



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA®
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

August 12, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

As artificial intelligence rapidly reshapes nearly every sector of society, the University of Oklahoma is seizing this moment with urgency and purpose. With roughly one-quarter of the university's research rooted in AI, OU is harnessing its transformative power across fields to drive real-world solutions and equip students to thrive as professionals and citizens amid rapid technological change.

To help advance this important work, we are excited to announce the appointment of Shishir Shah, Ph.D., as our first university-wide Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer, pending final OU Regents' approval.

His arrival comes at a defining moment, as OU deepens its focus on artificial intelligence as a key priority of our [“Lead On, University: The Next Phase” Strategic Plan](#). At OU, our aim is to prepare students to enter society as leaders who understand the world around them and can navigate it with respect and dignity for all. By advancing a comprehensive, university-wide strategy to lead in AI innovation, research, education, and implementation, we are reimagining curriculum and academic opportunities to integrate AI across the student experience. This ensures our graduates enter the workforce not simply as literate AI-users, but as responsible, informed ones who know how to leverage this technology for maximum impact.

When it comes to innovation, OU's Data Institute for Societal Challenges, which develops convergent research teams to make advances in data science, AI, and machine learning, announced the award of nearly [\\$200,000 in pilot seed funding to 20 AI-focused projects](#) touching on topics from legal education to clinical imaging reports. This new wave of activity builds on OU's existing commitment to AI-enabled research. AI powers OU's next-generation weather research, including pioneering all-digital polarimetric [phased array radar](#). In health fields, university researchers are using AI to develop novel [endoscopic optical imaging techniques](#), advance [cardiac arrhythmia research](#), and make [genetic discoveries](#) that could lead to future breakthroughs for personalized medicine.

Under Dr. Shah's leadership, OU is poised to strengthen its role at the forefront of ethical and transformative uses of AI, expanding its global impact and capacity to address society's most complex challenges.

Reporting jointly to the Senior Vice President and Provost of both the OU Norman campus and OU Health Sciences, Dr. Shah will provide strategic direction for the university's AI and data science efforts, guiding a cross-disciplinary approach that builds on institutional strengths while accelerating new avenues for research, innovation, and application.

In addition to his appointment as Chief AI Officer, he will join the Gallogly College of Engineering as Director of the School of Computer Science.

Dr. Shah comes to OU from the University of Houston, where he serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science. He also founded and leads UH's Quantitative Imaging Laboratory, which focuses on developing advanced image and video analysis tools that support complex decision-making.

Dr. Shah's research concentrates on computer vision and machine learning, with expertise in areas such as person re-identification, human motion and behavior analysis, and microscope image analysis. His recent work addresses real-world AI challenges, including occlusion and appearance variation, lecture video summarization, and model drift in semantic segmentation – pushing the boundaries of adaptive, intelligent systems in complex environments.

In 2023, he was named a senior member of the National Academy of Inventors in recognition of his patented vision science technologies, which have led to applications in cellular and genetic screening, as well as video analytics systems that support the work of scientists, researchers, and clinicians. He also is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. With three edited books and over 200 publications to his credit, Dr. Shah sits on the editorial boards of four peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Shah earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering, all from the University of Texas at Austin. Following the completion of his Ph.D., he served as a faculty member at Wayne State University for two years before transitioning to leadership roles in two startup companies, overseeing research, development, and growth as Projects Manager and later as President and Chief Operating Officer. In 2005, Dr. Shah joined the University of Houston as an Assistant Professor of Computer Science and was appointed Chair in 2019.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Shah to OU.

Sincerely,

André-Denis G. Wright
Senior Vice President and Provost, Norman Campus

Gary E. Raskob
Senior Vice President and Provost, OU Health Sciences