbourne awarded him a Doctor of Science, a higher degree conferred in recognition of a demonstrated record of research excellence. He completed a Masters of Business Administration in 2005. He has honorary professorships from UCL, Warwick University and Peking University and Honorary Degrees from the University of Adelaide, Warwick University and Western University. He is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and Technology and the Australian Academy of Health and Medicine and is a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology and the American Neurological Association.
The University of Southampton is by any measure one of the world’s leading universities. We are consistently placed in the top 100 universities in the world by the QS World University Rankings. Southampton attracts high-quality students from over 135 countries, who now account for around 30 per cent of our student population. Outside of the UK we educate students through our Malaysia Campus and collaborations with prestigious partners such as Xiamen University in China, Singapore Institute of Management, Nanyang Technological University, Worldwide Universities Network members and through our Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). As students become graduates of the University they join our wider, global community of over 200,000 alumni and are able access a network that can provide further opportunities across the world.

Over 97 per cent of our research assessed in the latest Research Excellence Framework as being world-leading and internationally excellent, confirms our status as one of the UK’s leading research-intensive universities. This kind of international outlook and reputation attracts staff from across the world, with over 25 per cent of Southampton staff coming from outside the UK. It also generates a rich network of international collaborations; we have in excess of 500 research links with overseas partners and over 50 per cent of our published research papers are internationally co-authored.

The University has a strong culture of enterprise and with over 40 per cent of our research activities involving industry collaboration. More than 150 international businesses have chosen us as a major research partner. In the past few years, strategic partnerships have been developed or expanded with GSK, Rolls-Royce, QinetiQ, IBM, BAE Systems, Airbus, Microsoft, DePuy, Philips, Vitacress, Eli Lilly, and Google, to name but a few. We are renowned for commercialising our research and our business incubation partnership SETsquared is the most influential university business incubator globally.

Southampton has an extensive portfolio of partnerships across the world and through our research we influence governments, businesses and individuals to make a real impact on society’s biggest challenges.
With a progressive approach to teaching, a dedication to pushing research boundaries and a strong commitment to economic development, Ulster University is a responsive, dynamic and vibrant centre of learning. Although the University can trace its roots back to the early Victorian era, our focus is firmly on the future and today our four campuses provide a broad range of career-focused undergraduate and postgraduate courses, across a wide range of disciplines.

From advertising to veterinary public health, programmes are learner-centred, equipping our students with the skills they will need for the workplaces of tomorrow.

INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION

Ulster University’s international reputation for research excellence received world-wide recognition in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework.

The national assessment of research quality reinforces our influence, the relevance of our research-informed teaching and our impact in areas as diverse as health, the economy, the creative industries and social policy.

REGION AND REACH

As a regional university, we are uniquely placed to engage with communities, with local leaders and with imaginative partners who share our ambitions for Northern Ireland and its young people.

Our reach extends beyond the immediate locality too—we have forged strong alliances with a wide range of partners across the globe and this exchange of knowledge between academia, business and society enhances our teaching and research excellence and enriches the student experience.

We aim to produce graduates who are confident, adaptable, independent and inspired to learn more—the environment in which they do that is paramount.

PIONEERING

While we are keeping pace with technology and digital delivery of courses, we are continually investing in contemporary facilities across all our campuses to promote a rich learning and social experience for our students.

Professor Paddy Nixon
Vice-Chancellor

Professor Nixon joined Ulster University from the University of Tasmania where he was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) — responsible for driving the research agenda, through both existing and newly formed research institutes.

He has extensive industry and commercial experience, particularly in collaborations with global high tech firms.

He was responsible for the research portfolio at Tasmania, its two existing research institutes and the formation of the two further Institutes.

He was previously Science Foundation Ireland Research Professor in Distributed Systems at University College Dublin (UCD), where he was Vice Principal (Deputy Dean) of the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences.

From 2007–2010 he was Academic Director of INTEL’s Independent Living and Digital Health, leading a team of 150 clinicians, researchers and engineers.

While at UCD Professor Nixon led the establishment the UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Institute (CASL) focused on the inter-disciplinary research at the intersection of mathematics, computation and scientific discovery bringing together over 250 researchers to lead national programmes in Bioinformatics, Computational Finance and Network Science.

Professor Nixon (47) is originally from Liverpool. He holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Computer Science, an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Computer Engineering.

