LEADERSHIP PROFILE

DEAN
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY
THE OPPORTUNITY

The College of the Arts, Columbus State University invites nominations and applications for an innovative, collaborative, experienced leader to build upon significant success and to achieve new levels of growth for a college that has reshaped its community and has often led the university in fund raising, national recognition, and impact. The Dean is responsible for the strategic leadership and effective oversight of the Departments of Art, Communication, and Theatre, the Schwob School of Music, and outreach centers and programs—The Bo Bartlett Center, Georgia Repertory Theatre, Non-Profit and Civic Engagement Center (NPACE), and Pasaquan. The Dean will engage effectively with faculty, senior university leadership and the broader community locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. S/he reports directly to the Provost and Executive Vice President of Columbus State University.

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1958, Columbus State University is a comprehensive, residential university with an enrollment of nearly 8,500 and is part of the University System of Georgia. CSU offers 46 undergraduate and 42 graduate degrees in the College of the Arts, College of Education and Health Professions, College of Letters and Science, D. Abbott Turner College of Business, The Graduate School, and Honors College. It is ranked among the top public regional universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report and is recognized for creativity, collaborations, and pioneering education.
Celebrating its 63rd anniversary, Columbus State University has a distinctive record of partnerships and outreach from the Coca-Cola Space Science Center and Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center to the Georgia Film Academy. Serving the Southeast, it attracts students from around the world. Dr. Christopher L. Markwood became Columbus State University's fifth president on June 1, 2015 and was named as one of Georgia's 100 most influential people by Georgia Trend Magazine. For more information, please visit: www.columbusstate.edu.

**Strategic Plan**

**Vision**

Columbus State University will be a model of empowerment through transformational learning experiences that prepare students to serve the world as creative problem-solvers and high impact leaders.

**Mission**

Columbus State University will empower individuals to contribute to the advancement of local and global communities through an emphasis on excellence in teaching and research, lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, public/private partnerships and service to others.

**Values**

Excellence, Creativity, Engagement, Sustainability, Inclusion, and Servant Leadership

**Strategic Initiatives**

Academic Excellence, Student-Centered Campus, Innovation and Creativity, Partnerships, Leadership, Institutional Sustainability

CAMPUS SETTING: COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Located 100 miles southwest of Atlanta with a population of approximately 200,000 citywide and 350,000 in the greater metropolitan area, Columbus is recognized as a vibrant and contemporary arts community with an active uptown, 25 miles of multi-use path called the Dragonfly Trail, and the longest urban whitewater rafting run worldwide. It offers extensive outdoor recreation and cultural opportunities that include not only Columbus State University’s College of the Arts’ multiple venues, but also the Columbus Museum, National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, Columbus Symphony Orchestra, the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, Columbus Ballet, Springer Opera House, and more. For more information, please visit: http://visitcolumbusga.com.

The University has two primary campus locations: the main campus on 150 acres in midtown Columbus and the uptown RiverPark campus with both renovated and newly built facilities overlooking the Chattahoochee River. The College of the Arts is located on the RiverPark Campus.

Whitewater rafting course on the Chattahoochee River in uptown Columbus

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

The College of the Arts (COA), a major unit of Columbus State University (CSU), provides a comprehensive education and experiential learning to more than 900 majors in the visual, performing, and media arts. It offers master’s, baccalaureate, and associate degrees and certificates in state-of-the-art facilities. The college’s RiverPark Campus includes some of the country's most sophisticated teaching and performing spaces.

COA is recognized for its development of student-centered, rigorous, and creative curricula designed to meet the needs of students in the 21st century, while enhancing Columbus’ reputation as a cultural center. It fosters economic development of the region; hosts conferences in art, communication, music, and theatre; presents 250 performances and art exhibitions annually; and serves non-profit organizations with
communication and digital production needs. There are 62 full-time faculty, of which
35 are male and 27 are female, and 26 part-time faculty, of which 8 are male and 18
are female. Of the full-time faculty, 34 have tenure. COA’s annual operating budget
is approximately $8,000,000, exclusive of some university-wide academic expenses
and all non-academic expenses, such as plant operations, student affairs,
advancement, and the business office. For more information, please visit:

Mission

The College of the Arts prepares its graduates for success in a global environment by
providing student-centered, comprehensive education in the visual, performing, and
media arts. The College fosters scholarly research, creative endeavors, and real-world
experiences through academic programs, partnerships, and outreach that build the
local creative economy. The College extends its artistic endeavors and impact
nationally and internationally.

