

IOWA

Dean, College of Law Leadership Profile

September 2026



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Executive Summary

The University of Iowa College of Law seeks a visionary and collaborative leader to serve as its next dean. This role will provide an opportunity to head one of the nation's premier public law schools, distinguished by accomplished students, a productive and committed faculty, and a culture of collegiality. A new dean will bring a fresh perspective to build upon current strengths and lead the institution into an even brighter future.

Exceptional student body

The students at the College of Law are thriving. The college continues to attract talented students from across the country who are drawn by its academic rigor, career success, and incredible value. Iowa Law is #5 nationwide for outcomes (*U.S. News & World Report*): Bar passage rates have exceeded 90% for the past two years, and employment numbers equaled or exceeded 99% over the last three years. Indeed, in 2025, 100% of the graduating class found jobs. Even better, these graduates are starting their careers with a debt load much lower than the national average. In short, Iowa Law delivers a premier legal education and positions graduates for long-term success.

Faculty excellence

The College of Law's success is grounded in the strength of its faculty, whose scholarship and teaching are intertwined to influence the law, with a reach that extends from the Boyd Law Building out to the nation and the world. Faculty members are highly regarded and published scholars who are frequently cited experts in court opinions, prestigious law journals, and media. This commitment to intellectual rigor extends equally to the classroom, where professors share their knowledge and expertise to help students forge their own paths to professional success.

A strong community

Iowa Law owes its many achievements to a spirit of collaboration, collegiality, and community that extends beyond the Boyd Law Building to the 11,000+ alumni who carry the Iowa Law banner in all 50 states and across the globe. All members of the Iowa Law family—from students to professors to staff to alumni—share the belief that high expectations work best when coupled with a supportive, connected network.

A premier college town

The Boyd Law Building overlooks the banks of the Iowa River in Iowa City, a college town that is celebrated for its literary heritage, dynamic downtown, thriving arts scene, and welcoming environment. Residents enjoy a quality of life that includes access to one of the top academic medical centers in the country and the cultural amenities of a major city—minus the traffic, cost, and inconvenience.

The opportunity

The next dean will build on a strong foundation and guide a law school with a proud history, clear momentum, and significant potential. They will steer the institution into the future with the support of exceptional students, accomplished faculty, dedicated staff, engaged alumni, and the resources of a leading public university and the Iowa Law School Foundation, which has an endowment of \$100 million.

The Search Committee invites letters of nomination, expressions of interest, and applications (letter of interest and full curriculum vitae). Review of materials will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. To ensure full consideration, **please submit your application before November 2, 2026.**

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Applications received after this date may be considered at the discretion of the Search Committee. To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please email IowaLawDean@wittkiewer.com.

Role of the dean

The dean will be a visionary and dynamic leader who will play a critical role in guiding Iowa Law to new heights of academic excellence, student success, and societal impact. By fostering a culture of innovation, strategic thinking, inclusivity, and collaboration, the dean will ensure that Iowa Law continues to lead in the legal education landscape, preparing the next generation of legal professionals to excel in a complex and changing world.

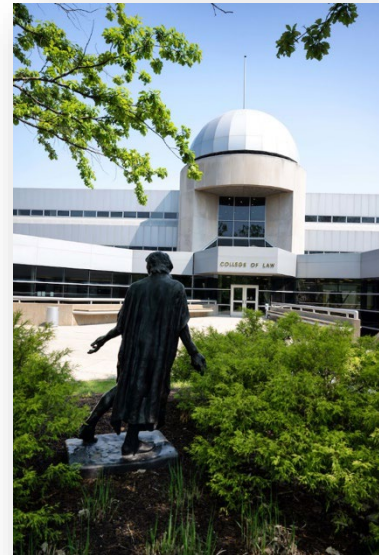
As Iowa Law's senior academic officer, the dean will provide strategic leadership by working within a system of shared governance that is fundamental to the core mission and culture of the College of Law and wider university. In the role of senior financial officer, they will generate and manage resources, oversee operations, and exercise authority over programs and budgets. As one of the university's top leaders, they will report directly to the executive vice president and provost and work collaboratively with the deans across campus to advance the institution's commitments to excellent teaching, impactful research, and meaningful public engagement.

