



POSITION PROFILE

PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Altogether Extraordinary™

Shaping the Future of Illinois and Beyond

Few leadership roles in American higher education carry the opportunity and responsibility embodied in the presidency of the University of Illinois System.

The system stands at a remarkable moment in its history. Built on a foundation of academic excellence, public service, and discovery, it serves more students, conducts more research, and delivers greater impact than ever before: record enrollment, expanded access and affordability, and one of the nation's premier public research and healthcare enterprises. Through our universities and system-wide initiatives, we are shaping the future of Illinois and contributing solutions to challenges that extend far beyond our state's borders.

Our geography is a defining advantage. Few public university systems are situated as we are: anchored by a globally recognized flagship university in Urbana-Champaign, one of the nation's leading urban public research universities in Chicago, and the state's capital university in Springfield. Each university has its own identity and rich history, yet together as a system they are a powerful and influential force with a collective scale and reach far greater than the sum of its parts. That scale makes this presidency a genuine platform for partnership with business, government, and communities across Illinois, and for shaping what comes next in public higher education nationally.

Just as significant is the alignment of relationships that makes progress possible: engaged and talented faculty and staff, a committed board of trustees, strong university and system leadership, productive partnerships with state leaders, and deep connections to communities across Illinois. Together, these relationships have created real momentum and shared purpose.

I know this impact firsthand. As a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, I have seen what these universities make possible for the people of this state. Every member of this board understands what the U of I System means to Illinois, and we are fully invested in the selection and success of the next president.

This is, fundamentally, a presidency of stewardship and possibility. The next president will assume the leadership of a system with extraordinary strength and momentum, and will help define how a leading public university enterprise responds to the opportunities confronting higher education, our state, and our nation, championing the students, faculty, and staff who carry our mission forward.

The board is committed to standing alongside our next president as true partners. If you share this vision of what public higher education can do for a state and its people, we invite you to join us in shaping the future of the University of Illinois System.

Sincerely,

Jesse H. Ruiz, *Chair, University of Illinois Board of Trustees*
BA Economics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 1988



University of Illinois System President

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees — the governing board of the state’s largest higher education system consisting of three universities in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield — invites nominations and expressions of interest for the position of University of Illinois System president. The president will lead the system into the next era of higher education with strategic vision, effective and authentic communication, and a proven capacity to foster collaboration and alignment, convene stakeholders, and advance excellence across the system. The president reports directly to the board of trustees and works directly with leadership at each university and within the system offices.

The Opportunity

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees seeks its next great president at a moment of inflection and transition in higher education. The U of I System aspires to lead during this exceptional moment, offering the opportunity to shape the future of higher education to deliver innovation and impact for the public good. There is no better place to shape that future than in the state of Illinois, where the U of I System and its three public universities are committed to transforming lives and serving society by educating, creating knowledge, and putting knowledge to work at scale and with excellence.

The U of I System is comprised of a unique combination of three universities that educate 53% of all undergraduate students attending public institutions in Illinois. Each university is led by a chancellor and team of professionals who work collaboratively with the president and other system leaders to realize both strong individual universities and a strong collective enterprise.

Our great next president will lead our system from a position of strength and significant positive momentum, supported by a governor and state legislature committed to investing in education, discovery, innovation, and workforce development to advance social mobility, economic growth, and an informed citizenry. The system also benefits from deep and enduring partnerships with business, industry, and community leaders who share a commitment to a strong and prosperous Illinois and recognize the vital role public higher education plays in the state’s future. The U of I System delivers a talent pipeline that keeps 74% of our students in Illinois after graduation and a research and innovation ecosystem that both helps Illinois

businesses grow and attracts new businesses to Illinois. We seek a president who recognizes that this moment of transition presents an incredible opportunity and can harness the momentum, stability, and partnerships of the University of Illinois System to articulate and execute an audacious vision for the future.

