Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Position Description
**Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Lamar University, a public, Carnegie Doctoral Research University, invites applications and nominations for the position of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The University seeks a dynamic and visionary leader experienced in the development and nurturing of undergraduate and graduate programs of excellence, providing effective support to faculty for the conduct of applied and basic research and the attraction of funding to support it from a variety of agencies and industries, the creation of entrepreneurial and fundraising activities, development of centers of excellence, and the management of a complex academic unit underpinned by collegiality and inclusiveness.

**About Lamar University**

Lamar University, a 270-acre campus, is one of the fastest growing universities in the country with enrollment steadily increasing to more than 15,000. The university is classified as a Doctoral Research University in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education and is one of only two universities classified as such within the Texas State University System. LU offers more than 100 programs of study leading to bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees. It has been recognized nationally for its general education core curriculum, leadership in online education, being one of the 100 most diverse campuses in the country, and selection as a member of the Honor Roll of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*’s “Great Colleges to Work For.” Small class sizes and a low student-to-faculty ratio allow students to build meaningful relationships with expert faculty who truly care about their success. LU fosters academic achievement by emphasizing hands-on learning at all levels, providing ample opportunities for undergraduate research and supporting an excellent Honors College. The university is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Several LU colleges and programs hold additional specialized accreditations and certifications recognizing their quality and expertise. Additional information about the university is available at: [http://www.lamar.edu](http://www.lamar.edu).

**University Mission Statement**

Lamar University is a comprehensive public institution educating a diverse student body, preparing students for leadership and lifelong learning in a multicultural world, and enhancing the future of Southeast Texas, the state, the nation, and the world through teaching, research and creative activity, and service.
Student Life

More than 2,500 students live on campus in modern, apartment-style residence halls known as Cardinal Village, which feature private bedrooms and nicely furnished living areas. All Lamar University students have access to the gourmet dining hall and the spacious Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, a showpiece facility with a 43-foot climbing wall, all the latest workout equipment and a wide range of intramural sports. Beyond the classroom, Lamar University students develop leadership skills and lifelong friendships in more than 180 campus clubs and organizations. Students make an impact through nationally affiliated fraternities and sororities, professional associations, cultural groups, religious clubs and service organizations.

Athletics

Lamar University students enjoy cheering on the Cardinals in fifteen NCAA Division I men’s and women’s sports. Competing in the Southland Conference, Cardinals teams have a history of winning championships in sports including men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball, golf and cross country. The baseball program has produced multiple major leaguers. LU’s football program heightens excitement on campus with sell-out crowds and students involved in marching band, cheerleading, the dance team and all the fun of game-day tailgating.

Academic Affairs

LU’s academic programs are offered through five academic colleges – Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering, and Fine Arts and Communication – plus the College of Graduate Studies. Students who have not decided on a major are advised through the Center for General Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.
The College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences is comprised of twelve academic departments, many of which house multiple programs and disciplines that offer students a combined thirty-four undergraduate and graduate degree choices. In addition, the College includes a variety of interdisciplinary, pre-professional and teacher preparation programs that cross educational and collegiate boundaries. The College houses most of the academic disciplines fundamental to a traditional liberal arts education to include the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Programs in the humanities include English, history, philosophy and modern languages, with graduate degrees in English. Programs in the social sciences include anthropology, criminal justice, political science, psychology and sociology, with graduate degrees in public administration, criminal justice, and both community/counseling and industrial/organizational psychology. Programs in the natural sciences include the traditional sciences of biology, chemistry, computer science, forensic chemistry, geology, space science, physics and mathematics as well as nursing, with graduate programs in biology, chemistry computer science and nursing. The College offers pre-professional programs that prepare students for careers in law, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, optometry and veterinary medicine, and also is home for two interdisciplinary degrees designed for adult learners. The College maintains several centers and laboratories that are devoted almost exclusively to research activities, and these include the Space Exploration Center, the Center for Public Policy Studies, the Environmental Sciences Laboratory, the Center for Justice Research and Education, and the Center for Philosophical Studies. For more information please visit: http://artssciences.lamar.edu/index.html

The College of Business

The College of Business offers students a superior business curriculum and a well-rounded core of arts and sciences within an atmosphere of commitment to being an integral part of the business community. The academic programs offered include
accounting and business law, economics and finance, information systems and analysis, management and marketing, and general business, as well as minors in business, the BBA Online, the MBA, the MS in Accounting, several graduate Certificate Programs, and the undergraduate Reese Construction Management Program.

