Executive Summary

The University of Massachusetts Amherst (“UMass Amherst”), the land-grant, flagship university of the University of Massachusetts System, seeks an exceptional academic leader, scholar, and administrator to serve as its next dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts (HFA). The dean will have an exciting opportunity to inform and implement the University's new strategic plan uniting HFA and the broader Amherst community around a shared vision for the humanities, fine arts, and University's future.

The dean provides visionary leadership and strategic direction for the College, which comprises 14 academic departments and 12 research centers and institutes. HFA enrolls approximately 2,200 students, including more than 1,700 undergraduates and over 500 graduate students. The dean also oversees a faculty of 363 (nearly two thirds are tenured or tenure-track) and nearly 100 staff who support the day-to-day work of the College. The dean fosters excellence in teaching, research, creative activity, and public engagement, and promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion among faculty, staff, and students. The next dean must be a leader that appreciates and articulates the vast diversity of HFA and its offerings – a champion and advocate for all.

The dean also oversees the budget, personnel, curriculum, fundraising, alumni relations, and external partnerships of HFA. The next dean will help generate new resources and steward their strategic allocation to strengthen infrastructure and support institutional effectiveness. UMass Amherst has a $1.4 billion budget, of which HFA has an operating budget of $67.5 million.

Central to UMass Amherst’s core values are a drive for inclusive excellence, a reverence for diverse perspectives, and a deep commitment to social progress and social justice. The dean will actively work to build a community of dignity and respect where every individual feels they belong. As a public land-grant institution, the University has a responsibility to provide access and opportunities for all people. UMass Amherst believes that a culturally diverse campus is integral to academic excellence and that diverse experiences strengthen the learning community and the University’s pursuit of a more just society.

A thriving, engaged, diverse institution, UMass Amherst enrolls approximately 32,000 students, including more than 24,000 undergraduates and over 7,000 graduate students, across twelve schools and colleges. The University has approximately 1,800 faculty. Almost 1,100 are tenured or tenure-track; nearly 400 additional faculty and lecturers are on full-time appointments. Nearly 4,500 staff support the day-to-day work of the University, playing critical roles in teaching, research, discovery, and learning at UMass Amherst. Eleven collective bargaining units represent University employees, including faculty/librarians, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students. UMass Amherst has nearly 300,000 alumni worldwide, the majority of whom live and work in Massachusetts, one of the most expansive, knowledge-intensive economic engines in the world. The University is located in the heart of the Pioneer Valley, offering a rich cultural environment in a rural setting close to major urban centers. UMass Amherst is among the largest employers in the region and a key driver of the local economy.

The successful candidate will be an innovative and inspiring leader who embraces and expands upon the exciting educational and research innovations happening in the College and across the University. The dean will be a fiscally responsible and visionary leader with a demonstrated commitment to academic excellence. The dean will be a strong communicator who embraces shared governance through transparency and collaboration. The University seeks in its next dean a proven collaborator and dedicated institutional steward. An earned doctorate or equivalent terminal degree is required, along with a record of scholarship commensurate with an appointment as a tenured full professor within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To submit a nomination, express confidential interest in or apply for the position, please see “Procedure for Candidacy” on page 14.
Role of the Dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts

The dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts (HFA) is its senior academic and administrative officer and provides strategic direction, vision, and leadership for the College. The dean promotes excellence in curricula; teaching and learning; academic advising; scholarship and creative activities; international, regional, and interdisciplinary initiatives; professional development; staffing; and the stewardship of fiscal and other resources.

The dean serves as a strong advocate for the College, both within the University and with external businesses, civic, and academic communities. The dean is a forward-thinking leader of HFA, overseeing the staff and faculty of the College, and stewarding the best interest and welfare of its student body. The dean manages an operating budget of approximately $67.5 million and provides leadership to the College of over 360 faculty, of which 64% are tenured/tenure track. The College of Humanities and Fine Arts includes 14 academic departments and 12 world-class research centers, institutes, and interdisciplinary programs.

The dean reports to the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and serves as a member of the Provost's Leadership Team. WittKieffer is also representing UMass Amherst in their search for a Provost. That search will conclude in early Spring 2023. The Provost Elect will join interim Provost Mike Malone in the selection of the dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. The HFA candidates will have the opportunity to come to know the provost elect as part of their final interview and decision-making process.

