

Dean, College of Social Work

Leadership Profile

Winter 2026



WittKieffer

Executive Summary

Florida State University (FSU) invites nominations, expressions of interest, and applications for the position of Dean in the College of Social Work. The University seeks a dynamic and passionate leader and scholar who will advance social work research and support the College's mission of preparing professionals who enhance human well-being.

FSU is recognized for academic excellence, high-impact research, and a strong commitment to student success. FSU is a premier public research institution (R1) located in Tallahassee, Florida's capital. FSU is a top-25 public university (2025 U.S. News & World Report) and is ranked the number one public university for student experience (2025 Princeton Review). FSU enrolls over 45,000 students and is strategically focused on growing its graduate and professional student population. FSU continues to expand its research footprint across disciplines and reported over \$460 million in research expenditures in fiscal year 2024. Strategic recruitment of leading faculty and continued institutional investment are fueling a strong and upward research trajectory.

Established in 1928, FSU's social work program is the oldest in Florida, and was the first in the world to offer a Master of Social Work degree through an accredited online program. Through its BSW, MSW, and PhD programs, the college prepares future practitioners and scholars, complemented by a robust field education program that provides immersive, hands-on training in various settings across the globe.

Grounded in a century-long tradition of excellence, the College of Social Work serves as a catalyst for change, preparing the next generation of social workers to enhance human well-being, strengthen communities, and shape policy. The College prepares future social work practitioners and scholars through its BSW, MSW, and PhD programs. Known for its commitment to [translational research](#), community engagement, and student-centered learning, the College also houses several [impactful centers and institutes](#). The Dean will manage a \$38 million budget and a \$7.4 million endowment, oversee 128 faculty and staff, guide accreditation and assessment efforts, and represent the College across the university and profession.

As the chief academic and executive officer of the College, the next Dean will foster student success, lead collaboratively with a unifying vision, and expand the College's research productivity and academic partnerships. The Dean strengthens community engagement, experiential learning, and job placement while also driving strategic fundraising, faculty recruitment, and staff development to support sustained growth. Additionally, the Dean will elevate the College's role in [FSU Health](#) by leveraging major statewide health initiatives to enhance education, research, and clinical collaboration.

Successful candidates will be nationally recognized scholars eligible for tenure at the rank of full professor, with substantial leadership experience at an R1 institution. They will demonstrate a deep commitment to excellence in social work education and research; strong administrative, strategic planning, and fiscal management capabilities; and a proven record of faculty development, organizational leadership, leading interdisciplinary research teams; a track record of fundraising, community partnership building, and stakeholder engagement; as well as excellent interpersonal, communication, and consensus-building skills.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy on page 14.

Role of the Dean, College of Social Work

Reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean is the chief academic and administrative officer of the College of Social Work. The Dean engages and works with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders and represents the College and the University in various professional settings and ceremonial contexts. The Dean also provides leadership for programmatic and university-wide accreditation and assessment efforts. The Dean is responsible for managing and overseeing the College's fiscal, human, and physical resources. By effectively doing so, the Dean will ensure the proper stewardship of the means by which the College fulfills its mission of creating, teaching, learning, and serving with passion and intellectual rigor. In addition, the Dean develops new revenue streams and engages in fundraising activities to contribute to the College's ability to realize its mission.

The Dean is responsible for building on the College's strong reputation. As an academic leader and innovator, the Dean supports the exploration of new policies and procedures to ensure and improve the College's successful operations. The Dean is a leading voice in innovative instructional and educational programming and in exploring novel ways to support and increase student and faculty, scholarship, and research. By working closely and collaboratively across all units, the Dean fosters a strong sense of unity and esprit de corps amongst the faculty and staff, not only to attract and recruit the best individuals to the College, but also to retain and develop those already there.

The Dean is responsible for managing a \$38 million budget and providing leadership to 51 tenure-track, teaching and research faculty members and 77 staff members.



Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Below are some of the key opportunities and challenges for the next Dean:

- **Student Success:** The new Dean will work closely with students, faculty, and staff to foster an environment that is supportive and encouraging of the personal and professional growth of undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and alumni.
- **Visionary and Collaborative Leadership:** The Dean will provide leadership in developing a shared vision for the College and strategically manage the College's intellectual, fiscal, and human resources. The Dean will promote shared governance and foster a strong sense of community among faculty, professional staff, students, and other constituents. The Dean will partner with students, staff, and faculty to create and promote initiatives that welcome persons from all backgrounds and enhance human well-being.
- **Emboldened Research:** The Dean will inherit an organization that is poised to build upon existing strengths and prepared to identify new areas for enhancing academic and research collaborations within the University. The new Dean will have an opportunity to build on the College's infrastructure and resources to optimize and align knowledge, technical expertise, tools, and processes to advance the research efforts of the College's faculty.
- **Community Engagement and Outreach:** The next Dean will have the opportunity to build upon existing partnerships with local, community, and statewide stakeholders and identify and develop new partners. This will include expanding opportunities for experiential learning, internships, and job placement.
- **Expanding Funding Opportunities:** The new Dean will take an active and strategic approach to fundraising for the College, including developing new revenue streams and increasing philanthropic support. The University has launched a [major comprehensive campaign](#), and the new Dean must be prepared to play a key role on behalf of the College.
- **Faculty Recruitment and Development:** The Dean will partner with the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Center/Institute Directors, and faculty members at all levels to strengthen faculty recruitment, development, and retention. By employing a collegial, transparent, and collaborative leadership style, the Dean will contribute significantly to fostering an environment that continues to attract world-class scholars, researchers, and practitioners, and to support their professional growth.
- **Staff Professional Development and Retention:** The Dean will sustain a positive and collegial work environment to maintain high staff morale, ensure the recruitment of accomplished staff members, and support professional growth conducive to staff retention.
- **FSU Health:** FSU has several health-related initiatives, including FSU Health, which has received a \$125 million appropriation from the State to build an academic health center. The College of Social Work is actively engaged with FSU Health, including health and behavioral health education, research, and clinical care. The new Dean has the opportunity to continue engaging the College in this work, as well as in other initiatives that benefit the College and its institutes and centers.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The next Dean will demonstrate excellent interpersonal and collaborative skills, as well as the ability to communicate effectively with and perform as an active member of an integrated academic leadership team. The successful candidate must have:

- An understanding of current issues and new directions in social and behavioral research, social welfare, and social work education, and an ability to translate them to strengthen academic programs and services.
- A commitment to work closely with students, supporting student learning and success, and addressing issues with care and compassion.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to quickly establish trust and rapport, build consensus, promote collaboration, and facilitate teamwork.
- A track record for valuing and advancing fairness and accessibility to achieve institutional goals with a commitment to attracting, hiring, and promoting all faculty and staff.
- An energetic, innovative, and entrepreneurial spirit.
- A deep appreciation for the profession of social work and its related scholarship and practice, and the ability to inspire students to live fulfilling lives and make a difference in their profession and practice.
- Demonstrated successful business and organizational/management skills and outcomes.
- Experience in strategic planning, academic program development, fiscal and academic planning, resource management, program development, and problem-solving.
- Experience promoting collaboration with health-related colleges, departments, and centers; and externally, with the larger community and beyond.
- An understanding of the current political landscape in the State of Florida and a willingness to seize the opportunity of the College's location in Tallahassee to advance the best interests of students and faculty and positively influence policy at the local and state levels.
- A willingness to learn and listen, be accessible and visible to the College community, and have an open-door policy.
- Proven fundraising experience and ability to work well with alumni, donors, funding agencies, and community partners.
- An appreciation of faculty governance with union experience (preferred).
- The ability to enlist others, delegate, promote teamwork, and mentor faculty and staff – at all levels.
- Courage and willingness to take risks that advance the College.
- Proven ability to work with Vice President-level administrators and Chief Academic Officers (Provosts).



Qualifications

The successful candidate will possess national distinction as a scholar, researcher/practitioner, and educator, with accomplishments commensurate with those of a tenured full professor at FSU. The next Dean must also exhibit substantial administrative leadership experience at a research (R-1) university or comparable setting. In particular, the most competitive candidates will have:

- An earned doctorate or other terminal degree from an accredited university and a distinguished research record in their academic discipline.
- Extensive scholarly interest, understanding of, and commitment to promoting the full spectrum of research, including that conducted by undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, interdisciplinary research, and creative work.
- The ability to represent and strongly advocate for the College's research mission to a variety of constituencies, external and internal, including funding agencies.
- The ability to create and lead faculty development programs.
- Professional experience in administration; knowledge of and experience with budget management, research funding issues, policies, allocation of resources, and other business skills.
- The ability to delegate, manage people effectively, foster the professional development of staff, and make sound personnel decisions.
- A demonstrated history of leading and managing positive change in a complex organization.
- The ability to build effective teams for interdisciplinary research.
- The ability to build and sustain collaborative partnerships within FSU and with business, industry, philanthropic organizations, state agencies, and other universities.
- Experience in building relationships and developing partnerships – regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- Ability to effectively work with other deans and FSU executive leadership on behalf of the College.



