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# CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

#### The University

Western Reserve College was founded in 1826 in Hudson, Ohio and moved to "uptown" Cleveland in 1882, assuming the name Western Reserve University ("WRU"). The relocation of WRU, the Case School of Applied Sciences (later Case Institute of Technology), and the Western Reserve School of Design for Women (Cleveland Institute of Art) and the setting aside of land on which to build the Cleveland Museum of Art in the late nineteenth century led to the designation of "uptown" Cleveland as University Circle. In 1967, Western Reserve University and Case Institute of Technology, an adjoining institution with which the University had long collaborated, formally federated and became Case Western Reserve University ("CWRU").

Today CWRU is home to more than 11,800 students (5,150 undergraduate and 6,650 graduate), 3,500 full-time faculty members, and 3,100 staff, with more than 110,000 alumni around the world. The University comprises seven schools and a college: Case School of Engineering, College of Arts and Sciences, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Jack Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, School of Dental Medicine, School of Law, School of Medicine, and Weatherhead School of Management. The University also includes the School of Graduate Studies, the unit through which CWRU offers graduate programs in the humanities and social sciences, biomedical and natural sciences, engineering, and selected disciplines related to professional fields.

CWRU is an anchoring institution within University Circle, a community with one of the nation's largest concentration of educational, cultural, medical and performing arts organizations (including the University's own Maltz Performing Arts Center), named by *Forbes* one of the ten most beautiful neighborhoods in the United States. The University runs many programs in conjunction with other University Circle institutions including the Cleveland Clinic, the University Hospitals of Cleveland, the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, MetroHealth Medical Center, Cleveland Institute of Music, the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Institute of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Cleveland Play House, most of which are within walking distance to the campus and are connected by walking paths surrounded by green spaces.

The city of Cleveland, situated on the southern shore of Lake Erie, is the second largest city in Ohio and the largest media market in the state. Designated as one of the most livable cities in the country, Cleveland is known for its strength and growth in biotechnology and healthcare industries; access to the arts, music, and theater; abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation; professional sports teams; and affordability. The Cleveland Metroparks form an Emerald Necklace around the entire



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Greater Cleveland Area including six lakefront parks that provide public access to Lake Erie. The Greater Cleveland Aquarium is located near downtown, and the I.M. Pei-designed Rock & Roll Hall of Fame is located on the Lake Erie waterfront. Cleveland is now recognized as an eatery destination. The national food press – including publications *Gourmet*, *Food & Wine* and *Esquire* – has heaped praise on several Cleveland spots including "best new restaurant," "best steakhouse," "best farm-to-table programs," and "great new neighborhood eateries." In 2008, the *Chicago Tribune* ran a feature article in its "Travel" section proclaiming Cleveland as America's "hot new dining city." Nightlife in Cleveland is vibrant, offering exciting hotspots such as the Warehouse District, the East 4<sup>th</sup> Street District, and the Tremont District. Playhouse Square is the country's largest performing arts center outside of New York City. Most of these attractions are just minutes away from Case Western Reserve University.

The 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings placed CWRU as 42nd among national universities, first in the state of Ohio, and the 32nd most innovative. The University also ranked 13th for commercialization of research in the 2017 Brookings Institution report. In recognition of its commitment to inclusion, diversity, and equal opportunity, CWRU has received grants such as the National Science Foundation's Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate to recruit underrepresented students into STEM research fields and has been awarded several Higher Education Excellence in Diversity National Awards for setting high standards for diversity and equal opportunity on campus and for training staff, faculty, and students on creating a more welcoming and inclusive campus environment.

The University's operating budget for FY2019 is \$1.15 billion and research revenue totaled close to \$334.2 million in 2017-2018. The endowment is currently valued at \$1.89 billion.

Since President Barbara R. Snyder's arrival in 2007, the University has encouraged interdisciplinary excellence, catalyzed institutional collaboration across the region, and reinvigorated alumni engagement and fundraising. In December 2018, the University ended its most successful fundraising campaign in history, with a total of \$1.82 billion in gifts and pledges, far exceeding the updated \$1.5 billion goal set in 2014, which in turn exceeded the original aim of \$1 billion. Under President Snyder's leadership, the University has more than tripled undergraduate applications, become more than twice as selective, and dramatically improved the academic credentials of the entering class. For these efforts and many more, and for her vision and commitment to excellence, President Snyder received a 2017 Academic Leadership Award from the Carnegie Corporation of America.