In addition to his time at UCD, he has held academic positions at the University of Strathclyde, Trinity College Dublin and at Manchester Metropolitan University.

His significant industrial and commercial experience includes collaborations with INTEL, Microsoft Research, HP, Oracle and IBM.
The University of Warwick was founded in 1965 as part of a government initiative to expand access to higher education. Warwick Business School was established in 1967 and Warwick Medical School was opened in 2000. Warwick merged with Coventry College of Education in 1979 and Horticulture Research International in 2004.

Warwick is primarily based on a 290 hectare campus on the outskirts of Coventry with a satellite campus in Wellesbourne and a London base at the Shard in central London. It is organised into four faculties of Arts, Medicine, Science and Social Sciences, within which there are 32 departments. Warwick has around 25,600 full-time students and 2,400 academic and research staff. Warwick Arts Centre, a multi-venue arts complex in the university’s main campus, is the largest venue of its kind in the UK outside London.

Warwick is a member of the following university organizations: AACSB, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Association of MBAs, EQUIS, the European University Association, the Midlands Innovation group, the Russell Group, and Universities UK. It is the only European member of the Center for Urban Science and Progress, in collaboration with New York University. The university possesses extensive commercial activities, including the University of Warwick Science Park and Warwick Manufacturing Group.

The University of Warwick is a world-leading university with the highest academic and research standards. Warwick provides a tireless yet supportive environment in which anyone from lecturers to companies can make an impact. The university’s students, alumni and staff are consistently making an impact—the kind that changes lives, whether close to home or on a global scale.

Professor Stuart Croft
Vice Chancellor and President

Stuart became Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Warwick in February 2016, moving from his previous role as the University’s Provost and prior to this as Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research (Arts and Social Sciences). Stuart joined Warwick’s community in 2007, as Professor of International Security in the Politics and International Studies department.

Stuart is responsible for ensuring the University of Warwick delivers excellent education and research within the region, nationally and internationally. Stuart’s work is in the field of security studies for which he has previously held senior posts at the University of Birmingham, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the British International Studies Association.

His research has focused on constructivist and cultural accounts of security. This is reflected in a number of written works which include contributions to the International Relations, International Affairs and Government and Opposition journals. Publishing Culture, Crisis and America’s War on Terror (Cambridge University Press, 2006) and Securitizing Islam (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and was author, co-author or editor of a further dozen books.

For eight years, Stuart was Director of the ESRC’s New Security Challenges Programme, which supported nearly 50 research projects based at a variety of UK universities and other institutions.
Dr. Michael M. Crow
President

Dr. Michael M. Crow is an academic leader and educator, designer of knowledge enterprises, and science and technology scholar. He has been the sixteenth president of Arizona State University since July, 2002. He is guiding the transformation of ASU into one of the nation’s leading public metropolitan research universities, an institution that combines the highest levels of academic excellence, inclusiveness to a broad demographic, and maximum societal impact—a model he designed known as the “New American University.” Under his leadership ASU has established major interdisciplinary research initiatives and witnessed an unprecedented academic infrastructure expansion, quadrupling of research expenditures, and attainment of record levels of diversity in the student body.

He was previously professor of science and technology policy and executive vice provost of Columbia University, where he served as chief strategist of Columbia’s research enterprise and technology transfer operations. He has been an advisor to the U.S. Departments of State, Commerce, and Energy, as well as defense and intelligence agencies and a number of nation states on matters of science and technology policy and knowledge enterprise design. An elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and National Academy of Public Administration, he is the author of books and articles analyzing knowledge enterprises, science and technology policy and the design of higher education institutions and systems.
Dr. John J. DeGioia
President

For over three decades, Dr. John J. DeGioia has helped to define and strengthen Georgetown University as a premier institution for education and research. A Georgetown alumnus, Dr. DeGioia served as a senior administrator and as a faculty member in the Department of Philosophy before becoming Georgetown’s 48th president in 2001.

As President, Dr. DeGioia is dedicated to deepening Georgetown’s tradition of academic excellence, its commitment to its Catholic and Jesuit identity, its engagement with the Washington, D.C. community, and its global mission. Under his leadership, Georgetown has become a leader in shaping the future landscape of higher education and has recently completed a $1.5 billion fund-raising campaign dedicated to enhancing the lifelong value of a Georgetown education.