The dean will promote Iowa Law as a state and national leader by advancing the college's commitment to providing an excellent, broad-based, and practical legal education to a strong student body seeking to enter a variety of careers. They will maintain a productive environment for faculty and staff to develop their capacities in their respective fields and will build on the strengths of the college, creating synergies with existing programs and innovatively promoting continued excellence in teaching, scholarship, and leadership. They will further Iowa Law's goals in student recruiting and in hiring and retaining faculty and staff.

The dean will be proactive and creative in identifying and addressing challenges posed by changes in the practice of law and in the market for and delivery of legal education. They will help the college anticipate and respond to changing accreditation standards and employers' evolving expectations.

The role of the dean is highly demanding and requires a collaborative partnership with the college's leadership team. They will lead, support, and nurture this team, bringing together individuals with a variety of experiences and perspectives. The dean's success in this work is supported by a team of assistant deans, associate deans, and directors in the Dean's Office. Several roles include:

- Associate dean for academic affairs
- Associate dean for faculty
- Associate dean for international and comparative law programs
- Associate and assistant dean of student and career services
- Assistant dean for admissions and financial aid





Opportunities and expectations for leadership

The dean will be tasked with meeting the following leadership requirements, among others:

Academic leadership

The dean will champion and foster excellence in faculty scholarship and teaching and prioritize the research and teaching missions of the College of Law, supporting faculty scholarly engagement and instructional innovation. They must work to continually strengthen the college's faculty through recruitment, retention, professional development, and support. Additionally, the dean must maintain the highly collegial and collaborative environment that supports and uplifts the entire community of faculty, staff, and students.

Priority setting and administrative planning

The dean will be a strategic and visionary leader who will set the benchmark for achievement and intellectual engagement. In conjunction with the Iowa Law faculty, they will be responsible for formulating annual and long-term goals and strategic planning for the college. In ways consistent with the institution's longstanding commitment to shared governance, the dean will articulate a vision and strategic plan that will lead the college into its next era of success. The dean will balance tradition with innovation by identifying priorities for the college's future that build on existing strengths. They will engage all constituents, including faculty, administrators, staff, students, alumni, and the Iowa Law School Foundation Board to successfully execute the college's mission. They will work closely with these and other Iowa Law constituencies to ensure that plans and resource allocations align with college and university priorities.

The dean is responsible for all personnel administration of Iowa Law's faculty and staff. In collaboration with the law faculty, the dean is responsible for hiring entry-level and lateral faculty members and they must systematically and critically evaluate strengths within the college, assess where investment could create new opportunities, and spur productivity, impact, and recognition in teaching, leadership, and scholarship.

They will be responsible for prioritizing fundraising and budgetary goals for the College of Law. The dean must play a leadership role in fundraising efforts and seek new opportunities to expand the college's resource base. As part of the university's comprehensive [Together Hawkeyes](#) capital campaign, the College of Law has raised \$51.7 million towards its \$55 million campaign goal. This campaign is scheduled to conclude in fiscal year 2028.

The University of Iowa utilizes a modified RCM budget model, which requires deans to work with faculty to create new opportunities for revenue. A creative and entrepreneurial approach is necessary given the economics of public

higher education. With the university's innovative and collaborative culture, Iowa Law is well positioned to excel and manage any challenges facing institutions of higher education.

The dean will work to enhance Iowa Law's alumni outreach and involvement to ensure that alumni across the country and around the world maintain a connection to the college. They must be proactive and entrepreneurial in identifying priorities for support, developing productive relationships through engagement with the legal community and donors, and maintaining excellent communication with internal and external constituencies. The dean will also be effective at promoting Iowa Law's reputation and increasing goodwill within legal education, the legal profession, and the legal and business communities at local, state and national levels.