Additional essential functions and associated tasks for the dean of HFA include:

**Administration of the College:**

- Develop and implement a strategic plan for HFA that aligns with the mission and goals of the University and reflects the needs and aspirations of the HFA community.
- Work with department chairs and administrative staff to develop a vision for the future of the programs of HFA consistent with the strategic plan of the University; lead the long-range planning of the College.
- Manage the financial and physical resources of HFA and seek new and diversified sources of revenue and support.
- Enhance the visibility and outreach of HFA, and showcase its achievements and contributions to the local, national, and global communities.
- Develop and maintain policies/procedures guiding budgetary and facilities allocation, curricular development, professional development activities, and personnel management that are consistent with university policy.
- Support and enhance the academic quality, reputation, and impact of HFA, and advocate for its interests and priorities within and outside the University.
- Strengthen the interdisciplinary and cross-college collaborations within HFA and with other colleges and units on campus.
- Advance the diversity, equity, and inclusion goals of HFA and the University, and create an inclusive and supportive environment for all members of the HFA community.
- Support the academic success and well-being of students, and provide them with opportunities for experiential learning, career development, and civic engagement.
- Monitor enrollment plans and projections for program vitality.
- Review HFA organizational structure to maximize efficiency and opportunity.
- Prepare and implement the HFA's budget with support from the Assistant Dean of Administration and Finance.
- Act as liaison between HFA and other University offices and officials and provides strong advocacy for the College.

**Faculty/Staff Support and Evaluation:**

- Recruit, retain, mentor, and evaluate faculty and staff, and foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and excellence.
- Encourage and promote professional development for faculty and staff.
Work with department chairs and search committees to evaluate candidates and ensure high-quality search practices.

Evaluate staff performance and make recommendations for advancement.

As appropriate, responsible for hearing and responding to grievances.

Assist departments in mentoring new faculty and staff to maintain the sense of public stewardship, community, and purpose that characterizes UMass Amherst.

**Department Development and Support:**

- Engage in fundraising and alumni relations, and cultivate relationships with donors, foundations, corporations, and other external stakeholders.
- Provide effective representation for HFA and its departments to interested groups outside the University community.
- Work with department chairs and administrative staff to develop assessment measures that monitor the quality and effectiveness of the curriculum.
- Work with department chairs and program directors to develop new curricular offerings that respond to changing student interests and career opportunities.
- Foster partnerships with other colleges and with arts, humanities, and social sciences stakeholders to provide new opportunities to students and faculty and to increase the resource base for UMass Amherst.
- Assist departments in defining and meeting their accreditation goals.
- Assist departments in securing and maintaining adequate resources/facilities to support instructional programs and professional development.
- Assist departments in maintaining and enhancing alumni support.
- Review, edit, and recommend department resource reviews.
Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Reporting to the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UMass Amherst’s dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts will join the University during a time of great change and promise. The University is currently undergoing a strategic planning process that will chart a course for the next phase of UMass Amherst’s history.

The dean will have the opportunity to inform the process and craft a strategic blueprint for the future of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Once finalized, the dean will play a leading role in operationalizing the plan, uniting a diverse and engaged community of faculty, staff, and students across the college and its disciplines in pursuit of a shared vision for the future.

In addition, the dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts will be expected to:

- **Clearly articulate and advocate for the intellectual, scholarly, and creative impact of HFA**
  
  As the College’s chief academic and administrative officer, the next dean will inspire, catalyze, and facilitate academic and research excellence, marshaling resources and support to enable and fuel exceptional research, scholarship, and teaching as the creative and cultural heart of UMass Amherst. The dean will foster interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaboration across UMass Amherst, with fellow UMass deans and regional campuses, and the UMass Chan Medical School, and with strategic academic partners around the globe.

- **Promote and expand student-centric education**
  
  The dean will ensure HFA students have the academic, health, and wellness resources to thrive on and off-campus. The dean will also promote and expand innovative programs and new initiatives to reach a greater number of students throughout Massachusetts including leveraging of the Mount Ida campus and connecting with the business community in Greater Boston for internship and job opportunities.

