UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA

Vice President for Student Success

Leadership Profile

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Executive Summary

The University of South Florida seeks a visionary, collaborative, and student-centered leader to serve as its next Vice President for Student Success (VPSS).

Founded in 1956, USF is one of the nation's fastest-rising public research universities. As a member of the Association of American Universities and a top 50 public institution, USF has earned a national reputation for academic excellence, research innovation, and an unwavering commitment to student success. Under the leadership of President Moez Limayem, the university continues to build on a trajectory of extraordinary momentum, serving nearly 50,000 students while advancing initiatives that enhance student achievement, expand opportunity, and strengthen USF's impact across Florida and beyond.

Student success has long been a defining institutional priority at USF. Through an integrated approach that combines academic support, engagement, wellness, and career preparation, the university has built a nationally recognized model focused on helping students persist and graduate. Reporting to the Provost, Dr. Prasant Mohapatra, the VPSS will provide strategic leadership for a broad portfolio of more than 750 full-time staff dedicated to supporting students from enrollment through graduation and beyond. The VPSS will advance USF's aspiration to become the nation's leading learner-centered research university through strategic enrollment management, undergraduate excellence reflective of USF's AAU profile, student affairs that cultivates belonging, leadership, and engagement, impactful experiential learning that leads to career and professional development, and recreation, health and wellness programs that support human flourishing with evidence-based practices and active management of shared metrics and targets driving measurable progress.

Building on a nationally recognized foundation, the VPSS will assess opportunities for innovation, leverage data to drive decision-making, advance measurable student success outcomes, and help ensure students have access to the resources and experiences needed to thrive. In partnership with colleagues across the university, the VPSS will play a critical role in supporting enrollment goals, enhancing student achievement, and shaping the future of the USF student experience.

The successful candidate will be a collaborative and strategic leader with a demonstrated record of advancing student success within complex organizations. A terminal degree in a relevant field and at least 10 years of progressively responsible experience from which comparable knowledge and skills can be acquired are required. Experience at a large public research university is strongly preferred. The next Vice President will bring exceptional relationship-building skills, data-informed decision-making, and the ability to lead, develop, and inspire a large, multifaceted team while advancing institutional goals and student outcomes.

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

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Role of the Vice President for Student Success



Serving nearly 50,000 students across campuses in Tampa and St. Petersburg, USF is committed to ensuring that students have the support, opportunities, and experiences they need to thrive during their time at the university and beyond.

Student success has long been a defining institutional priority at USF. Through an integrated approach that combines academic support, engagement, wellness, and career preparation, the university has built a nationally recognized model focused on helping students persist and graduate. Today, USF's first-year retention rate exceeds 91%, its Academic Progress Rate has reached 89.5%, and its four-year graduation rate has risen to 68.3% for the 2021 cohort. USF's approach spans the student lifecycle, using data-informed early interventions, proactive advising and registration support, peer engagement, academic recovery, holistic support, and targeted strategies to help students stay on track toward graduation.

The next Vice President for Student Success will build on this strong foundation while helping define the next generation of student success at USF. The VPSS will advance USF's aspiration to become the nation's leading learner-centered research university through strategic enrollment management, undergraduate excellence reflective of USF's AAU profile, student affairs that cultivates belonging, leadership, and engagement, impactful experiential learning that leads to career and professional development, and recreation, health, and wellness programs that support human flourishing with evidence-based practices and active management of shared metrics and targets driving measurable progress.

As a leader and innovator in digital tool integration and predictive analytics, the VPSS will strengthen personalized support, anticipate student needs, and guide evidence-based decisions for a seamless student experience. Working across academic colleges, campuses, and administrative units, the VPSS will align these efforts through

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shared performance metrics, active management of targets, and clear accountability for academic achievement, well-being, timely graduation, and success beyond USF.

This is an especially important moment for the university. USF's vision for the position is to build upon its commitment to every student's success while advancing a bold vision for learning and career development both in the classroom and beyond. The next VPSS will have the opportunity to move USF beyond traditional measures of retention and graduation alone and toward an increasingly holistic vision of success, ensuring that students not only earn their degrees, but are prepared to translate their USF experience into meaningful careers, continued learning, and lifelong success.