Commitment to fostering a welcoming and respectful community

The dean must foster and promote a welcoming and respectful work environment where everyone can feel part of the community. They will have a record of engagement and leadership in advancing these core values. This commitment will extend to every facet of Iowa Law, including its mission, faculty and staff hiring, student recruitment and support, curriculum and programmatic offerings, scholarly activity, and partnerships across the university and broader community.

Collaborative leadership university-wide and beyond

In addition to working closely with the provost, the dean plays a critical role as a facilitator and advocate for the College of Law. In that regard, the dean will seek collaborative opportunities with other colleges to build innovative programs and expand approaches to teaching and research. The dean will support creative engagement with University of Iowa colleges and other institutions. They will fully participate in the relationship with the Iowa Law School Foundation, Board of Regents, alumni, state and federal government officials, and sources of philanthropy. They will be a catalyst for collaboration and innovation with legal partners and leaders.

Professional qualifications and personal qualities

The dean will be an inspiring leader with a clear vision for maintaining and enhancing the excellence of Iowa Law. They will also be a capable executive with skills in fiscal and human resources management, as well as skills in relationship building and management that are critical for fundraising success. They must have the political acumen, power of persuasion, and authentic personal leadership style necessary to advance the college and inspire its multiple constituencies.

The ideal candidate will be a collaborative leader with a distinguished record of academic achievement and outstanding professional accomplishments. Additionally, the successful candidate will possess a keen appreciation for innovative and impactful legal scholarship; the ability to inspire and lead an accomplished faculty toward further excellence; and a commitment to Iowa Law's central role as a flagship public research university.

The ideal candidate will manifest these required qualifications as well as a set of desired qualifications:

Required Qualifications:

- **Educational background and tenurable record**

Possess a JD or its equivalent and a record of teaching, scholarship, and service that meets the standards for appointment to the Iowa Law faculty as a full professor with tenure. A reputation for maintaining the highest standards of excellence in administration, scholarship, and teaching.

- **Vision, strategic thinking, and capacity for execution**

The ability to articulate a clear and compelling vision and to unite a community around it; an equivalent capacity for building consensus around implementing strategic plans and initiatives.

- **Collaborative and courageous leadership**

An appreciation of, and the ability to work within, a model and tradition of shared governance. Ability to facilitate broad constituencies' input, as well as the ability to take decisive action. Willingness and ability to communicate openly and transparently about strategic and policy decisions. An ability to mentor and advocate for students, staff, and faculty. The skill and experience to steward relationships across public and private sectors.

- **Experience in advancing access and opportunity**

Experience with, and a record of leadership in advancing access and opportunity, and exemplary skills in collaborating with and supporting various communities.

- **Successful fundraising experience or demonstrable potential for successful fundraising**

A capacity to lead an effective fundraising effort that inspires others to strengthen and support Iowa Law and its mission. The ability to collaborate with the University of Iowa Center for Advancement, the Iowa Law School Foundation Board, faculty, and other constituents to align fundraising efforts with institutional priorities.

- **Prioritization of scholarly achievements**

A commitment to advancing the research mission of the college by promoting and supporting the faculty's research, writing, and other scholarly achievements. A commitment to increasing the national and international impact of scholarship produced by Iowa Law's faculty.

- **Focus on students**

A commitment to understanding student needs and concerns and to providing students with a legal education suited to the evolving nature of the legal profession, including how the profession is evolving with emerging technology. A genuine passion for student development, with a commitment to providing an enriching educational experience that prepares graduates for a broad range of law-related careers and for leadership roles in their workplaces and communities. An advocate for student needs, ensuring that the college offers robust support services, career development opportunities, and access to a broad network of alumni and professionals.

- **Managerial, operational, and fiscal skill**

The ability to work effectively and thrive in a collegial environment. The ability to successfully manage faculty, staff, centers, programs, and change. The ability to inspire and promote excellence, engagement, and community for all employees of the college and its centers and programs.

