

# Gary Ostrander, VP for research at Florida State, announces he's stepping down in December

[Byron Dobson](#), Tallahassee Democrat Published 5:55 p.m. ET Jan. 24, 2020 | Updated 8:27 p.m. ET Jan. 24, 2020



Gary Ostrander, Vice President for Research at Florida State University. (Photo: Michele Edmunds)

Gary Ostrander, vice president for research at Florida State University since May 2012, is stepping down at the end of the year.

He made the announcement Friday in an internal email to faculty and staff.

Ostrander, a noted researcher in biology, said he is returning to a faculty position at FSU's College of Medicine.

In his semester update to faculty, Ostrander noted 2020 was "a time to reflect on long-term goals and priorities," adding he is entering his ninth year as vice president.

"While this is a very rewarding and exciting position, I have always said that I would someday like to return to one of the very best jobs on this campus," Ostrander said.

"To this end, I have advised President Thrasher that it is my intent to step down at the end of the calendar year and return to the faculty in the College of Medicine.

"In the interim, I look forward to working with you on the many initiatives we have underway in the coming year."

Ostrander, now 62, said when he accepted the position at FSU, he felt he would step down by age 60 to return to a faculty position.

"This is 100 percent my decision, my choice," Ostrander told the Tallahassee Democrat. "I've really always anticipated my last job would be a faculty member.

"I've been doing this (administrative positions) for about 26 years now. I thought this is the right time. We've accomplished a lot."

Ostrander said he met Thursday with staff and informed members of his decision. He decided to post it on Friday.

"(FSU President) John (Thrasher) and I have been talking about this for a few months now," Ostrander said. "I made the final decision recently."

Ostrander was named vice president in May 2012 by then-President Eric Barron. He succeeded Kirby Kemper, who was retiring after nine years in the position and more than 40 years as a faculty member.

At the time, Ostrander was vice chancellor for Research and Graduate Education at the University of Hawaii's flagship campus in Honolulu, a position he held since 2005.

While in Hawaii he also served as interim dean of the Medical School from 2004-2006.

Previously, he was a member of the faculty at Oklahoma State University and at Johns Hopkins University, and served as associate provost for research and chair of the Graduate Board at Johns Hopkins University.

Ostrander directs the Office of Research and oversees FSU's \$250 million research operation, including its research centers, programs and institutes. He oversees a staff of over 100 and an operating budget of more than \$30 million.

His research spans from cancer biology to marine biology.

He received a bachelor's degree in biology from Seattle University, a master's degree in biology from Illinois State University, and a doctorate from the University of Washington.

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