



**Vice President, Information Technology and Chief
Information Officer**

Leadership Profile

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The Opportunity

Drexel University seeks a strategic and visible leader to serve as its next Vice President, Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (CIO). This is a unique opportunity to join one of the nation's leading universities and play a key role in harnessing technology to drive Drexel's continued evolution and innovation.

Drexel University is a comprehensive global R1 research institution, distinguished by its unique model of experiential learning that blends academic excellence with one of the nation's top cooperative education programs. Established in 1891 in Philadelphia, Drexel spans six campuses in the Philadelphia Metro area and extends its reach worldwide through international research collaborations and Drexel Online.

The CIO will report to the Executive Vice President, Chief Operating and Financial Officer, and Treasurer and serve as a member of the President's Cabinet. This executive will lead enterprise-wide information technology strategy and operations, shaping a forward-looking IT vision that amplifies the impact of Drexel University's academic strategic priorities. Key responsibilities will include: creating, communicating, and executing a comprehensive IT strategic plan aligned with Drexel's academic transformation; developing and empowering a high-performing IT organization and structure; assessing and optimizing IT governance to ensure effective prioritization of technology investments; advancing cybersecurity across the institution; developing and implementing artificial intelligence (AI) strategy; and enhancing academic and research computing to support innovation and excellence.

The ideal candidate will be a visionary and proactive leader with a track record of fostering consensus in complex, multi-stakeholder environments—preferably within higher education. They will bring exceptional relationship-building skills and promote a collaborative, inclusive culture. This individual must be a transparent communicator, a trusted partner, and a strategic team builder with the ability to attract and retain top IT talent. As a change agent, they will balance competing priorities and resources while driving innovation. Above all, the CIO will embody a deep commitment to Drexel's mission, vision, and values.

Organization Overview

Drexel University is an urban research institution that integrates education, scholarship, diverse partnerships, and our global community to address society's most pressing challenges through an inclusive learning environment, immersive experiential learning, external partnerships, transdisciplinary and applied research, and creative activity. Our university community is united around Drexel's shared values: integrity, inclusion, impact, integration and innovation. Drexel encourages a vibrant, welcoming campus culture that embraces students, faculty and professional staff from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Like our students, Drexel's employees are known for being passionate, entrepreneurial and innovative.

Drexel's recent history includes several major acquisitions and start-ups that have transformed the public image and internal identity of the University. This period of growth, marked by educational innovation, significant expansion of academic research culminating in Drexel's elevation to R1 status, transformative building and renovation projects, the development of a vibrant residential campus and improved student quality, has provided a strong point of distinction. Drexel aspires to be the institution of choice for applicants seeking an education based on actual professional experiences; for researchers seeking to join some of the most innovative and successful translational investigators in the nation; and for professional and graduate students and faculty who seek the advantages of its location, approach to engaged learning, and modern campus.

Drexel is ranked as a top 100 university and top 50 private institution in 2025 by *U.S. News & World Report*. The University's national co-op program is also ranked 2nd nationally. Drexel enrolls more than 21,000 students and has over 5,000 employees, making the University one of the largest employers in Philadelphia.

The University has more than 190,000 alumni worldwide. Drexel recently completed its most ambitious fundraising campaign ever, raising more than \$806 million as part of the Campaign for Drexel, The Future Is a Place We Make, exceeding its goal of \$750 million.

Drexel University's Strategic Plan, [Drexel 2030—Designing the Future](#), provides a road map for the University to fulfill its mission, improve the campus experience, and enhance community impact. This plan includes Drexel's [Academic Transformation](#), aimed at making its structure, policies and practices more consistent and effective to create a better experience for students, faculty and staff. Intended outcomes of Drexel's academic transformation include:

- Better connecting Drexel's strengths and assets to simplify structures; improve the experiences of students, faculty and staff; and welcome new partnerships.
- Supporting student learning and outcomes through pedagogical innovation and equitable opportunities for experiential learning across all programs, while creating space, time and incentives for faculty to redesign curricula.
- Doubling down on Drexel's differentiators and building on Drexel's expertise to enhance reputation and research impact.
- Aligning Drexel's academic, enrollment and financial strategies to strategically invest in the University's differentiators in the near term, while intentionally divesting from activities that do not support strategic priorities or long-term financial sustainability.

This bold, innovative project will honor Drexel's rich legacy while securing its place in the future.