To accomplish this work, the VPSS will need to be an enterprise-minded leader and collaborative partner who can align people, programs, data, and resources around a shared vision for the student experience. They will harness USF's established strengths in predictive analytics and individualized student support while continuing to strengthen proactive interventions at critical points in the student journey. Equally important, the VPSS will cultivate a culture in which every part of the university recognizes its role in student success, strengthening connections across academic and student-facing units and creating pathways for students to engage, persist, graduate, and flourish beyond USF.

Student Success employs more than 750 FTE across two campuses and has a $74 million budget, excluding financial aid and health. The VPSS will provide administrative oversight of the following areas:

- Academic Support
  - Academic Advising
  - Academic Advocacy
  - Degree Programs
  - Joint Military Leadership Command (ROTC)
  - Student Accessibility Services
  - Student-Athlete Enrichment Center
  - Transfer Student Support
  - Tutoring & Learning Support
  - Undergraduate Studies
- Career & Professional Development
- Communications & Marketing
- Conferencing & Special Events
- Health & Wellness
  - Counseling/Mental Health
  - Food Pantries
  - Health Education
  - Victim Advocacy/Violence Prevention
  - Recreation
- Orientation
- Pathway Programs
  - College Reach Out Programs
  - Student Support Services
  - Upward Bound Program
- Resource Management & Development
- Strategic Enrollment Management
  - Admissions
  - Registrar
  - Financial Aid
  - Financial Education
  - SEM Operations
- Student Engagement & Development
  - Dean of Students
  - Leadership & Civic Engagement
  - New Student and Family Engagement
  - Pearls (students from foster care)
  - Residential Education
  - Student Centers
  - Student Involvement
  - Student Publications
- Support Services
  - Student Conduct & Ethical Development
  - Student Government Advising
  - Student Ombuds
  - Student Outreach (SOCAT)
  - Veteran Success

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Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The following opportunities reflect the key areas where the Vice President's leadership will be most critical in advancing student success at USF:

- **Champion an Integrated Vision for Student Success**

  The Vice President will provide strategic leadership for one of the most comprehensive student success portfolios in higher education, bringing together enrollment management, undergraduate education, student affairs, career and professional development, recreation, health and wellness, and related areas under a unified vision. A key early priority will be to assess the effectiveness of current strategies, programs, structures, and services, identifying what is working well while uncovering opportunities to strengthen impact and better position the university for the future.

  Working across academic and administrative units, the Vice President will further solidify a culture in which student success is viewed as a shared institutional responsibility from recruitment through graduation and post-graduate achievement. This work will require identifying opportunities for greater alignment across the portfolio, reducing duplication of services, strengthening efficiency and coordination among units, and leveraging AI-enhanced tools to ensure that students experience a seamless and connected network of support throughout their time at USF.

- **Lead the Charge in Driving Student Success Outcomes**

  The Vice President will play a pivotal role in advancing the student success measures that are critical to the university's future growth, reputation, and financial strength. As USF charts its next chapter and advances a new university-wide strategic plan expected to receive approval from the Florida Board of Governors in early 2027, the Vice President will help translate institutional aspirations into measurable student success outcomes. Working collaboratively across the institution, the next leader will elevate performance across key indicators including retention, graduation rates, academic progress, experiential learning, and post-graduate success, all of which have significant implications for state performance-based funding and institutional standing.

  The successful leader will further enhance the university's use of data, analytics, and predictive insights to inform decision-making and guide strategy. This includes identifying and monitoring the key performance indicators that drive student success, supporting a culture of accountability and continuous improvement, and leveraging evidence-based practices to strengthen outcomes across the institution. Particular attention will be given to improving retention, understanding areas of student attrition, and ensuring that student success initiatives are closely aligned with institutional priorities and measurable results.

  This work will also include advancing initiatives that prepare students not only to graduate, but to thrive after graduation. By expanding experiential learning opportunities, strengthening career readiness programming, and placing greater emphasis on post-graduate outcomes, the Vice President will help ensure that USF graduates are well-positioned for career success and contribute meaningfully to the continued growth of the Tampa Bay region and beyond.

- **Elevate Enrollment Strategy and Student Lifecycle Planning**

  Enrollment management represents one of the university's most critical strategic priorities and a central component of the Vice President's portfolio. Building upon USF's enrollment momentum and rising academic profile, the next leader will partner closely with enrollment leadership to ensure that recruitment, financial aid, student success, and institutional priorities are aligned through a cohesive and forward-looking strategy. The

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Vice President will help ensure that enrollment efforts support the university's goals while attracting and enrolling the right mix of students to thrive at USF and contribute to its continued success.

