

POSITION PROFILE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY STROME ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER

Old Dominion University seeks an accomplished leader as the founding Executive Director of the newly created Strome Entrepreneurial Center. The Center has been established with a major gift from the Strome Family Foundation and will serve as the focal point for an enhanced emphasis on entrepreneurial activity at Old Dominion University. Reporting to the Provost of the University, the successful candidate will be expected to lead the Strome Entrepreneurial Center in advancing entrepreneurship across the University. He or she will have proven initiative and experience in the entrepreneurial environment, familiarity with the cultivation of student entrepreneurs, and an in-depth understanding of educational program development. The Executive Director for the Strome Entrepreneurial Center will collaborate closely with the deans and faculty of all six academic colleges, as well as with the College of Continuing Education and Professional Development, the Old Dominion University Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office in the Office of Research, and the Old Dominion University Business Gateway, in a multipronged program to nurture business entrepreneurs.

The Strome Entrepreneurial Center

The University's 2009-2014 Strategic Plan addressed six Goals, one of which was "Invest Strategically in Research to Spur Economic Growth." A key Objective within this goal focused on positioning Old Dominion University as an economic development leader for the region by employing the University's entrepreneurial ethos to extend research discoveries and technology into business creation opportunities. In response to that Objective, the University has developed several initiatives, including the establishment in academic year 2013/14 of the Strome Entrepreneurial Center, thanks to the generosity of alumnus Mark Strome and his wife Tammy. The Center will encourage and nurture students, from freshmen to graduate level, in entrepreneurial activities through an innovative co-curricular program that will empower ODU students to create economic and social value in the region and beyond.

Among other entrepreneurial activities already underway and that will be housed in the Strome Entrepreneurial Center, the University offers “Launch Camps” – week-long entrepreneurial camps for students through a partnership between the ODU Business Gateway and Opportunity Inc. A special Launch Camp was offered free of charge during spring break 2014, targeted to students who hope to create their own companies during or after their time at the University. Following their week of instruction, participants in the LAUNCH program are matched with a successful small-business owner, who mentors them as they work to get their businesses off the ground. ODU staff and faculty also conduct or facilitate access to specialized training that is available outside the weeklong course.

In 2013, a team of ODU students won special recognition in a Virginia Governor’s Business Plan Challenge for “Most Significant Market Disruptor.” The Governor’s competition was not offered again in Spring 2014, so ODU’s new Student Entrepreneurship Club and ODU’s student chapter of Enactus - the service club dedicated to social entrepreneurship - developed and successfully ran their own Business Plan Challenge competition.

The new Executive Director for the Strome Entrepreneurial Center will forge strong connections between the Center and related activities on- and off-campus, such as with the annual MODSIM World conference, co-sponsored by Old Dominion's Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center. The conference is one of the premier international expositions for collaboration and transfer of modeling and simulation knowledge, research, development and applied technology across all public and private sectors. Innovators were this year invited to participate in the Entrepreneur Competition, a first-of-its-kind platform for innovative startup ideas in the modeling and simulation field. Entrepreneurs using modeling and simulation tools to solve problems in manufacturing, energy, finance, transportation, retail, serious gaming and other nondefense industries were invited to participate.

About Old Dominion University

Old Dominion University is a dynamic, public Carnegie Doctoral Research-Extensive University that serves its students and enriches the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation and the world through rigorous academic programs, strategic partnerships, and active civic engagement. The campus is situated in an important area of the country: Norfolk is part of an appealing metropolitan community of approximately 1.7 million people, making it the thirty-sixth largest metropolitan area in the U.S. (fifth largest in the Southeast) with an especially large military, port, and shipbuilding presence.

Entrepreneur Magazine recently named Norfolk a 'Best City for Entrepreneurship,' and the Hampton Roads region as a whole is experiencing a tremendous surge in entrepreneurship with the development of a very exciting entrepreneurial culture. The region is also host to an extensive and comprehensive public education system and several community colleges and universities, with which the University has long-standing and strong collaborations. The surrounding area is rich in resources in the health sciences, arts, maritime industry related to the ports, and major federal research and military installations.