Dr. DeGioia is a leading voice in addressing broader issues in education. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education, as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Forum for the Future of Higher Education, and serves on the Board of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the National Association of Independent Schools. He also serves on the Division I Committee on Academics for the NCAA, and as a commissioner on the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

Georgetown University is one of the world’s leading academic and research institutions, offering a unique educational experience that prepares the next generation of global citizens to lead and make a difference in the world. We are a vibrant community of exceptional students, faculty, alumni and professionals dedicated to real-world applications of our research, scholarship, faith and service.

Established in 1789, Georgetown is the oldest Catholic and Jesuit university in the United States. Drawing upon the 450-year-old legacy of Jesuit education, we provide students with a world-class learning experience focused on educating the whole person through exposure to different faiths, cultures and beliefs. Students are challenged to engage in the world and become men and women in the service of others, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community.

These values are at the core of Georgetown’s identity, binding members of the community across diverse backgrounds.
Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon
President

America’s pioneer land-grant university, MSU was founded as a bold experiment that democratized higher education and helped bring science and innovation into everyday life. In communities from East Lansing to East Africa, MSU pushes the boundaries of discovery and forges enduring partnerships to solve the world’s most pressing problems—from ensuring safe food and water supplies and developing lifesaving vaccines to exploring alternative energy and preparing a new generation of urban educators.

One of the top research universities in the world and a member of the Association of American Universities, MSU offers nationally ranked and recognized academic, undergraduate research, residential college, and service-learning programs and is a leader in study abroad among public universities. A diverse and inclusive academic community, MSU enrolls more than 50,000 students from all 50 states and more than 130 countries, employs more than 2,000 tenure system faculty members, and offers more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

As president, Simon has engaged MSU in a strategic and transformative journey to adapt the principles of the land-grant tradition to 21st-century challenges. She has expanded MSU’s reach in the state and around the world by focusing the university’s strengths on solutions that enhance and protect quality of life: clean and affordable energy, access to education, safe and plentiful food, and health care.
Northeastern University

Founded in 1898, Northeastern is a global, experiential research university that engages with the world to solve problems and lead change. That distinctive approach to education has created a university-wide culture of innovation and entrepreneurship—core values that infuse our programs, our faculty, and most of all, our students and alumni.

Northeastern is the recognized leader in experiential learning, powered by the world’s most expansive cooperative-education program. We integrate classroom study with professional work, research, service, and learning in 133 countries on seven continents. The same spirit of societal engagement guides a solutions-focused research enterprise that is strategically aligned with three global imperatives: health, security, and sustainability.

The university offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate programs leading to degrees through the doctorate in nine colleges and schools, and select advanced degrees and certificates at regional campuses in Seattle, Silicon Valley, Toronto, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dr. Joseph E. Aoun
President

Dr. Joseph E. Aoun, a leader in higher-education policy and innovation and an internationally renowned scholar in linguistics, is the seventh president of Northeastern University. A respected voice on the value of global and experiential education, President Aoun has expanded Northeastern’s signature co-op program worldwide. Students have opportunities to work, study, and conduct research in 133 countries, on all seven continents.

President Aoun came to Northeastern from the University of Southern California’s College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, where he was the inaugural holder of the Anna H. Bing Dean’s Chair. He received his Ph.D. in linguistics and philosophy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and advanced degrees from the University of Paris (France) VIII and Saint Joseph University (Beirut, Lebanon).

President Aoun has published seven books and written more than 40 scholarly articles. In 2006 he was named a Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Academiques (Knight of the Order of the Academic Palms) by the French government. In 2011, he received the Robert A. Muh Award from MIT’s School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a past chair of the American Council on Education. In 2013, he was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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The Ohio State University is one of America’s largest and most comprehensive academic institutions. As Ohio’s best and one of the nation’s top-20 public universities, Ohio State is further recognized with a top-rated academic medical center and premier cancer hospital and research center. Founded as a federal land-grant institution in 1870, the university has awarded 681,223 degrees since 1878, and its legacy extends to more than half a million living alumni throughout the world. More than 57,000 students on the Columbus campus select from 14 colleges, 175 undergraduate majors, and 240 master’s, doctoral, and professional degree programs.

Ohio State is further recognized as a top-rated academic medical center and a premier cancer hospital and research center. As a land-grant university, Ohio State has a physical presence throughout the state, with campuses and research centers located around Ohio. More than 6,500 additional students attend Ohio State’s regional campuses in Lima, Mansfield, Marion and Newark, and the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster.