- **Attention and responsiveness to the demands of legal practice**

A deep understanding of the needs of the legal marketplace and responsiveness to the demands of the practicing bar—in law firms, corporate legal departments, the judiciary and other branches of government, and the non-profit sector. An eagerness to address the challenges and benefits posed by

emerging technology, including artificial intelligence. Responsiveness to changes in legal employers' expectations.

- **Resourcefulness, pragmatism, resilience, and resolve**

The ability to identify opportunities afforded by Iowa Law's strengths and to catalyze the organizational agility required to take maximum advantage of them. Likewise, the ability to work within constraints and the wisdom and experience to navigate the cultural, political, and bureaucratic realities of a public university.

- **Emotional intelligence**

The empathy, skills, and capacity to relate to others, see other points of view, and build broad support for decisions.

- **Ethics and integrity**

Excellent ethical judgment and the highest integrity, both in public settings and behind closed doors. A reputation as fair and even-tempered, and for praiseworthy treatment of allies and non-allies alike.

- **Superb communication skills**

Exceptional capacity to promote Iowa Law's interests, mission, and brand across and beyond the University of Iowa. Ease with constituencies inside and outside the college, and the ability to connect with audiences large and small through various mediums.

Desired Qualifications:

- Demonstrated success in leading major fundraising campaigns within an academic setting
- Experience with budgets, financial planning, market research, and strategic resource allocation
- A track record of successful strategic planning
- A track record of developing and articulating a compelling case for support that aligns with the organization's goals and mission
- A record of facilitating interdisciplinary collaborations



About the University of Iowa College of Law

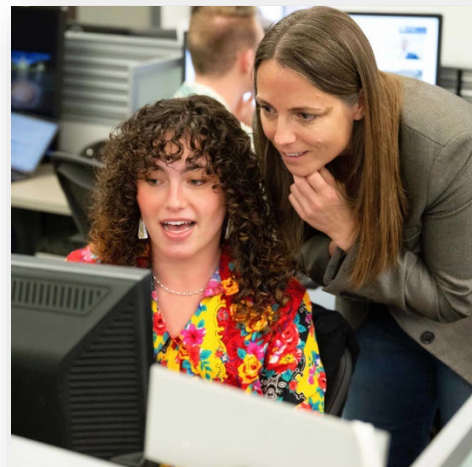
Since 1865, the [University of Iowa College of Law](#) has been a pioneer in legal education, proudly holding the distinction of being the oldest law school west of the Mississippi River. Throughout its storied history, Iowa Law has remained committed to excellence in the education and training of the highest caliber of legal professionals and scholars.

With a vibrant community of more than 500 students, including its most academically accomplished first-year class of 180 students in the fall of 2025, the college maintains a low student-to-faculty ratio, ensuring personalized attention and mentorship. The college's distinguished faculty are deeply engaged in teaching, research, and service, contributing to a dynamic intellectual environment. Iowa Law offers students a unique opportunity for a high-quality legal education, access to major job markets, and hands-on experience at an excellent value.



The College of Law offers a Juris Doctor program grounded in legal doctrine and practice that is well known for its emphasis on writing and analysis. More specifically, the college's curriculum is designed to cultivate critical thinking, ethical practice, and a deep understanding of law's role in society. This includes an emphasis on writing: Six dedicated faculty experts teach first-year students legal analysis, writing and research (LAWR). Four nationally recognized student-edited journals provide writing and editing opportunities for a large share of the Iowa Law student body: the *Iowa Law Review*, ranked 20th best of all law reviews; the *Journal of Corporation Law*, ranked 4th among business law journals; *Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems*; and the *Journal of Gender, Race, and Justice*.

