

# IOWA

## Dean, College of Law Leadership Profile

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*WittKieffer*

## Executive Summary

The University of Iowa seeks a visionary dean to join its vibrant community and lead its nationally recognized law school. The College of Law is one of the nation's premier public law schools, with an influence that reaches across the nation and around the world through the work of ambitious students, productive faculty and staff, and talented alumni. Iowa Law's next dean will be positioned to move the school forward by creating new and innovative opportunities to learn, teach, and serve.

The Dean will develop a clear and compelling vision for Iowa Law's next chapter, providing leadership in matters related to planning, curriculum, scholarship, and finances. The Dean will engage with faculty, staff, students, alumni, the legal community, and state and federal governmental officials to advance the goals of the College of Law and the University. The successful candidate must possess a JD or its equivalent and must have a record of excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service that meets the standards for appointment to the Iowa Law faculty as a full professor with tenure. The candidate must possess a substantial record of leadership over time in a professional setting, with a strong preference given to candidates who possess substantial leadership experience in the legal academy. The successful candidate will demonstrate a capacity and readiness to advance the College of Law through fundraising and building external partnerships. The successful candidate will also demonstrate an ability to advance the University's philosophy and practice in the areas of access, opportunity, and diversity.

Situated in a lively college town, the University of Iowa is one of the nation's leading public research universities, with more than 30,000 students from 100-plus countries and all 50 states. Founded in 1847, it is the State of Iowa's oldest institution of higher education and is located alongside the picturesque Iowa River in Iowa City. A member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) since 1909 and the Big Ten Conference since 1899, the University's assets range from the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop to one of the largest and most acclaimed medical centers in the country.

The College of Law is among the most distinguished academic units in the state's flagship university, boasting bright and eager students, a strong faculty and staff, and a devoted and impressive alumni base. With a legacy of excellence spanning more than 150 years, Iowa Law offers a dynamic learning environment that prepares students hailing from communities near and far to excel in a broad range of legal careers and make meaningful contributions to society. Iowa Law takes pride in its long history of providing a first-rate legal education to a diverse and ambitious student body, producing graduates who pass the Bar and secure employment at impressively high rates and who go out into the world with lower levels of average debt than their peers at many competitor schools. The school immerses its students in a culture that values collaboration. It is a collegial community, where students with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints learn to work and study together to achieve common aims, supported by a readily accessible faculty.

Iowa Law's faculty members are highly regarded and frequently cited experts. They hold and express a broad range of opinions on the law, its purposes, and its functions in society. Their scholarship is integral to the College of Law's mission of excellence. Strong scholarship is central to the culture of the College, as is expert instruction within a broad curriculum.

The College boasts the largest public law school library in the United States, staffed by first-rate research librarians and assistants who share a deep commitment to supporting faculty scholarship and student learning across a vast range of specialties. Among the library's frequent visitors are the students who write and edit for one of the school's four well-known law journals, including the nationally ranked *Iowa Law Review* and *Journal of Corporation Law*. The College's journals, together with an impressive slate of upper-level seminars and research-assistant opportunities, deeply involve students in the scholarly enterprise.

Iowa Law offers a strong legal writing program, led by seven full-time faculty members who offer first-year and upper-level writing courses. Their instruction is backed by the work of the College's Writing Center, which was the

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first of its kind at any law school and is staffed by a faculty member and a team of student tutors. The experiential-education portfolio at the College of Law includes a robust field placement program led by a clinical faculty member, practicum and simulation courses, and in-house, live-client clinics grouped together in the Law Clinic. The Law Clinic functions like a single law firm with distinct practice groups, including federal criminal defense, immigration, technology and surveillance, federal civil rights, and the Community Empowerment Law Project. The Law Clinic is one of the few clinics in the country to offer practice opportunities in both federal civil and federal criminal cases.

In addition to the Juris Doctor (JD), Master of Laws (LLM), and Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) degrees, Iowa Law offers an advanced-standing JD for lawyers trained abroad, and a variety of dual-enrollment programs, including the JD/MHA, JD/MPH, JD/MBA, JD/MSBA, JD/MFIN, JD/MPHIL, JD/MD, and JD/MS in LIS.

Iowa Law enjoys a network of more than 11,000 highly engaged and accomplished alumni spanning the state, the nation, and the world. The Iowa Law School Foundation (with an endowment of nearly \$100 million) and the University of Iowa Center for Advancement serve as ready partners to the Dean and the College of Law to fundraise, build alumni relations, manage the endowment, and provide program support.

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 1, 2024. 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 see [Procedure for Candidacy](#).



