Search for the Dean
Cornell Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science
Ithaca, New York

THE SEARCH

Cornell University seeks a visionary leader with proven strategic and collaborative skills to serve as the next dean of the Cornell Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science ("Cornell Bowers" or "Bowers"). This individual will have the opportunity to lead a vibrant and growing unit that brings a human lens to tech and is a leader and model of innovation, invention, social impact, and world-class scholarship and education. The dean will join Cornell Bowers at an exciting time, building on the college's impressive trajectory.

Cornell Bowers started as a bold experiment that united the creation of new technology with a deeper understanding of the interplay of technology with humanity. Cornell recognized that the Information Age was transforming society and saw the potential to guide and amplify that change through the creation of the Faculty of Computing and Information Science (Cornell CIS) in 1999. This revolutionary approach still propels the college today.

A transformative gift from Ann S. Bowers '59 named the college in 2020 and launched a new era of computing, information, and statistics and data science at Cornell. Through its world-leading Computer Science, Information Science, and Statistics and Data Science programs, the college has emerged as a global force for collaboration across disciplines—creatively and thoughtfully exploring technology's potential and impact.

Empowered by Ann Bowers' investment, the college is pursuing a strategy that will expand Cornell Bowers' impact on higher education, technology, and society, including ongoing faculty growth and a nearly completed four-story, 135,000-square-foot building that will more than double the college's footprint and support the college's innovative and cross-disciplinary research and teaching.

Reporting to the provost, the dean will serve as the chief academic officer of Cornell Bowers and set a strategic vision for the college. The successful candidate will be a distinguished scholar with a passion for innovation in research and education, a strong commitment to social impact, and a demonstrated ability

to lead cross-campus and cross-disciplinary initiatives, leveraging Cornell's collaborative culture to deepen partnerships across the university and beyond.

Cornell has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national search firm, to assist with this recruitment. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications may be directed to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1865, Cornell University is a remarkable community of scholars, educators, students, staff, and alumni who are deeply influenced by proud traditions and a set of cherished founding principles, including Ezra Cornell's ambition to "found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study." It is a world-class research institution known for the breadth and rigor of its curricula and an academy dedicated to preparing young people to be well-educated and well-rounded citizens of the world. Its faculty and students believe in the critical importance of knowledge—both theoretical and applied—as a means of improving the human condition and solving the world's problems. Faculty, staff, and students thrive at Cornell because of its unparalleled combination of quality and breadth, its open, collaborative, and innovative culture, its vibrant rural and urban campuses, its land-grant legacy of public engagement, and its commitment to its founding principles.

Cornell is unique among its Ivy League peers as a private university with a land grant mission and several New York State-supported colleges. Today, Cornell consists of 15 schools and colleges. Across the Ithaca campus, the Weill Cornell Medicine campuses in New York City and Qatar, and the Cornell Tech campus in New York City, the university enrolls over 16,000 undergraduates and over 10,000 graduate and professional school students. Cornell's nearly 12,000 faculty and staff forge novel partnerships where unexpected integrations of deep expertise point the way toward the solutions of tomorrow. The university fuels this through initiatives that elevate collaboration across disciplines and academic units.

Cornell is located in Ithaca, a city of about 30,000 people in the heart of the Finger Lakes region of Central New York. Both Cornell and Ithaca offer a wide range of cultural activities, sports events, and outdoor activities, with the pleasures of both city and country close at hand. Ithaca boasts unsurpassed natural beauty in its gorges, state parks, and waterfront.

University Leadership

Interim President Michael I Kotlikoff

Michael I. Kotlikoff is the interim president of Cornell University and professor of molecular physiology. He took office on July 1, 2024.

Prior to his appointment, Kotlikoff was Cornell's longest-serving provost, holding that office from August 2015 to June 2024. He previously served as the Austin O. Hooey Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine from 2007 to 2015. Throughout his tenure at Cornell, Interim President Kotlikoff has overseen numerous initiatives and landmark changes to advance the university's excellence in teaching, scholarship, and outreach, and to enhance academic collaboration across Cornell's disciplines, colleges, and campuses.

Kotlikoff's signature strategic initiative, Radical Collaboration, has enhanced Cornell's academic excellence and interdisciplinary collaborations by bringing together world-leading expertise from across widely divergent fields. The initiative has recruited faculty in artificial intelligence, design technology, digital humanities, nanoscience, sustainability, and other areas; led investments in university centers such as the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source, or CHESS; the Society for the Humanities; and the Cornell Center for the Social Sciences; and given rise to the Academic Integration initiative, which deepened collaboration across the Ithaca and Weill Cornell Medicine campuses.

