

DEAN PROSPECTUS

CATERPILLAR COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Bradley University invites nominations and applications in its search for a visionary, multidisciplinary leader to serve as Dean of the Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology (CCET). The College is proud of its commitment to quality undergraduate and graduate education with an emphasis on preparing students to face the engineering and technical challenges of the twenty-first century through engaging classroom, laboratory, practicum, and co-curriculum experiences. In 2019, Bradley opened the Business and Engineering Convergence Center, which serves as the home of the Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology.

The Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology serves a vibrant community of students through seven undergraduate majors, three minors, and six master's degree programs. The College serves 687 undergraduate students and 25 graduate students. The College is committed to providing transformative learning experiences across diverse contexts, environments, and modalities, fostering innovation, creativity, and career readiness. Organized into four academic departments, Civil Engineering and Construction; Electrical and Computer Engineering; Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering and Technology; and Mechanical Engineering, the College is supported by 32 full-time faculty members, including 28 tenured or tenure-track faculty, and 10 professional staff members dedicated to student success and academic excellence.

Bradley University is a mid-sized, private, top-10 Midwest Regional University in Peoria, Illinois, which offers students the opportunities and resources of a larger university and the personal attention and exceptional learning experiences of a smaller university. Bradley enrolls nearly **4,000 students** (approximately **3,200 undergrads**, and **767 graduate students)**, employs approximately 1,000 people, has an annual operating budget of **$160 million** and an endowment of **$405 million**.

BRADLEY University

POSITION OF THE DEAN

Reporting to the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, the dean will serve as the chief administrative and academic officer of the Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology. The Dean provides strategic vision and leadership macros all academic programs. Research initiatives, and personnel administration, while actively promoting industrial collaborations and external funding to support faculty research and student projects. The Dean will be expected to perform the following responsibilities:

The Dean will be a tenured faculty member in one of the academic departments in the College and will serve in a 12-month administrative appointment. It is anticipated that the **salary of the Dean will be in the range of $230K to $250K**, depending on qualifications and experience.

Academic Excellence, Curriculum, and Accreditation

- Set clear goals and promote high academic standards in instruction, research, and service.
- Facilitate the review and approval process for strengthening existing programs and establishing new undergraduate and graduate degree programs within the College.
- Lead and organize working collaborations with accrediting bodies such as ABET.
- Oversee the curricula of the College in strict alignment with ABET requirements for EAC and ETAC.

Student Recruitment and Success

- Support recruitment efforts of the College, ensure excellence in student academic advising, and oversee student success services.
- Promote, recruit, support, and develop an outstanding and diverse student body, faculty, and staff.
- Forge partnerships and articulation agreements with state, national, and international institutions of higher education to enhance student exchange and educational opportunities.

Faculty Development and Research

- Identify the College's technical and academic needs for faculty positions, establish hiring priorities, and deliver recommendations to the Provost.
- Support and assist the scholarly development of faculty, with a particular focus on mentoring junior faculty.
- Foster leading research programs that generate strong external funding revenues from research agencies and industry partners.

Interdisciplinary, Industry, and Community Partnerships

- Cultivate partnerships with other University colleges to develop interdisciplinary academic and research programs.
- Promote industry collaboration, economic health, and economic diversification through the strategic programs of the College.
- Create opportunities of mutual benefit among students, faculty, community leaders, and industry executives.

Financial Stewardship, Operations, and Shared Governance

- Provide oversight for the financial affairs of the College, including budget development and allocation.
- Guide short-range and long-range planning of capital improvement projects.
- Work cooperatively with campus administration, the Academic Senate, and other campus offices on the development and implementation of university-wide decisions, policy development, and strategic directions.
- Oversee all operations of the College and provide supportive direction to all College employees.

Advancement, Alumni Engagement, and External Support

- Cultivate local, national, and global relations and sources of support, working closely with development officers to cultivate major gifts and promote the image of the College.
- Enhance, promote, and expand alumni networks.





CATERPILLAR COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

The Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology remains strongly committed to excellence in instruction and scholarship. Its mission is to educate and graduate well-integrated individuals who possess technical and social competence to success in professional practice and advanced education. College objectives focus on the attainment of professional competence, the achievement of intellectual maturity and personal growth, and the development of social responsibility. One of its key goals is to prepare its graduates for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. All the College's programs seek to facilitate creative communication between technologists, engineers, and scientists and those educated in the liberal arts and other disciplines.

