

Dr. Magesh T. Rajan

Vice President for Research & Innovation

**Prairie View A&M University
Texas A&M University System**

Executive Overview

Advancing Knowledge. Expanding Opportunity. Creating Public Impact.

Dr. Magesh T. Rajan is a nationally recognized higher education executive whose leadership has transformed academic, research and business enterprises, strengthened institutional competitiveness, and expanded the societal impact of public universities. As Vice President for Research & Innovation and Chief Research Officer at Prairie View A&M University, he leads an enterprise that advances discovery, innovation, entrepreneurship, research integrity, strategic partnerships, and economic development while creating new opportunities for faculty, students, and communities.

A strategic and collaborative leader, Dr. Rajan believes that research universities have a responsibility not only to generate knowledge but also to translate discovery into meaningful public impact. Throughout his career, he has championed research as a catalyst for student success, economic mobility, workforce development, technological innovation, and regional and national prosperity. His leadership integrates academic excellence with public service, bringing together government, industry, philanthropy, and higher education to address complex societal challenges.

Under his leadership, Prairie View A&M University has experienced unprecedented growth in research capacity and national recognition. The university achieved Carnegie R2 (High Research Activity) status years ahead of strategic plan, earned the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Innovation & Economic Prosperity (IEP) designation, expanded external funding to historic levels, established the nation's first HBCU-led National University Transportation Center, and significantly strengthened its innovation ecosystem, research infrastructure, and corporate partnerships. These achievements reflect a leadership philosophy centered on building institutional capacity that creates lasting opportunities for future generations.

Dr. Rajan's career spans executive leadership in public higher education, entrepreneurship, engineering research, technology commercialization, and national policy engagement. Across research-intensive universities, entrepreneurial ventures, and federal collaborations, he has consistently built organizations, developed people, secured transformational investments, and advanced interdisciplinary partnerships that extend the impact of universities far beyond their campuses.

Today, Dr. Rajan provides leadership across the full research and innovation enterprise, including research advancement, sponsored research administration, compliance, undergraduate and graduate research, innovation and commercialization, entrepreneurship, strategic partnerships, communications, Title-III Programs, and economic development. He also serves in national leadership roles that help shape the future of public research universities, federal research policy, semiconductor workforce development, and public impact research.

His leadership is guided by a simple but enduring belief:

"Universities achieve their greatest impact when discovery, innovation, education, and public service work together to improve lives, strengthen communities, and prepare the next generation of leaders."

Leadership at a Glance

- **Vice President for Research & Innovation** and **Chief Research Officer**, Prairie View A&M University
- **President's Cabinet Member**, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University System institution.
- **National Executive Council Member**, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Council on Research Leadership
- **Governor-Appointed Member**, Texas Semiconductor Innovation Consortium
- **State-wide Elected Member**, Texas Space Grant Consortium
- **System-wide AI Governance**, Texas A&M University System-wide governance on AI Technology and Infrastructure
- **Board Member**, Texas Semiconductor Institute

- **Research Enterprise Leader** overseeing research advancement, innovation, compliance, commercialization, strategic partnerships, and economic development.
- **Industry & Public Impact Leadership Roles:** *Higher Education:* Executive Director, Academic Department Head/Dean, ABET and SACSCOC University Evaluator, Researcher, and Tenured Professor. *Industry Entrepreneurship:* Entrepreneur, Technology Company CEO, Texas Professional Engineer, Economic Development Board Member.
- **Champion for Public Impact Research, Student Success, Faculty Excellence, and Institutional Transformation**

Executive Snapshot *(infographics or visual callouts)*

Leadership Impact (2020-2026)

- **\$650M** in external sponsored funding secured
- **\$183M** in external research funding secured
- **First HBCU-led \$40M** National University Transportation Center
- Achieved **Carnegie R2** Classification advancement and reaffirmation
- Received **APLU Innovation & Economic Prosperity (IEP)** designation
- **\$10M+** in corporate and philanthropic partnerships
- **\$100M+** in research and university infrastructure investments
- **45** intellectual properties and an expanded innovation portfolio

Other Topics (WIP)

- *Economic Impact*
- *Research Centers & Institutes*

Academic-Research (WIP)

- **103** scholarly publications, **2** books, and **41** graduate students mentored

Leadership Philosophy

Leading Through Purpose, Partnership, and Public Impact

Dr. Magesh T. Rajan believes that the most successful universities are those that bring together people, ideas, and partnerships to create lasting value for society. Throughout his career, he has approached leadership not simply as the management of programs or resources, but as the responsibility to build institutions that expand opportunity, cultivate talent, and address the challenges facing communities, industries, and the nation.