Academic Program

Drexel's dynamic curriculum combines world-class academics with real-world experience, allowing students to build their skills and preparing them to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. Drexel offers more than [200 degree programs](#) through [17 colleges and schools](#). The University currently operates on the quarter system but is planning a transition to the semester system by fall 2027.

Reflecting an increase in research activity, Drexel's Carnegie Classification went from R2 to R1 in 2018, which was reaffirmed in 2022. This achievement is the result of a decades-long effort to raise Drexel's research profile, particularly around core academic competencies, health, design, technology/engineering, and social sciences, with an eye toward assembling transdisciplinary teams to tackle projects with social and commercial impact. Retaining this status – including active support of a culture of scholarship across the University – is one of Drexel's main priorities. In 2023, sponsored research expenditures exceeded \$169 million, and the University has a goal to reach \$250 million in research expenditures by 2030.

Drexel's students are educated at its University City Campus, Center City Campus, Queen Lane Campus, LeBow College of Business Malvern Campus, Elkins Park Campus, Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health, and online. The University's approximately 200 degree programs are organized into 17 colleges and schools, educating over 21,000 students. Beginning in 2021, the University began welcoming medical students to the Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health in West Reading and in 2025 completed a merger with the former Salus University, creating the Elkins Park Campus.

- [Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)
- [College of Computing & Informatics](#)
- [College of Engineering](#)
- [College of Nursing and Health Professions](#)
- [Dornsife School of Public Health](#)
- [Drexel University College of Medicine](#)
- [Thomas R. Kline School of Law](#)
- [Goodwin College of Professional Studies](#)
- [LeBow College of Business](#)
- [School of Economics](#)
- [Pennoni Honors College](#)
- [School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems](#)
- [School of Education](#)
- [Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design](#)
- [Pennsylvania College of Optometry](#)
- [Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies](#)

Drexel has a history of innovation in curriculum and programs. Drexel's co-op is one of the oldest, largest, and most highly regarded in the nation. For over 100 years, Drexel students are able to alternate academic study with full-time employment, gaining practical experience in their field of study. Students can choose from more than 1,600 employers in 33 states and 48 international locations, including major corporations such as Goldman, Sachs & Co., Lockheed Martin, JP Morgan Chase, Comcast Corporation, Estee Lauder/Northtec, Johnson & Johnson, and organizations such as Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Civic engagement, fundamental to Drexel's mission, heritage and future, is supported through research and academic programs that directly benefit communities, public service by students and faculty, and business practices that support equitable local and regional economic development. Drexel's vision of a civically engaged, comprehensive urban university comes to life for students through the [Lindy Center for Civic Engagement](#).

Building on the University's pioneering efforts in [online education](#) that began in 1996, Drexel offers more than 150 online degree and certificate programs, using the same accredited curriculum and distinguished faculty as it does on campus.



Drexel is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Student Life

Drexel students are extraordinary individuals, distinguished by their intelligence, diversity of background and interests, independence of mind, courage, creativity, optimism, engagement and hard work. They represent a broad range of cultures and experiences, unified by the imagination and determination they bring to their studies and their lives. Drexel's Student Life staff are dedicated to creating a campus environment that challenges and supports students.

Athletics

Drexel's athletic programs and recreational facilities are an essential part of campus life. As a member of the Colonial Athletic Association, Drexel competes at the NCAA Division 1 level in 18 varsity sports.

Culture and Spirit

Drexel's culture is dramatically different from that of the typical research university. A "can do" spirit that energizes and empowers faculty, staff and students alike permeates Drexel. This spirit reflects a long-standing tradition of innovation and initiative that has defined Drexel throughout its history.

There is excitement and intensity about the University and its keen ability and agility. Experiential learning, in the richest meaning of the phrase, best characterizes Drexel's academic culture, spirit and approach. The commitment to experiential education infuses nearly everything at the University. Through co-op, internships, practical, service-based learning, applied undergraduate and graduate research opportunities, project-focused courses, technology-enhanced simulations and a hiring policy emphasizing professional practice and currency, Drexel teaches students how to critically analyze, problem-solve, accomplish and reflect upon accomplishment. Graduates enter the workforce prepared from day one to excel and, through reflection and further study, strengthen their analytical and predictive capabilities to succeed in complex and rapidly changing professional environments.

Drexel is also proud of its commitment to a global perspective, bringing a global dimension to University life through academic programs, study and co-op abroad, major research projects, conferences and cultural events.

