Partnering with Oak Ridge National Lab

Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) is the largest energy national laboratory in the Department of Energy (DOE) system. Vanderbilt University is one of the UT-Battelle University Partners, a select group of southeastern universities that work closely with ORNL to generate joint appointments, collaborative research, graduate student opportunities, and regional support for ORNL. At Vanderbilt, nearly a dozen faculty members collaborate regularly with ORNL.

Dennis Hall, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School, serves as Vanderbilt’s representative on the UT-Battelle Board of Governors, which oversees management of ORNL.

Peter Cummings, associate dean for research at the Vanderbilt University School of Engineering, has held an ORNL joint faculty appointment for seven years. From 2006 to 2013, he was the chief scientist of the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences and founded the nanoscience center’s Nanomaterials Theory Institute. Professor Cummings also serves on the leadership team of one of two Energy Frontier Research Centers that the DOE has established at ORNL.

Sandra Rosenthal, director of the Vanderbilt Institute of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (VINSE), also has a joint appointment with ORNL where she studies semiconducting nanocrystals.

Joseph Hamilton, professor of physics at Vanderbilt, worked with both the University of Tennessee and ORNL to establish the first joint institute at ORNL in 1981, the Joint Institute for Heavy Ion Research (recently renamed the Joint Institute of Nuclear Physics and Applications).

In October 2010, Tennessee was one of seven states selected by the National Science Foundation to receive an EPSCoR Award, totaling $20 million over five years. This is one of the largest federal science grants ever awarded to the state. The collaboration, known as Tennessee Solar Conversion and Storage Using Outreach, Research and Education (TN–SCORE), draws upon the state’s expanding energy industry and brings together researchers from Tennessee universities and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to boost energy-related research and education statewide. VINSE is playing a key role by conducting research and training undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty from across the state.

*The Pathfinder Hotline is a statewide multi-language help line that connects the Tennessee disability community with service providers and information

**Through the Volunteer Advocacy Program, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center trains interested individuals to become special education advocates who can provide instrumental and affective support to families of children with disabilities.

For more information, please contact Vanderbilt’s Office of Federal Relations:
Christina West (202) 216-4370 • Alex Currie (202) 216-4366 • Margie Glick (202) 216-4368