The University of Illinois System is a place where your leadership and vision will have a lasting impact. With a culture grounded in collaboration, innovation, and service, the U of I System offers executive leaders the opportunity to drive meaningful institutional impact while advancing their own leadership legacy. Executives are empowered to lead transformative initiatives within a financially strong, mission-driven organization. As one of the nation’s premier public higher education systems, the U of I System exudes a genuine commitment to its people. With over 30,000 full-time equivalent faculty and staff, the U of I System ranks among the top employers in the state of Illinois, competing with many Fortune 100 companies. Few leadership opportunities offer the ability to influence an institution of this scale and stature while contributing to a mission that improves lives, strengthens communities, and shapes the future.

The board of trustees is seeking a thought leader with foresight, resolve, creativity, and collaborative spirit to position the University of Illinois System as a preeminent leader among public institutions of higher education. With its breadth, momentum, and statewide reach, the system offers its next president a powerful platform to build on extraordinary success, shape the future of higher education, and advance opportunity and prosperity for Illinois and all Illinoisans.

One Enterprise, Three Universities



\$24.9B

Annual economic
impact

225,000+

Number of jobs
supported across Illinois

Taxpayers see nearly **\$4 in economic
return** for every **\$1 the state invests**



101,081

Student
enrollment

889,702

Alumni around
the world



74%

Stay in-state
after graduation



79%

of students are
Illinois residents

52%

Share of resident undergraduates
paying less than **\$3,000 per
semester** in tuition and fees

\$1.2B

Annual research portfolio, and
system researchers are responsible
for **1,212 new patent applications**



University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign

60,848

Students from **50 states**
and **100+ countries**

#12 ranked public
university



University of Illinois
Chicago

#1

in Illinois
and **top 10**
nationally in
social mobility

35,869 students



University of Illinois
Springfield

\$20M

awarded in grants
and scholarships

4,364 students



1.5M+

Patient visits across **UI Health**
clinical enterprise

2,200+

New healthcare professionals
added to workforce, 2024-25



A Platform for Transformational Leadership and Impact

The University of Illinois System is one of the nation's most consequential public higher education systems, bringing together three distinct and exceptional universities within a system-level enterprise that connects, amplifies, and extends their impact. United by a shared public mission, the system exhibits excellence at scale: educating more than 101,000 students, sustaining an annual research portfolio exceeding \$1 billion, and strengthened by a global alumni community of nearly 890,000.

Its scale is extraordinary, but its true distinction lies in how that [scale is mobilized for public purposes](#). Across its universities and through system-wide initiatives, the system expands opportunities, accelerates discovery, and delivers real-world outcomes. That discovery is powered by a research community renowned for a generous,

collaborative spirit and formidable multidisciplinary strength, bringing scholars together across fields to take on challenges too complex for any one discipline. It educates students representing the state's diverse demographics, prepares graduates to lead in every field, and ensures that knowledge, care, and expertise reach communities across the state and beyond. At the heart of that public purpose is a commitment to an accessible, affordable, world-class education for the many, one that spans the full range of disciplines and interests and welcomes learners at every stage of life.

That impact reflects not only the individual strengths of the three universities, but also the system's distinctive capacity to align priorities, forge partnerships, and act at scale. By engaging business and industry, civic leaders, and communities, the system fuels economic

PROFILE: THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

growth, supports business retention and attraction, and strengthens the social and economic fabric of the state. The collective scale and scope create connections, advance statewide initiatives, and extend the reach of the enterprise in ways that no single university could achieve alone.

Together, the University of Illinois System helps define and drive the future of Illinois. It opens pathways to opportunity for students from every background and region; seeds new industries through ideas and discovery; draws talent and investment to the state; and brings healthcare, innovation, and public engagement to bear on the challenges and opportunities that matter most.