**The College of Education and Human Development**

The College of Education and Human Development nurtures professionals that will be prepared to meet the challenges of a dynamic, global environment while upholding ethical values and social responsibility. The programs offered through the College are educator preparation, school and clinical mental health counseling, health, kinesiology, exercise science, family studies, nutrition/dietetics, hospitality/culinary arts, and fashion retailing and merchandising. The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership is the largest of the nine doctoral programs offered at the university and, along with the College’s M.Ed. programs, account for well over half of all graduate students. The M.Ed. in Educational Administration delivered online in cooperation with Academic Partnerships was the first, and still is the largest, fully online graduate program at LU. The elementary teacher preparation program (aka interdisciplinary studies) is Nationally Recognized by the Association for Children’s Education International (ACEI). Programs in the College have been designated by the State as well as by the university community as initiatives of excellence. For more information please visit: [http://education.lamar.edu/index.html](http://education.lamar.edu/index.html)

**The College of Engineering**

The College of Engineering is arguably the school’s most respected academic unit. Lamar’s birth was in large part due to the demand for technically trained individuals in the area after the 1901 Spindletop oil discovery, making Beaumont, Texas, one of the most heavily industrialized areas of the United States. The institution was founded in 1923 as a junior college, and on September 1, 1951, the Texas Legislature advanced it to a four-year college and renamed it Lamar State College of Technology. In its action, the legislature specifically noted the school would emphasize engineering, technology, and science to serve the regions large industrial base, and it
immediately began granting engineering degrees in 1951. In 1970, Lamar's history and stature in science and technology was again a driving force in a name change, and the state authorized Lamar to offer its first doctoral degree program, the doctor of engineering. A dream shared by many became a reality on May 3, 1971, when Governor Preston Smith signed a bill changing the name of Lamar State College of Technology to Lamar University. In 2005, Lamar's first Ph.D program was established in the College of Engineering: the Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering.

Due to the reputation and success of the College, Beaumont was recently ranked 2nd in the U.S. among the “Best Cities for Chemical Engineers” and the college was ranked 11th for “Top ROI Schools for Engineering Majors.” It contains five academic departments (Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Industrial and Mechanical Engineering), and 10 research centers, organized under the Texas Centers for Technology Incubation (TCTI) (three for environmental research, Center for Fuel Cell and Energy Systems, Green Composite Research Center, Center of Transportation/Ports and Waterways, Center for Process and Information Technology, Aldredge Air Quality Modeling Center, Material Instrumentation Center, Renewable Energy Center), has 38 full-time faculty, 15 full-time staff, more than 800 undergraduate majors and 300 graduate students, and attracts approximately $3.5 million annually in external funding. Programs in the College have been designated by the State as well as by the university community as initiatives of excellence. The College is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, and the date of the next ABET comprehensive review is 2018-2019. For more information please visit: [http://engineering.lamar.edu/](http://engineering.lamar.edu/)

**The College of Fine Arts and Communication**

The College of Fine Arts and Communication nurtures professionals are prepared to meet the challenges of a dynamic, global environment while upholding ethical and artistic values and social responsibility. The College comprises six departments (Art, Communication, Deaf Studies & Deaf Education, Speech & Hearing Sciences, Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music, and Theater & Dance), the Dishman Art Museum, the KVLU Public Radio Station, and the LUTV Studio. The degree programs offered through the College are the Bachelor of Arts in American Sign Language, Art, Music, and Music Business; the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art and Graphic Design; the Bachelor of Music in Composition and in Performance; the Bachelor of Science in Communication (Advertising, Broadcasting, Corporate Communication, Journalism, Film Studies), Speech and Hearing Sciences, Theatre and Dance, Visual Art, and Visual Design; the Master of Music in Performance and in Education; the Master of Science in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education and Speech-Language Pathology; the Doctor of Audiology; and the Ed.D. in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education. The Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education has been designated as a
Center of Excellence by the Texas Legislature and has been recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board with the Incentive Award as a Program of Nationally Recognized Excellence. The College is home to 835 undergraduate majors, 160 graduate students, and 73 faculty FTE (42 full time). For more information please visit: http://fineartscomm.lamar.edu/.