About Florida State University

Overview



Florida State University

As one of the nation's elite research universities and one of the largest of the 12 institutions of higher learning in the State University System of Florida, FSU offers a distinctive academic environment built on its cherished values and unique heritage. With nearly 46,000 students, over 16,000 employees, and an operating budget of \$2.32 billion, FSU provides a welcoming campus environment on the oldest continuous site of higher education in Florida, with a prime location in the heart of the state capital. U.S. News & World Report ranks Florida State University as #21 among all public universities in the nation, and the state of Florida's university system as #1 in the nation. Underlying the educational experience at FSU is the development of new generations of citizen leaders, grounded in the concepts inscribed on the University's seal: Vires, Artes, Mores — Strength, Skill, and Character.

Combining traditional strengths in the arts and humanities with internationally recognized leadership in the sciences, FSU provides unmatched opportunities for students and faculty through challenging academics, cultural discovery, and community interaction. FSU's 17 colleges offer more than 274 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, professional, and specialist degree programs, including medicine and law. The University awards over 4,000 graduate and professional degrees each year. With an impressive breadth of leading graduate, professional, and undergraduate programs, FSU is a demanding, intellectually stimulating, yet warm and caring environment for students and faculty. The University also has over 65 years of experience in international education. It is a leader in the field of study-abroad programs, consistently ranking among the top public universities in the nation for

“long-term duration” experiences through its permanent study centers in London, Florence, Valencia, Panama City, Panama, and summer-specific programs in various locations around the world.

FSU's arts programs—performing and fine/visual arts, design, and education—rank among the finest in the world, offering arts education comparable to that of leading conservatories. The creative writing program is home to the most consistently honored and published student body in the country. FSU also operates the Ringling Center for the Cultural Arts in Sarasota, which includes the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, the largest museum/university complex in the nation, and home to the FSU Center for the Performing Arts, which houses the Asolo Repertory Theatre.

Other programs consistently included in the top public university rankings include physics, chemistry, political science, psychology, criminology, public administration, library science, human sciences, business, education, social work, nursing, economics, and law. At the Ph.D. level, interdisciplinary programs draw on notable research faculty strengths that transcend the traditional disciplines, including neuroscience, molecular biophysics, computational science, materials science, and research at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory — home to the world's most powerful magnets. More than 1,000 scientists from around the globe utilize the magnet lab each year to conduct their research.

The student experience is also highly ranked, ranking in the top 10 among public universities for best first-year experience, best student life, and Living-Learning Communities (LLCs), as well as in the top 25 for best public universities for veterans.

Throughout its rich history, FSU has grown its academic organization and expanded from the original site and modest beginnings of Bryan Hall (1908) and Westcott Building (1909) to more than 400 buildings spanning over 1,600 acres with multiple campus locations in Florida and abroad. Located immediately west of downtown Tallahassee, FSU's Main Campus includes an assemblage of over 485 acres. The Main Campus is complemented locally by a 73-acre FSU Lakefront Park & Retreat Center, over 200 acres in Innovation Park (home of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory), and the South Campus, which is home to the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, the Nicklaus Design Seminole Legacy Golf course, and multiple other sports and athletic venues. Beyond Tallahassee, FSU Panama City is a 28-acre campus serving over 4,000 students. FSU has a presence along the Gulf Coast at the Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, the Ringling Museum, and satellite locations in Pensacola, Palm Beach, Marianna, and others. FSU's academic impact is experienced globally with study centers in Florence, Italy; London, England; Valencia, Spain; and Panama City, Panama.