## Role of the Dean of the College of Law

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, the Dean will generate and manage resources, oversee operations, and exercise authority over programs and budgets. As one of the University's top leaders, the Dean will report directly to the Executive Vice President and Provost and work collaboratively with the University's other deans to advance the institution's commitments to excellent teaching, impactful research, and meaningful public engagement.

The Dean will promote Iowa Law as a statewide and national leader by advancing the College of Law's commitment to providing an excellent, broad-based, and practical legal education to a strong student body seeking to enter a variety of careers. The Dean will maintain a productive environment for faculty and staff to develop their capacities in their respective fields. The Dean will build on the strengths of the College, creating synergies with existing programs and innovatively promoting continued excellence in teaching, scholarship, and leadership. The Dean will further Iowa Law's commitment to access, opportunity, and diversity 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. The Dean will help the College of Law anticipate and respond to changing ABA standards and employers' evolving expectations.

The role of the Dean is highly demanding and requires a collaborative partnership with a distinguished leadership team. The Dean will lead, support, and nurture this team, bringing together individuals with diverse experiences and perspectives. The current Dean's success in this work is supported by a team of assistant and associate deans, including the following:

- Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Associate Dean for Faculty
- Associate Dean for International and Comparative Law Programs
- Associate Dean for Research and Professional Development
- Associate Dean for Clinical Programs
- Associate Dean of Student and Career Services
- Assistant Dean of Enrollment Management

## Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The Dean of Iowa Law 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. The Dean must prioritize the research and teaching missions of the College of Law, supporting the faculty's scholarly engagement and instructional innovation. The Dean must work to continually strengthen the College of Law's faculty through recruitment, retention, professional development, and support. Recruiting strategies will focus on attracting and retaining highly qualified faculty and advancing Iowa Law's commitment to inclusion and diversity. Additionally, the Dean must cultivate a highly collegial 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 at the College of Law. In conjunction with the Iowa Law faculty, the Dean will be responsible for formulating annual and long-term goals for the College of Law. 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 of Law into its next era of success. The Dean will balance tradition with innovation by identifying priorities for the College of Law's future that build on existing strengths. The Dean will engage all constituents, including faculty, administrators, staff, students, alumni, and the Iowa Law School Foundation Board, to successfully execute the College's mission. The Dean will work closely with these and other Iowa Law constituencies to ensure that plans and resource allocations align with College of Law and University of Iowa priorities.

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

The Dean will be responsible for prioritizing budgetary goals and fundraising for the College of Law. The Dean must play a leadership role in fundraising efforts and seek new opportunities to expand the College of Law's resource base. The Dean will work to enhance Iowa Law's alumni outreach and involvement to ensure that alumni around the country and the world maintain a connection to the College of Law. The Dean 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 people of all backgrounds and perspectives can feel part of the community. The Dean will have a record of engagement and leadership in advancing these core values and understanding the essential role they play in a professional school environment. The Dean's 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 of Iowa and in the 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 University of Iowa colleges to build innovative programs and expand approaches to teaching and research. The Dean will support creative engagement with other University of Iowa colleges and with other institutions. The Dean 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. The Dean 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. The Dean will also be a capable executive with skills in fiscal and human-resource management as well as the external-relationship management that is critical for fundraising success. The Dean must have the political acumen, power of persuasion, commitment to inclusiveness, and authentic personal leadership style necessary to advance the College of Law 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, impactful, and interdisciplinary legal scholarship; the ability to inspire and lead an accomplished faculty toward further excellence; and a commitment to Iowa Law's central role in 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**

The successful candidate must 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.

#### **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.

#### **Experience in Advancing Access, Opportunity, and Diversity**

Experience with, and a record of leadership in advancing, access, opportunity, and diversity, broadly defined, and exemplary skill in communicating with, collaborating with, and supporting a diverse community.

#### **Credibility, Stature, and Commitment to Excellence**

A reputation for maintaining the highest standards for excellence in administration, scholarship, and teaching. A broad intellect. An ability to articulate the value of Iowa Law and each of its programmatic areas. An ability to mentor and advocate for students, staff, and faculty.

#### **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 of Law 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. 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 of Law offers robust support services, career development opportunities, and access to a broad network of alumni and professionals.

**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.

**Managerial, Operational, and Fiscal Skill**

The ability to work and thrive in a large, complex environment, and 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.

**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 efficiently and effectively.

**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 for fair, even-tempered, and praiseworthy treatment of allies and non-allies alike.

**Ability to Establish and Steward Effective Relationships**

The skill and experience to steward relationships across public and private sectors.

**Superb Communication Skills**

Exceptional capacity to promote Iowa Law's interests, mission, and brand across and beyond the University of Iowa. Ease with diverse constituencies inside and outside the College of Law, and the ability to connect with audiences large and small, both in person and in writing.

