



## **Executive Vice President and Provost Position Description**

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) invites nominations, expressions of interest, and applications for the position of Executive Vice President and Provost (EVP/Provost). UNLV seeks a scholar with the vision and leadership skills necessary to partner with Dr. Len Jessup, UNLV's newly appointed President, in further developing and implementing the University's "Top Tier Initiative"—an ambitious academic strategic plan aimed at enhancing both the profile and capabilities of the institution as a major metropolitan research university.

### **The University**

Founded in 1957, UNLV is a doctoral-degree-granting institution serving over 29,000 students, including 5,000 graduate and professional students, supported by more than 2,900 faculty and staff and has recently experienced its fourth consecutive year of enrollment growth. Located on a 332-acre main campus and two satellite campuses in dynamic Southern Nevada, the University offers more than 220 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs through its 15 colleges and schools and has internationally recognized programs in hotel administration and creative writing; professional degrees in law, architecture, and dental medicine; and other programs in fine arts, sciences, engineering, and education. In addition to its existing programs, UNLV's exciting new School of Medicine is on track to welcome its first students in Fall 2017. In recent decades, UNLV has erected more than 100 buildings, developed dozens of graduate programs, created partnerships with the community, fielded nationally ranked sports teams, founded an alumni association, promoted scholarship, established a fundraising foundation, and recruited diverse and talented students from across the country.

As the largest research university in the state and the only one in Southern Nevada, UNLV is dedicated to developing and supporting the human capital, regional infrastructure, and economic diversification that Nevada needs for a sustainable future. To that end, the University has built effective and successful relationships with the Governor's Office and state legislature to further accelerate the University's current momentum and growth in pursuing its "Top Tier Initiative". Through its work with the Governor's Office and the state legislature, UNLV has received increased funding this year in addition to a recent bill being passed to assist in funding the School of Medicine. UNLV is committed to joining the nation's top tier of research institutions through a focused effort to attract the best students and faculty, educate a diversifying population and workforce, and drive economic activity through research and community partnerships to create a more vibrant economy.

UNLV is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as an "RU/H: Research Universities (high research activity)," with research expenditures of approximately \$40 million and an endowment of over \$239 million. Furthermore, in December 2012 UNLV applied for and achieved designation from the Department of Education (DOE) as a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) and the University meets the requirements as an Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) and recently achieved the DOE threshold for a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). In September of this year, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked UNLV one of the second most diverse universities in the country. UNLV is

accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and has numerous programs that are accredited by discipline-specific accrediting agencies. For a full list of Academic Program Accreditations, please visit <http://provost.unlv.edu/vpaa/accreditation.html>. Additional information about UNLV, its history, and programs can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu>.

### **Points of Pride**

Some of the University's recent accomplishments and initiatives include:

- Establishing an independent allopathic degree-granting public medical school in Southern Nevada is a top priority for UNLV. It will make significant contributions to the university's Top Tier efforts, boost the regional economy and health care industry, and provide Southern Nevada with improved access to the quality health care it deserves. Planning began in November 2013 with a memorandum of understanding between UNLV, the Nevada System of Higher Education, University of Nevada, Reno, and the University of Nevada School of Medicine. A statewide steering committee is guiding the process, and Dr. Barbara Atkinson, planning dean, is working with the campus to develop the school's vision and curriculum, oversee academic planning and fundraising, and establish a community advisory committee.
- Recent supercomputing donations by Switch and Intel are revolutionizing UNLV's research and computing power. The donation of the Cherry Hill Super Computer, along with extensive network upgrades, projects UNLV to be in the top 5 institutions for super computer and data analysis capabilities in the U.S.
- UNLV had one of its most successful fundraising years in FY15, bringing in \$74.9 million in private support.
- UNLV continues work to update its campus master plan to incorporate the possible acquisition of 42 acres near its main campus, and Koval Lane., and 38 additional acres through a partnership with Clark County between this location and the main campus. UNLV will present a master plan update and financing structure for final Board of Regents approval in December. This campus expansion is viewed as important for the long-term strategic needs for UNLV's land-locked campus. While a stadium project could be a part of UNLV's future, it is just one of multiple uses being considered.
- Throughout the FY 16 Academic Year, UNLV will host meetings for Governor Brian Sandoval's Southern Nevada Tourism Infrastructure Committee. Vice-chaired by UNLV President Len Jessup, the group will prioritize tourism improvement projects and include discussion on a potential new multi-use stadium near campus where UNLV could play football.
- UNLV will host the final presidential debate of the 2016 election season Oct. 19, 2016 at the Thomas & Mack Center. The publicity value associated with hosting a presidential debate is conservatively estimated at more than \$50 million based on historical data from 2012 venues. UNLV is on a path to join the top tier of national public universities, and this debate will engage students directly in the political process and showcase the university's emergence – and its incredible diversity - on an international stage with nearly 3,500 media covering the event.