- **Cultivate the institutional commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice**
  
  The dean will cultivate an inclusive community and an environment of trust and transparency where all faculty, staff, and students are respected, supported, and empowered. The dean will model and promote the essential role that diversity, equity, and inclusion play in UMass Amherst’s mission, its relationships with the Amherst community, and in all its activities and pursuits, and champion the College's ongoing efforts to work towards a more just society.

- **Support and advocate for faculty success**
  
  The dean will model and promote investment in faculty excellence and success, prioritizing institutional resources to support faculty research and scholarship, creative activity, and professional development while ensuring an inclusive framework that allows all faculty and instructional staff to succeed.

- **Steward and develop fiscal resources**
  
  The dean will deploy current resources to enhance the research and teaching missions of the college. As appropriate, the dean will advocate compellingly for additional investments at the university and state-level. The dean will develop new revenue streams through philanthropic support, new innovative programs, and partnerships, increased tuition revenue, and other creative opportunities for growth. The dean will be responsible for strategically allocating these funds and stewarding key relationships, particularly those with major donors.

- **Effectively work with collective bargaining units**
  
  The dean will understand collective bargaining obligations and effectively work with representatives of collective bargaining units, inclusive of faculty, staff, and student employees to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the collective bargaining agreements. The dean will establish and maintain a positive and respectful relationship with each of the union representatives and members. The dean will act on the collective bargaining agreements in good faith and in accordance with the applicable laws and policies and work toward resolution of grievances and disputes in a timely and fair manner.
Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The dean will report to the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and will provide academic and operational leadership for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications and characteristics:

- The candidate must possess an earned doctorate or equivalent terminal degree along with a record of scholarship commensurate with an appointment as a tenured full professor within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at the time of application.
- Experience as an academic leader — for example, as a dean, associate dean, department chair, institute or center director, or other senior administrator.
- Success in advancing institutional equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- The ability to be an effective advocate for the humanities and fine arts and a passion for articulating the varied ways these creative and scholarly pursuits contribute to the mission of UMass Amherst and to the public good.
- Experience with alumni or donor relations or demonstrable potential for success in those areas.
- A record of creating consensus through collaborative efforts.
- A record of participation in faculty appointment and promotion-review processes.
- Demonstrated financial acumen to advance the College's mission via budget management and resource allocation.
- The ability to address fiscal constraints collaboratively and creatively.
- Deep commitment to a shared-governance culture that engages, listens to, and works with students, staff, and faculty colleagues within HFA and across the University.
- Experience and demonstrated success in hiring, training, developing, supervising, assessing, and evaluating faculty and staff performance in the achievement of college and unit goals.
- Authentic interpersonal skills, including exemplary abilities as an effective communicator, engaged listener, and relational leader with diverse groups.
- An ability to collaborate with related disciplines outside of HFA to promote interdisciplinary studies that will enhance the College and the University.
- Transparency and ability to be forthright, share information, and communicate consistently with varied constituencies.
- An understanding of the special mission of a public research university.
- Possess the courage of conviction and unwavering moral character.
About the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Founded in 1863, UMass Amherst was originally established as Massachusetts Agricultural College under the Federal Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act. Today, it is the flagship and largest campus in the University of Massachusetts System.

UMass Amherst serves its community, its state, and the nation. It is estimated that the University’s impact on the Massachusetts economy is $2.5 billion. UMass Amherst is constantly identifying new ways to prepare students for lives as citizens and leaders in the state: in the past five years alone, the University has launched new degree programs in biomedical engineering, data analytics and computational social science, finance, informatics, interdisciplinary studies, managerial economics, materials science and engineering, public policy, and veterinary technology, in anticipation of or in response to the needs of the state and society.

Public service and civic engagement are at the core of UMass Amherst’s purpose; so too is a commitment to social change and social justice. The University is home to the papers and memoirs of W. E. B. DuBois as well as the papers of Horace Mann Bond, Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive, Daniel Ellsberg, Kenneth R. Feinberg, and hundreds of other collections documenting the lives and work of innovators, activists, political figures, and spiritual leaders.