Ben Vinson III was appointed Provost and Executive Vice President at Case Western Reserve University in July 2018 and is responsible for all facets of the academic programs and research of the University. Dr. Vinson is an accomplished historian of Latin America and served on the faculties of Barnard College and Penn State before joining Johns Hopkins in 2006 as a professor of history and founding director of its Center for Africana Studies. He went on to serve as a vice dean for centers, interdisciplinary studies, and graduate education before becoming Dean of George Washington University's Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. Under Vinson's leadership, Columbian College



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increased interdisciplinary initiatives, enhanced diversity, and substantially grew research efforts. He led the integration of the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design into Columbian College, collaborated with the dean of engineering to open a \$275 million, 500,000-square-foot interdisciplinary science and engineering building, and initiated graduate degree programs in Data Science and Applied Economics. Vinson also secured two founding gifts for institutes focused on Hispanic leadership and religious freedom and helped create a Global Bachelor's Degree Program that included philanthropic support that he obtained. Under Provost Vinson's leadership, the University is in the process of developing its next strategic plan, focusing on building a cohesive University community prepared to take on the challenges confronting higher education.

## The College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences houses educational and research programs in the arts, humanities, social sciences, physical and biological sciences, and mathematical sciences. The approximately 1,000 undergraduate students in the College choose a major or minor from almost 60 programs, design their own courses of study, or enroll in integrated bachelor's/master's degree programs. It is also home for more than 500 graduate students seeking advanced degrees in nearly 50 programs. In addition, the College offers graduate programs in several fields where small size and special expertise allow it to make a distinctive contribution to advanced education and research.

Central to the heritage of the College are the traditions of the programs that preceded it: Adelbert College, as the men's undergraduate unit of Western Reserve University was known after the move to Cleveland; Flora Stone Mather College, initially founded in 1888 as the Cleveland College for Women; and Cleveland College, founded in 1925 in downtown Cleveland to serve part-time and adult students. These three units, each with a distinguished history of scholarship and achievement, were brought together in 1972 under the revived name of Western Reserve College. The College took its present form in 1992 when undergraduate and graduate programs and research in the arts, humanities, and social sciences were united with those in the physical sciences to form the College of Arts and Sciences. The College is the liberal arts heart of the comprehensive research-intensive University that Case Western Reserve University has become today.

The College comprises 21 academic departments, 35 interdisciplinary programs and centers, and 270 faculty members. Undergraduates and graduate students are encouraged to conduct independent research in their chosen or related fields within the College, in other units of the University, or in nearby medical and cultural institutions. The academic experience can extend into the community in the form of service-learning projects, social justice, community organizations, and internships at research institutions, businesses, cultural institutions, and governmental agencies. Together, the faculty, staff, and students have created an exceptionally collegial and collaborative environment and culture in the College.

The College's curricular offerings are enhanced by its affiliations with other University Circle institutions, including the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the



Cleveland Institute of Music, the Western Reserve Historical Society, the Cleveland Institute of Art, and the Cleveland Play House. The College itself offers many arts presentations, lecture series, and symposia and provides abundant opportunities for students to participate in musical, theater, and dance performances.

Students from across the University participate in the academic and cultural life of the College. For example, undergraduates in the Case School of Engineering, the Weatherhead School of Management, and the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, and those majoring in biochemistry and in nutrition all enroll in SAGES, the seminar-based general education program administered by the College of Arts and Sciences.

The College's mission statement is as follows:

The College of Arts and Sciences is the vibrant and essential core of Case Western Reserve University. We create and educate across the humanities, natural sciences and mathematics, performing arts, and social and behavioral sciences. The College is dedicated to advancing knowledge through research and creative endeavors; to developing skilled and informed citizens, scholars, and researchers through undergraduate and graduate education; and to serving the University and local and global communities.

The College's freedom of expression statement reads:

In the College of Arts and Sciences, we value freedom of expression and the respectful exchange of ideas. As an academic community, we affirm our commitment to intellectual discourse that is characterized by mutual respect, tolerance and inclusiveness.