The Drexel community is also engaged in initiatives to promote sustainability and reduce the University's carbon footprint. Information on the University's climate action plan can be found on its [Climate & Sustainability website](#).

Mission/Vision

Mission: Drexel University is an urban research university that integrates education, scholarship, diverse partnerships, and our global community to address society's most pressing challenges through an inclusive learning environment, immersive experiential learning, external partnerships, transdisciplinary and applied research, and creative activity. The University prepares graduates of diverse backgrounds to become purpose-driven professionals and agents for positive change.



Vision: To shape the future through the innovative integration of education, scholarship, diverse partnerships, and global collaboration.

For more information about Drexel University, visit drexel.edu.

Position Summary

The Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for shaping an information technology vision to support and extend the impact of the University's strategies. The CIO will partner across the institution to further important goals, including improving student success, expanding research activity, delivering more efficient and effective services, incorporating and leveraging new AI tools, and effectively leveraging Drexel's information assets.

IT at Drexel includes a robust network to enable teaching and research, and a mature suite of enterprise applications including Microsoft Office 365 Enterprise Suite, Ellucian Banner, Blackboard Learn, Canvas, Slate, and Blackboard Analytics. Drexel's academic technologists support an expanding number of hybrid courses and partner with the schools and colleges to support over 100 online programs and 8,000 students, requiring 24/7 globally available services. In collaboration with Drexel's researchers, IT offers access to high-performance computing capabilities. The Drexel Libraries provides discovery and retrieval systems for electronic information resources, development of robust research information management services, and guides the distributed records management program. The CIO will also serve as the technology leader for the College of Medicine and all of Drexel's clinical practices and be responsible for meeting the technology requirements that comply with HIPAA.

The CIO will lead a collaborative process to develop and implement a strategy to use information technology to further University priorities and create or strengthen areas of distinction.

Drexel expects strategies to be creative and forward-leaning, as well as practical and actionable. The CIO will embrace and provide effective leadership for a federated set of IT organizations across the University and strike an effective balance between local and University-wide services. This is a particular area of priority as the University implements responsibility center management, a budget model that places greater control over resources within the colleges, and advances its plans for an academic transformation that will allow Drexel to align its distinguishing strengths, academic structure, and strategies with its mission to advance societal solutions and an experiential education of the highest quality.

The IT vision and strategy must have sufficient depth to meet long-term strategic needs and the agility to seize new opportunities and technological innovation. Plans and actions must facilitate the priorities that are central to the University's strategic plan.

Reporting Relationships

Reporting to Executive Vice President, Chief Operating and Financial Officer, and Treasurer Helen Bowman, the CIO will serve as a member of the President's Cabinet and lead a team of approximately 150 FTEs. In addition, the CIO will collaborate with and influence more than 100 additional technology staff in administrative units and colleges. In particular, the CIO will work closely with the college IT leaders to integrate IT services and implement practices to enhance service delivery.

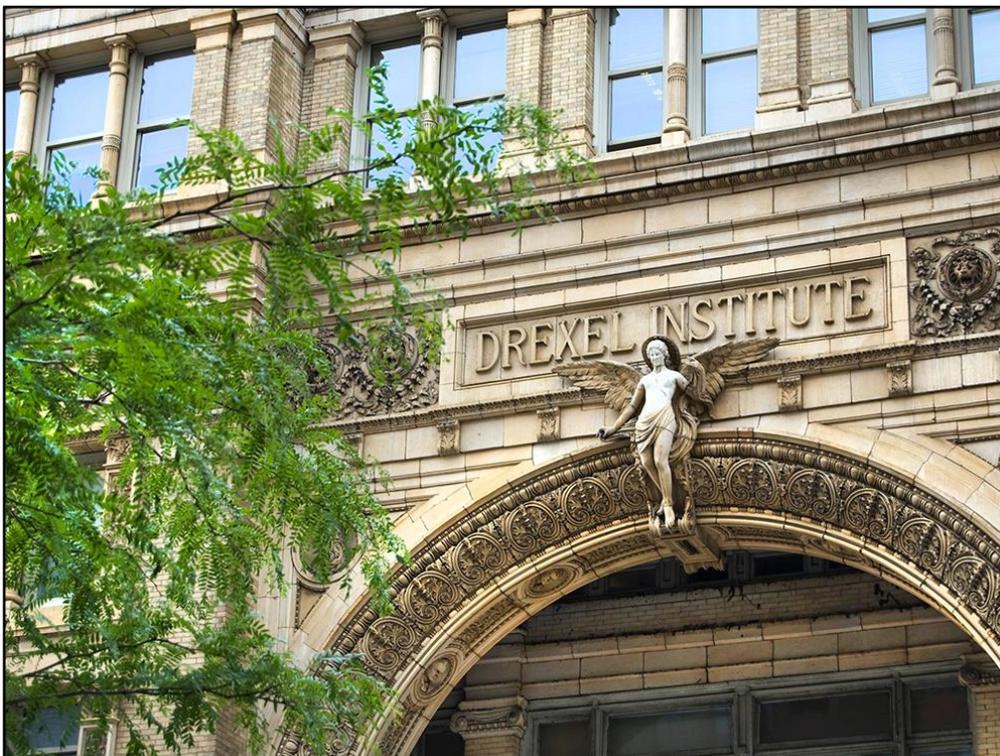
Direct reports include:

- Associate VP, Core Technology Infrastructure
- Assistant VP, Clinical Systems
- Associate VP, Core Enterprise Systems
- Assistant VP, Strategic Initiatives
- Associate VP, Deputy CIO
- Associate VP, CISO
- Executive Director, Business Operations

Responsibilities

The successful Chief Information Officer candidate will:

- Expand access and use of accurate, accessible and effective management information and predictive analytics;
- Enhance and improve the student experience by supporting the redesign of processes and the integration and simplification of supporting technologies;
- Provide technology and support services to enable effective teaching and learning in online, hybrid and technology enhanced courses;
- Partner with academic leadership and units to effectively support their strategic priorities while fostering cultural alignment between Centralized IT and Distributed IT groups.
- Partner with the research community to maintain and expand research computing capabilities, including support for high-performance computing, research data management, and development of custom applications;
- Deliver technologies and services to support efforts to streamline business processes and reduce costs;
- Create and sustain effective technology governance and service management practices; and
- Enhance information security and privacy and reduce the risk of disaster.



Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been identified as priorities for this position:

- Develop strong, collaborative, trusting relationships with constituents including students, faculty, staff, administrators, advisory board, campus leaders, and other key stakeholders across the University. Partner with leaders and distributed IT resources on IT initiatives in support of education, research, and administration.
- Leverage the recent E&Y IT assessment and develop enterprise IT strategic plan in alignment with the overall strategic plan and mission of the University. This includes support for Drexel's [academic transformation](#), which is aimed at making its structure, policies, and practices more consistent and effective to create a better experience for students, faculty and staff and is meant to ensure Drexel's long-term ability to advance research-based societal solutions and an experiential education of the highest quality, attract a broader student base that believes in the value of a Drexel degree, and expand the local and global partnerships that position Drexel to lead through this time of rapid change and far into the future.
- Evaluate and optimize the existing IT governance structure to ensure it effectively identifies and prioritizes new technology investments and initiatives while assessing risks.
- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the central IT team to identify organizational gaps, and implement changes that foster a cohesive, service-oriented structure. Promote effective communication and collaboration across units to reduce silos. Cultivate a culture that energizes and empowers staff, supports career growth and development, and strengthens recruitment and retention of a high-performing and inclusive workforce.
- Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of central versus distributed IT to ensure alignment with the University's core missions—administration, research, and education—particularly within a cost-conscious environment.
- Design and implement an institutional data warehouse that centralizes and integrates data from across the University, enabling advanced analytics, strategic insights, and operational effectiveness. This platform should incorporate generative and agentic AI capabilities to support predictive modeling, intelligent automation, and decision support across academic, research, and administrative functions.
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- Develop a comprehensive AI strategy that integrates AI across all facets of university operations, breaking down silos, enhancing process efficiency, and driving organizational excellence. This includes leveraging AI for personalized learning, research acceleration, and administrative optimization.
- Continue to advance the research computing environment that provides access to infrastructure, data, and computing resources to support the university's growing research portfolio.
- Collaborate with the Chief Information Security Officer to continually advance the information security program as federal regulations and threats evolve

Candidate Qualifications

Education/Certification

- Bachelor's degree required; an advanced degree in a relevant area, preferred.