Students can explore a variety of career paths through elective courses and gain leadership experience by participating in more than 30 student organizations, including moot court and baseball arbitration competitions. Iowa Law's National Moot Court Team has qualified for five consecutive national tournaments and placed #2 in the nation in 2025. During this period, its teams have earned numerous brief-writing awards, including being honored for producing the nation's top-scoring Respondent's Brief in 2024. Other opportunities for learning outside the classroom are available through the College of Law's winter session study abroad program in London and a summer study abroad program in France, as well as through a variety of exchange programs around the world. Students may also pursue externships in the United States and abroad through the college's Field Placement Program.



Iowa Law is home to eight centers and initiatives that play integral roles in advancing the college's mission of teaching, research, and service. These entities serve as hubs for faculty, staff, and students to engage in sustained work

around specific issues. They also provide opportunities for students to take specialized courses and contribute to research, policy, and law reform work as research assistants and through pro bono projects.

In addition to the traditional three-year JD program, Iowa Law offers a Master of Laws (LLM) program, a Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) program, and an advanced-standing JD program for foreign-trained lawyers. The college also offers a variety of joint-degree opportunities with other professional and graduate offerings across the university.

The dean, faculty, and students at the College of Law enjoy substantial support from the Iowa Law School Foundation, both through its fundraising partnership with the University of Iowa Center for Advancement and through the dedication and talents of its Board of Directors made up of alumni, faculty members, and law student leaders. The alumni directors have achieved significant professional successes across legal fields and geographic regions and have demonstrated a commitment to philanthropy on behalf of the college. The directors' commitment is not limited to financial generosity; the directors also serve as drivers of alumni engagement, good will ambassadors for the college, and are a ready resource for students seeking career advice and experience. The Iowa Law School Foundation Board also works closely with the dean to understand and support collegiate funding and strategic priorities.

Mission

The University of Iowa College of Law serves the people of Iowa, the nation, and the world by providing a superior legal education for students that is grounded in both theory and practice and enables them to have the competence and professionalism to succeed in any legal setting; engaging in cutting-edge research concerning law-related questions; disseminating the resulting scholarship widely to scholars, legal professionals, policy-makers and the public; and performing professional and public service activities consistent with our teaching and research obligations.



Excellence, collegiality, and breadth

Iowa Law is a beacon of academic excellence, consistently ranked among the top public law schools in the United States. This excellence is rooted in a broad and rigorous curriculum, a distinguished faculty, and a commitment to fostering a learning environment that prepares students for leadership roles in the legal profession.

Iowa Law is a different kind of law school. It emphasizes collaboration over competition. It builds on the teamwork skills that students bring with them when they enroll at the college and shows them how to tailor those skills to the legal profession. And because Iowa Law is part of a world-class research university, students can partner with experts across campus in fields as varied as engineering, public policy, health care, business, and more.

Scholarship and innovation

Iowa Law faculty have long been known for their impactful and innovative legal scholarship within a broad range of specialties. Award-winning faculty publish in flagship law reviews, specialty law journals, and interdisciplinary and peer-reviewed journals. Faculty have authored monographs and edited volumes with leading university presses, including Oxford, Cambridge, and the University of California Press. A deeply rooted commitment to scholarly excellence fosters productive collaborations within and beyond the university, such as recent symposium partnerships with the *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology*. The real-world impact of our faculty's scholarship

is reflected in citations by courts across the country, including federal and state appellate courts, state supreme courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

This commitment to rigorous scholarship and meaningful impact extends to our students. Through four student-run law journals and a robust clinical program, faculty work closely with students to analyze complex legal challenges, develop solutions, and advocate for clients.

Iowa Law faculty are respected scholars and dedicated to student learning and success. Tenured and tenure-track, clinical, and legal writing faculty all bring their expertise into the classroom, creating an engaging and intellectually stimulating environment. Faculty members are known for their accessibility and mentorship, supporting students' academic and professional development.