Academic Departments

Department of Art

The Department of Art prepares its graduates for success by providing an education
that fosters research, creativity, and critical thinking through interdisciplinary and
traditional approaches in studio art (B.F.A.): animation, ceramics, graphic design,
drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture; in art history (B.A.); and
art education (B.S.Ed., M.Ed., M.A.T.). In addition to regional accreditation, the
department is nationally accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and
Design. It occupies state-of-the-art facilities in the award-winning Corn Center for the Visual Arts and the Seaboard Depot Art Studios, providing studios, classrooms, specialized labs, student exhibition space, and 5,000 square feet of gallery space.

Department of Communication

The Department of Communication prepares civically engaged graduates by integrating 21st century curriculum and service learning components with local organizations and city governments via in-class learning, in-class/online blend, or 100 percent online work. Through the Non-Profit and Civic Engagement Center (NPACE), Communication students serve organizations and build portfolios in areas ranging from public relations to web design and integrated media training and production. The B.A. degree in Communication is offered, as well as some A.A. programs and Certificates, in communication studies, film production, integrated media, and public relations. A new MA in Communication is being launched in Spring 2022. The film production program is presented in collaboration with the Georgia Film Academy. The recently launched Nexus degree in Film Production recognized its first graduates in Fall 2021. In addition, the Communication department oversees the university's 24-hour, non-commercial, student-driven radio station.

CSU recently opened the WRBL-TV 3 News Bureau, a CBS affiliate, in its new home in the Department of Communication's Carpenter Building on the RiverPark campus. The new facility will allow students to observe and participate in reporting and video production through internships at the Bureau. CSU interns will work closely with the news director as a mentor to gain experience in newsgathering, reporting, and production.
Schwob School of Music

A nationally prominent conservatory of music, the Joyce and Henry Schwob School of Music offers bachelor’s degrees in performance, music education, and music/liberal arts; a master’s degree in performance; minors and certificate programs in various disciplines including musical theatre and audio technology; and a graduate-level artist diploma. The Schwob School is located within the state-of-the-art RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. The Saunders Center for Music Studies provides well-equipped classrooms, rehearsal halls, studios, practice rooms, and a music library. Legacy Hall features the G. Gunby Jordan pipe organ and is considered one of the finest university concert halls in the country. With ten endowed faculty chairs and significant scholarship support, the school currently has students from more than 20 countries. It emphasizes excellence in performance in all degree programs, ensembles and courses.
The Department of Theatre educates students in the collaborative art of theatre. The curriculum teaches the craft and artistry of acting, directing, design, technical and educational theatre. Student theatre productions serve as an active laboratory, while the Georgia Repertory Theatre, a partnership with the State Theatre of Georgia Springer Opera House, provides training within the context of a professional theatre company. Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre, the department offers the B.A. in Theatre Arts, the B.F.A in Acting, the B.F.A. in Design &
Technology, the B.S.Ed. and M.Ed. in Theatre Education, and a minor in Dance. Excellent teaching facilities feature two black-box theatres and a traditional proscenium venue, along with fully equipped scene and costume shops.
Outreach Centers and Programs

The Bo Bartlett Center

The Bo Bartlett Center, an 18,425 square foot interactive gallery space, explores creativity and learning within the context of the work and studio practice of the painter and Columbus, Georgia native Bo Bartlett. The Center is a unique partnership between a living mid-career artist and Columbus State University’s Department of Art and the entire College of the Arts featuring a range of changing exhibitions and programs.