In 2020, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education ranked the University seventh among U.S. doctorate-granting institutions in recognition of its commitment to achieving a more just, healthy, and sustainable world. In 2022, the University unveiled UMass Carbon Zero, an ambitious vision to limit the dangers of climate change and power its 1,500-acre campus with 100% renewable energy by 2032.
UMass Amherst accounts for 40% of the University of Massachusetts System’s annual revenue and expenses. Despite the perennial uncertainties of state funding, the University is financially sound, due in part to its ability to make internal allocations and reallocations that have improved quality and service despite minimal increases in state appropriation.

In FY22, the campus operating budget was over $1.4 billion. UMass Amherst generates over $213 million R&D expenditures, with 60% coming from the life sciences and engineering. In FY21, it received more than $287 million in sponsored research awards including 455 federal awards totaling $221 million. In FY24, the campus attained its largest-ever federal award. Supported by the National Science Foundation’s Science and Technology Centers Program, the Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science will examine how to effectively and ethically braid Western and Indigenous science research, education and practice related to the urgent and interconnected challenges of climate change, cultural places and food security.

The University is located in the historic Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts, about an hour from the scenic Berkshires, two hours from Boston and three hours from New York City. The campus includes more than 13 million square feet of buildings. The University’s transformational investment of $1.8 billion in facilities during the past decade has created a revitalized learning and living environment. This decade of renewal has focused on new and renovated facilities, including classroom and learning buildings, administrative offices, laboratories for the life sciences, a student union, and athletics facilities, among other impressive projects. The current Capital Plan calls for $1.86 billion to be spent between FY22 and FY26 to refurbish existing buildings and invest in new facilities.

Just eight miles from Boston, the Mount Ida Campus serves as a center for student experiential learning, professional development, and industry collaboration. Acquired in 2018, the campus will enable UMass Amherst to address the growing need for talent in areas that drive the state economy, including business, computer science, life sciences, and other STEM specialties, amplifying the University’s impact across the Commonwealth.

Mission

The University of Massachusetts Amherst was founded as a land-grant university dedicated to educating its citizens, generating new knowledge, and applying discoveries to the betterment of society. Through the generations, the original “agricultural and mechanical”
focus has broadened into nearly every aspect of modern life and into a larger obligation to the community the University serves. The University’s mission is to provide an affordable and accessible education of high quality and to conduct programs of research and public service that advance knowledge and improve the lives of the people of the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world.

**Commitment to the Success and Wellbeing of Every Individual**

A long-standing commitment to social progress and social justice, a reverence for varied perspectives, and a drive for inclusive excellence are central to UMass Amherst’s values. As a public land-grant institution, the University has a responsibility to provide access and opportunities for all people. UMass Amherst fosters a community of mutual respect by striving for a safe, progressive, and understanding campus for everyone. It believes that a culturally diverse campus is integral to academic excellence and that students, faculty, and staff should reflect the diverse world in which we live. UMass Amherst draws from and supports diverse experiences as an essential strength of the learning community, and it accepts and instills an ongoing commitment to a more just world. The Office of Equity and Inclusion, led by a vice chancellor, guides UMass Amherst’s efforts related to diversity, equity, and inclusion through programming and resources for students, faculty, staff, and the community. A signatory to the Okanagan Charter, UMass Amherst is committed to creating, cultivating, and sustaining healthy people, places, and planet.

**Belonging at UMass.** UMass Amherst has reiterated expectations for, and reaffirmed its commitment to, building a community of dignity and respect. Together, UMass Amherst will ensure a safe and welcoming living-learning-working environment that honors differences, encourages thoughtful interactions, and allows the humanity of every person to be seen.

**Full and Equal Access.** UMass Amherst embraces disability as a natural part of diversity and seeks to build capacity to appreciate and value individual differences, including differences in ability, to create an inclusive community. The University is committed to providing full and equal access to information and services for all current and potential community members.

**Advancing Faculty Equity.** Through UMass ADVANCE, the University harnesses the power of collaboration to drive discovery and generate knowledge and solutions to advance faculty equity. It cultivates faculty equity, inclusion, and success by providing the resources, recognition, and relationships critical for equitable and successful collaboration in today’s academy.

**Celebrating Black Presence.** The Black Presence Project documents and honors the contributions of Black students, faculty, and staff to UMass Amherst, thanks in large part to the leadership of the late professor John H. Bracey Jr., a founder of the W. E. B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies and preeminent scholar of Black history and the Black arts movement.