- UNLV's literary center, Black Mountain Institute, announced a \$20 million gift from The Rogers Foundation to further support creative writing programs and students. This is in addition to \$10 million pledged by the Rogers Foundation in 2013.
- For the last five years UNLV has placed amongst the top ten institutions in U.S. News and World Report Campus Ethnic Diversity category and is now tied for second place—a jump in ranking from sixth place just last year.
- Continuing the trend of the past two years, the Fall 2015 entering class will be by far the largest, with more than 250 new students joining the Honors College. Entering class enrollment has more than quadrupled in 3 years, while the credentials of entering classes continue to rise.
- The UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law received its highest-ever overall ranking in U.S. News & World Report's 2016 list of best law schools. Boyd ranked 67 out of 198 accredited law schools, up 16 spots from last year. The school also maintained top 10 specialty rankings for its programs in legal writing and dispute resolution.
- A team of UNLV researchers and students was one of only 25 worldwide teams invited by the Department of Defense to compete in the DARPA Challenge Finals, an elite competition of robots and their human supervisors held in Pomona, Calif this past June. The UNLV team finished 8th overall.
- A \$12.9 million gift from the estate of philanthropist Kitty Rodman has been directed to the College of Education to support scholarships and graduate fellowships for UNLV students studying special education.
- The William F. Harrah Hotel College intends to break ground on a new academic building in 2016. "Hospitality Hall" will feature sweeping views of the Las Vegas Strip and serve as a bridge to the hospitality and gaming industry. With more than 93,000 square feet of classroom, laboratory, and meeting space, the design will encourage interaction and a sense of community among students, faculty, and industry professionals. It will be located in the heart of UNLV's campus west of Beam Hall, which the college currently shares with the Lee Business School.
- Partnership to Cure Parkinson's. UNLV and the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health earned \$11 million from the National Institutes of Health to tackle Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Psychology professor Jefferson Kinney, the university's supercomputing center, and the Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine at UNLV will play key roles.
- UNLV's Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, in partnership with the Children's Advocacy Alliance, has received a \$1 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to improve access to high-quality early childhood education programs in Nevada.
- UNLV and Tesla Motors have formed a research partnership to pursue advances in the battery manufacturing process at Tesla's Northern Nevada Gigafactory. UNLV will host a formal ceremony Oct. 7 with Governor Brian Sandoval and others to acknowledge the partnership.

- The UNLV Latin Jazz Ensemble and director Uli Geissendoerfer won the prestigious 2015 DownBeat Magazine Student Music Award for Latin Group (undergraduate), besting top university ensembles worldwide. This is the eighth DownBeat award for UNLV students since 2010.

### **Location**

Situated in Las Vegas, the University exemplifies a beautiful example of modern urban living in a desert valley surrounded by mountains. Mild desert temperatures make outdoor recreation possible throughout the year in southern Nevada. Within a 30-mile radius lie the shores of Lake Mead, the massive Hoover Dam and the Colorado River recreation area, the snow-skiing and hiking trails of 12,000-foot Mount Charleston, and a panorama of red rock mountains and eroded sandstone landscapes. In addition, the city is only four to five hours by car from the beaches of Southern California and the national parks of Utah and Arizona.