The Georgia Repertory Theatre

With 450 performances annually, the Georgia Repertory Theatre, is a partnership with the Department of Theatre and the Springer Opera House. It is a teaching theatre in which students work alongside theatre practitioners, thus preparing them to graduate with professional résumé credits and to make a successful transition into professional theatre.

NPACE

The Non-Profit and Civic Engagement Center (NPACE) is a storefront access point for community non-profits and local government seeking assistance with strategic communication and digital production communication needs. As part of the Department of Communication, the Center promotes collaboration through student service-learning projects and faculty-driven research developed with these local organizations.

Pasaquan

Pasaquan, the seven-acre art environment near Buena Vista, GA created by self-taught artist Eddie Owens Martin, consists of six major structures, more than 900 feet of elaborately painted masonry fence, totems, decorative walkways, sculptures, hammered steel and other art and artifacts. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is considered among the most important visionary art
environments in the Southeast. The Department of Art preserves, maintains, provides access to, and assists in the interpretation of Pasaquan.

THE POSITION

This position is an exceptionally exciting one, given the College’s currently distinctive programs and its exceptional promise for the individual who wishes to continue to build programs, synergy, excellence, and advocacy with Columbus State University’s leadership and the broader community.

The Dean reports to Dr. Deborah Bordelon, Provost and Executive Vice President, and serves on the Deans’ Council, Academic Council, and other committees as appropriate. Working with the Provost and in collaboration with the department chairs, directors, and faculty of the College of the Arts, the Dean provides leadership and programmatic and fiscal oversight for the Departments of Art, Communication, Theatre, and the Schwob School of Music, along with the outreach centers and programs—The Bo Bartlett Center, Georgia Repertory Theatre, NPACE, and Pasaquan. Ensuring excellence across disciplines, s/he is responsible for all academic areas from curricular and personnel management to accreditation and fiscal soundness. The Dean spearheads the College’s fundraising and community engagement efforts in collaboration with University Advancement—promoting the College, building relationships, and establishing partnerships.

Leadership Priorities

The College of the Arts has a notably strong foundation that includes an engaged faculty and state-of-the-art facilities. It is central to the lively and sophisticated cultural community of Columbus. The next Dean will be a creative, collaborative, and experienced leader, who will build upon current success to achieve new levels of
growth. This will involve expanding the profile of the College of the Arts regionally, nationally, and internationally. The challenge will be not only to maintain current programmatic strengths, but also to establish a strategic framework to ensure that the college excels qualitatively and demonstrates flexibility with changing student needs, as it expands in student numbers.

• In conjunction with the faculty, directors, and chairs, the Dean will strategically assess opportunities for innovative growth in the curricula, outreach programs, and partnerships from both the entrepreneurial and practical perspectives of management and finance.

• The Dean will be a servant-leader collaborating with the faculty as a colleague to support research and scholarly activity, enhance artistic and academic excellence, promote a student-centered education with a focus on student success, and provide students with professional learning opportunities.

• Working with the senior administration, the Dean will advance the College of the Arts within the university as a whole. S/he will strongly advocate for the departmental and faculty needs to further research, scholarship, curricular breadth and depth, and resources. S/he will increase interdisciplinary connections within the College of the Arts and across Columbus State University broadly.

• As Dean, s/he will embrace the city of Columbus, becoming an integral member of the community to move the city forward with creativity and innovation, thus enhancing the overall quality of life. S/he will represent the College of the Arts and foster strong relationships with external constituents.

• Columbus State University and specifically the College of the Arts have been unusually successful in garnering private support. The next Dean will lead and build robust fundraising efforts, working collaboratively with the Office of University Advancement to engage individuals, corporations, foundations, and local, regional, state, and national governmental agencies. S/he will cultivate and steward alumni and donors, strengthening long-term interest in a creative, entrepreneurial College of the Arts and a vibrant downtown Columbus.

• The Dean will ensure an environment that values inclusion, diversity, equity, and belonging.

Preferred Qualifications and Characteristics

• An earned terminal degree in a discipline appropriate to the College of the Arts or an advanced degree in a relevant field with equivalent experience demonstrating experience sufficient to merit appointment, with tenure, at the rank of full professor in the College of the Arts.