FSU has received the Carnegie Foundation's highest designation (Doctoral Universities: Very High Research Activity) and receives more in National Science Foundation funding than any other university in the state. FSU also produces exceptional scholarship from highly ranked programs in the humanities and performing and fine/visual arts, and each year attracts world-class exhibitions and performers to Tallahassee. FSU faculty includes members of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Inventors, and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences; Pulitzer Prize winners; Oscar winners; and Guggenheim, Fulbright, and National Endowment for the Humanities fellows. Six Nobel laureates have been associated with FSU.

Additional information about FSU, its history, and programs can be found at <http://www.fsu.edu>.

Leadership

President Richard McCullough



Richard McCullough became the 16th president of Florida State University in August 2021, bringing more than three decades of academic leadership experience to the role. During his tenure, he has strengthened FSU's foundation as one of the nation's top public universities by investing in student and faculty success as well as academic and research excellence.

Before joining FSU, McCullough served as vice provost for research for 10 years and professor of materials science and engineering at Harvard University. He previously spent 22 years at Carnegie Mellon University, where he began his academic career as an assistant professor of chemistry and rose through the ranks to become the Thomas Lord Professor of Chemistry. He also served as the head of chemistry, the dean of science and vice president for research.

McCullough has more than 110 publications, holds 16 U.S. patents, and is an entrepreneur who started two companies. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and was inducted into the Advanced Materials Journal Hall of Fame in 2021, and the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame and the Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine of Florida, both in 2025. He is the recipient of the Carnegie Science Center Award for Excellence as a Start-Up Entrepreneur.

He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Texas at Dallas and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Johns Hopkins University, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs James J. Clark



James J. Clark became the Provost and Executive Vice President of Florida State University on January 3, 2022. He graduated from Siena College (B.A., 1980), the University of Kentucky College of Social Work (MSW, 1983), and the University of Chicago (Ph.D., 1995).

As the Chief Academic Officer, Provost Clark leads the Division of Academic Affairs by providing strategic direction, investment, and support for FSU's academic enterprise. His office collaborates closely with FSU's academic deans, faculty, internal and external stakeholders, and senior leadership team to advance the division's mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. Provost Clark guides FSU's strategic investments in student achievement, faculty excellence, and institutional impact by advancing FSU's academic mission by driving the success of its academic colleges, research centers and institutes, and international study centers through pioneering initiatives that advance the university's reputation as a leader among public,

R1 research universities.

From 2015 to 2021, he served as Dean of the College of Social Work at Florida State University. Before that, he served for three years as the Director of the School of Social Work at the University of Cincinnati, as well as Associate Director for Research and faculty member at the University of Kentucky from 1991 to 2012. Clark co-founded the UK Center on Trauma & Children, a nationally recognized clinical research center, and has published in the areas of evidence-based behavioral health, forensic mental health, child and adolescent traumatic stress, criminal justice, ethics and accountability, and psychobiography and the study of lives. Dr. Clark also co-founded a private-sector company that developed novel approaches for working with at-risk children and families.

During his term as a dean at FSU, Dr. Clark developed and enhanced research centers that have driven innovations in criminal justice, child and family assessment and interventions, university student resilience, and other translational science programming. His leadership is characterized by interdisciplinary team science, translational research, and community-based strategic partnerships.

Vice President for Research Stacey Patterson



Vice President for Research Stacey Patterson oversees the university's \$488.2 million research enterprise. Her leadership includes driving a major overhaul of the university's commercialization efforts and securing a \$6 million National Science Foundation grant, [IGNITE-FSU](#), designed to accelerate translational research with strong market potential. She also led the development of FSU's first-ever research strategic plan, [ASPIRE](#). She played a key role in advancing [FSU Health](#) and [InSPIRE](#), a major manufacturing and aerospace initiative in Northwest Florida funded by a \$98.4 million Triumph Gulf Coast award.

She holds several U.S. patents for novel detection platforms and engineered cell lines that accelerate drug discovery and toxicity testing. Her research also led to the creation of 490 BioTech, a Knoxville-based startup she co-founded with three colleagues. The Scientist Magazine recognized 490 BioTech as one of the top ten innovations in 2013. In recognition of her contributions to her discipline, Patterson

was elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

At FSU, Patterson oversees the Office for the Vice President for Research, which employs 125 full-time staff and houses multiple administrative units, including federal relations, commercialization, and the Council of Research and Creativity, among others. The office also has direct oversight for five major research centers: the Center for Advanced Power Systems, the Coastal and Marine Laboratory, the Florida Center for Reading Research, the High-Performance Materials Institute, and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory.