During Kotlikoff's time as provost, significant advances were also made across Cornell in teaching and learning, student and campus life, and the development of policies to facilitate greater faculty diversity and investments in the university's academic facilities.

Kotlikoff received his BA (literature) and VMD degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and his PhD in physiology from the University of California, Davis.

Provost Kavita Bala

Kavita Bala, computer scientist, professor, and entrepreneur became the 17th provost of Cornell University on January 1, 2025.

Bala previously served as the inaugural dean of the Cornell Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science, for which she helped to secure the naming gift after being named dean of the Faculty for Computing and Information Science in 2020. In her role as dean, Bala led the college through a time of rapid growth, expanding the faculty to meet student demand, building out college infrastructure, increasing opportunities for student experiential learning, and securing funding for a new building.

As the lead dean of the Cornell Artificial Intelligence Initiative, Bala worked toward the creation of minors in Artificial Intelligence and AI in Society (to launch in 2025), the establishment of the Schmidt AI in Science postdoctoral program, and the New York Presbyterian–Cornell Cardiovascular AI Initiative.

Prior to her appointment as dean, Bala was chair of Cornell's Department of Computer Science. As chair, Bala expanded the department's presence in robotics and artificial intelligence, increased opportunities for undergraduate research and entrepreneurship, and expanded inclusive practices for students and faculty.

Bala's research expertise is in computer graphics and computer vision, and she has made seminal contributions to the fields, including in the rendering of computer-generated images, representing and modeling complex materials, and visual discovery in large photo collections. She is an Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Fellow (2019), a Fellow of the SIGGRAPH Academy (2020), and is recipient of the SIGGRAPH Computer Graphics Achievement Award (2020).

Bala received her B.Tech. from the Indian Institute of Technology and her Master's and PhD in Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

CORNELL ANN S. BOWERS COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Cornell Bowers is driven by a commitment to develop state-of-the-art computing and information technologies, and to study and understand the societal and human impact of these technologies. Its three distinguished departments—Computer Science, Information Science, and Statistics and Data Science—have top-ranked programs and acclaimed research. Bowers comprises 124 world-class faculty and more than 100 experienced staff across the three departments. Combined and in their interactions with adjoining fields, these disciplines position Cornell as a leader in developing and driving visionary research and technological advances to pioneer emerging fields, develop the algorithms that power the information age, put a human lens on technology, and find new ways in which data can unlock powerful insights.

Bowers is home to more than 2,400 undergraduate majors, 440 professional master's students, and 330 PhD students. More than 75 percent of Cornell undergraduates take at least one class in Bowers. Bowers' undergraduate students are admitted through the College of Arts and Science, Cornell Engineering, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations and then matriculate in Bowers. Bowers will become a degree-granting college in 2025.

The college has been successful in increasing access and retention in its undergraduate and graduate programs, reflecting Cornell's founding principle of "...any person...any study"—that students from all backgrounds can attend Cornell and pursue academic interests wherever they lead. As of 2024, women made up 44% of the college's majors – more than twice the national average – and 18% of the majors came from groups that are underrepresented in the computing and information science disciplines. Bowers offers a variety of student organizations, programming, and forums that focus on supporting all students, including the Bowers CIS Undergraduate Research Experience (BURE) program, which expands access to summer research opportunities.

The research at Bowers is strengthened by a number of Cornell's interdisciplinary centers, institutes, laboratories, and programs that provide infrastructure for scholars and investigators and serve as focal points for collaboration on research, teaching, and outreach across the campus.

The college's academic footprint extends well beyond the university's Ithaca campus—including into New York City with Cornell Tech—resulting in a powerful technology ecosystem that is unique in higher education. In 2010, Cornell University, in partnership with Technion, won the New York City Applied Sciences competition to begin an audacious venture that would generate new businesses, grow the technical workforce, and stimulate research to accelerate New York's emergence as one of the world's great high-tech hubs. Cornell Tech was awarded 12 acres on Roosevelt Island and $100 million in City funds toward the construction of a new graduate-only campus without departments that would develop distinctive interdisciplinary and applied programs. Bowers faculty, masters, and PhD students are active on the Cornell Tech campus, and the Computer Science and Information Science departments and graduate fields span both campuses. The Cornell Bowers Dean works closely with the Dean and Vice Provost of Cornell Tech, Greg Morrisett, to support and promote innovation and excellence in research, teaching, engagement, and public impact in both Ithaca and New York. Cornell Tech is home to close to 50 tenure track faculty and nontenured faculty members, approximately 500 master's students across eight programs, and more than 100 doctoral students in five fields.

Bowers also shares majors and departments with the College of Engineering, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. This ecosystem supports a growing range of cross-campus initiatives and highly engaged, impact-focused research and instruction.

