



LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY PROVOST & VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

OVERVIEW



Celebrating 57 years of excellence in education, Governors State University (GovState) is an Illinois public university serving 4,000 students in Illinois and Northwest Indiana. Nestled on 752 acres of land in University Park, the University is located 30 miles south of Chicago and strategically placed to provide an exceptional and accessible education.

Founded in 1969 as an upper-division institution, Governors State transitioned in 2014 to a comprehensive university that provides transformative undergraduate and graduate education to both traditional and adult learners in six colleges, as well as a School of Extended Learning. Today, GovState offers 31 bachelor degrees; 29 master degree programs; five doctorates and nearly 30 certificates programs that prepare them for success in business, industry, healthcare, the arts and education. And, more than 60,000 alumni call Governors State home.

Its mission and service territory are compelling. Serving a local and regional student population that spans from Chicago's South Side, to its south suburbs, to rural communities far beyond the city, GovState has throughout its history played a seminal role in improving the lives of its students and our communities.

The University has long partnered with the region's community colleges through an innovative Dual Degree Program that encourages students who start in the community college system to persist to attainment of a bachelor's degree at Governors State University.

As a state university with a regional focus, Governors State is committed to providing high-quality and responsive opportunities in higher education. Further, the University offers one of the best value undergraduate tuition and fee rates in the state in a picturesque setting that also serves as a cultural destination in the Southland, offering robust arts culture and natural wildlife.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

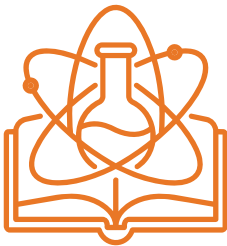
With four academic colleges and two specialty units, Governors State University students excel in small classes where staff and faculty provide high-level support.



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

College of Business (COB) is accredited by AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), a globally recognized standard of excellence. The College offers undergraduate and graduate programs across key business disciplines with online and flexible graduate options designed to serve both traditional students and working professionals.

The College's online MBA has received national recognition for value and quality, including a national ranking in DiscoverBusiness.us' 2024 Guide to 37 Best Value Online MBA Programs. COB also is home to the Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator (SCICBI), a hub of the Illinois Innovation Network.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is the largest college with 34 programs, 28 minors, and 11 post-baccalaureate certificates led by scholars engaged in University and community service. CAS is home to the Center for Performing Arts (1,171 seat theatre venue), the innovative Center for Community Media, Biology Field Station, Visual Arts Gallery, and award-winning Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.



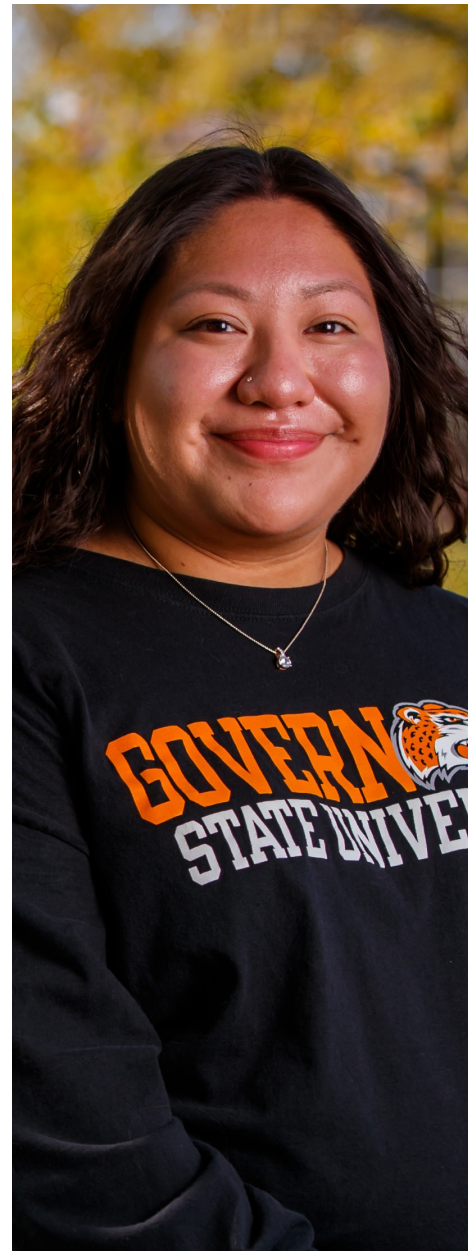
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) offers 10 programs*, including two of the University's doctoral degrees, one minor and several certificates and endorsements. CEHD is home to a state-of-the-art Psychology Counseling Lab, Community Counseling Services Lab, which provides free services to individuals and families in the GovState region, as well as the Psychology and Counseling Research Lab, the Literacy Zone, and the NAEYC-accredited Family Development Center, which offers childcare and services to the greater GovState community.



COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

College of Health and Human Services (CHHS), serves approximately 1,000 students annually in six undergraduate programs, seven graduate programs, two minors, three graduate certificate programs and three doctoral degree programs, including Addictions Studies and Behavioral Health, Communication Disorders, Health Administration and Informatics, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Social Work.