Old Dominion University is a residential campus with almost 5,000 students housed in University residences and approximately 6,000 additional students who reside close by. Current student enrollment is approximately 25,000 students with more than 5,000 graduate students and nearly 1,500 international students. Through its six academic colleges – Arts & Letters, Business & Public Administration, Education, Engineering & Technology, Health Sciences, and Sciences – the University offers 70 undergraduate and almost 100 graduate programs at the Norfolk campus, as well as more than 70 complete degree programs via distance learning modalities to sites around Virginia and across the nation. Old Dominion University has been designated as a Military Friendly Institution for the past four consecutive years in recognition of its service to the considerable number of military-affiliated personnel in the region. The Hampton Roads Veterans Business Outreach Center, situated in the University's Business Gateway, is designed to provide entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling and mentoring, and referrals for eligible veterans owning or considering starting a small business.

John R. Broderick has served as President since 2008 and is credited with having improved state support for the University in the midst of difficult economic conditions, overseeing more than \$300 million in construction and renovation. The University employs more than 3,300 people, including a faculty of more than 800 full-time professors and almost 600 part-time instructors who have earned doctorates from America's and the world's leading research universities. The institution's annual budget is in excess of \$500 million. In 2011 and 2012, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* identified Old Dominion as one of the best universities to work for in the nation. The University has developed mutually beneficial partnerships with an exceptional array of major local and federal government facilities and health-related organizations, including: the Virginia Port Authority, which oversees the world's largest natural deep-water port; the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator facility; NASA Langley Air Force Base; Naval Station Norfolk, home to the US Navy and US Fleet Forces Command; NATO

Allied Command Transformation; the Naval Postgraduate School; and Eastern Virginia Medical School, with which faculty and students interact through joint academic and research programs.

During much of the University's early years, its research and educational strengths were in oceanography, physics and engineering. More recently, those well-established areas have been joined by emerging fields such as:

- Modeling, analysis, visualization and simulation
- Bioelectric therapies, cardiovascular biology and medical diagnostics
- Alternative energies, including algal biofuels and photovoltaics
- Maritime and supply chain logistics
- Climate change and sea level rise mitigation and adaptation
- High performance computing
- Cybersecurity/homeland security/critical infrastructure protection

Position Description

The primary responsibilities of the Executive Director for the Strome Entrepreneurial Center will be to create a culture on campus that encourages both students and faculty to pursue commercialization of their ideas, and to oversee program development to educate students on the basics of creating a startup through the entire life cycle of the entrepreneurial process – from the idea through the planning, research, analysis, startup and initial operations stages.

The person selected for this post will:

- Develop and implement a strategic plan for the Center, in consultation with the Entrepreneurship Advisory Council and the University's leadership
- Provide leadership, support, and advocacy for the Entrepreneurial Center
- Advise the President, through the Provost, on all matters pertaining to the Center
- Develop strong relationships with the Hampton Roads business community and serve as the link between regional entrepreneurship efforts and the University's efforts
- Increase the local, regional and state-level awareness and understanding of the Strome Entrepreneurial Center

- Oversee the development and execution of workshops, speaker events and conferences that educate and assist students, faculty and external parties interested in pursuing their own ventures
- Develop and manage the budget of the Center and secure additional financial support for the Center's activities
- Recruit, develop, evaluate and retain a diverse support staff for the Center.

The Candidate

The Executive Director for the Strome Entrepreneurial Center will be able to demonstrate a record of experience and success in the entrepreneurial environment, familiarity with the cultivation of student entrepreneurs, and an in-depth understanding of educational program development. Preferred qualifications include an earned master's degree and administrative experience in higher education. Salary is competitive.

To be considered, applicants and nominees should submit a letter of interest that addresses the main qualifications and expectations outlined in this Profile Statement, an up-to-date, comprehensive resume, and the names of at least 3 professional references with email and phone numbers (references will be contacted only with the permission of the candidate) to the Chair of the Search Committee, attention of Ms. Judy Bowman jbowman@odu.edu. The first review of applications will begin on May 1, 2014, but applications will be received until the position is filled. The start date for the position is flexible, but it is expected the successful candidate will be in place as Executive Director by September 1, 2014.

It is the policy of Old Dominion University to provide equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, veteran status, disability, political affiliation or sexual orientation. An integral part of this policy is to administer recruiting, hiring, working conditions, compensation, training, opportunities for advancement, and termination of employment for all employees without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, veteran status, disability, political affiliation, or sexual orientation.