The University of Illinois System's reach extends far beyond state and national borders through a growing network of international partnerships that advance research, innovation, education, and economic development. Initiatives such as [Brasillinois](#) and [I-MMÁS](#), as well as expanding engagements in Taiwan, India, and other strategic regions, connect the system to global centers of talent, discovery, and industry. These relationships explore areas of shared strength, create opportunities for students and faculty, and reinforce the system's responsibility to serve Illinois by engaging with the ideas, markets, and partnerships that ensure Illinois remains competitive and innovative in an increasingly interconnected world.

As it enters its next chapter, the University of Illinois System does so at a moment of profound change and possibility for public higher education. With its breadth, momentum, and statewide reach, the system offers its next president a powerful platform to build on extraordinary success, shape the future of higher education, and advance opportunity and prosperity for Illinois and all Illinoisans.

The system offices and the role of the president

As described in greater detail herein, the president is the chief executive officer of the U of I System. The system exemplifies the power of the collective. Working in concert with its three university chancellors and other system leaders, it is a global enterprise built to multiply the impact of every part. Through shared values and strategy that unite its formidable universities, the system advances statewide initiatives, forges partnerships, and carries the work of the whole across Illinois and around the world. As a powerful public higher education enterprise, its true value lies not in its scale but in how

that scale is mobilized. It is a platform built to multiply what can be achieved for Illinois and the world.

The president is elected by and reports directly to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Serving as the primary “public face” of the system as a whole, the president leads the development of system-wide goals and sets strategic priorities for the system that effectively intersect with strategic goals and priorities set by the chancellors at each university. Across the U of I System and its three universities, responsibility for many functional areas rests both with the president and the three chancellors, calling for a leader who can effectively balance appropriate individual university autonomy with enterprise-wide alignment and engaged accountability.

The president leads an executive team of professionals dedicated to carrying out the mission of the system in their specific areas of expertise and as part of a collaborative enterprise-wide administrative function. This includes direct supervision of the three chancellors/vice presidents, who are effectively the chief executive officers of their respective universities. Four additional system vice presidents and other senior leaders report directly to the president and lead teams of highly skilled professionals in several core areas such as academic affairs, finance, economic development and innovation, and external relations and communications. Additional direct reports to the president in the system offices include the secretary of the board of trustees, the chief ethics and compliance officer, the executive director of university audits, and the university counsel. The secretary of the board of trustees and the university counsel report dually to the president and the board. Together under the president's leadership, the team works collaboratively and tirelessly to set a strategic vision for the U of I System that honors the unique identity and strengths of each university while leveraging system-wide alignment to amplify impact.

The system offices provide vital services and support to the universities and their students, faculty, and staff by developing effective strategies for sustained success, managing enterprise-wide initiatives, developing system-wide policies and compliance methodologies, and delivering efficient and effective centralized services in select key areas. System Offices house centers of operational excellence across several functional areas to optimize institutional efficiency and lower compliance risks, including fiscal management, legal services, and board relations, among others.



The Universities

Each university within the system is led by a chancellor and served by highly skilled and dedicated faculty and staff who share a collective passion for higher education. The chancellors are responsible for setting strategic goals and priorities at each of their respective universities in alignment with goals and priorities set by the system. Chancellors have primary oversight responsibility for the operation of academic programs, their respective research enterprises, public engagement programs, and general operations at their respective universities. The president leads a system that serves as an institutional framework, empowering the three chancellors to thrive in their leadership of their respective universities, recognizing both the common components and the unique attributes that contribute to shared excellence.



The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is the state's flagship public university and a global leader in research. Founded in 1867 as one of the nation's original land-grant universities, its mission is to enhance the lives of people in Illinois, across the nation, and around the world through leadership in learning, discovery, engagement, and economic development.

With more than 60,000 students, Illinois is among the largest and most accomplished public universities in the country, ranked the nation's No. 12 public university in U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges and home to 25 Nobel Prizes and 31 Pulitzer Prizes. It draws talented students from every region of Illinois and around the world to a campus where they pursue more than 150 majors and minors and participate in more than 5,000 course offerings taught by a faculty of renowned scholars, scientists, and artists.