Knowledge and Work Experience

- 10-plus years of progressive leadership responsibility, including having held a significant IT management position, preferably in a research university or similar organization.
- Working knowledge of strategic issues in higher education or other complex organizations that rely on decentralized governance, culture, and structure; deep knowledge of at least one aspect of information and communications technology; and broad perspective on leading IT practices in higher education or other closely related industries that are complex and decentralized.
- Proven experience improving IT services and supporting the use of technology in face-to-face, blended, and fully online environments to create distinct educational experiences and improve teaching and learning.
- Demonstrated experience working with senior leadership stakeholders to identify technology requirements and build support for technology initiatives. Experience successfully leading IT planning and priority setting, implementing technology solutions and services, and collaborating with diverse stakeholders.
- Demonstrated experience in building collaborative governance models that would accommodate the diverse computing needs across the university while maintaining institutional coherence.
- Experience implementing technologies to improve enrollment and enable student success strategies.
- Experience working with academic medical centers or similar environments with significant information security and privacy requirements.
- Experience deploying analytics and promoting increasingly broad and sophisticated adoption.
- Demonstrated experience forming alliances and relationships with national or international professional initiatives that develop standards, best practices, and innovative solutions to challenges in information and communications technologies.
- Proven ability to operate within established budgets and effectively manage large capital and operating budgets.

Leadership Skills and Competencies

- Excellent leadership, management, interpersonal and communications skills; comfortable and adept at leading by influence; ability to listen, synthesize, mediate, lead, explain and communicate at all levels.
- Able to establish effective collaborations with diverse stakeholders to implement information technology strategies, design services, and operate jointly led projects. Able to work effectively and comfortably in organizational structures where multiple leaders may jointly oversee initiatives, departments, and services or where primary leadership may come from another unit.
- Able to lead organizational change.

- Able to manage resources (people, infrastructure, and budgets) in an environment where the demand is greater than the supply.
- Able to develop future IT leaders and facilitate the professional development of the IT workforce.

The Community



Drexel and Philadelphia

Drexel's footprint in Philadelphia is spread across four physical campuses: its main campus in University City and its Queen Lane and Center City campuses, as well as its new Elkins Park campus. A fifth physical campus is the LeBow College of Business Malvern Campus, just 25 miles northwest of the city, and a sixth physical campus opened in 2021 as the College of Medicine at Tower Health in West Reading, about an hour's drive northwest of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia is the largest city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the sixth most populous in the United States. In the Northeastern United States, at the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, Philadelphia is the economic and cultural anchor of the Delaware Valley; the metropolitan area is the ninth largest in the United States and home to 6.2 million people.

Philadelphia is the center of economic activity in Pennsylvania and home to seven Fortune 1000 companies, with five Fortune 500 companies headquartered in the city. Philadelphia is known for its arts, culture, and history. It has five professional sports teams and is one of the nation's most loyal fan bases. The city welcomed 39.8 million domestic tourists in 2022. The 67 National Historic Landmarks in the city helped account for the \$11.6 billion generated by tourism.

Philadelphia has a plethora of educational options, including many private and public institutions. The Philadelphia School District is the eighth largest school district in the United States, with more than 197,000 students in 217 public schools and 83 charter schools as of 2022. Philadelphia has the third-largest concentration of higher education students on the East Coast, with over 120,000 college and university students enrolled within the city and nearly 300,000 in the metropolitan area. For more information, please visit: [visitphilly.com](https://www.visitphilly.com) and [discoverphl.com](https://www.discoverphl.com).

Procedure for Candidacy

Please direct all nominations and resumes to Nick Giannas, Hillary Ross, and Katie Mazzuckelli via the [WittKieffer Candidate Portal](#). Inquiries may also be directed to the consultants through the portal or kmazzuckelli@wittkieffer.com.

Drexel University is committed to fairness, equal opportunity, and a hiring process that ensures inclusive representation of faculty and professional staff members with a wide range of perspectives. We encourage candidates from varied backgrounds and lived experiences – who are passionate about building and sustaining an inclusive and welcoming working and learning environment for all students, faculty and staff – to apply. Our hiring strategies include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) careful selection of hiring committees so that they reflect a diversity of viewpoints; (2) strategic authoring of job advertisements to succinctly distinguish between required and desired qualifications; and (3) thoughtful placement of job advertisements through a wide range of websites and organizations.

Drexel University and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University prohibit discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin (including shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics), ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, or any other classification protected by law (referred to as “protected category(ies)”) in the educational programs or activities Drexel operates. Drexel University seeks to foster an inclusive and healthy educational and employment environment built on mutual respect and trust. do not discriminate against applicants, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, identity and expression, disability or veteran status. For additional information, please view the [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#).

The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from Drexel University documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.

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