**LGBTQ+ History.** As the flagship campus in the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, UMass Amherst’s past is infused with important events that were driven by or have affected the lives of LGBTQ+ people on campus—a community that has grown to be inclusive, safe, supportive, welcoming, and deeply informed by the lessons of history.
Community Engagement and Service Learning

UMass Amherst and its host communities of Amherst and Hadley have shared a rich history for more than 150 years. Community engagement is central to the University’s mission of cooperative and collaborative work. In addition to the University’s positive impact on the local economy, UMass Amherst adds to the cultural richness, intellectual depth, and ethnic diversity of the Amherst area and surrounding region. Community partnerships provide unique educational opportunities, support community and civic organizations, and enhance the region’s quality of life. They are built on a shared desire to make UMass Amherst and its surrounding communities great places to live, work, play, and learn.

The University promotes democratic engagement and lifelong learning, partnering with communities on and off campus to work collectively for a more just society. Faculty teach courses integrating service-learning as a text for student learning, integrating service into the academic experience. Students engage in curricula that include significant public work, deepening their education and preparing them for lives of active engagement. Through Civic Engagement & Service-Learning, UMass Amherst provides the resources to activate the creative energy of students and faculty, enabling them to improve lives and make a positive impact on communities locally, nationally, and globally.
The University’s current 2018–2023 Strategic Plan, *Be Revolutionary: A Vision for the Future*, outlines three overarching objectives, which call for UMass Amherst to be:

- A destination of choice where academically accomplished, socially responsible seekers of a world-class education succeed
- A partner of choice in advancing and applying knowledge and innovation for the betterment of society
- A community of choice for students, staff, and faculty that exemplifies the power of diverse perspectives and mutual respect.

Strengthening diversity, equity, and inclusion is a prominent theme in the strategic plan and one of six key strategic areas that is woven throughout the others. In addition, a Diversity Strategic Plan articulates several major goals to realize the promise of a culturally diverse campus:

- Making UMass Amherst a destination of choice for students of color and underrepresented groups
- Improving the campus climate of inclusion
- Enhancing the effectiveness of curriculum and educational programs with regard to diversity and inclusion
- Increasing focus on recruiting, retention, and promotion of a diverse corps of faculty and staff
- Increasing outreach and engagement with external communities/schools with large proportions of underrepresented minorities.

In September 2023, Chancellor Javier Reyes launched a process to develop the University’s next strategic plan. The process will create opportunities to identify synergies between and within UMass Amherst’s diverse academic, administrative, and operational areas and coalesce around a shared vision for the campus. The provost is expected to actively participate in the process to finalize the details, directions, goals, and early-stage implementation.

**Faculty**

UMass Amherst faculty are creative and passionate researchers, teachers, and mentors striving to improve the world and empower the next generation through the pursuit of knowledge and innovation. The University is home to approximately 1,800 instructional faculty members. Almost 1,100 tenured or tenure-track faculty; nearly 400 additional faculty and lecturers are on full-time appointments. More than 58% of instructional faculty are women and approximately 29% are people of color.

Among the faculty are recipients of the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award for Poetry, National Medal of Science, Draper Award in Engineering, and National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award. Faculty have been recognized by the Fulbright Scholars Program, MacArthur Foundation, Guggenheim Foundation, Sloan Foundation, and Woodrow Wilson Foundation, as well as the National Endowment for the Arts. They include elected members of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Medicine, and American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Staff**

Professional clerical and trade staff—nearly 4,500 in number—are critical to the mission and work of UMass Amherst. They facilitate the day-to-day exchanges and connections that define the UMass Amherst student experience; are critical to teaching, research, discovery, and learning; and play an integral role in establishing and maintaining positive and productive community partnerships and collaborations.

UMass Amherst employees, including faculty/librarians, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students, are represented by 11 collective bargaining units.
Students

UMass Amherst has one of the largest residential life systems in the nation, with more than 14,000 students on campus. Among students and their families, the University has an excellent reputation for offering high value, a student-centered approach, and attention to the whole student. Over the last decade, first-year undergraduate applications have increased by 30%. The six-year graduation rate has increased steadily to 84%. In FY21, UMass Amherst awarded $187 million in campus funded financial aid.