Illinois ranks among the nation's leaders in research, home to more than 150 research centers, laboratories, and

institutes advancing discovery across nearly every field. It reported a record \$865 million in sponsored research expenditures in Fiscal Year 25 and consistently leads the nation in National Science Foundation awards. It is the discovery home of the LED, the MRI, major advances in the World Wide Web, and the third branch of the Tree of Life. The Cancer Center at Illinois is the only National Cancer Institute-designated Basic Cancer Center in Illinois and one of only eight in the country. The Carle Illinois College of Medicine was created in 2015 as the world's first engineering-based medical school.

Through its campus operations, research, entrepreneurship, and enhanced productivity of its alumni, Illinois generates \$12.2 billion annually in added income for the Illinois economy. The University of Illinois Research Park has nurtured more than 350 startup companies and employs over 2,000 people at more than 120 businesses, providing a vital connection between campus research and the business and industry community. The university impacts every community: Illinois Extension serves every county in the state, the

The university's influence extends far beyond Urbana-Champaign by pairing world-class scholarship with broad global reach.

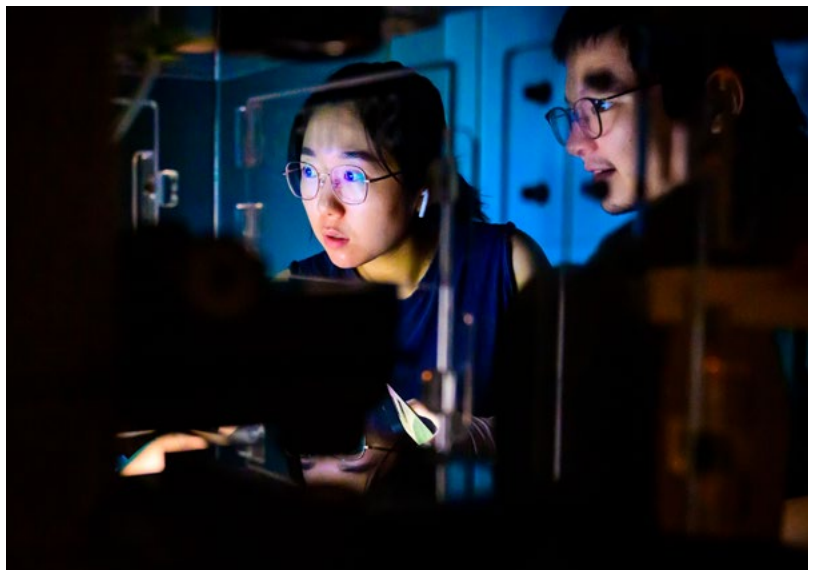
University of Illinois Willard Airport also serves as a transportation hub and a crossroads of economic activity in Champaign County, and major innovation initiatives like Discovery Partners Institute drive progress in Chicago.

The university provides vibrant entertainment and cultural opportunities for residents of the micro-urban Urbana-Champaign community through venues like the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Krannert Art Museum, Spurlock Museum, Japan House, and Allerton Park & Retreat Center. Two major stadiums — State Farm Center and Gies Memorial Stadium — serve as venues for Big Ten athletics competitions, concerts, and other theatrical entertainment opportunities. Illinois also has one of the largest library networks in the world, with 24 million items across more than 20 libraries and collections.

The university's influence extends far beyond Urbana-Champaign by pairing world-class scholarship with broad global reach. Students and scholars from nearly 125 countries learn and work on campus, and more than 300 study-abroad programs in over 50 countries extend educational opportunities around the world.

A founding member of the Big Ten Conference, Illinois also offers a full and storied campus life that unites its global community of students around scholarship, culture, and athletics.

As the system's flagship, Illinois extends the University of Illinois System's research strength and land-grant mission across Illinois and the world.