Hands-on experience

Students have the option to work during their second and third years with seven clinical faculty members. Iowa Law offers a range of clinic courses, split into three independently operating law firms: 1). the Legal Clinic, a cohort of five clinics with a wide range of practice areas including federal criminal defense, immigration, and technology and surveillance, federal civil rights, and policy and law reform; 2). the Human Rights Initiative, created in partnership with the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights; and 3). the Nonprofit Structure and Strategy Clinic, created in partnership with the Larned A. Waterman Nonprofit Resource Center.



Students also have a wide range of opportunities for hands-on experience through the college's extensive Field Placement Program. Common placements include externships with courts, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit enterprises. And the college's Citizen Lawyer Program provides students opportunities to volunteer with a wide range of organizations across the state to cultivate their commitment to public service and community engagement. Participants collectively complete thousands of public service hours during their time at Iowa Law.

Exceptional facilities and resources

The Boyd Law Building is home to the Iowa Law community. Recent upgrades to the building include the student commons, the clinic office suite, and a major renovation to the teaching courtroom.

The building is home to the acclaimed University of Iowa Law Library, one of the largest law libraries in the United States as measured by both title and volume count. The only public academic law library in the state the library is an important resource not only for members of the university community, but also for researchers and citizens throughout the state of Iowa. Librarians with law degrees and graduate degrees in library and information science educate students, assist faculty members with research, and help members of the public navigate the library's exceptional collection of legal resources.

Iowa Law by the numbers

Iowa Law is the ideal place to study law. It's small enough that students know their peers and professors well, yet large enough to be nationally renowned and a launchpad for opportunity.

Student Success

- 100% job placement rate, within 10 months of graduation (Class of 2025)
- 7th in the nation for placement in full-time, long-term, Bar-required positions
- 91% Bar passage rate among first-time test takers across all states (Class of 2025)
- 98% first-time passage rate for the July 2026 Iowa Bar
- Nearly 20% of 2025 graduates landed big-law jobs, and 18.9% landed federal or state judicial clerkships
- More than 60 career workshop events each year
- Ranked as a Best Value Law School for 12 consecutive years (*The National Jurist*)

Class of 2029 profile

- 180 students
- 24 average age
- 50% male students
- 48% female students
- 2% other gender or not reported
- 3.81 median GPA
- 165 median LSAT score
- 90 undergraduate institutions represented
- 32 states represented

Student opportunities and experiential learning

- 30+ student organizations
- 13 co-curricular programs
- 7 clinical practice areas
- 2 study-abroad programs in addition to numerous study-abroad institutional partnerships

The Writing Law School®

- Top public university for writing across disciplines (*U.S. News & World Report*)
- Largest academic public law library in the U.S.
- 4 legal journals
- 6 full-time legal writing faculty
- Home to the Iowa Law Writing Center, led by a legal writing faculty member and staffed by peer tutors. Established 35 years ago, the first of its kind to be housed in a law school.

Support network

- 8:1 student to faculty ratio
- 11,000+ alumni in all 50 states and 50 countries
- 77% of students receive scholarship or tuition assistance
- Academic-success programming for 1Ls and a bar-support initiative for 3Ls

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About the University of Iowa

The University of Iowa is one of the nation's premier public research universities dedicated to academic excellence, groundbreaking discoveries and creations, and a culture that prizes community and opportunity. In the fall of 2025, the University of Iowa has a total enrollment of more than 31,000 students, nearly 8,000 of whom are graduate and professional students.

Reputation for excellence

Iowa is known around the world for its commitment to excellence in the arts, sciences, and humanities. It is home to the Iowa Writers' Workshop, the first and best creative writing program in the world, as well as one of America's top teaching hospitals. Its faculty, staff, and students have pioneered fields such as educational testing and speech pathology, sent UI-built instruments on virtually every mission in NASA history, and traced the genetic origins of countless human diseases. Its 12 colleges are home to scholars dedicated to bridging disciplines and reinventing higher education.

Iowa's collaborative, can-do culture fosters a campus-wide dedication to student success. Welcoming students from all backgrounds, helping them chart paths that serve their individual interests and goals, and giving them tools to graduate on time and on budget are central to Iowa's mission. The Iowa approach works—undergraduate retention and graduation rates well exceed national averages.