His leadership philosophy is grounded in a simple principle: **research achieves its greatest value when it improves lives.** Discovery, innovation, education, and public service are not independent missions—they are interconnected responsibilities that, when intentionally aligned, enable universities to prepare students for meaningful careers, strengthen faculty excellence, accelerate economic growth, and generate solutions with lasting societal impact.

Rather than viewing research as an isolated academic enterprise, Dr. Rajan has consistently championed an integrated model that connects faculty scholarship, student success, innovation, entrepreneurship, workforce development, strategic partnerships, and community engagement. Under this philosophy, research becomes a platform for creating opportunities—for students seeking transformative educational experiences, for faculty pursuing ambitious scholarship, for industry seeking innovation, and for communities working to improve quality of life.

Throughout his executive leadership, he has emphasized building institutional capacity rather than pursuing individual accomplishments. Whether developing research infrastructure, strengthening compliance systems, cultivating corporate partnerships, launching faculty development initiatives, or expanding experiential learning opportunities, his focus has remained on creating sustainable systems that continue to benefit institutions long after individual projects have concluded. This long-term perspective has shaped the growth of research enterprises, strengthened organizational resilience, and positioned institutions to compete successfully on a national stage.

Central to Dr. Rajan's leadership is a belief that excellence is achieved through collaboration. He has consistently fostered environments where faculty, staff, students, administrators, government agencies, industry partners, philanthropic organizations, and community leaders work together toward shared goals. By promoting transparency, shared governance, interdisciplinary collaboration, and accountability, he seeks to build organizations where innovation flourishes because people feel empowered to contribute their expertise and ideas.

As a first-generation college graduate whose educational journey began in rural India before leading research enterprises in the United States, Dr. Rajan brings a global perspective and a deep appreciation for the transformative power of education. His experiences have reinforced his conviction that talent exists everywhere, but opportunity does not. This perspective continues to shape his commitment to expanding educational access, strengthening research opportunities, supporting faculty success, and preparing students from all backgrounds to become future innovators, scholars, entrepreneurs, and leaders.

Today, Dr. Rajan's leadership continues to focus on positioning public universities as engines of innovation, economic prosperity, and social mobility. He believes that institutions of higher education have a unique responsibility to anticipate future workforce needs, advance scientific discovery, foster responsible innovation, and prepare graduates who will strengthen their communities and contribute to solving society's most pressing challenges.

Leadership Principles *(visual cards or icons on the webpage.)*

Purpose-Driven Leadership

Align institutional strategy with measurable outcomes that improve lives through education, research, innovation, and public service.

People First

Invest in faculty, staff, and students by creating environments where individuals can achieve excellence and maximize their potential.

Collaboration Without Boundaries

Build partnerships across disciplines, industries, government, philanthropy, and communities to address complex challenges through collective expertise.

Innovation With Integrity

Advance discovery responsibly through a strong culture of research excellence, compliance, transparency, and accountability.

Building Institutional Capacity

Develop sustainable systems, infrastructure, and leadership that strengthen organizations for generations rather than for individual achievements.

Public Impact

Ensure that research and innovation create tangible benefits for society by advancing economic development, workforce preparedness, community well-being, and national competitiveness.

Leadership Perspective

"Universities fulfill their greatest purpose when they empower people, advance discovery, and translate knowledge into opportunities that strengthen communities, expand economic prosperity, and improve lives."

SECTION 3: "What has Dr. Rajan built?" This section should establish my

identity as an **institution builder**, not simply an administrator. Throughout my CV, one can notice a consistent pattern: every role has involved creating systems, expanding capacity, strengthening organizations, and leaving institutions better positioned than when I arrived. That is the story we want to tell.

Executive Leadership

Building Research Enterprises That Transform Institutions

As Vice President for Research & Innovation and Chief Research Officer at Prairie View A&M University, Dr. Magesh T. Rajan provides executive leadership for one of the university's most dynamic and rapidly evolving strategic enterprises. Serving as a member of the President's Cabinet, he leads a comprehensive research and innovation ecosystem that advances scholarly excellence, strengthens institutional competitiveness, expands strategic partnerships, and creates lasting public impact through discovery, innovation, and economic development.