**Desired Qualifications:**

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.

Demonstrated success in leading major fundraising campaigns within an academic setting.

Experience with budgets, financial planning, market research, and strategic resource allocation.

A record of facilitating interdisciplinary collaborations.

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## 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 approximately 500 students, including 188 first-year law students in Fall 2024, the College of Law maintains a low student-to-faculty ratio, ensuring personalized attention and mentorship. The College of Law's distinguished faculty are deeply engaged in teaching, research, and service, contributing to a

dynamic intellectual environment. The College of 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 (JD) program grounded in legal doctrine and practice that is well known for its emphasis on writing and analysis. The College of Law's curriculum is designed to cultivate critical thinking, ethical practice, and a deep understanding of law's role in society. Students have the opportunity to explore a variety of career paths through elective courses and to gain leadership experience by participating in a variety of student organizations and moot court competitions. 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, and it helps to coordinate a variety of joint-degree opportunities.

Iowa Law has a robust writing curriculum. It is one of the few national law schools that teaches its first-year students legal analysis, writing and research (LAWR) with dedicated full-time faculty experts. As a group, the seven faculty members teaching LAWR have nearly a century of teaching experience. 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 17th best of all law reviews in 2024; the *Journal of Corporation Law*, ranked 2nd among specialty journals; *Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems*; and the *Journal of Gender, Race, and Justice*. Iowa Law has advanced to the National Final Rounds of the New York City Bar Association's National Moot Court Competition for four consecutive years. 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 a number of 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 particular issues. Examples include the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, the Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative, the Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center, the Innovation, Business & Law Center, the University of Iowa Labor Center, the Law, Health Policy & Disability Center, and the National Health Law & Policy Center.

The Dean, faculty, and students at the College of Law enjoy substantial support from the Iowa Law School Foundation (ILSF), both through its fund-raising partnership with the University of Iowa Center for Advancement and through the dedication and talents of its 41-member Board of Directors. The ILSF's directors currently include

36 College of Law alumni, three law faculty members, and two law student leaders. The alumni directors have achieved significant professional successes in a diverse range of legal fields and geographic regions and have demonstrated a commitment to philanthropy on behalf of the College of Law. The directors' commitment is not limited to financial generosity; the directors also serve as drivers of alumni engagement, good will ambassadors for the College of Law, and a ready resource for students seeking career advice and experience. The ILSF also works closely with the Dean to understand and support College of Law 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 our 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 beneficial collaboration over counterproductive 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 the College of 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 are committed to impactful and innovative legal scholarship within a broad range of specialties. Faculty members collaborate with national and international partners to advance legal research and practice.

Iowa Law faculty are known for their strong commitment to scholarship that matters. They are nationally recognized for their scholarly productivity and interdisciplinary interests. Many of the College's faculty members have Ph.D.'s, and the faculty publishes regularly in history, social science, and general humanities journals, as well as in books and traditional law reviews.

Iowa Law faculty are not only scholars but also dedicated teachers committed to student success. Tenured and tenure-track, clinical, and legal writing faculty all are devoted to thoughtfully bringing 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 five clinical faculty members in an in-house clinic. The Law Clinic offers a wide range of practice areas including federal criminal defense, immigration, technology and surveillance, federal civil rights, and policy and law reform. An extensive field placement program is directed by a sixth clinical faculty member and provides students with a wide array of opportunities for hands-on legal experience through externships with courts, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit enterprises. The Citizen Lawyer Program gives students

opportunities to volunteer with a wide range of organizations in Iowa to cultivate their commitment to public service and community engagement. Participants in that program collectively complete thousands of public-service hours during their time at the College of Law.

## Exceptional Facilities and Resources

The Boyd Law Building, completed in 1986, provides a well-designed and comfortable home for the Iowa Law community. Recent upgrades to the building include the student commons, the clinic office suite, and technological enhancements for the teaching courtroom.

The building is home to the acclaimed University of Iowa Law Library, the largest public law library in the United States, as measured by both title and volume count. The only law library among the Iowa Board of Regents' universities, the law library is an important resource not only for members of the University community, but also for researchers and citizens throughout the state. 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 enormous collection of legal resources.

## Iowa Law Strategic Plan 2021-2026

The University of Iowa College of Law seeks to be one of the strongest public law schools in the nation and an innovator in programming and legal research. Iowa Law strives to produce lawyers and leaders who will internalize the collegial atmosphere of the College of Law and advance civility in national discourse, to help solve national and global problems, and advocate for justice and the rule of law. Through inspired teaching, research that matters, and generous service, Iowa Law contributes to shaping a world where the law is used to produce a more just society.