UMass Amherst accounts for 43% of the systemwide student headcount and attracts a higher proportion than other campuses of out-of-state and international students. Approximately 30% of the 2022–2023 entering class identify as students of color, compared with 21% just 10 years ago.

To meet students’ rapidly changing needs, the UMass Flex program is exploring ways to present the entire university experience—from classes to career services—to students and instructors, both on and off campus. This is an expansion of UMass Amherst's pioneering degree completion program, University Without Walls, now celebrating its 50th year.

UMass Amherst has a rich history of student expression and activism. For generations, students have been involved with national and campus activism on a wide variety of political and social issues. UMass Amherst students are motivated and empowered to create and run clubs and organizations of their choosing. There are currently more than 400 active student groups on campus.

UMass Amherst athletes compete in nine men's and 10 women's NCAA Division I sanctioned sports, primarily in the Atlantic 10 Conference. UMass is one of only 16 universities in the nation that plays Division I football and Division I men's ice hockey. UMass Amherst won its first National Hockey Championship in the 2021 NCAA Tournament.

Schools and Colleges

UMass Amherst comprises 12 schools and colleges that collectively encompass 110 undergraduate majors from accounting to women, gender, sexuality studies and nearly 80 master’s and 48 doctoral programs ranging from MBAs and MPHs to MEds and PhDs.

- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Humanities and Fine Arts
- Robert and Donna Manning College of Information & Computer Sciences
- College of Natural Sciences
- Elaine Marieb College of Nursing
- College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Commonwealth Honors College
- Isenberg School of Management
- School of Public Health and Health Sciences
The Arts

From high-caliber theater, music, and dance performances to museum exhibitions and a robust visiting artists program, the University of Massachusetts Amherst is renowned for its commitment to the arts.

The Fine Arts Center — including the Randolph W. Bromery Center for the Arts and Frederick C. Tillis Performance Hall — is a revolutionary celebration of the arts at UMass Amherst, comprising not only performance venues but also multidisciplinary teaching spaces for the arts, including a gallery, design studio, rehearsal space, recording studio, animation studio and lab, and music classroom. As the University's teaching museum, the University Museum of Contemporary Art is a multidisciplinary laboratory for the exploration of contemporary art where emerging artists and diverse audiences are empowered to pursue new artistic possibilities through exhibitions, a permanent collection, educational programming, and a visiting artists program.

Art through the ages—from traditional to contemporary, from student exhibits to storied artists—is on display at the Augusta Savage Gallery where art explores issues of race, class, and power; at the Hampden Gallery for new and emerging artists; at the Herter Art Gallery where science meets art; and at the student-run Student Union Art Gallery where students explore new, unconventional ideas in an inclusive space.

The Arts Extension Service helps to connect the community and the arts through its online certificates in arts management, online arts administration bachelor’s degree, publications, research services, and training programs for state, regional, and local arts agencies.

Students who seek to embrace the diversity of visual art can pursue courses of study through the University’s Department of Art, Department of Music and Dance, Department of Theater, or Film Studies program.
Leadership

Javier A. Reyes, Ph.D., became the 31st leader of the University of Massachusetts Amherst on July 1, 2023, following his selection as chancellor of the Commonwealth’s flagship campus by the UMass Board of Trustees.

Reyes is an economist who has devoted his career to the cause of public higher education, holding leadership positions at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), West Virginia University, and the University of Arkansas. He most recently served as interim chancellor of UIC, Chicago’s largest university campus. Born and raised in Mexico, Reyes is the first Hispanic person to serve as chancellor of UMass Amherst.

Before coming to UMass, Reyes served as interim chancellor of UIC, Chicago’s largest university campus, with more than 33,000 students and $440 million in research awards. Previously, he served as UIC’s provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, joining the campus in 2021. Leading UIC, first as provost and later as interim chancellor, Reyes initiated a redesign of UIC’s budget model and a restructuring of teaching innovation environments to position UIC for success amid a new era of innovative and accessible education.