Working collaboratively with the enrollment management team and College leadership, the Vice President will provide strategic guidance, remove barriers, and help position the university for continued growth in an increasingly competitive landscape. This includes supporting the development and execution of comprehensive enrollment planning efforts for a portfolio of undergraduate programs spanning STEM and professional fields, the arts, humanities, and social sciences, enriched by interdisciplinary learning, research, and career-connected experiences. The Vice President will lead the evaluation of the effectiveness of financial aid and scholarship strategies, and strengthening the connection between enrollment, persistence, and student outcomes. The successful leader will build upon a strong operational foundation while helping to provide the vision, advocacy, and institutional alignment necessary to take enrollment strategy and performance to the next level.

- **Foster Strategic Partnerships Across the University**

  Success in this role will depend on building strong partnerships across the institution and ensuring that student success priorities remain central to university decision-making as a core aspect of the academic mission at USF. The Vice President will work closely with the President, Provost, deans, faculty, and administrative colleagues to align goals, remove barriers to student achievement, and create shared ownership of outcomes.

  As USF continues to shape its future strategic direction and strengthen its standing among AAU institutions, the Vice President will play a highly visible role in connecting student success initiatives to the university's broader academic, research, and institutional aspirations. The Vice President will build shared ownership of retention, progression, and graduation outcomes with the academic deans and strategic leadership across enrollment, Undergraduate Studies, advising, and student success.

- **Inspire, Mentor, and Support a High-Performing Student Success Team**

  The Vice President will lead and support a large, multifaceted division comprised of dedicated professionals who are deeply committed to student success. With responsibility for a broad portfolio that touches nearly every aspect of the student experience, the next leader will cultivate a shared sense of purpose across the organization, empower the team and direct reports, and invest in the continued development of strong leaders throughout the division. Building on an experienced team with significant institutional knowledge, the Vice President will create an environment that promotes collaboration, innovation, accountability, and professional growth using digital tools and technological advancements for decision-making.

  Equally important, the Vice President will provide steady leadership during an era of unprecedented change to the campus facilities and culture centered on the addition of a new stadium for football and women's lacrosse and aspirations for inclusion in a Power Four conference. The Vice President will provide thoughtful leadership for the challenges inherent in a complex student-facing enterprise. From student well-being concerns and campus incidents to evolving regulatory requirements and emerging institutional priorities, the role requires a leader who can effectively support teams through periods of change and uncertainty. By fostering trust, maintaining visibility, and helping colleagues navigate both opportunities and crises, the Vice President will ensure the division remains resilient, responsive, and focused on delivering exceptional outcomes for students.

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Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The ideal candidate will have an extraordinary commitment to the student experience in the context of holistic student success, a dedication to excellence, a commitment to collaboration, and a distinguished record of leadership. Strong candidates will have some combination of the following qualifications and characteristics:

Minimum Qualifications

- A terminal degree in a relevant area and 10 years of experience from which comparable knowledge and skills can be acquired.

Preferred Qualifications

- Doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration, Student Personnel, Education, or other directly related field.
- Seven (7) or more years of experience supervising one or more areas within student affairs, enrollment management, student success, undergraduate education, or a related unit.
- Demonstrated experience – and understanding of the varied needs of students – at a large, public research institution.

Additionally, successful candidates will demonstrate:

- Knowledge of strategic planning and systematic decision-making, best practices, and understanding of current national trends in college student success models, including experience with Division I athletics.
- Knowledge of theories and policies involving student affairs, enrollment management, student success, and undergraduate education.
- Knowledge of laws and regulations as well as related federal and state laws.
- Record of supporting student success across a broad academic portfolio.
- Sensitive, diplomatic and highly articulate written and verbal communication skills.
- The ability to use data to set institutional targets.
- The ability to establish and maintain a positive image for the university and create and sustain positive working relationships with internal and external constituencies.
- Skills in developing and managing complex budgets.
- A strong record of success as a supervisor, including but not limited to performance evaluation, professional development, individual goal setting and assessment of performance effectiveness, and effective use of emerging technologies in decision-making.

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About Student Success



Overview

Student Success at the University of South Florida is focused on supporting students as they enter the admissions queue, take their first steps on campus, navigate their academic options, explore interests, receive a hard-earned diploma and, finally, launch their career.

The mission is reflected in the name and carried out in the work of the professional staff.