The College focuses considerable effort on ensuring relevant experiential learning in its curricula, strong industrial collaboration, and career readiness of its graduates. Its core educational objectives focus on building professional competence by providing a strong foundation in mathematics, science, and engineering concepts to solve complex problems; fostering personal growth through critical thinking, and ethical development; and instilling social awareness of diverse cultures and social impacts. Operationally, the College achieves these goals by emphasizing interdisciplinary education, providing hands-on learning through industry-based capstone projects and internships, and prioritizing robust cross-disciplinary communication.

The goals and mission of the College are carried out in large part by high-quality faculty and staff working in the various academic and administrative units. The college has 32 full-time faculty (28 tenured or tenured-track) and 10 professional staff members, and is organized into four academic departments:

- Civil Engineering and Construction
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering and Technology
- Mechanical Engineering

The quality of the College's programs and highly successful alumni have contributed to the Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology's being continuously ranked in the top 30 undergraduate engineering programs by U.S. News & World Report. All of the college's undergraduate engineering programs are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC). The Manufacturing Engineering Technology program is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission (ETAC) of ABET. The college's undergraduate construction major is accredited by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE).

OPPORTUNITIES & EXPECTATIONS

The Dean of the Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology at Bradley will lead a college with nationally recognized academic programs with world-class faculty and staff who produce graduates who readily find employment in their field with a 95% job placement rate within six months of graduation. The pursuit of excellence will be at the forefront when growing student enrollment and increasing student engagement and success.

The Dean will work alongside an exceptional and forward-thinking leadership team led by President James E. Shadid and Provost Daniel Moon who bring a deeply collaborative and strategic focus to Bradley's academic mission. Under their guidance, the University is actively driving academic transformation and institutional growth, providing the Dean with strong executive support and a shared commitment to elevating the College to national prominence.

The Dean will continue to enhance and expand both internal and external partnerships. They will work closely with the other deans and the university administration in advancing Bradley as a premier professions-focused undergraduate/graduate institution. Collaboration has been a hallmark of the College, particularly with the university's Foster College of Business with which it shared administrative leadership in the recent past. Instructional and scholarly cooperation will be encouraged among faculty at Bradley and with other institutions of higher learning. In the pivotal role as Dean, they will foster close collaborations with world-class local industry partners to significantly expand undergraduate practicum opportunities and drive impactful research projects for both undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, external support from private and government sponsors will be pursued by the Dean.

The College takes great pride in having state-of-the-art space and infrastructure in the Business and Engineering Convergence Center, a premier 270,000 square-foot facility designed to redefine the student learning experience. As home of the College's engineering programs, this innovative facility features 46 highly specialized laboratories, including a custom Product Realization Laboratory engineered around industrial ideation, prototyping, and assembly. From a unique five-story drop tower for impact testing to a fully equipped, modern lower-level machine shop, the building is constructed with an acoustically isolated concrete structure to handle robust, hands-on experimentation seamlessly. The Dean has the unique opportunity to leverage these on-of-a-kind engineering facilities in recruiting faculty, students, and industry partners in support of the College's mission.

The new Dean will be a collaborative and supportive member of the University community. The success of the Dean and the Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology will contribute directly to the success of the University, its faculty, and its students. The new Dean will have an opportunity to make a significant impact at Bradley University.



QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum Qualifications

- An earned doctorate or terminal Engineering degree from an accredited institution in one of the disciplines of the College, or in a closely related field.
- A distinguished record of teaching, scholarship, and leadership that warrants a tenured faculty appointment at the rank of Full Professor.
- A demonstrated record of competitive funding from appropriate federal research agencies, industry partners, and/or private foundations.
- Demonstrated successful administrative leadership experience in higher education as a dean, associate dean, department chair, center/institute director, or comparable position with responsibilities including curriculum oversight, superior student degree progress, budget development and management, strategic planning, personnel management, performance reviews, and hiring, promotion and tenure decisions.