#### The Role

Reporting to the Provost, the Dean is the chief academic, executive, and fiscal officer of the College of Arts and Sciences. The Dean provides leadership and oversight for the strategic, academic, intellectual, and administrative affairs of the College.

Members of the Cabinet that report directly to the Dean are the following positions:

- Five associate deans; and
- Executive Aide, Assistant Dean for Strategic Initiatives, Director of Budget and Financial Planning, Assistant to the Dean for Special Projects, and Director of Marketing and Communications.



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## **Opportunities and Challenges**

In addition to the day-to-day responsibilities of leading the College, the next Dean will be expected to focus on the following priorities:

#### Providing visionary leadership

- Identify and seize opportunities to advance the College within the University and beyond, including building stronger relationships with the schools of engineering, medicine, and nursing;
- Improve the College's financial health by creatively enhancing revenue and strategically aligning budget priorities with costs;
- Empower students to express their own voices and their intellectual passions, thereby
  encouraging them to take an active role in creating their own academic culture and
  experiences and in helping to shape the College;
- Articulate the importance of the arts and sciences, especially to potential majors; and
- Encourage curricular and scholarly innovation through interdisciplinary collaborations with the other schools and within the College.

#### Organizational capacity building

- Recruit, develop, and retain talented faculty and staff;
- Foster a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence throughout the College;
- Recognize and encourage academic excellence by supporting teaching, scholarship, and creative productivity;
- Engage faculty members in important decisions and develop formal ways to recognize faculty contributions to the College;
- Invest in the College's growth by institutionalizing and sustaining faculty-initiated programs;
- Foster excellence within disciplines and strengthen disciplinary units;
- Encourage a positive culture of collaboration and transparency;
- Highlight achievements and strong performance of staff members; and
- Improve the quality of the graduate educational experience.

#### Raising visibility and resources

- Participate in the national conversation regarding the importance of the liberal arts, serving as
  a compelling and articulate spokesperson for the importance of the arts and humanities, the
  social sciences, and the sciences;
- Raise the profile of the College to bring it the recognition it deserves, to improve rankings, and to attract students as majors;
- Foster a culture of excellent research and scholarly productivity, providing incentives and strengthening accountability;
- Cultivate relationships with federal and private funding sources for research; and
- Strengthen and build relationships with the College's 30,000 alumni and other potential donors.



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#### Qualifications

The Dean will possess stellar academic credentials, including a high degree of scholarship and a record of distinguished, recognized work in the area of expertise. The Dean will hold a terminal degree and qualification for tenured appointment at the rank of full professor in a department within the College.

Strong candidates will demonstrate many of the following skills and qualities:

- Inspirational leader who unites members of the College community toward common goals;
- Consultative decision-maker who respects shared governance;
- Enthusiasm for being fully engaged in the life of the College, both visible and approachable;
- Ability to tackle challenges with persistence, optimism, proactivity, and resilience;
- Strong interpersonal skills, including high emotional intelligence;
- Forward-thinking and strategic mindset;
- Well-honed communication skills, including public speaking and writing;
- Ability to strengthen and build external relationships and partnerships;
- Managerial experience, including financial acumen;
- Fundraising track record or personal traits that would suggest potential for success in cultivating and soliciting donors;
- Nimble leader who anticipates and responds to changes in the higher education landscape;
- Proven track record of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence;
- Appreciation for all of the disciplines within the College;
- Track record of creating programs and attracting recognition for them; and
- Impeccable moral and ethical standards.

#### Contact

Nominations, inquiries, and expressions of interest should be sent in confidence to: <a href="mailto:CWRUDean@russellreynolds.com">CWRUDean@russellreynolds.com</a>.

In employment, as in education, Case Western Reserve University is committed to Equal Opportunity and Diversity. Women, veterans, members of underrepresented minority groups, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Case Western Reserve University provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. Applicants requiring a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the Office for Inclusion, Diversity and Equal Opportunity at 216.368.8877 to request a reasonable accommodation. Determinations as to granting reasonable accommodations for any applicant will be made on a case-by-case basis.