- Student Success provides students with **academic support**.
- Student Success creates **engagement opportunities** to help them connect with friends and explore interests.
- Student Success supports students **outside the classroom** to engage in civil discourse and develop critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills that will guide their career preparation and lifelong learning.
- Student Success delivers **mental health and wellness services** and teaches students lifelong wellness.
- Student Success also has a specialized team that provides **instructional support** to faculty to create more engaging curriculum for students.

The work not only supports students with their academics but also enhances their education so they graduate with skills, experiences, and other knowledge to help them achieve their life goals.

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History

The University of South Florida has long been committed to student success. In November 2009, USF launched the Student Success Task Force, which developed a ten-year plan to radically transform student success at the university. At that time, the six-year graduation rate was only 48%, and the four-year rate was about 24%.

Driven by an intensified commitment to student success, USF formed the Student Affairs & Student Success division on July 1, 2016, by integrating Student Affairs, Undergraduate Studies, and the Office of Student Success. The new division was charged with a laser focus on bolstering academic success and the student experience.

In January 2019, the division's name was simplified to focus on its purpose and is now known simply as Student Success.

Influencing A Culture of Belonging, Connection and Engagement

As USF's core student success model incorporated the collaboration of employees from across the university, the 'ownership' of student success clearly shifted from being that of any one office to becoming the responsibility of all employees. The collective efforts of the university's student success movement were making a difference, with dramatic gains in the six-year graduation rate and admirable improvements in student retention.

In 2017, the USF President articulated a new philosophy reflective of the evolving culture: **"We believe every student will succeed if given the opportunity to do so."** These powerful words have become the university's student success mantra.

USF no longer approaches the education of its students assuming that a certain percentage will stop or drop out because they lack the training, support, or determination to succeed. Administrators, faculty, and staff **presume that every student admitted to USF will succeed** when given an opportunity to do so.

USF knows that when students are provided the appropriate guidance and support to overcome the barriers most students will face at some point in their pursuit of a degree, they will persist and graduate in a timely manner, prepared to launch their career or head to graduate school.

USF employees—from the President's Office to the faculty, from the chief financial officer to physical plant staff—understand that student success is everyone's responsibility, and embrace their role with passion for their work.

Predictive Analytics

Since 2010, USF has been dedicated to student success, driving up its student retention and graduation rates significantly with a variety of initiatives. By 2012, the initially identified improvements and initiatives had been implemented, and progress slowed, with retention and graduation rates stalling.

To move the needle, interest developed in the use of data to predict first-year student persistence. Utilizing an internally developed model, Student Affairs professionals began identifying individual students in need of support and leveraging its staff and student employees, such as Resident Assistants, to coordinate contact with these student populations to help them progress, as well as creating targeted programming to engage them.

With success with internal modeling, USF recognized the power in data to uncover student population behaviors and trends. To expand its initiatives and boost its retention rates, the university turned to a third-party higher education analytics provider in 2014 to deploy a predictive analytics platform to generate predictors of persistence for all students.

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This innovative predictive analytics modeling software analyzed real-time individual student data—including grades, class participation, absenteeism, etc.—fed from both the university's student information and learning management systems to pinpoint students facing challenges so that the university could take action to support them so they remain on a successful path.

Case Management



USF adopted the case management model and expanded its team of academic advocates to serve as case managers for the at-risk and high-risk students. The Office of Academic Advocacy works with students in academic distress to advise them of their options, suggest assistance, and review progress towards graduation. The advocates coordinate with departments, colleges, and other university personnel to provide the services and support each student needs to eliminate their barriers to progression.

This group, the Care Team, is a network of more than 200 mental health counselors, academic advisors, student employees, financial aid counselors, student involvement professionals, resident advisors, etc. Members can assist with reaching out to individual students, address assigned cases with their respective units to resolve issues, and provide specific resources to assist each student back to a successful path.

The Care Team closes the loop with information flowing back to the advocates about their interactions with a given student via our proprietary Archivum Insights case management platform. The proprietary platform provides

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case managers, the Persistence Committee, Care Team members, and administrators with the ability to review identified at-risk students' cases, coordinate their care, and communicate with partners across campus.

