



Provost /Vice President – Academic Affairs **Position Description**

Northern Michigan University (NMU), a regional comprehensive institution and Carnegie designated community-engaged university, seeks a Provost / Vice President – Academic Affairs to provide bold leadership for developing the university's academic programs. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of fostering diversity in a higher education setting, spearheading innovative academic programs, and integrating technology into a university curriculum. One of the primary responsibilities of this position is the development of a strategic academic vision for the university.

THE POSITION

The Provost / Vice President – Academic Affairs serves as the university's chief academic officer and is responsible for ensuring excellence and innovation across the institution's 147 degree programs, including 25 graduate programs. The Provost will have an opportunity to work collaboratively with faculty, staff, and students across the university to develop programs that will have a substantial and lasting impact on the student experience and academic mission of the institution.

Reporting to the Provost are the Deans of the institution's three academic colleges (College of Arts and Sciences, College of Health Sciences and Professional Studies, and College of Business), the Dean of Academic Information Services, the Assistant Provost for Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment, the Assistant Provost for Undergraduate and Faculty Affairs, the Assistant Provost for Graduate Education and Research, and Director of Broadcast & Audio-Visual Services. The Provost reports directly to the President.

The university seeks a Provost who will:

- Work with the President and campus community to shape a distinct and compelling vision for the university's future;
- Have an appreciation for the breadth of current academic programs and think creatively about future academic offerings;
- Ensure effective and transparent communication with constituents across the institution;
- Enhance and encourage diversity across the university;
- Embrace and encourage the use of technology;
- Encourage innovative thinking, creativity, and a spirit of risk-taking;
- Build collaborations and connections across the institution and with the community;

- Celebrate and communicate the successes of faculty, staff and students to the university community and beyond;
- Ensure a student-centered approach that provides opportunities for students to be engaged in the wide range of activities across the university and in the community;
- Support faculty so they may excel in teaching, research, and service.

THE UNIVERSITY

Northern Michigan University has a population of about 9,000 undergraduate and graduate students. NMU is one of three Michigan public universities to also serve a community college role for its region. This means the breadth of the university's academic programs range from certificates to graduate degrees, including its first doctoral program – the Doctor of Nursing Practice – which began in the fall of 2014. Many programs boast a 90 percent placement rate or higher for their students. Also, nearly 100 percent of pre-dental students who apply to dental school are accepted and approximately 80 percent of premedical students who apply to medical school are accepted. Some of the academic programs to receive national or international recognition in the past three years have been Art and Design, Business, Computer Science, Education, English, Environmental Studies, Native American Studies, and Nursing.

The university provides outstanding personal attention to students. More than 75 percent of NMU's 300-plus full-time faculty members have doctorates or the highest degree in their fields, and a hallmark of the NMU experience is that many full-time faculty members teach at all levels – from first-year through graduate courses. Faculty engage a significant number of undergraduate and graduate students in research activities through the McNair Program and other opportunities. The university also has a First Year Experience Program, Honors Program, Freshman Fellows Program, and study abroad opportunities to enhance the academic experience for students. For NMU's 1,100 employees, helping students succeed is both a university priority and a personal goal.

Northern Michigan University has two highly acclaimed leadership programs: the Student Leader Fellowship Program (SLFP) and Superior Edge. The SLFP, which has been in existence for more than 20 years, is a highly selective, two-year leadership experience for 50 selected students each year. The Superior Edge program is open to all NMU students and has nearly a third of the student population participating in the program's four edges: citizenship, diversity awareness, leadership and real-world application of classroom theory.

NMU's efforts in service learning, an active volunteer center that does extensive outreach throughout Michigan's Upper Peninsula region, and about 300 student organizations combine to make the campus a place where community involvement is a natural component of the student experience. The university was selected as the recipient of the 2013 Engaged Campus of the Year Award from Michigan Campus Compact. NMU is one of about 300 colleges and universities nationwide to have the Carnegie Foundation's "community-engaged campus" designation.

THE COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS

NMU's hometown of Marquette is a city of approximately 21,000 residents located along the southern shore of Lake Superior. Michigan's Upper Peninsula region is known for its safe, friendly and natural environment. Marquette enjoys four distinct seasons, which are celebrated by a wide variety of festivals and activities throughout the year, and a diverse range of outdoors activities. Marquette also boasts a thriving arts and culture scene, an award-winning public library, and an impressive array of

local and organic food options. Also, the people of the Upper Peninsula include vibrant Anishinaabe communities and descendants of Finnish immigrants who possess a rich and varied cultural heritage. The Marquette community and Northern Michigan University are intricately intertwined, which adds to the vitality of the area and to the opportunities available to NMU students.

The university's 360-acre campus is home to over 50 structures, including the newly renovated Jamrich Hall; the Seaborg Science Complex, with more than two dozen laboratories; the School of Art and Design building, featuring the DeVos Art Museum; an award-winning library; multiple theatres for live performances; and an extensive sports and recreation complex.

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will have the following professional qualifications and personal characteristics:

- An earned doctorate in a recognized academic discipline;
- Credentials consistent with those of a tenured full professor, including a record of scholarly activity appropriate to the candidate's discipline;
- A proven record of broad, progressive, and substantive administrative experience;
- A proven record of progressive and substantive experience supporting diversity and inclusion in a higher education setting;
- Cutting-edge knowledge of trends and issues in higher education;
- A proven record of excellence in teaching, research and creative activities, and public service;
- A proven record of working effectively with students, faculty, staff, alumni and external constituents;
- Strong and effective communication skills;
- A proven record of collaborations and bridge-building across disciplines and programs within a university setting;
- An understanding and appreciation of the broad range of academic offerings of Northern Michigan University and a vision for the future of these programs.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Search Committee invites applications, inquiries, and nominations for this position. Applications should be accompanied by a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and the names and contact details of at least five professional references. Applications and nominations will be accepted until the position is filled, and review of applications will begin immediately. Interested candidates are encouraged to submit materials prior to November 22, 2014 to the search firm assisting Northern Michigan University at the following address (electronic submissions preferred):

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