• Significant higher education leadership experience as a department chair or higher and a record of scholarly research or artistic inquiry and achievement.

• A forward-looking, creative vision with experience in furthering academic growth, promoting active learning and teaching, building consensus among departments, and
developing relationships and partnerships locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

• Ability to effectively engage in fundraising activities in collaboration with University Advancement with the desire to cultivate a philanthropically oriented community’s interest in the College of the Arts.

• A record as a transparent, collaborative, and innovative leader with a decisive leadership style combined with outstanding interpersonal skills and communication abilities.

• A demonstrated ability to advocate and understand faculty and student interests and concerns, while also understanding and being able to explain institutional issues and concerns in a broader context.

• An understanding of the creative process and the demonstrated ability to facilitate high standards of professional practice and achievement for students and faculty.

• Experience in strategic planning with specific goals and objectives through a collaborative process and in managing finances and budgets accordingly. Excellent organizational skills that demonstrate the ability to prioritize and to set realistic expectations.

• Experience with assessment, as well as familiarity with the process of accreditation.

• Demonstrated commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive culture in programs and with individuals from faculty and staff to students.

Compensation and Start Date

Compensation is competitive and based upon qualifications and experience. While the start date is negotiable, early 2022 is preferable.

APPLICATION AND NOMINATION PROCESS

Applications and nominations should be received by September 24, 2021, although expressions of interest may be considered until the position is filled. Application materials must include: 1) a letter of interest stating how the candidate’s experience is applicable to the position, leadership priorities, qualifications, and characteristics expressed in the leadership profile; 2) a statement of leadership philosophy; 3) a curriculum vitae or résumé; and 4) names, email addresses, and telephone numbers of five professional references, including the candidate’s professional relationship with each individual. References will not be contacted without the candidate’s prior consent. All candidate names will remain confidential, with the exception of those individuals invited to final interviews on campus. Application and nominations should be submitted electronically to: CSU_DeanofArts@agbsearch.com.
Assisting the search will be Ellen L. Meyer, Executive Search Consultant, AGB Search, ellen.meyer@agbsearch.com, 404.808.2903, and Garry W. Owens, Ph.D., Executive Search Consultant, AGB Search, garry.owens@agbsearch.com, 806.239.3049. Prospective candidates are welcome to contact Ms. Meyer or Dr. Owens by email to discuss this opportunity.

*Columbus State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, committed to diversity in hiring.*

The Illges Gallery in the Corn Center for the Visual Arts

**PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

Prior to her appointment as Provost and Executive Vice President at Columbus State University, Dr. Deborah Bordelon had been at Governors State University (IL) since 2008, first serving as dean of their College of Education before being appointed provost in 2013. Prior to that, she held teaching and administrative posts at Nicholls State University and Xavier University in Louisiana. She holds a doctorate in special education, a master’s in education and a bachelor’s degree in elementary education, all from the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Bordelon has more than 30 publications or grants to her credit. She is a member of the Hall of Fame in the College of Education and Human Development at University of New Orleans, received Top Ten Researchers and Grant Recipients Recognition at Nicholls State University and was named “Excellence in Praxis” Service Learning Faculty Award at Xavier University of Louisiana. She has been through the Executive Leadership Academy at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Harvard Graduate School of Education Institute for Management and Leadership in Education, and the American Council on Education, Office of Women in Higher Education 77th National Leadership Forum on Women Administrators.
SEARCH COMMITTEE

Pat McHenry, Professor, Department of English, and Interim Dean, College of the Arts; Search Committee Chair
Andrew Donofrio, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication
Michelle Folta, Associate Professor, Schwob School of Music
Spencer Garrard, Professor (retired), Department of Teacher Education
Marcus Johnson, Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre
Krystal Kennel, Professor, Department of Theatre
Robert Murray, Professor, Schwob School of Music
Youngrak Park, Associate Professor, Department of Communication
Marianne Richter, Director, Columbus Museum
Ria Stringfellow, Administrative Assistant, College of the Arts
Orion Wertz, Professor, Department of Art
Chris Whittey, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Art