Dr. Rajan's leadership extends beyond overseeing research administration. He is responsible for shaping the university's long-term research strategy, building organizational capacity, fostering a culture of innovation, and aligning research priorities with the institution's broader mission of academic excellence, student success, community engagement, and economic opportunity. His approach integrates research, education, innovation, entrepreneurship, compliance, and external engagement into a unified enterprise that supports faculty achievement while preparing students to become future scholars, innovators, and leaders.

Under his leadership, the Division of Research & Innovation has evolved into an interconnected organization where every functional area contributes to a common purpose: enabling discovery that benefits society while strengthening the university's research capacity and national reputation. Rather than operating as independent

administrative offices, the division functions as a collaborative ecosystem that supports the full lifecycle of research—from idea development and proposal preparation to compliance, funding, innovation, commercialization, strategic partnerships, communications, and societal impact.

Today, Dr. Rajan provides executive oversight for an enterprise encompassing:

Research Advancement & Sponsored Programs

Providing strategic leadership for research development, proposal competitiveness, faculty support, sponsor engagement, and sponsored research administration while expanding opportunities for external funding and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Research Integrity, Compliance & Responsible Conduct

Leading university-wide research compliance programs that safeguard the integrity, ethics, and accountability of research involving human participants, animals, biosafety, export controls, responsible conduct of research, and research security while maintaining the highest standards of regulatory excellence.

Innovation, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship

Advancing technologies from discovery to application through intellectual property development, technology transfer, startup formation, industry engagement, proof-of-concept funding, and commercialization strategies that increase the societal and economic impact of university research.

Strategic Partnerships & Economic Development

Cultivating long-term collaborations with federal agencies, state government, industry, philanthropic organizations, national laboratories, community partners, and peer institutions to expand research opportunities, workforce development, and regional innovation ecosystems.

Student Research & Workforce Development

Expanding undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral research opportunities that prepare students to become innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and professionals while strengthening the next generation of scientific and engineering talent.

Research Communications & Institutional Visibility

Elevating the visibility and impact of faculty scholarship through strategic communications, storytelling, public engagement, national recognition, and initiatives that strengthen the university's research reputation among peers, sponsors, policymakers, and the public.

Leading an Integrated Research Enterprise

Dr. Rajan believes that a modern research university succeeds when every part of the research enterprise functions as an integrated system rather than a collection of independent offices. Throughout his leadership, he has emphasized collaboration across functional areas, creating operational excellence through shared accountability, strategic planning, continuous improvement, and transparent decision-making.

This systems-based approach has strengthened organizational effectiveness while enabling the university to respond more effectively to emerging research opportunities, federal priorities, corporate partnerships, and interdisciplinary initiatives. By aligning administrative excellence with strategic vision, he has helped position Prairie View A&M University to compete successfully for increasingly complex and high-impact research initiatives.

Executive Leadership Priorities

Dr. Rajan's leadership focuses on six strategic priorities that collectively strengthen the university's research enterprise and long-term institutional competitiveness.

Strengthening Research Excellence

Building the infrastructure, processes, and faculty support systems that enable world-class scholarship and sustained growth in externally funded research.

Developing Faculty Capacity

Creating professional development opportunities, mentorship, collaborative networks, and strategic investments that empower faculty to pursue ambitious research agendas and achieve national recognition.

Expanding Student Opportunity

Integrating research experiences into the student journey, preparing graduates through experiential learning, interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Accelerating Innovation

Advancing discoveries beyond the laboratory by supporting commercialization, intellectual property development, startup creation, and technology translation that benefit society and strengthen regional economies.

Building Strategic Partnerships

Establishing enduring relationships with government agencies, industry, philanthropic organizations, national laboratories, and academic institutions to expand opportunity, leverage expertise, and amplify institutional impact.

Advancing Institutional Transformation

Aligning research strategy with university priorities to strengthen competitiveness, elevate national reputation, enhance organizational capacity, and position Prairie View A&M University among the nation's leading public research universities.

Leadership in Action

Dr. Rajan's executive leadership is defined by an enduring commitment to building organizations that continue to thrive beyond any single initiative or administration. His work consistently focuses on creating sustainable systems, developing future leaders, strengthening institutional resilience, and positioning universities to anticipate emerging opportunities rather than simply respond to them.

This philosophy has shaped a research enterprise where administrative excellence supports academic innovation, strategic partnerships expand institutional capacity, and research serves as a catalyst for student success, economic prosperity, and public impact.