Iowa students graduate with the skills, perspectives, and values they need to lead productive lives and enjoy rewarding careers. The university's strong liberal arts tradition prizes exploration, flexibility and broad-based knowledge while its innovative teaching facilities and methods infuse timeless lessons with new energy. Today's Iowa graduates are tech savvy and team oriented.

Iowa's size, structure, and culture foster interaction among scholars at all levels, with advanced programs surrounding and shaping a vital liberal arts core. Strong graduate and professional programs enrich the undergraduate experience while providing unparalleled opportunities for students who want to take their education further.

Alongside education and discovery, Iowa is known for its NCAA Division I athletics programs, a world-class academic medical center, commitment to statewide service, and its role as an economic engine for the state of Iowa. The university has launched new programs that lend support and expertise to Iowa businesses, and a pervasive spirit of entrepreneurship guides student start-ups, new enterprises built on faculty discoveries, and other innovations.

Proud history

When the University of Iowa was founded on February 25, 1847, it was Iowa's first public university and was located in the state's first capital. When Des Moines became the seat of state government in 1857, Iowa City's Old Capitol building became the geographic and symbolic heart of the campus.

Iowa has been a member of the Big Ten Conference since 1899 and a member of the Association of American Universities since 1909. It was the nation's first public university to admit men and women on an equal basis, the



first public institution to award law degrees to women and African Americans, and the first state university to recognize a campus organization for gay students.

Iowa invented the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree, becoming the first institution to accept creative work in lieu of a written thesis. It pioneered fields ranging from educational television to cochlear implants.

In more recent years, the university has faced and overcome historic challenges — from a devastating campus flood in 2008 to a global pandemic. Community spirit, pragmatic vision, and dedicated leadership have helped Iowa weather these crises. Today, the University of Iowa is stronger than ever and is poised to write a new chapter in its 175-year story.

The University of Iowa's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan can be [viewed online](#).

Mission

Upon its founding in 1847, the University of Iowa was entrusted by the state legislature with a threefold mission of teaching, research, and public service. In pursuing that mission today, the university:

- Provides exceptional teaching and transformative educational experiences that prepare students for success and fulfillment in a changing global environment
- Advances scholarly and creative endeavors through leading-edge research and artistic production
- Brings learning and discovery into the service of the people of the state of Iowa, the nation, and the world, improving lives through education, health care, arts and culture, and community and economic vitality

Vision

The University of Iowa is a destination and first choice for talented students, faculty, and staff, who craft new chapters of exploration, discovery, creation, and engagement. Together, we advance the university's standing as one of the most distinguished public universities in the country.

Colleges

The University of Iowa is home to twelve academic colleges, offering a comprehensive selection of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.

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|--|------------------------------|
| ▪ Carver College of Medicine | ▪ College of Nursing |
| ▪ College of Dentistry | ▪ College of Pharmacy |
| ▪ College of Education | ▪ College of Public Health |
| ▪ College of Engineering | ▪ Tippie College of Business |
| ▪ College of Law | ▪ Graduate College |
| ▪ College of Liberal Arts and Sciences | ▪ University College |

Leadership

The College of Law's dean will benefit from working with a strong and supportive administration at the university level. The President of the University, Barbara Wilson has provided steady leadership since she joined the university in 2021, and Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Kregel, who has deep ties to the university, is one of the longest serving provosts in the Big Ten Academic Alliance. The university also benefits from a cadre of deans from the colleges across campus who support and advise each other. The dean will be well-positioned to execute the mission of the law school in this supportive environment of academic leaders.

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Dr. Barbara J. Wilson, President

Dr. Barbara J. Wilson began her term as the 22nd president of the University of Iowa on July 15, 2021. Based on the University's comprehensive excellence and creativity across the disciplines as well as its strong sense of community, her leadership priorities are focused on people.