Campus life is diverse and vibrant. As the largest single-campus university in the United States, the student body boasts an unusually diverse mix of students from different ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, with nearly 23 percent of the students classified as first-generation college students, a figure that far exceeds the nationwide average of 15.9 percent.

Dr. Michael V. Drake
President

Dr. Michael V. Drake’s service in higher education spans nearly four decades and includes senior leadership roles at universities and national organizations dedicated to advancing education. He became the 15th president of The Ohio State University on June 30, 2014. His vision for the university’s future focuses on access, affordability and excellence, with an emphasis on groundbreaking research and modern and effective teaching. Other focus areas include deepening the university’s community engagement and advancing inclusive excellence and diversity.

From July 2005 to June 2014, Dr. Drake served as chancellor of the University of California, Irvine, where he played a crucial role in advancing the university’s sustainability efforts and increasing minority enrollment. Prior to that, he served five years as vice president for health affairs for the University of California system.

He also spent more than 20 years on the faculty of the UC San Francisco School of Medicine.

Dr. Drake is an alumnus of Stanford University (BA) and UC San Francisco (MD). He is an elected member of both the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Drake was named vice chair of the Association of American Universities for 2016-17 and is serving as chair for 2017-18. He also serves in leadership roles for the University Innovation Alliance, National Collegiate Athletic Association and B1G 10, and as chair of the Council of Presidents of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.
The University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego) is a top fifteen global research institution located in Southern California. The university boasts six undergraduate colleges, five academic divisions, and five graduate and professional schools. The focus on research has allowed the university to become one of the world’s leading public academic institutions with their impressive range of scholars leading the way in medical, scientific, and technological breakthroughs.

The university strives to be a student-centered, research-focused, service-oriented institution with a commitment to providing the most fulfilling experience possible to each and every student. UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep Khosla spearheaded a comprehensive strategic planning initiative to provide a future vision for the school, which culminated in an ambitious strategic plan that outlines five goals, four values, and 13 specific strategies to realize the institution’s future vision. For more information on the strategic plan, read the executive summary or visit the UC San Diego website.

UC San Diego will serve as the GFCC’s first academic partner in the new University and Research Leadership Forum. The Forum will serve as a living think-tank for identification and discussion of trends in and the generation of ideas for optimizing education and research enterprises. By engaging academic stakeholders, the initiative will better identify the contributions made by universities and academic institutions in innovation and competitiveness, facilitate new partnerships and collaboration among the GFCC network, and provide visibility to new advances from relevant partners. The Forum will convene annually through a two-day conference, where members will have the chance to collaborate, converse, and unite to discuss issues relating to competitiveness.

Dr. Pradeep K. Khosla
Chancellor

Dr. Pradeep K. Khosla, an internationally renowned electrical and computer engineer, is the eighth Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, and a Distinguished Professor. At UC San Diego, he initiated and led a comprehensive, all-inclusive strategic planning process to unify the campus and define UC San Diego’s future. The initiative resulted in a Strategic Plan that outlines five overarching goals, four grand research themes, and 13 strategies to fulfill our sharpened mission and vision as a student-centered, research-focused, service-oriented public university.

Before his current appointment, Khosla served as Dean of the College of Engineering and Philip and Marsha Dowd University Professor at Carnegie Mellon University. There, he set the strategic direction for undergraduate and graduate education and research, and initiated undergraduate curriculum reform, successful diversity efforts, multidisciplinary research centers and graduate offerings, and international programs. Khosla spent the majority of his career at Carnegie Mellon, rising through the ranks from his first position as Assistant Professor in 1986 to his appointment as Dean in 2004. From 1994 to 1996, he also served as a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Program Manager in the Software and Intelligent Systems Technology Office, Defense Sciences Office and Tactical Technology Office, where he managed advanced research and development programs.

One of the world’s premier academic and research institutions, the University of Chicago has driven new ways of thinking since our 1890 founding. Today, UChicago draws inspired scholars to Hyde Park and the University’s international centers, keeping UChicago at the nexus of ideas that challenge and change the world.

A UChicago education empowers individuals to challenge conventional thinking in pursuit of original ideas. Students in the undergraduate College broaden their perspectives on world issues in the rigorous Core curriculum. Graduate programs through our five divisions, six professional schools, and the Graham School of Continuing Liberal Arts and Professional Studies transform scholars into leaders.

