



**ROOSEVELT
UNIVERSITY**

Presidential Leadership Profile Summary



Roosevelt University Presidential Search

In the spirit of the ideals of its founders, the Board of Trustees of Roosevelt University invites nominations of, and applications from, exceptional leaders to serve as the University's seventh President.

Roosevelt University is a private, non-sectarian university founded in 1945 by faculty, students and staff dedicated to fundamental access to education, excellence in teaching and social justice issues. The University is a community of educators, scholars and learners committed to academic, creative and service excellence who value differences in personal experiences and perspectives; ask the difficult questions; and promote mutual understanding, inclusion, social consciousness and action toward social justice. Roosevelt serves a diverse student body of more than 4,500 students on campuses in downtown Chicago and in suburban Schaumburg, and it offers 128 undergraduate and graduate programs. More than 560 faculty and 358 academic, administrative and support staff provide a learning environment for students that is focused on helping them grow and achieve their educational and life goals. Over 50 student organizations, along with being the only NCAA Division II athletics program in Chicago (Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference), round out the Roosevelt student experience. More information about the University can be found at www.roosevelt.edu.

With four consecutive years of enrollment growth and strengthened financial stability, Roosevelt University has built meaningful momentum at a time when many colleges and universities across the country continue to face enrollment pressures and fiscal uncertainty. The University seeks a President to build on this progress and lead Roosevelt to continued growth, heightened visibility and long-term strength in a rapidly changing higher education landscape. The next President will build on the successful tenure of Roosevelt's retiring President, Ali Malekzadeh, who has served the University with distinction since 2015.

The next President of Roosevelt University will lead an institution that has a clear mission. Roosevelt

University seeks a student-centered President who is committed to the University's social justice mission and who has the imagination and energy to build on the University's current trajectory, leading it boldly and creatively into the future. The President will work closely with the Board and the University community to provide leadership aligned with the University's mission and commitment to shared governance and student success; expand and optimize academic programs and student support services; grow and diversify the University's revenue streams; engage with the University community, the City of Chicago, the Village of Schaumburg, the State of Illinois and beyond; and advance the University brand.

It is essential that the next President demonstrate significant experience at the senior level of an educational institution or organization of substantial complexity along with proven values-driven leadership, fiscal acumen and managerial success. The ideal candidate will have experience working with populations similar to those that the University serves, be an effective fundraiser and public ambassador and demonstrate integrity, transparency, accountability, emotional intelligence and ethical judgment in words and actions. A terminal degree (including, but not limited to, a PhD, JD or EdD) is required.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.



Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Among the many duties of the next President, the following opportunities and expectations are of particular importance:

Provide visionary, strategic and sustainable leadership that centers on Roosevelt's social justice mission and shared governance principles.

Continue to develop and expand academic programs and support services across all colleges at the Chicago and Schaumburg campuses.

Support an environment that enables access, opportunity and student success for Roosevelt's diverse student body.

Grow and diversify revenue streams.

Build community with all University constituents to improve engagement and morale.

Advance the brand of the University both locally and nationally.



Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

In addition to senior-level leadership at an educational institution or complex organization and a terminal degree, the President will also possess many, if not all, of the following professional qualifications and personal qualities.

Demonstrated Commitment to Social Justice, Access & Equity:

Shows a long standing, authentic commitment to advancing social justice, access and equity aligned with institutional values

Student-Success Focused:

Understands the importance of student success and the transformative power of higher education

Academic Understanding & Educational Stewardship:

Is deeply committed to higher education and understands the state of higher education in today's environment

Strategic, Financial & Business Acumen:

Exhibits strong financial and business judgment

Values-Driven, Trust-Building Leadership:

Demonstrates integrity, transparency, accountability, emotional intelligence and ethical judgment in words and actions

Authentic Commitment to Shared Governance:

Has a proven record of meaningful collaboration with faculty, staff and students

Respectful, Authentic & Empathetic People Leadership:

Values all faculty and staff as foundational to the institution

Enrollment Management Expertise:

Understands the economic model of colleges and universities like Roosevelt

Fundraising, Visibility & External Leadership:

Has demonstrated the capability of being an effective fundraiser and public ambassador

Intercollegiate Athletic Experience:

Understands the academic, experiential and fiscal dimensions of NCAA Division II athletics required to support a successful intercollegiate athletics program

Innovative, Nimble & Future Focused:

Balances innovation and calculated risk taking with respect for institutional legacy and capacity thoughtfully while resisting trend-driven decision-making

Roosevelt at a Glance

UNIVERSITY FACTS

- ▶ Named for both President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt
- ▶ Campuses in downtown Chicago and northwest suburban Schaumburg
- ▶ 128 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs
- ▶ 24 certificate and professional diploma programs
- ▶ 850+ degrees awarded annually
- ▶ Fall / Spring / Summer academic calendar
- ▶ Longtime home in the Auditorium Building, which was built in 1889 and was the world's first multi-use skyscraper.
- ▶ The Wabash Building is the second-tallest educational building in the country, combining student residences, classrooms, labs, dining and fitness into a single building.
- ▶ University Athletics teams are nicknamed the Lakers and our mascot is called Fala, who is named after FDR's Scottish terrier.
- ▶ The student newspaper is *The Torch*.

UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

Identified as a
TOP PERFORMER
in Social Mobility
(U.S. News and World Report)

#2
Most Diverse
College
in Illinois
(Niche.com)

#20
Best Colleges
for Women in
Computer Science
(Washington Monthly, 2025)

#1
College
Location
in Illinois
(Niche.com)

#12
Best Colleges
for Women in
Biology
(Washington Monthly, 2025)

STUDENT FACTS

Roosevelt students are ambitious, reflective and socially conscious. They come from every background and are united by a shared drive to transform their lives—and their communities.

Fall 2025

- Total Enrollment: **4,600**
- Undergraduate Enrollment: **3,272**
- Graduate Enrollment: **1,328**
- **80%** from the Chicago area
- Students coming from outside the Chicago area represent **46** states and **69** foreign countries
- **55%** first-generation college students
- **57%** minority students
 - American Indian/Alaska Native: **.2%**
 - Asian American: **4.7%**
 - Black or African American: **20.2%**
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: **.2%**
 - Hispanic or Latino: **31.6%**

UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating budget:
\$110 MILLION

Endowment:
\$178 MILLION
(as of 5/28/2026)

2026 Fitch
Ratings Outlook:
POSITIVE

\$10.21 MILLION
in private gifts
raised in 2025

\$5.58 MILLION
in grant payments
secured in 2025



Compensation and Benefits | Procedure for Candidacy

The expected base salary range for this position is \$500,000–\$700,000. Roosevelt University offers a comprehensive benefits package that includes medical, dental and vision insurance, including PPO/HDHP/HMO plans and FSA/HSA options; paid and voluntary life insurance; short- and long-term disability insurance; long-term care insurance; pet insurance; retirement plan options; and paid time off, including vacation days, sick leave and University-recognized holidays as well as winter break. Additional benefits include access to Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) and wellness resources; tuition remission/tuition exchange and professional development opportunities; and commuter/parking benefits. Roosevelt University will cover expenses associated with relocation to Chicago for this role. Total compensation for this role is based on multiple factors including job-related knowledge/skills, experience and market considerations.

This search is led by Christine J. Pendleton, Sandra Chu, Maya Holt-Brockenbrough, PhD, and Ray Crossman, PhD of WittKieffer. Nominations and inquiries may be directed to Sandra Chu (schu@wittkieffer.com) and Maya Holt-Brockenbrough (mayahb@wittkieffer.com). To receive the fullest consideration, candidate materials should be submitted through the [WittKieffer Candidate Portal](#) by September 4, 2026. New Candidate Portal users should select “Register Here” to create an account before proceeding. After logging in, navigate to “Open Positions,” then locate the role by entering the institution’s name and clicking the search wheel. Applicants should submit, as separate documents, a CV or résumé and a letter of interest that addresses the themes outlined in this profile.

Roosevelt University is an [Equal Opportunity Employer](#) and welcomes women, LGBTQ, disabled, veterans, international and minority-classified individuals as applicants for all positions.