The College of Social Work

The College of Social Work at Florida State University is dedicated to preparing the next generation of social work professionals through its Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), Master of Social Work (MSW), and Doctorate in Philosophy (PhD) programs, research, and outreach. The profession seeks to bring people together to enhance human well-being, build communities, and shape policy. The College's students and graduates join a tradition of excellence and a profession of dedicated practitioners, policymakers, and scholars.

What makes the College exceptional is the students who are dedicated to serving others. They bring to the College an enriching array of perspectives and life experiences, a key component for a compassionate and ethical social work professional.

These students ultimately join an alumni base made up of exceptional practitioners, leaders, and scholars. Graduates and their affiliated agencies/organizations across the state and around the world act as a powerful network of college supporters and mentors, and many offer valuable field education opportunities to launch the next generation of FSU social workers.



The emphasis on students' social work education and research means faculty and staff prioritize translational, impactful research alongside evidence-based, ethical practice. The College community is poised to continue to address the ever-changing challenges and needs of the populations it serves.

As one of the nation's leading institutions for social work education, FSU's College of Social Work continues a longstanding tradition of excellence and offers a variety of programs available on campus, online, and at satellite locations, tailored to meet students' specific needs.

BSW and MSW students gain real-world social work experience in field placements before completing their programs through the Office of Field Education. The College also offers additional international social work opportunities for its students through its international programs. The College provides financial assistance opportunities for its students and connects them to student resources within the College, at Florida State University, and in professional social work settings and organizations.

In addition to its academic programs, the College, through the Office of Professional Development, offers students, alumni, and social work professionals access to information on its certificate programs, continuing education, social work licensure, and career

advancement. This Office reflects the mission of the College to support social work practice and social policy development through its leadership. This Office seeks to provide a smoother path from student to professional by assisting with licensure and credentialing preparation. Its goal is to enhance students' preparedness as they enter the field and to support alumni who have successfully transitioned into the workforce. The College community is dedicated to cultivating a respectful and safe climate and maintaining an open and active civil discourse with all constituents.

The College is home to distinguished faculty doing high-impact research. Faculty members are prominent scientists, fellows of the Society for Social Work and Research, Rhodes Scholars, and members of the American Psychological Association. They are recognized with other national and international honorifics and awards. As an intellectual community, faculty members embrace a robust research approach, employing a wide range of methods to address the important social problems facing the communities they serve. Faculty view students as valuable partners who collaborate in research endeavors. They recognize that successful students ensure the College's continued success. Students benefit from personal attention and easy access to administration, faculty, and staff.

Faculty members in the College actively participate in local service projects and volunteer consultation in their specific areas of specialty, including the City Initiative to End Homelessness, “Homeward Bound,” Refuge House (services for battered women and their children), National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Big Bend Cares, OASIS Center for Women and Girls, Tallahassee Veterans Village, Big Bend Hospice, as well as international projects.

The College of Social Work requires a leader who can recruit and retain renowned scholars/researchers to advance the College’s aspirational research goals. The new dean must be committed to research excellence, including providing ongoing support to researchers and facilitating new research endeavors. The College and its centers/institutes currently have successful research collaborations across FSU with the Colleges of Education, Engineering, Communication and Information, Medicine, and Social Sciences. These collaborations need to be supported, continued, and promoted, with additional collaborations encouraged.

In FY 2025, externally sponsored research awards to the College of Social Work totaled \$6,747,819 (\$1,440,462 from federal awards, \$3,809,342 from the State, and \$1,498,015 from other sources). The number of proposals submitted grew from 19 in FY 2020 to 29 in FY 2025, a 53% increase over five years, while total awards increased by 143%. To support its research and outreach efforts, the College is home to the following centers and institutes:

The Stoops Center for Communities, Families, and Children

(FSU CFC Center) was created with support from the Stoops Family Foundation, Inc. to generate and sustain transformational knowledge development for effective policies, services, and usable research for the promotion of communities, families, and the children of Florida, the nation, and across the globe. The CFC Center has been designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a rural opioid technical assistance center (ROTA_R) serving eight Southeastern states. The federal ROTA-R program comprises 10 Regional Centers, with one in each of the 10 HHS regions. The CFC Center ROTA-R team is facilitating the identification of model programs, developing and updating materials on prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery for opioid use disorder (OUD), and ensuring high-quality training on OUD. The Stoops Center is expanding school-based initiatives through Rebound and Recovery, which has a three-pronged approach: building teachers’ classroom skills, providing support for caregivers at home, and strengthening children’s resilience by using cognitive-behavioral skills to regulate their thoughts, emotions, and actions.