HONORS COLLEGE

The Governors State University Honors College brings together more than 160 high-achieving students each year from all four degree-granting colleges and majors, and is a key driver in advancing campus-wide undergraduate research work and global learning initiatives. Each year, students travel to Rome and Como, Italy for an experiential journey that distinguishes their academic experience from others. Additionally, small classes and faculty who support students' academic and professional goals propel Honors College students to their highest potential.



COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Governors State University's College of Graduate Studies helps students get to their next. With the specialized support of staff and faculty, students seeking graduate degrees belong to a welcoming community that helps them grow their skills, advance their career and achieve their goals.

KEY PRIORITIES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEXT PROVOST & VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

LEAD ACADEMIC PROGRAM STRATEGY AND DELIVERY

As GovState continues to evolve in order to attract and serve today's undergraduates, graduate students, and lifelong learners, the Provost must deeply understand academic culture and ensure that the university is evolving to offer relevant, rigorous, and appealing curricular offerings. As the leader of GovState's academic enterprise, the Provost oversees a broad range of Academic Affairs functions including faculty governance, promotion and tenure, accreditation, and selecting, developing, and assessing deans and other academic leaders. A spirit of collaboration in an active collective bargaining environment with multiple unions will be especially important for the Provost at GovState.

In this moment of significant transition and opportunity, academic strategy must be connected to overall institutional strategy. The Provost will have a leading role as the University navigates enrollment changes, new student populations, workforce development needs, AI and technological transformation, changing program demand, and potential new degree models and formats.

ADVANCE STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION

The Provost plays an essential role in ensuring that students make consistent academic progress, persist through their programs of study, and earn their desired degrees or credentials. Student retention has been a key area of focus in recent years at GovState, and the new Provost will be expected to continue to invest energy and resources in this area. By understanding the needs of current students; engaging effectively with students, faculty, and staff; supporting a wide range of learners; and addressing barriers to success, the Provost and their team can continue to advance these initiatives to ensure a positive academic experience and return on investment for graduates, as well as strengthened financial performance of the University.

CONTRIBUTE STRATEGICALLY TO FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

In an era of a multitude of pressures on higher education, including funding challenges, declining numbers of traditional-aged college students, and increased questioning from the public about the value of higher education, the Provost will be called upon to bring financial acumen and literacy to the role. They will need to consider the budget implications of decisions and understand how to allocate resources in ways that achieve optimal outcomes for the academic enterprise of Governors State University. Through exploration of new revenue streams, identification of greater system efficiencies, and strengthening of both internal and external relationships, the Provost can lead their team to have a clear and positive impact on the institution's financial health and sustainability. An unwavering commitment to the University's mission must always remain at the center of decision-making.

DEMONSTRATE AND PROMOTE FORWARD-FOCUSED LEADERSHIP

The Provost will bring a clear and inspiring academic vision for GovState's future to the Academic Affairs area and throughout the University. This work involves rethinking the mix of programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education levels in alignment with both student expectations and market demand. Faculty and staff expect that the Provost will lead the academic enterprise through times of uncertainty, will be a creative problem-solver, and will position GovState effectively as competition to recruit and retain students continues.

ENSURE A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Provost will promote a culture of trust through working in partnerships with faculty and staff, maintaining strong relationships with the Faculty Senate, deans, chairs, and individual faculty and staff, and communicating effectively and transparently about decisions after garnering input from a wide range of constituencies. In a true shared governance environment, they will listen broadly and seek diverse expertise, build consensus where possible, establish clear priorities and processes, and make difficult decisions when necessary while clearly conveying the rationale for such decisions. The Provost is tasked with following through and executing consistently in an environment where change is the norm.