A transformative gift in 2020 launched Cornell's Faculty of Computing and Information Science into its next phase. The nine-figure commitment made by Ann S. Bowers '59, an early Silicon Valley leader, philanthropist, and longtime Cornell supporter, established the Cornell Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science and cemented the college's status as a leader in tech innovation, radical collaboration, and world-class scholarship. The last five years have been a time of tremendous growth for Cornell Bowers. The college has grown its faculty by 30 percent since 2020, and its total research expenditures for 2022-23 were $22.6 million, up from $15.1 million in 2019. The college is constructing a new 135,000-square-foot building that will be a hub of collaboration, bringing together the college's three departments in one complex. The building will open later this year.

Computer Science

The Department of Computer Science (CS) is consistently ranked among the best computer science departments in the United States. Organized in 1965, it is one of the first of its kind in the country. The department offers a BA and BS in computer science, Master of Engineering (MEng), MS, and PhD graduate programs.

The two-campus department—in Ithaca and New York City—has a full-time faculty of 71 members. Of these, 58 are in residence at the Ithaca campus, while 13 sit at the Cornell Tech campus in New York City. There are about 1,400 undergraduate CS majors, approximately 270 resident PhD students, and 160+ master's students.

Information Science

Information Science (IS) was born out of the need to provide a home for academics who wanted to study the use of technology rather than the creation of it. Starting as an interdisciplinary minor in 2002, Cornell Information Science became a major in 2005, and the department was established in 2010. Since then, the department has grown to more than 700 BA and BS students, more than 150 master's students, and 130 PhD students. The department offers undergraduate majors through the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The department has a full-time faculty of 35, of whom 25 reside at the Ithaca campus and 10 at the Cornell Tech campus. Its faculty members are leaders in their respective fields, specializing in areas such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, human-computer interaction, ubiquitous computing, user-experience design, and tech-law policy, to name a few.

Statistics and Data Science

With a history going back nearly 80 years, Cornell's Department of Statistics and Data Science (SDS) has been at the forefront of methodological developments, cross-disciplinary research, and offering a rigorous and relevant education. SDS faculty leverage collaborations across Cornell to develop and combine modern statistics methodology and machine learning with data science to advance the biological, physical, and social sciences. The department is currently home to 21 faculty members, more than 200 undergraduate majors, 100 master's students in our Master of Professional Studies in Applied Statistics and Data Science program, and 40 PhD students. A reflection of the department's interdisciplinary nature, SDS is a multi-college partnership among its home college, Cornell Bowers, along with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

Cornell Bowers CIS also participates in the recently established Department of Design Tech and the Department of Computational Biology.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

Reporting to the provost, the dean serves as the chief academic and executive officer of Cornell Bowers, empowering faculty, ensuring student success, leading staff, representing Cornell Bowers within the university and in the broader world, and managing the college's annual operating budget of over $130 million. The dean sets the vision and strategic direction for Cornell Bowers. The dean also serves as a key institutional leader and member of the university's leadership team and is expected to collaborate closely with fellow deans. Leveraging the strong sense of community at Bowers, the dean promotes a culture of innovation and excellence within the college and fosters collaboration across the university and with key external partners.

In collaboration with Cornell colleges, the dean recruits exceptional scholars into a dynamic and growing STEM environment at Cornell and to shape the future of one of the most powerful combinations of intellectual resources at the intersection of technology and humanity. In addition, the dean is the chief steward of relationships with the college, partnering with the Bowers Advisory Board, alumni groups, and

industry partners to bolster support for the college's strategy and create opportunities for scholars, students, and graduates.

The dean oversees department chairs for the three academic units and directors of several institutes. The associate deans for academic affairs, education, research, administration and finance, strategic projects, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, and alumni affairs and development also report directly to the dean.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

The primary opportunities and challenges for the next dean will include the following:

Shape a vision and strategic plan for the next chapter of Cornell Bowers

Cornell Bowers has experienced remarkable growth and momentum in recent years, and the dean will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the college, building on its strong foundation, and developing a compelling vision for the next chapter of Bowers. The dean will work closely with faculty, staff, students, and leaders at Cornell to manage the college's growth and maintain the strongly held sense of community that has fueled collaboration across diverse fields. This vision will drive the strategic direction, academic excellence, and societal impact of the college in the rapidly evolving fields of computing and information science.

Build, support, and nurture a high-performing, collaborative, and diverse organization

Cornell Bowers has grown rapidly in recent years, and the dean will oversee the continued development of administrative structures and processes to support its recent expansion. The dean will ensure efficient and effective services, manage considerable financial resources, and ensure that resources are directed to the most critical academic priorities. The dean will also work with a talented and dedicated staff and must further develop a high-performing team to provide the services and support commensurate with a top program.