Divisional Units

- Academic Support
  - Academic Advising
  - Academic Advocacy
  - Degree Programs
  - Joint Military Leadership Command (ROTC)
  - Student Accessibility Services
  - Student-Athlete Enrichment Center
  - Transfer Student Support
  - Tutoring & Learning Support
  - Undergraduate Studies
- Career & Professional Development
- Communications & Marketing
- Conferencing & Special Events
- Health & Wellness
  - Counseling/Mental Health
  - Food Pantries
  - Health Education
  - Victim Advocacy/Violence Prevention
  - Recreation
- Orientation
- Pathway Programs
  - College Reach Out Programs
  - Student Support Services
  - Upward Bound Program
- Resource Management & Development
- Strategic Enrollment Management
  - Admissions
  - Registrar
  - Financial Aid
  - Financial Education
  - SEM Operations
- Student Engagement & Development
  - Dean of Students
  - Leadership & Civic Engagement
  - New Student and Family Engagement
  - Parent & Family Support

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  - Pearls (students from foster care)
  - Residential Education
  - Student Centers
  - Student Involvement
  - Student Publications

- Support Services

  - Student Conduct & Ethical Development
  - Student Government Advising
  - Student Ombuds
  - Student Outreach (SOCAT)
  - Veteran Success

Strategic Goals

- Continue progress in strengthening the academic credentials of incoming students through closer coordination with the K-12 community and Florida State Colleges.
  - Increase the academic profile, scholarly preparedness, and geographical distribution of incoming students.
  - Enhance processes and create seamless pathways for improving transfer students' success.

- Maintain the focus on delivering quality support services (advising, counseling, financial aid, health and wellness, orientation, etc.) and developing even more effective means of engaging undergraduate students in the USF community.
  - Communicate more effectively with students.
  - Enhance advising models using predictive analytics, tracking, and other advanced technologies.
  - Reduce student debt.
  - Significantly reduce the number of students graduating with excess hours.
  - Continue to build a caring community that promotes student health and well-being, values individuality, and embraces civil discourse.
  - Keep developing a robust and sustained living and learning culture.
  - Enrich the student experience.
  - Expand co-curriculum and campus engagement activities.

- Intensify efforts to boost student retention and progression. Elevate first-year retention rates.
  - Renew our focus on curriculum transformation and delivery in partnership with deans and faculty.
  - Review and reform USF's general education program with a focus on relevant and rigorous learning outcomes, including executing on the quality enhancement plan.
  - Increase faculty and advisor professional development for student success.
  - Expand undergraduate research, online education, study abroad, and experiential education, including internships and service learning opportunities.

- Increase graduation rates and accelerated pathways to completion.
  - Continue improving graduation rates with a particular focus on four-year graduation rates for first-time in college students (FTIC), two-year graduation rates for transfer students, and a more timely path to degree completion for graduate students.
  - Close the achievement gap between men and women.

- Improve placement rates in high-demand, highly skilled, highly paid jobs and the most competitive graduate and professional schools across the nation and around the world.

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About the University of South Florida



Overview

Founded in 1956, the University of South Florida has rapidly evolved into a global powerhouse that transforms lives through education, research, and innovation. In 2023, USF received a historic invitation to join the Association of American Universities (AAU), a tremendous milestone that formalizes USF's position as a leading research university committed to student success. USF is designated by the State of Florida as a Preeminent Research University, a metrics-based recognition for excellence in student success, research, innovation, and national rankings, which has further cemented USF's position among the state's strong public and private support ecosystem. U.S. News & World Report has ranked USF as one of the nation's top 50 public universities for eight consecutive years.

USF is situated in the vibrant and growing Tampa Bay region. USF's geographic footprint spans two dynamic campuses in Tampa and St. Petersburg. From sunlit palms and waterfront views to vibrant city settings and close-knit campus communities, place shapes life at USF, and possibility unites it. Together, the campuses serve nearly 50,000 students pursuing undergraduate, graduate, specialist, and professional degrees.

USF plays a significant role in catalyzing growth across the state of Florida, and the breadth and depth of the university's economic impact can be seen in all aspects of its operations. The university's total economic impact is $9.8 billion, and it supports 111,246 jobs, underscoring its role as one of the most powerful economic engines locally and statewide.

Research that matters

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As a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), USF is now among the top research schools in North America.

With $6.6 billion in added income specifically for the Tampa Bay Region, USF supports 76,649 jobs within the region. Our faculty and students are working on real-world problems, conducting research that impacts and improves lives—locally and around the world.

Colleges

The University of South Florida's academic programs are designed to cultivate student success for all types of learners. From traditional learners, special needs learners, and adults interested in advancing their careers to veterans and distance learners, USF provides a comprehensive, engaging, and dynamic academic environment tailored to meet the needs of individual students.