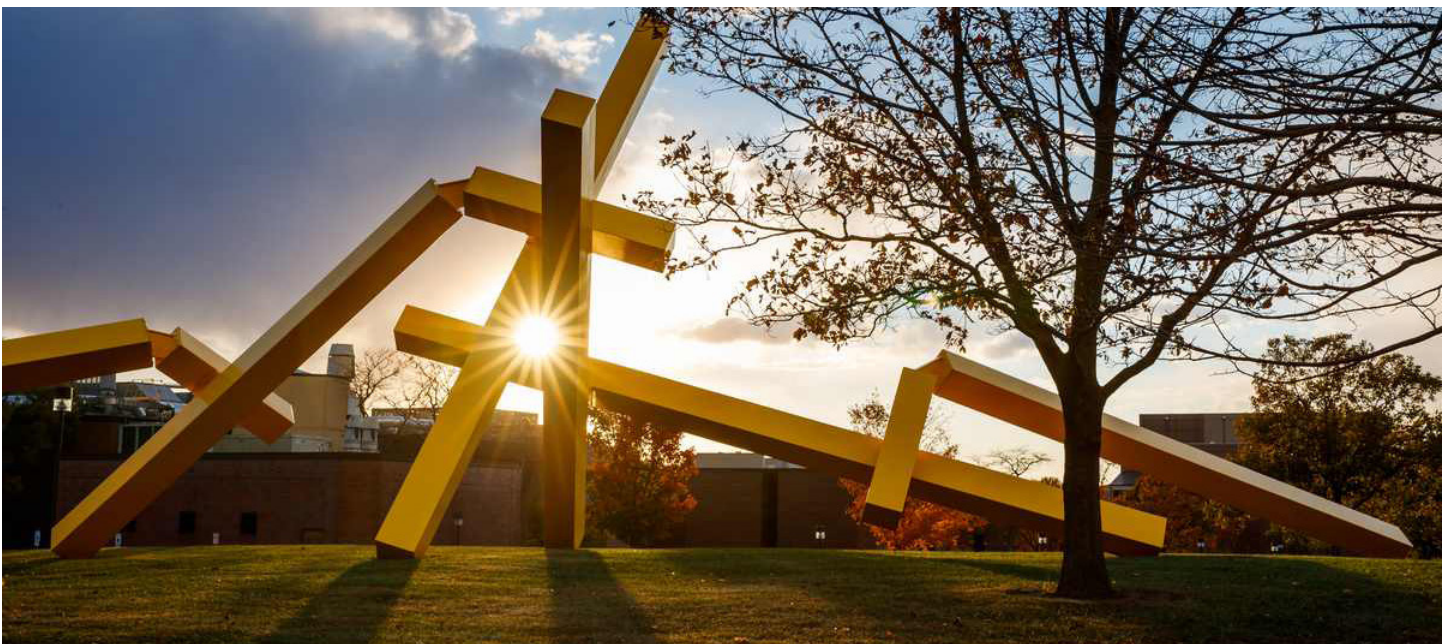
After a period of downsizing of faculty and staff, the Provost will articulate the way forward, build morale and confidence, and promote the active participation of members of the community. The Provost will model and inspire accountability from faculty, staff, and students, as success will require the contributions of a wide range of individuals across the GovState campus.

DESIRED QUALITIES, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES

Governors State University seeks a visionary, accomplished, student-centered leader to serve as its next Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs (“Provost”) and lead the academic program to new levels of excellence. Senior academic leadership experience and a background in a collective bargaining context are strongly preferred. An earned terminal degree is required.

The new Provost will:

- Understand the meaning of shared governance, with a record of accountability in transparency, collaboration, and a solution orientation, all of which will build trust and bridges across disciplines and schools/colleges of the University (strongly preferred).
- Have a strong academic record, with faculty experience and a previous award of tenure (strongly preferred).
- Be an advocate for academic quality who understands student success and retention, with leadership achievements in these vital areas (strongly preferred).
- Be an effective and consistent communicator in all forms, who listens and ensures faculty, staff, chairs, and students are highly engaged and well informed.
- Be a forward-thinking leader who understands the big picture, with the talent to advance the University’s mission and strategic plan.
- Have a track record of meeting the needs of a student body from a wide array of backgrounds.
- Have experience in evaluating programs, identifying market demand, developing new programs, and aligning offerings with student and workforce needs.
- Possess strong budget and financial acumen.
- Understand the connection between academic quality, enrollment, resource allocation, and fiscal sustainability.
- Be an effective change agent who has the skills to move from discussion to implementation, while maintaining trust, collaboration, and accountability.
- Understand faculty responsibilities, with the ability to engage faculty meaningfully, support innovation, and communicate initiatives effectively.
- Understand organizational interconnection, with the skills to improve processes, and bring people together to facilitate opportunities to engage in collaborative problem solving.
- Use quantitative and qualitative information, assessment, and predictive tools to inform programmatic and resource decisions.
- Be genuine, down-to-earth, approachable, visible, available, and committed to strong interpersonal relationships and improved morale.
- Be a collaborative and decisive leader who displays wisdom, makes tough decisions, explains the rationale for important judgments, and follows through.
- Be forward-thinking about AI and technology and help faculty and students navigate the rapidly changing developments in this area.
- Exhibit kindness and humility with impeccable ethics, integrity, and authenticity.
- Be service-oriented; and treat all members of the community equitably.



NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

AGB Search is pleased to assist Governors State University with this Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Search.

To ensure full consideration, applications should be received by Friday, November 6, 2026. Application materials should be submitted in PDF format through the AGB Search portal at: Governors State University Provost & VPAA Search (<http://bit.ly/4A7ieVM>) and must include the following:

- A letter of interest addressing the leadership agenda and qualifications identified in the profile
- A curriculum vitae
- The contact information for five professional references, including email address, phone number, and relationship to the candidate. No references will be contacted without prior explicit approval.



Nominations and expressions of interest will be treated in confidence. Please direct nominations and expressions of interest or any questions regarding the application process to **Jennifer Ferrera at GovStateProvost@agbsearch.com**.

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It is the policy of Governors State University, in its role as educator, employer, and purchaser of goods and services, to provide equal opportunity and affirmative action. Discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status is strictly prohibited.





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