Executive Director of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence

The University of Georgia (UGA) invites applications and nominations for Executive Director of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence at the rank of full professor to begin on August 1, 2025. UGA's Institute for Artificial Intelligence (IAI) is an interdepartmental research and instructional unit jointly supported by the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost and the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. It offers three interdisciplinary degree programs:

- The Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science,

- The Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence, and

- The Doctor of Philosophy in Artificial Intelligence.

In addition, the Institute participates in two combined undergraduate/graduate programs, allowing a student to earn within five years either an AB in Cognitive science or a BS in Computer science as well as an MS in Artificial Intelligence. A multidisciplinary Certificate in Artificial Intelligence will likely be available in the 2025 Spring Semester.

We pride ourselves on the diversity of our student body, the strength of our educational programs, and the ability of our programs to allow for the pursuit of personal research interests. The Institute's strengths include Machine Learning, Robotics, Computer Vision, Trustworthy and Ethical AI, Neural and Deep Networks, Genetic and Evolutionary Algorithms, Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, Natural Language Processing and Computational Psycholinguistics. Affiliated with the Institute are approximately 80 UGA faculty from 12 schools and colleges.

The Institute also has strong collaborative ties with UGA's new School of Computing (SoC), a joint venture between UGA's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering. The SoC enrolls almost 1900 undergraduate majors and 260 graduate students and is home to 45 full-time faculty who carry out teaching and research in a variety of computer science areas, including cybersecurity, machine learning, computer vision, robotics, distributed systems, data privacy, human-computer interaction, and a host of other related topics.

This is an exciting opportunity to serve as the inaugural Executive Director of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence at a time when the University of Georgia is aggressively repositioning the organization to be a leader in multidisciplinary research, instruction, and broader service. The most recent Presidential Interdisciplinary Hiring Initiative in Data Science and AI has led to the recruitment of nearly 70 faculty across campus. The Institute will play a key role in bringing these new faculty and the current faculty who are working in relevant disciplines together to strengthen the teaching, research, and engagement to advance the research and application of artificial intelligence.

The University seeks candidates who are innovative and accomplished leaders in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and multidisciplinary collaborations spanning natural /social sciences, humanities, arts, engineering, education, agriculture, computer science and related areas. The successful candidate will be able to articulate a pacesetting, innovative, and compelling vision for the multiple pathways that

artificial intelligence permeates the instructional, research, and service mission of the flagship public research university in the state.

Required Qualifications:

- An earned doctorate in Computer Science or related disciplines.

- An excellent and sustained record of scholarly accomplishment, as evidenced through peer-reviewed publications in the areas of Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning, external grant funding, student mentorship, and related contributions, that would merit appointment as a tenured Professor at the University of Georgia with the potential for appointment as an endowed Distinguished Professorship.

- To be eligible for tenure upon appointment, candidates must have been tenured at a prior institution and bring a demonstrably national reputation to UGA. Candidates must be approved for tenure upon appointment before hire. For more information regarding the rank and tenure on appointment, please see the UGA Guidelines for Appointment, Promotion and Tenure.

Relevant/Preferred Experience:

- A demonstrated track record of multidisciplinary collaborations that engage faculty from across a broad spectrum (e.g., science and engineering disciplines, social sciences, humanities, arts, etc.);

- A demonstrated track record of significant extramural research support, preferably across multiple federal agencies, including leadership on successful large proposals, and/or corporate or philanthropic support;

- A demonstrated track record of supporting student success for undergraduate and graduate students;

- A demonstrated track record of professional recognition and distinguished professional service;

- A demonstrated track record of promoting and creating environments that are welcoming and inclusive;

- At least two years of administrative leadership experience.

Preferred Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, and/or Competencies:

- Excellent communication skills;

- Ability to collaborate collegially with a wide range of internal and external constituencies;

- Knowledge of industry trends in AI and skills for successful engagement of industry partners to help drive innovation.

The Executive Director of IAI will work collaboratively with the Dean of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost to advance AI academic programs and AI research and outreach. He/she will lead a team comprised of an Associate Director for Academic Programs, an Associate Director for Research and an administrative team. The Executive Director will have the following responsibilities:

- Work collaboratively with the faculty and University administration to develop a plan to grow and advance AI at UGA;

- Recruit, mentor, retain, and evaluate the faculty of the Institute;

- Oversee the budget and human resources of the Institute;

- Work with the faculty, Deans, the Vice President for Research, and other stakeholders to increase research funding in the Institute, to support faculty research projects and to support a growing graduate program;

- Work with development staff across the University to seek philanthropic support for the Institute, in the form of student support and endowed professorships.

Since our founding in 1785, the University of Georgia has operated as Georgia's oldest, most comprehensive, and most diversified institution of higher education (https://www.uga.edu/). The proof is in our more than 235 years of academic and professional achievements and our continual commitment to higher education. UGA is currently ranked among the top 20 public universities in *U.S. News & World Report*. The University's main campus is in Athens, GA, approximately 65 miles northeast of Atlanta, with extended campuses in Atlanta, Griffin, Gwinnett, and Tifton. UGA employs approximately 3,000 faculty and 7,700 full-time staff. The University's enrollment exceeds 43,000 students including over 32,000 undergraduates and over 10,500 graduate and professional students. Academic programs reside in 19 schools and colleges, which includes a newly announced School of Medicine that will build on the success of the medical partnership with Augusta University housed on the UGA Health Sciences Campus in Athens. As one of the top public universities in the nation, UGA offers a culture of academic excellence and opportunity made all the richer by our renowned faculty, diverse community of scholar-citizens, and vibrant student life program.

Applications: Candidates are encouraged to submit their materials by Monday, February 17, 2025; however, screening will continue until the position is filled. The application packet should include a cover letter detailing how the applicant's credentials and experience meet the needs, responsibilities, and qualifications stated above; a current resume; and contact information for three references (who will not be contacted without further correspondence with the applicant).

All applicants must apply online at https://www.ugajobsearch.com. Please see the job posting at: https://www.ugajobsearch.com/postings/404608

To request a descriptive ***Opportunity Profile*** for this position, provide a nomination, or seek additional information, please contact Callie West, Primary Consultant with the UGA Search Group, 805-813-3901 or Callie.West@uga.edu. Letters of recommendation or a simple nomination should include the name and contact information for the nominee.