University of Illinois Chicago

The mission of the University of Illinois Chicago is to provide the broadest access to the highest levels of educational, research, and clinical excellence. Named an “Opportunity University” by the Carnegie Foundation, in recognition of both its access and the earnings its graduates achieve, UIC is a nationally recognized engine of social mobility, consistently ranked first in Illinois and ninth nationally among public universities in U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges list.

Located in the heart of Chicago, UIC is the city’s largest university and its only public R1 research university. One of the most ethnically rich and culturally diverse campuses in the nation, UIC is an integral part of the educational, technological, and cultural fabric of one of the world’s greatest cities. UIC serves nearly 36,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, with regional campuses in Peoria, Rockford, and Urbana-Champaign. More than half of its students are the first in their families to attend college, and 56% are Pell-eligible.

UIC’s academic breadth spans more than 100 departments and divisions, with degree programs from the bachelor’s through the doctoral level across its 16

colleges, several of them ranked among the top 25 in the nation in the 2025 U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools rankings. Its more than 2,500 faculty include award-winning professors, American Association for the Advancement of Science fellows, Fulbright scholars, and National Science Foundation CAREER Award winners. A low 17-to-1 student-faculty ratio gives students exceptional access to the scientists, artists, writers, clinicians, educators, and innovators whose work shapes the world. Students become professionals and leaders in business; engineering; education; liberal arts and sciences; urban planning; architecture, design and the arts; and law at Chicago’s only public law school. UIC awards nearly 2,900 STEM degrees each year.

UIC is a major engine of discovery. Its research award portfolio reached nearly \$500 million in fiscal year 2025, supporting some 3,440 sponsored projects and delivering solutions to complex problems. Across disciplines, UIC students and faculty collaborate with Chicago-based corporations and with leading researchers at Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab, tying the university’s scholarship directly to the region’s innovation economy.

UIC is also one of the nation’s leading health sciences

At UIC, access and excellence thrive together, creating transformational and generational change for students and for the communities the university serves.

universities and the state's principal educator of health professionals. Home to one of the largest colleges of medicine in the country, it offers programs in dentistry, pharmacy, public health, nursing, social work, and applied health sciences. Through its academic health enterprise, the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System (UI Health), together with a network of federally qualified clinics, UIC delivers care to some of the most underserved communities in Chicago and is advancing initiatives to address health disparities across the city and beyond. UIC's projected annual revenues total \$4.56 billion, including \$1.7 billion in medical center revenues.

At UIC, access and excellence thrive together, creating transformational and generational change for students and for the communities the university serves. UIC extends the University of Illinois System's reach into the civic, economic, and health life of Chicago.





University of Illinois Springfield

Established in 1969 as Sangamon State University, UIS joined the University of Illinois System in 1995. UIS enrolls more than 4,300 students, approximately half undergraduate and half graduate, and employs about 200 full-time faculty and more than 500 full-time staff with an annual budget of more than \$120 million. As a comprehensive regional public university in the state's capital city, UIS provides a distinctive, personalized education that prepares students for lifelong success. Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 10 regional public universities in the Midwest and No. 1 in Illinois, UIS is home to four colleges offering 63 degree-granting programs: 35 bachelor's, 28 master's, and one doctoral program. Its accomplished teacher-scholars have earned a national reputation for innovation in teaching and excellence in online education.

UIS is a major economic driver in central Illinois, generating more than \$176 million in annual income for the local economy. That impact extends beyond the classroom through Innovate Springfield, the university's innovation hub. As part of the Illinois Innovation Network, Innovate Springfield helps entrepreneurs launch and grow businesses, develops workforce talent, fosters collaboration, and drives economic growth across the region.

Student success is at the heart of the UIS mission. Small class sizes, high-impact practices, and comprehensive student-support services help students succeed academically and professionally. As a diverse, community-engaged campus, UIS prepares students to make a difference through service and civic engagement. Students also benefit from engaging with peers from a wide range of political views, economic backgrounds, races, and ethnicities.