At USF, every student is empowered to forge their path to success. Our undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs are globally competitive and are committed to engaging students through positive teaching and learning environments. Within the classroom and beyond, students maximize their potential through interdisciplinary inquiry, intellectual development, and skill acquisition.

Students choose from over 240 undergraduate majors and degree programs at the graduate, specialist, and doctoral levels, including the Doctor of Medicine. The university has 14 colleges across Academic Affairs and USF Health. From medicine and the arts to marine science and business, each offers an extensive range of degree and specialty programs, many allowing students to focus on a particular discipline while exploring other areas of interest across the university. Undergraduates are strongly encouraged to take advantage of a wide range of research opportunities and study abroad programs.

A Place to belong and grow

At USF, we believe every student will succeed if given the opportunity. Here, students do more than attend class; They get involved, explore ideas, and prepare for their future.

From academic support to career planning, we help students reach their goals. We invite you to explore more about our university—in person and online—to discover how you can prosper at USF.

Mission

Led by outstanding faculty and professional staff, the University of South Florida conducts innovative scholarship, creative activity and basic and translational research, and delivers a world-class educational experience promoting the success of our talented undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. As a public metropolitan research university, USF, in partnership with our communities, serves the people of Florida, the nation, and the world by fostering intellectual inquiry and outcomes that positively shape the future - regionally, nationally, and globally.

Strategic Plan: Mapping USF's Future

As the University of South Florida celebrates the 70th year of its founding, the institution is presented with an important responsibility to envision the next chapter of its evolution. Building on an unmatched trajectory of performance, driven by thoughtful yet aspirational strategic planning, focused resource allocation, disciplined execution, shared accountability, and the extraordinary contributions of faculty, staff, and students, USF enters this moment from a position of strength. Membership in the Association of American Universities provides a powerful platform for continued progress, but it is not the destination. Instead, it is a launching point for what

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comes next: an opportunity to design a next-generation university - one that shapes the future of higher education rather than simply responding to it.

Launched in late May, President Moez Limayem charged a core team of committed leaders and university partners who will work collaboratively to shape the next chapter of the institution. The team identified and critically assessed USF's competitive advantages along with the opportunities and challenges presented by the Tampa Bay region, the State of Florida, the nation, and the world, all while giving careful consideration to the "Next Big Things" in higher education and beyond. Team members have proposed an ambitious and critical vision for USF, focused on a shared direction for advancing excellence as an AAU research university, connecting education, discovery, and the university experience to expand opportunity, strengthen communities, and improve lives. It translates that ambition into coordinated priorities, measurable targets, and shared accountability for impact.

The strategic plan will further advance student success and research impact with the aim of becoming a top-20 institution. The final blueprint is expected to be approved by the USF Board of Trustees in November 2026 and the Florida Board of Governors in early 2027.

Learn more about USF's process here.

Leadership

Moez Limayem, Ph.D., President



Moez Limayem took office as the ninth president of the University of South Florida in February 2026 following his unanimous selection by the USF Board of Trustees and confirmation by the Florida Board of Governors.

Limayem is a higher education leader with more than 35 years of experience advancing student success, research impact, fundraising, and community and industry partnerships. With an energetic, passionate, and collaborative style, he is a strategic leader with a record of achievements in student and faculty success, development, and industry-education partnerships. Throughout his career, he has emphasized the role of universities as engines of opportunity, innovation, and economic impact. He has also been an advocate for intercollegiate athletics as a means to strengthen institutional identity, bolster alumni engagement, and provide opportunities for advancement. He is a strong believer in the transformational potential of USF's new on-campus stadium that is scheduled to open in 2027.

Limayem joined USF following a 3 ½-year tenure as president of the University of North Florida, where the institution set records in student retention, transfer student graduation rates, research investment, and private and public fundraising. UNF welcomed its largest incoming class of students in fall 2025, leading to its highest overall enrollment since being founded in 1972. Using a strategic focus on community and corporate partnerships, UNF reached No. 1 in the state for the highest percentage of bachelor's graduates employed in Florida.

At UNF, Limayem received numerous recognitions, including being named by Florida Trend as one of the state's 500 most influential business leaders and by the Jacksonville Business Journal as an Ultimate CEO. He received an award from the National Academy of Inventors for his many contributions to innovation and invention.