Stimulate interdisciplinary partnerships and participate as a member of Cornell's leadership team

Cornell takes great pride in the culture of collaboration among its deans and across the university. The Bowers dean will be a leader for the university, working strategically and collegially with peer deans and university administration to champion initiatives that will continue Cornell's stature and prominence. The dean will inherit exciting joint initiatives with other units but will also have an opportunity to build new collaborations under Cornell's Radical Collaboration initiative.

Support transformative, interdisciplinary research

The dean will shape the strategic vision and support the development of innovative, high-impact, interdisciplinary research initiatives that span computing, data science, and information science disciplines. The dean will foster a collaborative environment that empowers faculty, students, and

industry partners to pursue bold, cross-disciplinary research that addresses global challenges and advances knowledge across multiple domains.

Promote innovative, forward-thinking teaching and educational offerings

The dean will ensure that Cornell Bowers continues to offer an outstanding, globally competitive educational experience at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This role will also involve strengthening partnerships across Cornell's academic units and with external organizations, including industry, government, and academic institutions, to provide students with exceptional opportunities for experiential learning, internships, and interdisciplinary projects. The dean will continue to elevate Cornell Bowers as a center of excellence in computing, data science, and information science education and will position its students to be at the forefront of shaping the technological future and using data to unlock powerful insights.

Continue and accelerate progress in enhancing Bower's commitment to Cornell's founding principle, "...any person...any study."

The next dean must be a leader in implementing Cornell's long-held commitment to Cornell's founding principle of "...any person...any study". The dean will be a vocal and energetic champion of the university's values: purposeful discovery, free and open inquiry and expression, a community of belonging, and exploration across boundaries. The dean will foster efforts that continue to expand access and broad representation and ensure that structures and programs are in place to help all Cornell Bowers community members thrive.

Represent Cornell Bowers externally, lead fundraising efforts, and ensure that Cornell Bowers is recognized for its impact

The dean will broadcast the pioneering work at Cornell Bowers to a growing audience. Serving as the chief representative for the college, the dean will elevate the visibility of Cornell Bowers, work to engage key federal funding agencies and connect Cornell Bowers faculty with industry partners locally, nationally, and internationally. The dean will steward relationships with principal donors while continuing to invest in infrastructure to advance the communication and alumni relations functions that are critical to bringing in new resources.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

To build on this foundation of strength, Cornell Bowers seeks a bold leader with an ambitious vision, a collegial leadership style, and the energy to inspire the community. Candidates should demonstrate significant leadership in a large, highly complex enterprise. While no single candidate will have all the ideal qualifications, Cornell seeks candidates with the following qualifications and abilities:

- An intellectual leader; a distinguished teacher, scholar, entrepreneur, or innovator; an earned doctorate and a distinguished record of research impact;

- An experienced administrator commensurate with experience as a department chair, associate dean, or dean, and a track record of administrative accomplishments;
- A proven ability to recruit superb researchers and educators;
- A demonstrated track record of enhancing inclusion and access and demonstrated success in recruiting, supporting and retaining faculty, staff, and students from many backgrounds;
- A keen sense of the trends and developments in global science and evidence of supporting and growing large-scale research programs;
- A demonstrated passion for students and a commitment to excellence in teaching;
- An astute understanding of academic finances and experience establishing budget priorities and serving as a responsible steward of resources;
- An excellent collaborator with a consultative leadership style who can partner with other deans and administrators, faculty, staff, and students;
- Established connections to industry and the ability to create opportunities for faculty and students with corporate partners;
- An exceptional communicator who can inspire internal and external constituencies to attract partners and raise funds and support;
- An ability and eagerness to serve as a public intellectual on behalf of the college and the field of computer and information science;
- Well-honed problem-solving skills;
- An ability to instill trust and confidence in others and a record that demonstrates the highest degree of integrity, honesty, and fairness.
- An ability to foster and lead with a focus on collaboration and community.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: here. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, and we do not tolerate discrimination based on any protected characteristic, including race, ethnic or national origin, citizenship and immigration status, color, sex/gender, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, age, creed, religion, actual or perceived disability (including persons associated with such a person), arrest and/or conviction record, military or veteran status, sexual

orientation, gender expression and/or identity, an individual's genetic information, domestic violence victim status, familial status, marital status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. We also recognize a lawful preference in employment practices for Native Americans living on or near Indian reservations in accordance with applicable law.

Cornell University embraces diversity and seeks candidates who will contribute to a climate that supports students, faculty, and staff to all identities and backgrounds. We strongly encourage individuals from underrepresented and/or marginalized identities to apply.