

Vish Prasad

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Vish Prasad is the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of North Texas (UNT), the largest university in the Dallas-Fort Worth region and the fourth largest university of the State of Texas, with 36,000 students. At UNT, Dr. Prasad is responsible for promoting the University's mission in research, original scholarship, and artistic creativity; managing IPs and technology transfer; building a research park (UNT Discovery Park); and fostering partnerships with government agencies, non-profit organizations, and industry. Dr. Prasad together with the Provost has developed a long term (ten-year) Strategic Plan for Research (research.unt.edu) to move UNT into the ranks of Tier I institutions with high level of national and international recognitions. The plan centers on hiring highly-accomplished senior and junior faculty, expansion of research infrastructure and funding, increase in philanthropic dollars for research, and increase in number and quality of doctoral students. Additionally, in collaboration with senior leaders of the university, Dr. Prasad conceived and initiated a competitive Research Cluster Program (research.unt.edu/clusters) even before the Tier I discussions started at the State level. The cluster promotes multi-disciplinary research across the departmental and college boundaries and is focused on attracting nationally and internationally recognized scholars, mostly at senior level. Under Dr. Prasad's leadership, the external research funding to UNT has increased by 60% in two years (2007-09),

Prior to joining UNT in October 2007, Dr. Prasad served as the Executive Dean of Engineering and Computing (2005-2007) and Dean of Engineering (2001-2005) at Florida International University (FIU), one of the twenty-five largest universities in the US. At FIU, he also held the position of Distinguished Professor of Engineering. Dr. Prasad led the FIU College of Engineering and Computing to a phenomenal enrollment growth against the national trend - 40% at the undergraduate level and 280% at the doctoral level. As a result, the College emerged as one of the top fifty producers of engineers in many disciplines, in the US. FIU also became the leader in graduating Hispanic engineers with Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral degrees among the fifty states, as well as one of the leading producers of African-American and women engineers in the country. In recognition, FIU received the 2006 Award for Diversity from the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) and Dr. Prasad was honored with the Educator of the Year (2007) award by HENAAC, a national organization that generally recognizes Hispanic engineers, technologists and business leaders. While at FIU, Dr. Prasad also conceived and co-founded the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions (LACCEI), and served as its first President (2003-04); LACCEI has emerged as the leading organization of Latin American and Caribbean engineering institutions.

At FIU, Dr. Prasad also led the creation of many new degree programs, departments and centers/institutes, including the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Motorola Nanofabrication Research Facility, IBM-sponsored Latin American Grid System (LA Grid), and Kauffman Foundation-supported Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center. He hired one-third of the engineering and computing faculty - one-half of them in newly-created

positions. During his tenure, both the research funding and endowment to the college almost doubled.

Before moving to FIU, Dr. Prasad served as the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Leading Professor/Professor of Mechanical Engineering, and Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Stony Brook University - State University of New York (1993-2001). At Stony Brook, Dr. Prasad played a leading role in the creation of its MBA program (that later led to the establishment of its Business School) and the Department of Asian and Asian-American Studies. Both at Stony Brook and FIU, Dr. Prasad led and managed offering of degree programs in many different countries, e.g., China, Korea, Mexico, and Jamaica, and dual degree programs with several institutions in South/Latin America. Recently, he has signed MOUs for research collaborations between UNT and Tsinghua University (Beijing) and Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), the leading research institutions for science and technology in China and India.

Dr. Prasad's research interests include thermo-fluid sciences, energy systems, electronic materials and micro-electronics. He has published over two hundred invited and/or refereed articles, edited/co-edited several books and symposium volumes including a prestigious Springer Handbook, and organized numerous conferences, symposia, and workshops. He serves as the lead editor of Annual Review of Heat Transfer, and as a member of the editorial advisory boards of two other journals. Dr. Prasad is an elected Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). In the past, he has served as a member of the USRA Microgravity Research Council for a major NASA Program, as the Chair of several ASME Heat Transfer Division Committees, and as an associate editor of the ASME Journal of Heat Transfer. Dr. Prasad has served as a PI or Co-PI on grants and contracts of over \$15 million funded by NSF, Air Force, Army, Navy, DOE and industry; built a DOD Consortium of academia, industry and federal labs to conduct research on semiconductor crystal growth; developed a state-of-the-art crystal growth research facility; and served as a Co-PI of an NSF Materials Center (MRSEC) in Thermal Spray. Dr. Prasad serves (or has served) on many advisory boards and panels.

Dr. Prasad started his career as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Columbia University in 1984 where he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1987. He received his PhD from the University of Delaware, his Master's of Technology (M. Tech.) from the Indian Institute of Technology (Kanpur), and his BS from the National Institute of Technology, Patna (formerly the Bihar College of Engineering, Patna University); all in mechanical engineering.