Las Vegas is a city with many exciting attractions and in the last decade has experienced a period of explosive growth in size and vibrancy. It is one of the fastest-growing areas in the United States and like any other large metropolitan area, the city has fine libraries, museums, community theater, art galleries, and parks that are enjoyed and supported by more than one million local residents. Thanks to the UNLV Performing Arts Center, a beacon of culture in the Las Vegas valley for 40 years, and one of Las Vegas' well-known venues, the Smith Center for the Performing Arts, the City of Las Vegas serves as a cultural crossroads for the community in hosting a variety of events and experiences. The city enjoys a mild year-round climate, yet there are noticeable seasonal differences. The annual average temperature is 79 degrees, but it is not unusual for the mercury to hit the 110-degree mark during the summer and dip into the 30s in the winter. Annual rainfall amounts to only 3.5 inches, much of it falling in the winter when snow is visible in the nearby mountains.

### **Position Summary**

Reporting to the President, the EVP/Provost serves as the University's chief academic and budget officer and serves as the chief executive officer of the University in the absence of the President. This individual will oversee and align academic and budgetary policy and priorities, ensure the quality of the faculty and student body, help to expand the research enterprise, and maintain the educational excellence of the institution. In helping to lead an innovative community of scholars and students, this individual will provide leadership to support an interdisciplinary, student-centered culture across the campus. In supporting this campus culture, the EVP/Provost will be fully invested in the University's student retention, progression, and completion (RPC) initiatives. The EVP/Provost will possess a clear academic vision and serve as an articulate and persuasive spokesperson to assist the President in effectively conveying the importance of a research university as a partner to the community and region. The EVP/Provost will also be responsible for implementing UNLV's recently developed Strategic Diversity Leadership Report.

The academic mission is central to the University and as the chief academic officer, the EVP/Provost is central within the University's organizational structure. The Deans of UNLV's Colleges and Schools report directly to the EVP/Provost and all Vice Presidents will report to both the EVP/Provost and President; with the primary interaction being determined by the nature of the VP-unit activities.

The EVP/Provost is charged with the overall administration of all academic units, works closely with Deans and faculty to develop, implement, and promote educational and scholarship goals,

and provides leadership to ensure excellence in the university's academic mission. The EVP/Provost will also foster and manage curricula, teaching, and research of superior quality; work with the Faculty Senate on matters of academic policies and the general welfare to the University; work with professional and classified staff; and advise the President on plans, policies, and operations. The EVP/Provost oversees all aspects of professional and academic accreditation, allocation of teaching and research facilities, faculty development, and academic personnel. The ability to coordinate priorities within the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is crucial to all initiatives.

The EVP/Provost's direct reports include:

- Senior Vice Provost
- Vice Provost for Information Technology
- Assistant Vice President, Academic Resources
- Deans of the following units:
  - Academic Success Center
  - School of Allied Health Sciences
  - Lee Business School
  - School of Community Health Sciences
  - School of Dental Medicine
  - College of Education
  - Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering
  - College of Fine Arts
  - Graduate College
  - Honors College
  - William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration
  - William S. Boyd School of Law
  - College of Liberal Arts
  - School of Medicine
  - School of Nursing
  - College of Sciences
  - University Libraries
  - Greenspun College of Urban Affairs
- Special Assistant to the EVP/Provost

In addition, the EVP/Provost works closely with the following:

- Faculty Leadership – Faculty Senate Chair and Executive Committee
- Student Leadership – Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (CSUN); Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)
- Division of Student Affairs
- External donors and stakeholders

### **Opportunities and Challenges of the Position**

- **Top Tier Initiative** – The next EVP/Provost will work closely with the President and campus community in bringing UNLV's Top Tier Initiative to life. Supported by faculty, staff, and administrators that have created an ambitious campus culture aimed at moving UNLV forward into the future, the EVP/Provost must be a creative leader who is willing to take calculated risks on the path to attain top tier research university status by 2025. The EVP/Provost will also need to understand the balance between pursuing top tier research status while maintaining a high quality teaching environment. This important initiative will not only have a tremendous effect on UNLV's goals for research,

education, and community impact—but on the institution itself and its future. More information about the Top Tier Initiative can be located at <https://www.unlv.edu/toptier>.