Preferred Qualifications

- A minimum of five (5) years of demonstrated success in leadership and administration of complex, interdisciplinary academic units of relevant size and structure, along with the management of diverse groups of faculty, staff, and students.
- Demonstrated understanding of national trends in education, research, and best practices in engineering and technology, as evidenced by participation in or leadership of national advisory committees, national laboratories, university research institutes, or federal review panels.
- An appreciation and vision for utilizing new technologies like artificial intelligence to enhance the various programs of the College.
- National recognition for the candidate's record of scholarship, such as being named a Fellow of relevant engineering societies, receiving national awards, or holding elected leadership positions in state or national organizations.
- A proven record of accomplishment in developing and maintaining relationships with philanthropic donors to support major initiatives and engaging with alumni to cultivate new funding networks.
- Exhibited understanding of and commitment to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within an academic environment.
- A strong commitment to shared governance, transparency in management, and collaborative, data driven decision-making.
- Experience in faculty development and a proven record of recruiting, supporting, and retaining diverse faculty and staff.
- Demonstrated ability to build relationships with industry and institutional partners that promote strategic funding and collaborative opportunities for the College.
- Outstanding listening, oral, written communication, and interpersonal skills.
- A sincere commitment to holding a leadership position at a private university, engaging deeply with local and state communities, and advancing engineering education.
- Professional Engineering (PE) licensure, or its equivalent.





ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

Founded in 1897 by visionary philanthropist Lydia Moss Bradley, Bradley University has always challenged convention in pursuit of progress. Today, that pioneering spirit lives on through an innovative, student-centered education that prepares graduates to lead with confidence and purpose. Built for ambitious students, Bradley combines personalized support, hands-on learning, and close faculty mentorship to foster critical thinking, leadership, and real-world success. Rooted in meaningful connections and a commitment to excellence, Bradley empowers students to maximize their potential and make lasting contributions to their communities and careers.

BRADLEY University

WE ARE BRADLEY

Bradley University is a nationally recognized, private university in Peoria, Illinois. As a comprehensive university, Bradley offers more than 100 programs across five colleges, including psychology, nursing, computer science, engineering, biology, game design, music performance, sociology, kinesiology, and more.

With a 10:1 student to faculty ratio, all students get personalized attention from their instructors who serve as mentors throughout their academic journey.

Campus Logistics

- 87 buildings on an 97-acre campus
- Located in the historic West Bluff residential neighborhood
- One mile from downtown Peoria
- Eight miles from the Peoria International Airport
- Approximately 4,000

Financial Strengths

- Endowment as of May 31, 2026: $405 million
- FY 2026 budget: $160 million
- Undergraduate Cost of Attendance: 2026-2027 - Tuition, Room/Board and Fees: $59,058
- Graduate Cost of Attendance: 2026-2027 Rates - $1,158 a semester hour
- More than 90% of Bradley students receive financial assistance awards



100+ ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

11:1 STUDENT FACULTY RATIO

200+ STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FOR **100%** of students

94% CAREER OUTCOMES



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Bradley University consistently earns national recognition, and is named among the best colleges in the country by prestigious publications.

The U.S. News and World Report 2026 Best Colleges List distinguished Bradley in multiple categories, including:

- #169 on National Best Colleges List, and #6 in Illinois
- #36 Best Value for National Universities
- #44 Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs nationally
- #1 in Illinois Best Undergraduate Engineering for schools not offering a doctorate

Princeton Review featured Bradley multiple times in its Best 390 Colleges for 2026, including:

- Best Value Colleges
- Best Midwest
- Top 50 Game Design: Undergrad - #23 nationally
- Top Midwest Game Design: Undergrad - #4

The Wall Street Journal places Bradley in the top 20% nationally in America's Best Colleges 2026, recognized for its strong student outcomes and career preparation.

EXPLORE OUR FIVE COLLEGES







Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology

Students gain practical experience and build a strong foundation for their future careers as they learn in state-of-the-art facilities with world-class faculty guiding their journeys. It's where innovation meets excellence. Continuously ranked in the top 30 engineering programs nationwide, Bradley Engineering offers unparalleled opportunities for growth and success in the field.

Learn more.

College of Education and Health Sciences

Aspiring nurses, teachers, physical therapists, and nutritionists find their path here. College of Education and Health Sciences students have some of the highest pass rates on their individual licensing exams in the country. Our classrooms offer the best of traditional learning, modern technology, and new tools, including a high-fidelity multi-patient nursing simulation lab.