In addition, he was recently inducted into the Florida Council on Economic Education's First Coast Business Hall of Fame, and the Tampa Bay Business Journal included Limayem in its lists of "25 People to Watch" in 2026 and "2026 Power 100".

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Limayem has a deep connection to USF and the Tampa Bay region, having served for a decade as the Lynn Pippenger Dean of the Muma College of Business, starting in 2012. While dean at USF, Limayem and his team raised more than $126 million in private donations for the college, including a $25 million gift from Pam and Les Muma in 2014, which at the time was the largest individual gift in the university's history.

He also led key efforts to enhance career preparation, job placements, internships, and talent development of students. A $10.6 million gift from alums Arnie and Lauren Bellini led to the creation of the Bellini Center for Talent Development, which houses a professional development certification program and supporting career preparation programs and other services exclusively for business student success.

Born in Tunisia, Limayem was the first in his family to attend college. He earned his MBA and doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota, and he has held academic leadership roles at the University of Arkansas and internationally.

Limayem is a globally recognized scholar in information systems, and his research has been cited more than 16,000 times in prestigious academic journals, including MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Research, Management Science, and the Journal of Management Information Systems.

Prasant Mohapatra, Ph.D., Provost



Professor Prasant Mohapatra serves as the Provost and Executive Vice President at the University of South Florida. He is also a Distinguished University Professor at the Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Computing. Dr. Mohapatra was instrumental in conceiving, planning, and launching the Bellini College at USF - one of the first colleges of its kind in the nation. Prior to joining USF, he served as the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of California, Davis, where he was instrumental in leading and achieving the aspirational goal of one billion dollars in annual research awards. He was also a Distinguished Professor and served in the roles of Department Chair, Dean, Vice Provost, and Associate Chancellor at the University of California, Davis.

Dr. Mohapatra has also held Visiting Scientist/Professor positions at Intel Corporation, AT&T, Siemens, Panasonic Technologies, Institute of Infocomm Research, Singapore, National ICT Australia, University of Padova, Italy, Yonsei University, and KAIST, South Korea.

Dr. Mohapatra was the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE Transactions on Mobile Computing. He has served on the editorial board of leading journals in the areas of computer science. He has served as the Program Chair and the General Chair and has been on the program/organizational committees of several international conferences. He also serves on various industrial advisory and governing boards.

Dr. Mohapatra received his doctoral degree from Penn State University in 1993 and received an Outstanding Engineering Alumni Award in 2008. He also received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, India. Dr. Mohapatra received an Outstanding Research Faculty Award at the University of California, Davis. He also received multiple HP Labs Innovation awards. He is a Fellow of the IEEE, a Fellow of AAAS, Fellow of the International Academy of Artificial Intelligence Sciences, and a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. He has been inducted into the Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine of Florida and the Pan American Academy of Engineering.

Dr. Mohapatra's research interests are in the areas of wireless networks, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. He has published more than 400 papers in reputed conferences and journals on these topics, while graduating more than 50 PhD students and mentoring more than 15 postdoctoral associates.

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Dr. Mohapatra's research has been funded through collaborative grants totaling about 90 million US dollars from the National Science Foundation, US Department of Defense, US Army Research Labs, Intel Corporation, Siemens, Panasonic Technologies, Hewlett Packard, Raytheon, ARM Research, Bosch, and EMC Corporation.

Tampa, Florida



Located on Florida's Gulf Coast, Tampa is one of the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan areas and offers an exceptional quality of life, combining a vibrant urban environment with year-round outdoor recreation. Residents enjoy abundant sunshine, cultural attractions, professional sports, diverse neighborhoods, and a thriving culinary scene, all within close proximity to some of the country's most celebrated beaches. As the economic and cultural hub of Florida's west coast, Tampa provides access to a dynamic business community, a growing innovation ecosystem, and convenient connections throughout the region and beyond with the award-winning Tampa International Airport. With USF campuses in Tampa and St. Petersburg, the university benefits from a broad regional footprint and deep engagement across one of the Southeast's most attractive and rapidly evolving markets.

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Procedure for Candidacy

WittKieffer is assisting the University of South Florida in this search. All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited.

Applications should include, as two separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile. Professional references are not requested at this time.

Review of materials has begun and will continue until an appointment has been made. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be submitted as soon as possible and no later than January 25, 2027.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's **candidate portal**.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Jen Meyers Pickard, Ph.D., Randi Miller, Corin Edwards

USF-VPSS@wittkieffer.com

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