- **Vision / Plans for the Future** – In their role as EVP/Provost, the successful placement will play a central role on campus in supporting a vision for the future that will embrace entrepreneurship and growth. The EVP/Provost must be comfortable with the larger concepts brought forth within UNLV's Top Tier Initiative and will have the ability to further the narrative on how the various aspects of the plan are interrelated and how to best take advantage of the University's assets, energy, and relative youth. While this transitional period may prove to be somewhat ambiguous as the institution begins its work toward the future, the EVP/Provost will be in a position to bring stability, clarity, and forward-thinking to the University's journey.
- **Diversity** – As a designated Minority Serving Institution (MSI), diversity is a core aspect to UNLV's identity and the University enjoys a wonderfully diverse environment where students and faculty come from all over the world. UNLV has a long and cherished commitment to serving diverse student populations and first-generation college students that goes well beyond its MSI designation.
- **Building Partnerships / Enhancing Infrastructure** – UNLV's next EVP/Provost will inherit an organization that is ready to build upon existing strengths and identify new areas for enhancing University partnerships. The EVP/Provost must be committed to communicating across units and disciplines and will serve as an individual who will actively seek new interdisciplinary research and collaborative opportunities. Open avenues of communication between faculty, staff, and administrators will assist the EVP/Provost and campus community to capitalize on new opportunities, such as the creation of UNLV's School of Medicine, and existing strengths in its current programs to further elevate the University's stature locally and nationally.

### **Qualities and Characteristics**

The successful candidate must be able to recognize and act upon the unique characteristics of UNLV, its region, environment and student populations. Further, the EVP/Provost will have a deep understanding of and passion for American higher education, will inspire teamwork and cooperation, and will be innovative, creative and willing to take calculated risks. This individual will have a broad understanding of and be responsive to the competitive challenges, technological opportunities, and cutting-edge practices required for institutions and students to be successful in the rapidly-changing higher education landscape.

Furthermore, UNLV's EVP/Provost will have a strong commitment to shared governance in an open environment, the ability to support decisions with data and the ability to articulate the core values of superior teaching, scholarship, and creativity in a variety of settings. S/he will be a strong manager and excellent communicator. Specifically, it is desired that the Provost possess the following experiences, abilities, and skills:

- the ability to contribute and enhance the President's vision for the University;
- a commitment to academic quality, including outstanding teaching, scholarship, and service;
- the ability to support the development of the highest level of faculty and student potential;
- a demonstrated commitment to and achievement in promoting diversity;

- the ability to deal with ambiguity and complexity;
- intellectual, analytical, and ethical qualities that will command respect;
- a track record of engaging constituents and stakeholders and a commitment to accessibility and visibility;
- the ability to be a consensus builder and make decisions in a timely manner;
- respect and support for the University's traditions and goals.

### **Qualifications**

UNLV's next EVP/Provost will be an accomplished academic administrator and will possess exceptional leadership qualities such as wisdom, integrity, optimism, dynamism, collegiality, inclusiveness and sound judgment. The successful candidate will be an individual capable of engaging community stakeholders in the academic mission of the university and must be passionate about UNLV's mission, vision, and the success of its students. In addition, leading candidates will possess:

- an earned doctorate and exemplary academic credentials that engender respect from the academy and the community at large; qualifications for appointment as a full professor with tenure;
- a history of effectiveness in the creation and implementation of strategic plans;
- a track record in attracting external resources;
- experience in leading, or the understanding of, growth within an academic environment on a trajectory for top tier status;
- the ability to work in a diverse environment and further enhance the diversity of the faculty;
- experience in fostering internal and external collaborative relationships;
- experience with budgets and university financing mechanisms.
- strong interpersonal skills and experience in working with students, staff, faculty, administrators, and community leaders;
- an understanding of issues associated with a system of higher education;
- significant experience in the administration and development of academic research initiatives.

### **Application / Nomination Process**

The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and will continue to accept applications and nominations until the position is filled. Applicants must submit a current curriculum vitae, a letter of interest describing relevant experience and interest in the position, and a list of three professional references. Professional references will not be contacted without prior permission of the applicant. Submission of materials via e-mail is strongly encouraged. Nomination letters should include the name, position, address and telephone number of the nominee. All nominations and applications will be handled in confidence.

Applications and letters of nomination should be submitted to:



executive search consultants

Alberto Pimentel, Managing Partner  
Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates  
6512 Painter Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90601  
562-360-1353 (FAX)

Email: [apsearch@storbeckpimentel.com](mailto:apsearch@storbeckpimentel.com)  
Refer to code "UNLV-EVPP" in subject line

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