



## **SPEARS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

### **Oklahoma State University**

#### **School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, School Head Position Announcement**

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) at Oklahoma State University (OSU) invites applications and nominations for the position of Head of School. The preferred start date is Spring 2026, though an earlier or later start may be negotiated. The search will remain open until the position is filled. HTM is housed within the AACSB-accredited Spears School of Business, one of the largest and most successful units at OSU. In 2024, HTM was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> nationally and 22<sup>nd</sup> globally, reflecting its academic excellence, strong research culture, and long-standing industry partnerships. Established 88 years ago, HTM is one of the oldest and most respected hospitality and tourism programs in the United States. It offers undergraduate, master's, and Ph.D. degrees and engages students, alumni, and industry leaders through a robust portfolio of academic programs, signature events, and professional collaborations. We seek a visionary leader who will guide HTM's next chapter of growth and global engagement. The successful candidate will demonstrate a strong record of scholarship, inclusive leadership, and administrative experience within an R1 university setting.

#### **Position Responsibilities**

The Head will report to the Dean of the Spears School of Business and will:

- Provide visionary leadership and clear communication to foster a collegial, inclusive, and forward-looking academic culture.
- Lead the development and implementation of a strategic vision that drives continuous improvement in academic programs, research, and external engagement.
- Advance HTM's national and international prominence through faculty development, student success, and high-impact research.
- Collaborate with faculty to support and mentor their professional growth and career development.
- Participate in and support the recruitment of outstanding candidates for the undergraduate, master's and Ph.D. programs.
- Oversee the operations of HTM, including budgeting, personnel management, program development, and external relations.
- Support efforts within Spears to maintain AACSB accreditation.
- Represent HTM in a broad range of internal and external activities, including development and alumni relations, student placement, and engagement with both industry and academic organizations.
- Collaborate effectively with departments, programs, units, and administrators across Spears and OSU.

- Serve as an active member of the Spears Executive Committee and contribute to advancing the Spears mission.
- Balance multiple demands of the position while continuing personal growth and development.

### **Qualifications and Experience**

- Earned doctorate in hospitality, tourism or a closely related field.
- Demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and professional service at a level that qualifies for appointment with tenure, preferably at the rank of full professor.
- Highly effective communication, interpersonal and leadership skills as evidenced by the ability to engage with faculty, students, staff, alumni, and the business community.
- Academic experience, preferably in a leadership position that demonstrates planning, program development, evaluation, problem solving, external relations, and collaboration skills.
- Relevant industry experience preferred.
- Experience creating and sustaining a culture of openness, collaboration, inclusion, and belonging.

### **Academic Environment**

Founded in 1937, the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) within the Spears School of Business is one of the oldest and most prestigious hospitality and tourism educational programs in the nation. It has evolved into a business-focused, high-caliber academic program, consistently ranked among the top 10 HTM programs in the United States and within the top 25 worldwide based on research productivity. The School offers a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Hospitality and Tourism Management, as well as master's and PhD programs.

HTM is renowned for its commitment to superior learning, research, service, and outreach in a professional and caring environment. This mission is achieved through excellence in delivering theoretical constructs supported by practical experiences in state-of-the-art teaching laboratories. The curriculum emphasizes quality, innovation, and industry-based applications at all educational levels, working closely with hospitality industry professionals to integrate current events and future trends. The School also hosts numerous signature events that attract individuals and alumni from across the country to campus, providing students with valuable networking opportunities.

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management is one of eight departments in the Spears School of Business. Spears is AACSB accredited and one of the largest and most successful units at OSU, offering a full range of academic programs at the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels. The Spears School of Business actively supports students and faculty with a variety of resources, including the Eastin Center for Career Readiness, the CAGLE Center for Study Abroad, the Center for Executive and Professional Development, and significant resources dedicated to the development and delivery of online curricula.

OSU is a modern land-grant institution with an interdisciplinary approach to programs that prepares students for success. Through leadership and service, OSU is preparing students for a bright future and building a brighter world for all. As Oklahoma's only university with a statewide presence, OSU improves the lives of people in Oklahoma, the nation, and the world through integrated, high-quality teaching, research, and outreach. OSU has more than 35,000 students across its five-campus system. The main campus is in Stillwater, a city of about 50,000 residents situated approximately 65 miles from both

Oklahoma City and Tulsa, and approximately 250 miles from Dallas and Kansas City. OSU Stillwater has more than 24,500 students on its campus, representing all 50 states and more than 100 countries.

Stillwater is a diverse and welcoming academic and cultural community. Students and staff of OSU comprise about half of the city's population. Stillwater has been described as “America’s Friendliest College Town,” and has been listed as one of Money Magazine’s Best Places to Live. Stillwater boasts a historic downtown, a superb campus, highly rated public schools, and a regional airport with direct flights to and from Dallas-Fort Worth. The city offers a variety of activities on campus and in the community, including music, drama, art, speakers, recreation, and sporting events. Examples include the McKnight Center for the Performing Arts, the Colvin Center, and the Seretean Wellness Center for physical education and recreation. Nearby lakes, walking/biking trails, and local/state parks are popular with students and faculty.

### **Additional Resources**

- School of Hospitality and Tourism Management - [https://business.okstate.edu/departments\\_programs/htm/](https://business.okstate.edu/departments_programs/htm/)
- Spears School of Business - <https://business.okstate.edu/>
- Oklahoma State University - <https://go.okstate.edu/>
- OSU interactions with the Stillwater area - <https://go.okstate.edu/about-osu/visit-stillwater.html>
- Information about the Stillwater area - [www.visitstillwater.org](http://www.visitstillwater.org)

### **Applications and Nominations:**

Applications received by **August 15, 2025**, will receive priority consideration; however, application review will continue until the position is filled. Applications will be accepted online at [jobs.okstate.edu](http://jobs.okstate.edu).

Candidates should submit the following materials: letter of interest; statement of teaching, research, and service/outreach; summary of prior teaching evaluations; curriculum vitae; and list of three references.

Questions regarding this position or nominations, including the name, address, phone number, and email of the individual you are nominating, may be directed to:

#### **Dr. Teresa Lightner**

Associate Dean of Business Intelligence  
William S. Spears Chair in Business Administration  
Spears School of Business  
370 Business Building, Oklahoma State University  
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*inquired about, discussed, or disclosed their pay or the pay of another employee or applicant. However, employees who have access to the compensation information of other employees or applicants as a part of their essential job functions cannot disclose the pay of other employees or applicants to individuals who do not otherwise have access to compensation information unless the disclosure is (a) in response to a formal complaint or charge, (b) in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action, including an investigation conducted by the employer, or (c) consistent with the contractor's legal duty to furnish information.*

*Oklahoma State University is a land-grant institution committed to excellence in diversity and inclusion. We strive to maintain a welcoming and inclusive environment that appreciates and values all members of the University community. We define diversity as engagement in meaningful actions, behaviors, and conversations that reflect a commitment to recognizing, understanding, and respecting the differences among students, faculty, staff, and visitors throughout the OSU system. We do not condone acts, behavior, language, or symbols that represent or reflect intolerance or discrimination. OSU is dedicated to cultivating and enriching the competitive advantages that diversity and inclusion provide all members of the University community. We identify diversity as a quality of life issue, as well as an important economic driver for the prosperity and well-being of the state, nation, and world.*

*Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions. For more information, visit <https://eeo.okstate.edu>.*