As a member of the Great Lakes Valley Conference in NCAA Division II, UIS sponsors 18 varsity sports, including volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball, track and field, softball, golf, cross country, tennis, and flag football, the university's newest sport.

UIS continues to strengthen its academic offerings to meet the needs of today's students and tomorrow's workforce. The university plans to launch an engineering technology degree in fall 2027 as part of ongoing efforts to align programs with student interest and employer demand. The College of Business and Management recently opened the Sean and Taryn Grant/Landmark Auto Trading Lab, featuring 12 Bloomberg Terminals that provide students with hands-on experience using

Small class sizes, high-impact practices, and comprehensive student-support services help students succeed academically and professionally.

the same technology trusted by finance professionals worldwide.

UIS graduate students are drawn by the university's academic quality, value, and location. Graduate students benefit from faculty-supervised research, scholarship, and hands-on professional experiences, while technologically advanced classrooms and nationally recognized online instruction enhance the learning experience. Competitive graduate assistantships and internships also provide valuable experience and financial support.

With more than 20 years of leadership in online education, UIS offers 51 online programs that provide a flexible, affordable way to earn a University of Illinois degree from anywhere in the world. Whether students want to complete a degree, build new skills, advance their careers, or pursue a new profession, UIS helps them achieve their goals.

Through student success, innovation, and public service, UIS prepares students to lead while making a lasting impact across Illinois. As the system's presence in the state capital, UIS extends the University of Illinois System's reach into the public affairs, civic life, and workforce of central Illinois.



The President's Areas of Operational Responsibility

The president has specific responsibility to:

- **Provide overall strategic leadership** for one of the nation's most significant public university systems, providing influence across education, research, healthcare, innovation, technology, and economic development
- **Shape, promote, and realize the aspirational goals** of the system as a world leader in each of its key missions
- **Catalyze collaboration** among chancellors to set and realize strategic goals of each university in a way that activates the collective power of the entire system
- **Deliver sustainable public impact** by shaping and promoting outcomes for students, faculty, staff, communities, and the state
- **Serve as the leading spokesperson** and advocate for public higher education in the state
- **Lead representation of priorities** of the University of Illinois System to the state and federal governments, particularly the Illinois General Assembly and the Illinois delegation to the U.S. Congress
- **Strengthen and unify alignment** across universities while amplifying each university's unique strengths
- **Engage fully in shared governance** across multiple constituencies and priorities to lead through collaboration, transparency, innovation, and efficiency
- **Support the critical mission** and overall operations of an academic health center and its importance to the state of Illinois
- **Appreciate the importance** and role of university athletics and the value it brings for the students, community, and economic development
- **Serve as a conduit and ambassador** for international relations and partnerships
- **Establish and maintain trust and credibility** with trustees, chancellors, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and external constituents
- **Protect the reputation** and quality of the institution
- **Support an enterprise** that promotes secure, sustainable research funding at the state and federal levels
- **Steward the financial resources** that foster excellence across the system and oversee appropriate distribution of resources to the universities
- **Recruit, collaborate with, manage, and evaluate** senior leadership — including the chancellors/vice presidents, system vice presidents, and other key leaders

The Next President

As the chief executive officer of a public institution of higher education, the president of the University of Illinois System is expected to be an experienced leader with high personal standards, ethics, integrity, and strong moral values. The board of trustees seeks a president with an advanced degree from an accredited university who can demonstrate a compelling combination of the following qualifications and personal attributes:



System Leadership, Strategic Alignment, and Resource Stewardship

Demonstrated record of effective leadership in a large, complex organization, embodying a culture of collaboration and resource stewardship.

- leadership experience demonstrating the capacity for comprehensive vision and effective execution of decisions reflecting wisdom, foresight, and practical judgment in shaping productive and sustainable programs
- an approach to strategic alignment built on collaboration, openness, high emotional intelligence, and the ability to activate the diverse strengths of major components of a complex organizational system
- proven record of sound fiscal responsibility, rigorous budget management, and data-informed decision-making in complex organizations



Academic Excellence and Institutional Relevance

Commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service, with a focus on evolving academic offerings to meet changing student and workforce needs.