In her first year, the university finalized a new five-year strategic plan, launched transformative faculty recruitment and retention programs, and, through the recently inaugurated First Gen Hawks program, saw increased retention rates among students who are first-in-family to attend college. President Wilson and her development team raised over \$400 million to support student, faculty, and health care initiatives, including the largest gift in the 175-year history of the University of Iowa.

President Wilson earned her bachelor's degree in journalism and her master's degree and PhD in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She came to Iowa most recently having served as the executive vice president/vice president for academic affairs of the University of Illinois System. Prior to that, she served as head of the Department of Communication, vice provost for academic affairs, executive vice provost for faculty and academic affairs, Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and interim chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. President Wilson was a member of the Illinois faculty at Urbana-Champaign for 21 years. She was also a professor of communication at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of Louisville.

President Wilson's research focuses on the social and psychological effects of the media, particularly on youth. She is coauthor or coeditor of four books and over 80 research articles, book chapters, and technical reports. In 2008, she was elected as Fellow of the International Communication Association.

President Wilson is a native of Appleton, Wisconsin. Her spouse, John Lammers, is a retired professor of communication. They have two grown daughters.

Dr. Kevin C. Kregel, Executive Vice President and Provost

Dr. Kevin Kregel was appointed executive vice president and provost in February 2021, after serving as interim executive vice president and provost since July 2020. He previously served as executive vice provost and senior associate provost for faculty from July 2019, and associate provost for faculty from September 2014. He earned a bachelor's degree and doctorate (physiology and biophysics) from the University of Iowa and subsequently performed an NIH postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Arizona. In 1993, Dr. Kregel joined the faculty at the University of Iowa. He formerly was the department executive officer in the Department of Health and Human Physiology.

Provost Kregel's activities at the University of Iowa have included service on numerous collegiate and university committees, along



with participation on steering committees for two campus-wide cluster-hire initiatives. His extramurally funded research laboratory at the University of Iowa has focused on physiological adjustments to exercise, aging, and environmental challenges. He also has been very active in leadership positions at the national level, including service as the chair of committees addressing science policy issues for the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (FASEB) and the American Physiological Society. He formerly served as FASEB's president.

Iowa City

There's a reason people relocate to the [Iowa City](#) area. As one of the nation's best college towns, Iowa City has the amenities of an urban center but with the feel of a small town. You can walk downtown for coffee or dinner, catch a Broadway show at Hancher Auditorium, or experience the thrill of Hawkeye athletics at historic Kinnick Stadium or a raucous Carver Hawkeye Arena.

More intimate experiences like the non-profit cinema FilmScene or historic Englert Theatre are also great options for those who enjoy the arts. Iowa City is the first of only two UNESCO Cities of Literature in the United States, recognizing this Midwest college town's exceptionally deep devotion to the written word.



When you need a break, recharge with a 16-mile trail that winds along the Iowa River or explore the 60+ parks throughout the city. Iowa City offers the best of both worlds: access to the experiences you want, without a cost of living that holds you back.

The Iowa City area has excellent public and private schools and a wide range of activities for children. Known as a welcoming and safe community with a highly educated population, it's easy to understand why Iowa City frequently receives recognition as one of the best places to live, work, and visit. In summer 2026, *CNN* named Iowa City the 8th Best American Town to Visit.

Twenty miles north is Cedar Rapids, Iowa's second-largest city with a metro area population of about 278,000 and home to the Eastern Iowa Airport. The capital city of Des Moines is less than two hours to the west, and Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha and Minneapolis/St. Paul are all within a four-to-five-hour drive.

Community Websites

- [City of Iowa City](#)
- [City of Coralville](#)
- [City of North Liberty](#)
- [City of Solon](#)
- [City of Tiffin](#)
- [Johnson County](#)
- [Iowa City Community School District](#)

Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume, and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile. Applications can be submitted through the WittKieffer [Candidate Portal](#).

WittKieffer is assisting the University of Iowa in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by **November 2, 2026**.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

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