The university also has numerous academic units that fall outside of the five main colleges. The College of Graduate Studies has overall responsibility for graduate programs and policies and also houses the Office of International Student Services. The Center for Teaching and Learning Enhancement offers a variety of faculty development opportunities related primarily to teaching and learning, and is home to the university’s new Support and Mentoring to Advance Research and Teaching (SMART) program. The university also provides residential secondary education opportunities for high ability students from throughout the state through the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities.

**About Beaumont**

The university is located in Beaumont, Texas, a city of approximately 120,000 located about 30 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, 90 miles from Houston, and 40 miles from the Louisiana border. Beaumont is the center of one of the largest refining and petrochemical complexes in the nation, in a region arguably the energy hub of the country. The city is ranked 2nd in the U.S. among the “Best Cities for Chemical Engineers,” and it serves the entire area as the focus for government, education, business, health care, entertainment, and culture. It is also the gateway to the Big Thicket National Preserve, a national eco-tourism treasure. With a deepwater port, enviable rail infrastructure, abundant supplies of water, and a workforce capable of designing, building, and operating billion dollar investments, Beaumont has it all. For more information please visit: http://www.beaumontcvb.com/

**The Position**

The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs serves as the university’s chief academic officer, exercising broad academic leadership and having administrative responsibility for academic personnel, programs, facilities, and services. Additional responsibilities include planning, development, evaluation, policy initiation and implementation, and budgeting within the Division of Academic Affairs. This position provides strategic leadership at the undergraduate and graduate levels in curriculum development and review, establishment and enforcement of academic standards, and the development and implementation of academic policies and procedures. Additional responsibilities include providing professional development
opportunities for faculty and academic staff; review and evaluation of all academic appointments, promotion, tenure, leaves of absence, salaries; promoting undergraduate research, study abroad, and participation in cooperative education programs; encouraging and modeling ethical behavior and academic integrity; and working in collaboration with administrators and faculty colleagues to develop and implement strategic planning initiatives and budgeting strategies which support the educational mission of the university.

In coordination with the President and Chief Financial Officer, the Provost will be responsible for overseeing the university budget of $240 million and will lead the transition to a responsibility center based budgeting model. In addition, facilitating an environment of empowerment, which will inspire administrators and faculty to seek opportunities to transform their revenue streams, is essential. Identifying synergy between disparate groups that can be leveraged into increased success with grants, contracts and donors is also expected. The ability to identify and target resources, partnerships and collaborations that will enhance the initiatives and activities the faculty are currently engaged is desired. Attracting high quality students and faculty is expected.

**Qualifications**

- An earned doctorate in discipline offered by the university;
- A record of teaching, scholarship, and service sufficient for appointment as a full professor with tenure;
- Evidence of successful, progressive and entrepreneurial leadership at the level of department chair or above;
- Evidence of strong interpersonal, communication, and facilitation/collaboration skills (with specific focus on cross disciplinary teaching and research initiatives);
- High academic and ethical standards and unquestioned personal and professional integrity.
- Successful experience in strategic planning and fundraising;
- Ability to develop and communicate a shared vision and mission within and external to the university;
- Commitment to shared governance and to enhancing cultural diversity among students, faculty and staff;
- Knowledge of and experience with national accreditation;
- Knowledge of best practices, current issues, and future trends in higher education.
- Proven ability to work with state and system governing boards; and
- Proven experience in curriculum development and evidence of having served on various academic committees.
Salary

The salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applicant Review

Confidential applications and nominations will be accepted until the position is filled. For best consideration, applications and nominations should be provided by November 10, 2014.

How to Apply

Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc. is assisting Lamar University in the search. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made. Individuals who wish to nominate a candidate should submit a letter of nomination including contact information for the nominee. Application materials should include a letter addressing how the candidate’s experiences match the position requirements, a curriculum vitae or resume and five references. Submission of materials as PDF attachments is strongly encouraged. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and application materials should be directed to:

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Lamar University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Lamar University welcomes applications from minorities, women, veterans and persons with disabilities.