- a notable record of distinction in the applicant's field of expertise, as evidenced by awards, scholarly publications, entrepreneurial endeavors, or recognitions
- a clear understanding of, and a commitment to, the public university as an academic institution and agent for fulfilling its responsibilities to the state and to society
- the capacity to foster and maintain an environment that encourages scholarly creativity, productivity, and integrity across the range of disciplines at each university
- a selfless leader who preserves faculty, staff, and students at the institutional mission's core and understands that success is measured by the achievements of the three distinct universities



External Leadership and Strategic Partnerships

Ability to represent, advocate, and cultivate trusted, high-impact relationships with government, industry, donors, alumni, and external stakeholders through demonstrated political acumen and strong relationship building.

- a meta-leader with demonstrated ability to lead up to superiors, lead down to direct reports, and lead across organizations and institutions outside of one's direct authority
- a thoughtful and pragmatic communicator who successfully builds trust through humility and actions
- an individual who seeks first to listen deeply and to understand thoroughly and genuinely
- a proven record in advancement activities and external relations



Future-Oriented Vision for Higher Education

Demonstrated understanding of, and an ability to act on, the structural shifts facing public higher education.

- the skill to articulate the mission, value, challenges, and opportunities of the public university in the service of state and national leadership on these issues
- a keen understanding of the issues confronting higher education and public universities specifically
- a visionary who can adapt and embrace advances in technology, innovation, and healthcare to meet the needs of faculty, staff, students, and patients
- a coalition builder and futurist able to advance the ambitions of the board of trustees and chancellors



Governance, Operational Clarity, and Organizational Effectiveness

Ability to lead within a complex governance structure by bringing clarity, candor, consistency, and effectiveness to system operations.

- a deep and demonstrated commitment to inclusiveness, community, and belonging
- an ability to steward with agility toward positive outcomes with diplomacy and determination
- a leader who can traverse uncertainty with agility within a large and complex system of shared governance
- a leader who has excelled in crisis management, navigating adversity with a calm, steady presence
- a servant leader who inspires and persuades through careful listening and compelling communication across a broad range of constituencies
- a leader who builds up the strengths in others through mentorship, stability, and confidence
- a leader who has a broad understanding of and experience in board governance and leadership

Applications and Nominations

Representing AGB Search, Senior Executive Search Consultant Sally Mason, Managing Principal & CEO Roderick McDavis, and Senior Executive Search Consultant Garry W. Owens will assist the University of Illinois Board of Trustees and the Search Committee to Assist in the Selection of a president. Should prospective nominators or potential candidates have questions or wish to seek additional information, they are encouraged to email Executive Search Associate Jeanne Melloni (jeanne.melloni@agbsearch.com) to arrange a confidential conversation with Dr. Mason, Dr. McDavis, or Dr. Owens prior to submitting materials.

Those who wish to make a nomination confidentially may submit such nominations anonymously using this [online form](#).

Appointment Information

This is a 100% full-time administrative professional position. The budgeted salary range for this position is \$950,000 to \$1,500,000. Final salary offered will be determined by a thorough assessment of available market data, internal salary equity, candidate experience and qualifications, and budget constraints.

This position is intended to be [eligible for benefits](#). This includes health, dental, vision, life insurance, a retirement plan, paid time off, and tuition benefits for employees and dependents.

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools may be used in some portions of the candidate review process for this position; however, all employment decisions will be made by a person.