Key initiatives of the strategic plan include:

- **Student Success:** Be a national leader in educating law students for successful careers in the practice of law.
- **Research and Discovery:** Be a national and international leader in legal research and scholarship to support the role of law in society and use the law and legal systems to solve contemporary problems.
- **Diversity:** Create and sustain a diverse and inclusive environment at Iowa Law, integrating inclusiveness and diversity into teaching, research, and service.
- **Engagement:** Broaden the understanding of and access to law and legal systems in Iowa and the world.

## 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.

### Experiential Learning:

- 20+ student organizations
- 9 co-curricular programs
- 5 clinical practice areas
- 2 study-abroad programs in addition to numerous study-abroad institutional partnerships

### Writing Law School

- Top public university for writing
- Largest public law library in the U.S.
- 4 legal journals
- 7 full-time legal writing faculty
- A Writing Center led by a legal writing faculty member and staffed by 9 peer tutors

### Support Network

- 8:1 student to faculty ratio
- 11,000+ alumni in all 50 states and 43 countries
- 87% of students receive scholarship or tuition assistance
- Academic-success programming for 1Ls and a Bar-support initiative for 3Ls

### Careers

- 98.8% job placement rate, distributed among 30 states and territories, within 10 months of graduation
- 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation for full-time, long-term, Bar-required positions
- 88.9% Bar passage rate among first-time test takers (and a 98% first-time passage rate for the July 2024 Iowa Bar)
- 20% of 2023 graduates landed big-law jobs, and 23% landed federal or state judicial clerkships
- 65 career workshop events every year

### 2024 Entering Class Profile

- 188 students
- 24 average age
- 45% male students
- 55% female students
- 3.76 median GPA
- 162 median LSAT score
- 52 undergraduate majors represented
- 97 undergraduate institutions represented
- 31 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC represented
- 20% first-generation college students
- 29% from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds
- 8% among LGBTQ+ community





## 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, commitment to Iowa and the world, and a culture that prizes community, diversity and opportunity. In Fall 2024, the University of Iowa has a total enrollment of more than 30,000 students, 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 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 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 University campus.

Iowa has been a member of the Big Ten Conference since 1899 and a member of the Association of American Universities since 1909.

From its founding, Iowa has been a beacon of equality and opportunity for all people. 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 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 to the impact of new technology to a worldwide 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 [here](#).

## 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 an increasingly diverse and global environment;
- advances scholarly and creative endeavors through leading-edge research and artistic production; and
- 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 will be the destination of first choice for a diverse and talented body of students, faculty, and staff, who will craft new chapters of exploration, discovery, creation, and engagement. Together, we will advance the University's standing as one of the most distinguished public universities in the country.

## Colleges

The University of Iowa is home to 12 academic colleges, offering a comprehensive selection of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.

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





## Leadership

### 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.

### 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 & 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 is currently serving as FASEB's president.



## Iowa City, Iowa

There's a reason people relocate to the [Iowa City](#) area. As one of the nation's truly great college towns, Iowa City has the amenities of an urban center and the feel of a small community. Home to a Big Ten, R1 research institution, Iowa City has some of the nation's best (and largest) health-care facilities, high-caliber collegiate sports, and an active commitment to artistic expression. From Hawkeye women's basketball, to Broadway shows at Hancher Auditorium, to film festivals at Film Scene, to readings at Prairie Lights Bookstore, to concerts at the Englert Theater, to exhibitions at the Stanley Museum of Art, to arts festivals and live music on the downtown

pedestrian mall, to public talks by world-renowned artists, authors, scientists, and other thinkers, there is never a shortage of things to do.

Iowa is famous for the annual RAGBRAI bike ride across the state, and the Iowa City area is home to numerous biking and hiking trails. The nearby countryside, scenic state parks, and the Iowa River provide many opportunities for walking, biking, kayaking and boating. The area features an appealing mix of independent shops and major retailers, along with celebrated restaurants and local breweries, cideries, and distilleries. 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.

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 appears high in national publications' lists of the country's best places to live.

Twenty miles north is Cedar Rapids, Iowa's second-largest city with a metro area population of about 280,000 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 half day's drive.

### Community Websites

- [City of Coralville](#)
- [City of Iowa City](#)
- [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.

WittKieffer is assisting the University of Iowa in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by **November 1, 2024**.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

**Werner Boel, LL.M. and Ashlee Winters Musser**

**[IowaLawDean@wittkieffer.com](mailto:IowaLawDean@wittkieffer.com)**

*The University of Iowa is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment free from discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy (including childbirth and related conditions), disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, or associational preferences.*