With a commitment to free and open inquiry, UChicago scholars take an interdisciplinary approach to research that spans arts to engineering, medicine to education. Our scholars lead the country in scientific and technological innovations, often in partnership with our affiliated laboratories: Argonne National Laboratory, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Located in one of the world’s greatest cities, UChicago is enriched by and invested in the community. The University is the second-largest private employer in Chicago. We partner with the local South Side community on innovative initiatives with local benefits and replicable outcomes for urban universities everywhere.

Dr. Robert J. Zimmer
President

Prior to becoming President, Dr. Zimmer was a faculty member in the Mathematics Department and UChicago administrator, serving as Chairman of the Mathematics Department, Deputy Provost, and Vice President for Research and for Argonne National Laboratory. He also was Provost at Brown University from 2002-2006, returning to Chicago in 2006 to become President of the University.

As President, he serves as Chair of the Board of Governors of Argonne National Laboratory; Chair of the Board of Directors of Fermi Research Alliance LLC, the operator of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory; and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory. He was a member of the National Science Board, the governing body of the National Science Foundation, from 2011 to 2016 and also served on the President’s Committee on the National Medal of Science from 2008 to 2010. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Zimmer is the author of two books and more than 80 mathematical research articles.

He earned his A.B. from Brandeis and a Ph.D. in mathematics from Harvard, and has honorary degrees from Tsinghua University and Colby College.

Faculty
The University of North Carolina at Hill’s vibrant people and programs attest to the University’s long-standing place among leaders in higher education since it was chartered in 1789 and opened its doors for students in 1795 as the first public university in the United States. Situated in the beautiful college town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, UNC has earned a reputation as one of the best universities in the world. Carolina prides itself on a strong, diverse student body, academic opportunities not found anywhere else, and a value unmatched by UNC-Chapel Hill is a global higher education leader known for innovative teaching, research and public service. A member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, Carolina regularly ranks as the best value for academic quality in U.S. public higher education. Now in its third century, the University offers 78 bachelor’s, 112 master’s, 68 doctorate and seven professional degree programs through 14 schools and the College of Arts and Sciences. More than 29,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students learn from a faculty of 3,600. Every day, faculty, staff and students shape their teaching, research and public service to meet North Carolina’s most pressing needs in all 100 counties. Carolina’s 292,500 alumni live in all 50 states and more than 150 countries.

Dr. Carol L. Folt became the 11th chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2013 and is the University’s first female leader. Folt is an internationally recognized scientist, award-winning teacher, and accomplished administrator. She has worked to fulfill her charge as chancellor by championing Carolina as a great global public research university. Her priorities include preserving and expanding the University’s academic excellence, access and affordability, and service to North Carolina.

Folt has worked to improve undergraduate retention rates, particularly for low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students, has taken a strong position on protecting students from sexual assault, and initiated conversations about difficult topics at the University and nationally. Under Folt’s leadership, the University received nearly 36,000 applications for the undergraduate Class of 2020, breaking the previous record for the 11th consecutive year. Carolina is one of the nation’s largest research institutions, with the 6th largest federally funded research portfolio at just under $1 billion, and has made innovation and entrepreneurship part of its core missions of research, teaching, and service.

Folt came to Carolina from Dartmouth College, where she was interim president in 2012-2013, an administrator, and a faculty member. A native of Akron, Ohio, Folt holds a bachelor’s degree in aquatic biology and a master’s degree in biology from the University of California at Santa Barbara. She received her doctorate in ecology from the University of California at Davis.
The University serves a diverse population of students with widely varying backgrounds, career goals, and levels of aspiration. USC Columbia offers over 320 degrees at the bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral, and professional program levels, affording students the most comprehensive array of educational programs in the state. Additional opportunities for personal and career development, including an associate degree program at Fort Jackson, are provided to the citizens of South Carolina through outreach and continuing education activities.

Through the primary method of classroom and laboratory instruction, and through a secondary method of distance learning delivered via the Internet, teleconference, and electronic media, degree programs are offered in the following areas: arts and sciences; education; engineering and computing; hospitality, retail, and sport management; mass communications and information studies; music; public health; and social work; and in professional programs such as business, law, medicine, nursing, and pharmacy. The depth and breadth of its graduate programs in the arts and sciences, international business, public health, social work, and library and information science distinguishes USC Columbia from all other institutions of higher learning in South Carolina.

Recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as a top research and service institution, nationally ranked in start-up businesses, and conferring over 30 percent of all bachelor’s and graduate degrees awarded at public institutions in South Carolina, the University has a profound relevance, reach, and impact on the people of the state. As the flagship institution of the state system, USC Columbia leads the way in providing all students with the highest-quality education, including the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for success and responsible citizenship in a complex and changing world through engagement in nationally and internationally ranked research, scholarship, community outreach, and artistic creation.

During the past decade, the University of South Carolina’s 28th president, Dr. Harris Pastides, has led USC’s flagship system of eight institutions in 19 geographic locations to higher achievements and unprecedented growth. Under Pastides’ tenure, the university has seen the USC Honors College rise to the No. 1 public honors college in the nation; celebrated continual top rankings in undergraduate and graduate international business, public health, engineering, nursing and others; and rapidly increased research funding, which surpassed a $1 billion capital campaign goal.

To date, more than 90,000 degrees have been awarded systemwide during Pastides’ presidency.

In 2016, Pastides became one of seven Fulbright alumni to receive the inaugural Global Changemaker Award—given in recognition of his ongoing commitment to transform society and humanity through his work. The son of Greek immigrants, Pastides also received the 2017 prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor which pays homage to the immigrant experience and the contributions made to our nation by immigrants and their children.

Today, Pastides serves on many local, state, national and international boards including the U.S. Council on Competitiveness, the Fulbright Program, and the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities. He is a past chair of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and currently serves as the vice president of the Southeastern Conference.

Prior to joining the university’s faculty as dean of the Arnold School of Public Health, then advancing to vice president for Research and Health Sciences, Pastides was a professor of epidemiology and Chairman of the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He received two master’s degrees and a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from Yale University.
Webster University, with its home campus in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA, comprises an action-oriented global network of faculty, staff, students and alumni who forge powerful bonds with each other and with their communities around the globe. Founded in 1915, Webster is a Tier 1 private non-profit university with nearly 17,000 students studying at campus locations in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa and in a robust learning environment online. The university is committed to delivering high-quality learning experiences that transform students for global citizenship and individual excellence.

Under President Stroble’s leadership, Webster University has expanded its global impact to strengthen communities and grow globally diverse talent. Investments in anchor campus locations in St. Louis, Vienna, Accra, and Athens coincide with development of new academic programs responsive to local needs. Scholarly strength in the sciences will be expanded through the opening of a new interdisciplinary science building at its St. Louis campus in 2017. As a comprehensive university, Webster enjoys current funding from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 2016, Webster University rose to 24th place in US News & World Report “Best Colleges” 2017 list, also ranking first in its category for the economic diversity of the student body and the faculty resources the institution provides. For the eighth consecutive year, it was ranked first among St. Louis regional institutions in the “Regional Universities—Midwest” classification. Webster awards more graduate degrees to minority students than all nonprofit public and private institutions in the USA, as recognized by Diverse Magazine 2016 rankings.

Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) J. Stroble
President

Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) J. Stroble is the President of Webster University. Founded in 1915, Webster is a private non-profit university with nearly 17,000 students studying at campus locations in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa and in a robust learning environment online. Understanding that financial stability is critically important under Dr. Stroble’s leadership, the University has more than doubled its endowment, significantly increased scholarship funding for students and established the University’s first endowed faculty positions, as well as improving the institution’s bond ratings and increasing net assets by $100 million. Strengthening Webster’s academic profile and global outreach has attracted significant support from corporations, foundations, and government sources.

Dr. Stroble serves on numerous boards of educational and advocacy organizations, including the National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities, the International Association of University Presidents, and the International Women’s Forum.

Dr. Stroble earned a bachelor of arts from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and two master of arts degrees from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. She received her doctorate in curriculum studies from the University of Virginia. Her career includes academic and administrative appointments at the University of Akron, the University of Louisville, and Northern Arizona University.
WHO WE ARE
The Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils is a network of leaders and organizations from around the world committed to the implementation of competitiveness strategies to drive innovation, productivity and prosperity for their nations, regions and cities.

The GFCC develops and implements ideas, concepts, initiatives and tools to understand and navigate the complex competitiveness landscape.

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