All applicant and candidate names will remain confidential. The selected candidate will be announced publicly at the conclusion of the search process. Applicants should submit materials electronically, which should include:

- A letter of interest based on the Leadership Profile, addressing specifically elements in sections labeled — President's Areas of Operational Responsibility and Leadership Profile of the Next president — and describing the candidate's relevant experience in light of the University of Illinois System's expectations for the president;
- A current curriculum vitae, and
- The names, email addresses, and telephone number(s) of five references. (Please specify your professional relationship with each.) References will not be contacted without prior authorization from the candidate and only during the latter stages of the search.

For best consideration, all application materials should be submitted in PDF format through the AGB Search portal using this link: University of Illinois [University System — president](#) by August 28, 2026.

Please direct any questions, as well as nominations or expressions of interest, to: UofIllinoisSystemPresident@agbsearch.com.

The University of Illinois System is an equal opportunity employer, including but not limited to disability and/or veteran status, and complies with all applicable state and federal employment mandates. Please visit Required Employment Notices and Posters to view our non-discrimination statement and find additional information about required background checks, sexual harassment/misconduct disclosures, and employment eligibility review through E-Verify. Applicants with disabilities are encouraged to apply and may request a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008) to complete the application and/or interview process. Requests may be submitted through the reasonable accommodations portal, or by contacting System Human Resource Services at 217-333-2600 or by emailing ADAaccessibility@uillinois.edu.

Search Committee to Assist in the Selection of a President

- **Ramón Cepeda** (Co-chair), Member of the Board of Trustees
- **Ann Yeung** (Co-chair), Professor and Strings Area Chair, School of Music, College of Fine and Applied Arts (Urbana-Champaign)
- **Joseph Gutman**, Member of the Board of Trustees
- **Suzet McKinney**, Member of the Board of Trustees
- **Joseph Irudayaraj**, Professor of Bioengineering (Urbana-Champaign)
- **Stephen Maren**, Director of the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, Professor of Psychology (Urbana-Champaign)
- **Liz Aquino**, Associate Professor of Biobehavioral Nursing Science, College of Nursing (Chicago)
- **Sandra De Groote**, Professor and Head of Scholarly Communications, University Library (Chicago)
- **Kouros Mohammadian**, Distinguished Professor of Transportation Engineering and Head, Department of Civil, Materials, and Environmental Engineering (Chicago)
- **Devin Hunter**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Springfield)
- **Megan Styles**, Associate Professor, Chair and Program Lead of Environmental Studies, School of Integrated Sciences, Sustainability, and Public Health, College of Health, Science, and Technology (Springfield)
- **Gabi DalSanto**, Undergraduate Student, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (Urbana-Champaign)
- **Ashley Huang**, Undergraduate Student, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Chicago)
- **Mitch Olenick**, Graduate Student, College of Business and Management (Springfield)
- **Matt Spindler**, Extension Specialist, University of Illinois Extension, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (Urbana-Champaign)
- **Tenea Harris**, Supplier Diversity Manager, Office of Procurement Services (University of Illinois System)
- **Janet L. Gooch**, Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois System
- **Robert A. Barish**, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs (Chicago)
- **Joshua H. Whitman**, Director, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics (Urbana-Champaign)
- **Cedric D. Thurman**, Urbana Alumnus ('87 BUS), Executive Vice President for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago
- **Mary Maryland**, Chicago Alumna ('94, PhD, nursing) Primary Care Provider, WellBe Senior Medical
- **Donovan Pepper**, Springfield Alumnus ('94 BA political studies, '96 MA political studies) Principal and Director of National Strategic Partnerships, Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies
- **William D. Forsyth**, Urbana-Champaign Alumnus ('86 BUS), Governing Director, University of Illinois Foundation, Co-Founder and Partner, Frontier One LLC

The search committee will be supported by:

- **Sally Mason**, Senior Executive Search Consultant, AGB Search, Advisory
- **Roderick McDavis**, Managing Principal and CEO, AGB Search, Advisory
- **Garry W. Owens**, Senior Executive Search Consultant, AGB Search, Advisory
- **Jeffrey A. Stein**, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University
- **Jami Painter**, Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer
- **Scott Rice**, University Counsel



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