After a nationwide search in 2016, Oregon Institute of Technology’s Board of Trustees selected Dr. Nagi Naganathan as the 7th President of the university on November 16, 2016. At the time, Dr. Naganathan served as the dean of the College of Engineering at The University of Toledo (UT) in Toledo, Ohio. Dr. Naganathan was also UT’s interim president during 2014-15; was the founding chairperson of the Mechanical, Industrial, and Mechanical Engineering department; and was a member of the faculty since 1986. Under his leadership as dean, UT’s College of Engineering achieved historically high student enrollment, registering an increase in enrollment every fall semester for 11 years through improved recruitment and retention; successfully implemented a mandatory co-operative experience program – one of only eight in the nation. He has co-authored more than 100 publications and has secured more than six million dollars in grants and contracts.

Since becoming Oregon State University’s 14th president in 2003, Dr. Edward J. Ray has led a remarkable transformation. During his tenure, Oregon State has become an internationally recognized public research university and has continued to expand the excellence, scope and impact of its academic, research and outreach services. Under his leadership, OSU completed its first major capital campaign, which raised $1.14 billion and included contributions from more than 106,000 donors. The Campaign for OSU helped to build or renovate 28 OSU buildings, endow 79 new faculty positions; and create more than 600 new scholarship and fellowship funds for 3,200 students. President Ray came to OSU from Ohio State University, where he had served as executive vice president and provost since 1998 and was a member of the economics faculty for more than 30 years. He received his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Queens College in New York City in 1966 and a master’s and Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University in 1969 and 1971, respectively.
Michael H. Schill is the 18th president of the University of Oregon. He began his tenure on July 1, 2015. He previously served as the dean and Harry N. Wyatt Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School. Prior to joining the University of Chicago in 2010, Schill served as the dean of the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law from 2004 to 2009. His other faculty appointments include tenured positions as professor of law and urban planning at New York University and professor of law and real estate at the University of Pennsylvania. A nationally recognized expert in property, real estate, and housing law and policy, his work includes studies of the determinants of value in condominium and cooperative housing, the impacts of housing programs on property values, the enforcement of Fair Housing laws, mortgage securitization, and the deregulation of housing markets. In 2004, Schill founded the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at New York University. Under his and subsequent leadership, the Furman Center has become one of the nation’s leading research centers on housing and the built environment. Schill is also a member of the Board of Governors of Argonne National Laboratory, a member of the Board of Trustees of Ithaka, the nonprofit organization that owns JSTOR, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Wim Wiewel assumed the presidency of Portland State University in August 2008. Under his leadership, the University has developed five guiding themes: Provide civic leadership through partnerships, improve student success, achieve global excellence, enhance educational opportunity, and expand resources and improve effectiveness. This has brought a renewed focus on expanding the university’s civic partnerships in the region and achieving a new degree of excellence through strategic investments. Prior to coming to PSU, Wiewel was the Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of Baltimore. Wiewel served as Dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and also directed UIC’s Center for Urban Economic Development. He holds degrees in sociology and urban planning from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University. Wiewel has authored and edited many books and articles which have appeared in publications and journals including the Economic Development Quarterly, Economic Geography and the Journal of the American Planning Association. His most recent books are Global Universities and Urban Development, The University as Urban Developer and Suburban Sprawl.
Roundtable Participants

Derek Brandes  
President  
Walla Walla Community

Allan Cahoon  
President & Vice Chancellor  
Royal Roads University

Christine Johnson  
Chancellor  
Community Colleges of Spokane

Denise Mullen  
President  
Oregon College of Art & Craft

Paul Dangerfield  
President  
Capilano University

David Docherty  
President  
Mount Royal University

Thomas Insko  
President  
Eastern Oregon University

Vikram Jandhyala  
Vice President for Innovation Strategy  
University of Washington

Dale Eisler  
Senior Advisor, Government Relations, University of Regina

Moderator: Nirav Desai, Chief Technologist, Booz Allen Hamilton
Nirav Desai

Chief Technologist

Booz Allen Hamilton

Nirav S. Desai is a Chief Technologist in Booz Allen Hamilton’s Strategic Innovation Group where he leads the firm’s Horizon 3 Immersive Technology Strategy and their Seattle Innovation Hub. In these roles Mr. Desai seeks to help bridge the divide between the innovation economy and incumbent business models – with an acute focus on AR/VR, Machine Intelligence, Internet of Things, and emerging disruptive technologies applied to the Federal, Health, and Technology sectors. He works with corporate innovation labs, government research centers, universities, and startup incubators and accelerators, to identify edge technologies that address challenging use-cases. Mr. Desai serves as a Startup Mentor for TechStars, a leading startup accelerator with programs in Seattle, Boulder, Austin, Boston, Berlin, and others. He also has an affiliate faculty appointment with the University of Washington’s Department of Electrical Engineering. Prior to working at Booz Allen, Mr. Desai worked at various robotics and media startups in DC and Austin. He graduated from the University of Texas with degrees in Computer Science, Math, and Philosophy.

Vikram Jandhyala

Vice President for Innovation Strategy

University of Washington

Vikram Jandhyala is Vice President for Innovation Strategy at the University of Washington, Executive Director of CoMotion, UW's collaborative innovation hub, and co-Executive Director of the Global Innovation Exchange (GIX). He is a Professor and former Chair in the Department of Electrical Engineering, an Adjunct Professor in the Information School and serves on the advisory boards of UW Foster Business School's Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship and Partners for Our Children. Vikram received his PhD degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1998. He founded, along with his students, Nimbic (acquired by Mentor Graphics) and was an early employee at Ansoft (acquired by Ansys). His current interests are in innovation, entrepreneurial and design thinking, social and organizational networks, and computational and data science.