Committed to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, Reyes outlined a bold vision to address critical gaps in racial equity across the institution, with a specific focus on increasing Black student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. Reyes served as dean of West Virginia University’s John Chambers College of Business and Economics from 2016–2021 and vice president for StartUp West Virginia from 2018–2021. He built impactful corporate partnerships to strengthen student placement and serve West Virginia’s land-grant mission. He spearheaded the transformation of the college into a pillar of inclusive entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic development for the university and the state.

Prior to moving to West Virginia, Reyes served as vice provost for online and distance education at the University of Arkansas and as the associate dean for undergraduate studies and executive education in the Sam M. Walton College of Business. He initially joined the economics faculty of the University of Arkansas in 2003.

Reyes has been a National Science Foundation proposal reviewer, invited lecturer, and visiting scholar at a number of institutions internationally, including the Clinton School of Public Service and the International Monetary Fund. He also has served as an academic scholar in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, as a research analyst for the investment firm Value Casa de Bolsa, headquartered in Mexico.

He has served on the Board of Directors for the Field Museum, the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago, Miller Industries (NYSE: MLR), and City Holding Company (NASDAQ: CHCO). He is actively engaged with the TIAA Diversity Council and the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA).

Reyes received his bachelor’s degree in economics from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Campus Estado de Mexico, in 1998, and his doctorate in economics from Texas A&M University in 2003. He is actively engaged with the TIAA Diversity Council and the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA).
Amherst, Hadley, and the Pioneer Valley

Amherst

The proud birthplace of Emily Dickinson and perennially considered one the best college towns in the nation, Amherst, Massachusetts is home to Amherst College, Hampshire College, and the University of Massachusetts. Spotting a resident rock star, famous writer, or Nobel laureate in a downtown cafe is a fairly regular occurrence, due in part to the influence of UMass Amherst and the colleges, which creates a vibrant and dynamic intellectual atmosphere that attracts world-class faculty.

With approximately 38,000 residents, Amherst is the largest community in Hampshire County. The epitome of town and country, Amherst’s bustling downtown is complemented by four village centers and dozens of cultural attractions, including eight museums, an independent art house cinema, and performing arts and music venues. The town has permanently conserved nearly one-third of its land and is home to more than 50 working farms. Amherst is an ethnically diverse community with strong schools, an excellent bus system, and close proximity to major cities.

Hadley

For more than 350 years, Hadley has been known for the richness of its soils and the quality of its crops, having earned the distinction of Asparagus Capital of the World. Bordering the Connecticut River and home to UMass Rowing, Hadley has a burgeoning tourism market, attracted to the area’s farms and scenic byways.

Hadley is home to approximately 5,000 residents, including hundreds of UMass employees. It is a regional hub for commerce where national retailers complement ethnically diverse, locally owned small businesses to meet the needs of the ever-growing UMass Amherst community.

The Pioneer Valley

Comprising Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties, the Pioneer Valley is a stunningly beautiful mosaic of rolling hills, unspoiled forest, winding rivers, rich farmland, and urban centers. The Valley is home to the college towns of Amherst, Northampton, and South Hadley and the Five Colleges Consortium—Amherst College, Smith College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, and UMass Amherst—as well as the emerging arts communities of Greenfield, Turners Falls, and Easthampton, and the resurgent cities of Holyoke and Springfield.

UMass Amherst plays a vital, leading role in the Pioneer Valley where the University’s influence, imprint, and economic impact extend well beyond its host communities. Staff, faculty, and students live throughout the Valley and engage with community groups and non-profit boards. UMass Amherst is actively involved in the economic development of Holyoke and Springfield and has deep relationships with the school districts of the region’s gateway cities.

Hampden County, anchored by the state’s third largest city, is home to major corporations and is a hub for health care and innovation. The UMass system has invested in the Springfield Center, home to courses from all five system branches. In Holyoke, UMass is a partner in the Green High-Speed Computing Center. The Hampshire County economy is driven by tourism, arts, agriculture, and education. Franklin County, with more than 70,000 residents, is the most rural county in Massachusetts, yet more than 15% of its economic activity is based in manufacturing.

In July 2023, CNN Travel named the Pioneer Valley one of America’s most underrated destinations.
Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting University of Massachusetts Amherst in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by **Tuesday, February 27th**. Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer’s candidate portal.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

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