



# TALCOTT MOUNTAIN

SCIENCE CENTER • ACADEMY • RESEARCH INSTITUTE



## **Dean of Talcott Mountain Academy**

*Talcott Mountain Science Center & Academy*

[talcottscience.org](http://talcottscience.org)

Avon, CT

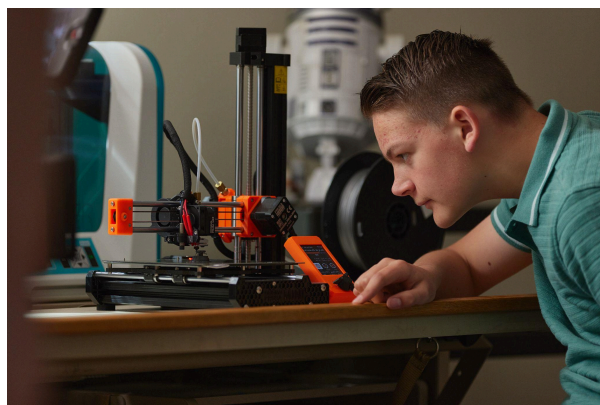
Start Date: July 1, 2026

## About

The mission of Talcott Mountain Science Center, Academy, & Research Institute is as follows: **“We are a pioneering STEM institution where education, research, and outreach inspire and empower advanced and curious learners.”** Responding to the need for hands-on science education, and to provide learning experiences for young people whose academic abilities and interests were not being met by their schools, Talcott Mountain Science Center (TMSC) was founded in 1967 as a beacon for both STEM and gifted education. Throughout its history, Talcott Mountain Science Center, Academy, & Research Institute (TMSCARI) has educated thousands of bright, highly motivated children through direct engagement with outstanding scientist-educators and state-of-the-art technology.

There have been extensions to TMSC in the years since its founding. In 1983, Talcott Mountain Academy (TMA) was established as a division of TMSC, aiming to provide a comprehensive educational experience that meets the unique learning needs of highly gifted students. Built on TMSC’s premise of experiential education, TMA serves advanced students in kindergarten through eighth grades with a robust curriculum in a nurturing community that encourages students to explore, engage, and excel. In 2025, Talcott Mountain Research Institute (TMRI) was established to extend the reach of TMSC’s legacy into STEM-based research and through advanced programming for high school students and beyond. The three divisions of TMSCARI work together to advance education, research, and public outreach for learners of all ages.

In July of 2022, Talcott Mountain Science Center & Academy welcomed Jeff Martin to serve as the Organization’s third-ever Executive Director. Charged with leading the Organization to its next chapter, Mr. Martin has highlighted the remarkable passion and potential of the TMSCARI community. Collectively, TMSCARI serves more than a thousand young people annually.



## Overview

Talcott Mountain Academy (TMA), Central Connecticut's only private school for advanced learners, seeks a Dean. The Dean serves as TMA's day-to-day educational and operational leader, ensuring that the TMA experience represents the highest degrees of excellence, creativity, and innovation in K-8 gifted and STEM-focused education. The Dean also oversees student life and social-emotional learning at TMA, working closely with students, families, and faculty and staff alike to foster an educational environment where TMA's [mission, vision, and core values](#) are paramount. A key member of TMSCARI's senior administration, the Dean will provide organizational, operational, and educational leadership; possess direct experience and expertise in gifted education; demonstrate passion for their work; and be a force for fostering community through collaboration and inclusivity. A thoughtful, innovative leader in both advanced academics and STEM education is required in the Dean of Talcott Mountain Academy.

## Opportunities & Challenges

Celebrating its 42nd anniversary in 2025-2026, Talcott Mountain Academy has influenced and impacted both advanced academics and STEM education on scales ranging from local to international. Alumni and current TMA students describe it as a place of incredible exploration and belonging. Families have relocated from across the nation to attend Talcott Mountain Academy.

Collaborating with the Executive Director, other TMSCARI leaders, and the entire Academy community, the Dean will have the opportunity to continue and enhance the legacy of Talcott Mountain Academy. A significant and highly visible leadership position, the role of Dean demands mindfulness regarding TMA's opportunities and challenges. The Dean of Talcott Mountain Academy will be asked to:

- Serve as an educational thought leader for TMSCARI, particularly in advanced academics, partnering closely with the Executive Director, Director of TMRI, and Board of Trustees to grow and maximize TMA's potential
- Collaborate with TMSCARI leadership at all levels to clearly and effectively articulate the TMSCARI mission, vision, and values, fostering an inclusive and collaborative school community
- Represent TMA in local, regional, national, and global gifted and STEM-education communities, building mutually valuable partnerships with mission-aligned institutions
- Oversee the resources, staffing, and operations of Talcott Mountain Academy, ensuring excellence in teaching and learning and effective daily management of school functions



## Qualifications & Personal Attributes

An essential member of the TMSCARI leadership team, the Dean of Talcott Mountain Academy must possess the highest levels of professional experience and expertise, combined with personal attributes that manifest in effective, relational leadership. TMA's next Dean will possess the following skills, experience, and education:

- **Be a passionate and highly relational leader** with at least five years of direct experience in gifted education, demonstrating the ability to cultivate and maintain positive, productive relationships with families, students, and colleagues, as well as external constituencies and partners. This leader will have excellent communication skills, be experienced as a successful educational administrator, and lead by example as a master teacher committed to lifelong learning. Along with the Executive Director and TMRI Director, the Dean will be a highly visible representative of the TMSCARI mission.
- **Be able to articulate a compelling vision for the future of Talcott Mountain Academy**, empowering and cultivating leadership skills in both students and staff alike. The Dean will help to grow enrollment at TMA, attracting and retaining a diverse population of advanced learners, while also building and fostering community among all Academy constituencies.
- **Be a skilled school leader with at least five years of senior level leadership experience**, preferably in an independent school. This leader will effectively manage faculty and staff to ensure efficient operations in a small, close-knit school environment.
- Possess the minimum of a Master's degree in education and/or other related fields, with academic credentials in gifted education strongly preferred. A background or formal studies in a STEM field are also highly desired.

## Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Talcott Mountain Science Center, Academy, & Research Institute and the town of Avon, Connecticut:

[Talcott Mountain Science Center, Academy, & Research Institute](#)

[Town of Avon, Connecticut](#)

## **Salary & Benefits**

Commensurate with experience and education, the annual salary for this role is anticipated to be between \$100,000-\$110,000. Additional benefits include paid time off; optional participation in TMSCA's health, dental, vision, and supplemental life insurance programs; participation in TMSCARI's 403b retirement savings program; and professional development opportunities.

## **To Apply**

After reviewing the [full position description](#), qualified candidates should submit the following items as individual PDF attachments in a single email:

- A thoughtful cover letter expressing their interest in and preparation for the position of TMA Dean;
- A current résumé;
- A one-page statement that addresses both the applicant's educational and leadership philosophies;
- A writing sample that exemplifies the applicant's personal leadership style;
- A list of five professional references with name, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission)

Materials should be submitted by email to [careers@tmsc.org](mailto:careers@tmsc.org) with "Dean of Talcott Mountain Academy" as the subject line. The deadline for applications is Monday, January 26, 2026. No phone calls.