Learn more.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences allows students to explore learning across boundaries in the social sciences, the natural and computational sciences, and the humanities. Our programs offer students opportunities to work in diverse teams to solve important problems in new ways, developing the skills that enable students to excel in any career field.

Learn more.

Foster College of Business

The Foster College prepares students to make an immediate impact on the world. Through immersive real-world practice, students learn critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills. The college is home to the Center for Cybersecurity and the Turner Center for Entrepreneurship, allowing it to be a resource organization in the community.

Learn more.

Slane College of Communications and Fine Arts

Students have a myriad of opportunities to explore many career options through hands-on, experiential learning. Programs in art, communications, interactive media, music and theatre challenge students to be their best. And programs like the Hollywood Semester and Study Abroad, provide unique opportunities for once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Learn more.



THE PREMIER STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Bradley University is continually investing in spaces that enhance the student experience, creating modern, welcoming environments where students can live, learn, and build lasting connections. From updated residence halls and dining facilities to expanded recreation and gathering spaces, these improvements reflect the University's commitment to student success and well-being.

Students continue to benefit from recent campus enhancements, like the new community spaces in University Hall designed to foster collaboration and connection, while the new Goldin Gateway creates a welcoming front door to campus and symbolizes the strong partnership between Bradley and Peoria, serving as a visual reminder that opportunities for internships, service, and hands-on learning extend well beyond campus and throughout our hometown.

The Zaleski Recreation Complex offers expanded opportunities for fitness and recreation with pickleball, sand volleyball, and outdoor gathering spaces, while the Ken & Doris Kolb Music Pavilion has quickly become a vibrant destination for campus life.

The investment continues with the complete renovation of Harper Hall, scheduled for completion in Fall 2028. The updated residence hall will feature private single rooms, suite-style living with in-suite restrooms, modern finishes, and thoughtfully designed shared spaces that promote comfort and community. Together, these enhancements underscore Bradley's commitment to providing a premier residential experience where students can thrive both inside and outside the classroom.



DIVISION 1 NCAA TEAMS

With 15 Division 1 NCAA teams, we excel in the classroom and beyond. Learn More

BASEBALL
MEN'S BASKETBALL
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
CROSS COUNTRY
MEN'S GOLF
WOMEN'S GOLF
SOCCER
TENNIS
TRACK & FIELD
VOLLEYBALL
SOFTBALL

WELCOME TO PEORIA

Located in the heart of the Midwest, Peoria offers the best of both worlds: abundant career opportunities and an affordable, high-quality lifestyle. The region continues to attract new employers and create jobs in growing industries like advanced manufacturing and clean energy, while maintaining a cost of living that's about 9% below the national average. Whether you're looking for vibrant city living or a quiet neighborhood, Greater Peoria offers a place to call home, along with world-class healthcare, excellent schools, and easy access to destinations across the country and around the world.

- #5 Most Affordable College Towns, according to Realtor.com
- #7 Top Small City for recent grads by Coworking Cafe, Top Cities for Grads in 2026
- Four-Time all America City, recognized by the National Civic League for civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness and innovation
- #16 Best Affordable Place to live in the U.S. by U.S. News Best Places 2026
- World Class Museums, Professional Sports, and Fine Dining
- Three hours from Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis

The Peoria International Airport provides nonstop service on three airlines: Allegiant, American, and United. With free parking and shuttle service, PIA is a stress-free way to connect to the world. To learn more about the Peoria area, please visit Discover Peoria.



BRADLEY University

Application should be received by January 8, 2027, for full consideration. The committee will review application materials until the position is filled.

The application must include:

- A letter of interest
- Current curriculum vitae/resumé
- Contact information for five recent professional references

Submit materials in a PDF format:

Through the AGB Search Portal:

Bradley University-Dean of the Caterpillar College of Engineering & Technology

Direct nominations or interest to one of the following:

BUdeanengineering@agbsearch.com

Concetta M. Stewart, Ph.D.
Principal
concetta.stewart@agbsearch.com

Jerome A. "Jerry" Gilbert, Ph.D.
Executive Search Consultant
jerry.gilbert@agbsearch.com

Bradley University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination and the promotion of equal opportunities for all persons regardless of age, color, creed, disability, ethnicity, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or veteran status. The university is also committed to compliance with all applicable laws regarding non-discrimination, harassment, and affirmative action.