President

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Presidential Search and Screen Committee invite letters of nomination and applications for the position of President of Georgia Southern University (GSU).

The University

Georgia Southern University is the state's largest and most comprehensive center of higher education south of Atlanta. With 141 degree programs at the associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels, Georgia Southern has been designated a Carnegie Doctoral/Research university and serves more than 27,000 students from all 50 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico as well as 102 nations. With three vibrant campuses — the Statesboro Campus, the Armstrong Campus in Savannah and the Liberty Campus in Hinesville — Georgia Southern offers an attractive campus environment that encourages learning, discovery and personal growth. Georgia Southern’s nationally accredited academic programs prepare diverse scholars for leadership and service as world citizens. A unit of the University System of Georgia, the university boasts 200-plus student organizations, outstanding Division I athletics, on-site military resource centers for active military, veterans and their families and state-of-the-art residence halls and campus facilities.

Since 1906, the university’s hallmark has been a culture of engagement that bridges theory with practice, extends the learning environment beyond the classroom and promotes student growth and life success. Central to the university’s mission is the faculty’s dedication to excellence in teaching and the development of a fertile learning environment exemplified by a free exchange of ideas, high academic expectations and individual responsibility for academic achievement. Faculty, staff and students embrace core values expressed through integrity, civility, kindness, collaboration and a commitment to lifelong learning, wellness and social responsibility.

GSU Mission Statement

Georgia Southern University is a public, comprehensive and Carnegie Doctoral/Research university offering associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in nationally accredited programs in the liberal arts, sciences and professional disciplines.

The university provides transformative learning opportunities to meet the needs of a diverse student population through its legacy of commitment to academic excellence and personal attention. Through the shared resources of its multiple locations, the university creates vibrant
learning environments that foster an inclusive, student-centered culture of engagement designed to prepare students for lifelong service as scholars, leaders and responsible stewards of their communities. The university enhances the quality of life and drives economic development in the Southeast Georgia region, the State of Georgia and beyond by supporting collaborative efforts in technological innovation, scientific advancement, education, health services, artistic creativity and cultural enrichment. Faculty, staff and students embrace the values of integrity, civility, kindness, respect, sustainability, citizenship and social responsibility in every facet of the university.

The University System of Georgia

Georgia Southern University is a part of the University System of Georgia (USG), which is composed of 26 higher education institutions, including four research universities, four comprehensive universities, nine state universities, and nine state colleges, the Georgia Public Library Service and the Georgia Archives.

Position Overview

The university seeks a charismatic, visionary president who will champion the institution’s mission and lead it forward to heightened recognition and visibility. The 2018 consolidation of Georgia Southern University and Armstrong State University provides a unique and exciting opportunity for the next president to mold the new Georgia Southern identity into a coherent and inspirational whole. The president will be mindful of the importance of celebrating each campus's unique identity and strengths while also striving to bring each together with a shared vision, culture and strategic direction. The president must have the ability to navigate and lead during this time of transition and guide each community through a period of significant change. The new president must be both a strategist and catalyst in inspiring institution-wide change. The president will deploy a talented executive team to operationalize the plan and be broadly visible in communicating priorities to the university and broader community. To this end, the president will be engaging, demonstrate transparent communication and open dialogue and have the ability to connect with, and influence, a diverse constituency including students, parents, faculty, staff, volunteer leaders, alumni and civic leaders. The president will be highly visible and accessible with a genuine desire to interact with faculty, staff, students and citizens in each community. Ensuring that Georgia Southern University celebrates genuine inclusion and student diversity, access, retention and success is critical.

Working closely with faculty, students and staff to create a long-term plan, the president will bring energy and enthusiasm to the institutional priorities including but not limited to increasing enrollment and quality, promoting the research profile, celebrating the teaching excellence of the university and engaging the communities. With an appreciation for the university's histories and accomplishments, the president will articulate a vision for the institution’s future, one that wins support and engagement from the university community. This will require a president who is imaginative, forward thinking and highly skilled in strategic planning and execution as well as a leader who demonstrates an entrepreneurial approach and effectiveness in making bold decisions while balancing risk. The president must be a steadfast, uncompromising advocate for Georgia Southern University within the state and at the system-level and have the capacity to lead successfully in a shared governance environment. The next president must be able to embrace and represent the university and its impact locally, regionally and economically and
capitalize on opportunities that the entire region presents. The president will be a tireless advocate and supporter of Georgia Southern University's athletics program.

The ideal candidate will bring proven leadership ability and a strong record of managerial success. The president must be able to grasp the demographic, societal, financial and political challenges facing geographically diverse communities of a multi-campus university structure and lead the university into the future while addressing those challenges. Doing so will require an expert communicator with strong change-management, financial, business and external affairs skills as well as a record of fundraising success and leading institutional growth in size, quality and academic rigor. The president will possess professional and scholarly experiences that will earn the respect of the academic community. An earned doctorate or other terminal degree is required as is a record of demonstrated and extensive leadership in higher education (or an environment of similar or greater complexity).

Most importantly, the president will have intelligence, compassion, courage, humor and unquestionable integrity and moral character and be an individual whom the institution and community can trust completely and without reservation.

**Applications and Nominations**

Confidential inquiries, nominations and applications are invited. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled. For fullest consideration, application materials should be received by no later than Friday, November 9, 2018. Candidates should provide a resume or CV, letter of application that addresses the responsibilities and requirements of the presidency and the names and contact information of five references. References will not be contacted without prior knowledge and approval of candidates. These materials should be sent electronically via email to Georgia Southern University’s consultants Ann Yates and Melissa Fincher at GeorgiaSouthernPresident@wittkieffer.com.

*Georgia Southern University provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability.*