Florida Institute for Child Welfare

In 2014, the Florida legislature established the Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW) under the legislative mandate of Section 1004.615, Florida Statutes. It established a mission to promote safety, permanency planning, and well-being among children and families in Florida involved with the child welfare system through partnerships, research and evaluation, technical assistance and training, and policy analysis. In 2021, the Institute received \$10 million in recurring state budget funding to execute its mission and fulfill additional legislative mandates. The Institute’s GROW (Greater Resilience of the Workforce) Center houses workforce and professional development-related programs that create a supportive community for child welfare professionals. The Institute continues to receive additional child welfare-relevant mandates over time, adding to its portfolio of work.

Institute for Trauma and Resilience Studies

The Institute was established in the mid-1990s with a gift from Howell Ferguson and Sharon Maxwell-Ferguson. The Institute for Trauma & Resilience Studies (ITRS) within Florida State University’s College of Social Work develops comprehensive, research-based, large-scale training programs and conducts interdisciplinary research. ITRS advocates for supportive legislative policy solutions and systems that promote resilient, healthy families and reduce all forms of family and intimate partner violence.

Justice and Health Innovation Research Institute:

The Justice and Health Innovation Research Institute (JHI) uses science to improve the well-being of individuals, families, and communities affected by histories of substance use, mental health, and involvement in the justice system. The institute brings together complementary lines of research under a shared commitment to advancing knowledge and developing practical, evidence-based interventions to address these complex, intersecting challenges. JHI reflects a holistic vision for advancing health and justice in tandem. By combining expertise in behavioral health with a deep understanding of justice-involved populations, the institute aims to create pathways of recovery and resilience that honor lived experience, disrupt cycles of justice involvement, and foster thriving communities. It serves as a hub for interdisciplinary scholarship, community engagement, and the development of policy-relevant interventions, while also expanding opportunities for student training, workforce development, and federal and foundation funding. JHI aligns seamlessly with FSU Health's mission to build a comprehensive, interdisciplinary health ecosystem that advances justice, innovation, and public impact.

Institute for Quality Children's Services (ICQS)

ICQS promotes the well-being of children in out-of-home care and their families by making scientifically supported quality practices accessible and actionable to child-serving organizations. The ICQS team works across child service systems to conduct cutting-edge research. It applies an empirically based quality framework to offer consultation, evaluation, training, and technical assistance to elevate service quality and outcomes.

FSU Multidisciplinary Center (MDC)

The FSU FDLRS (Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System) MDC was initially established in 1983 through a grant from the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Educational and Student Services (BEESS). It is part of a network of six state funded, regional FDLRS Multidisciplinary Educational Services Centers in Florida that provide a range of services including diagnostic evaluation and consultation services for children and youth identified as having complex medical, educational, emotional, and/or behavioral problems, as well as consultation, pre-service and in-service training for parents, teachers, other school and district personnel, and related providers and professionals. The Florida Legislature recently recognized the FDLRS MDC's work with an enhanced appropriation (\$450,000 increased to \$1,450,000) for its mission. In addition to the FDLRS grant, the MDC also maintains a small auxiliary budget that is generated through contracts with school districts, a local HMO, and clients who want to access services privately. The MDC offers an APA-accredited psychology Internship as well as other training placements for students enrolled in social work, clinical/school psychology, and marriage and family therapy programs at FSU.

Maura's Voice Research Fund

The Maura's Voice Research Fund was established by Maura's parents, Jeff and Margaret Binkley, in memory of Maura Binkley, a young woman who dedicated her life to serving others. Maura was a senior at FSU who planned to continue the course of her generous life by participating in the Fulbright Scholarship program or Teach For America after graduation. Maura's Voice Research Fund (Maura's Voice) serves to realize the vision of deepening the scientific understanding of and effective responses to the epidemic of gun violence and violent misogyny in America. Maura's Voice champions a unique and robust focus on researching and responding to the complex causes and effects of firearm violence. The Fund develops knowledge and tests innovative approaches to forensic evaluation, management, treatment, and prevention, as well as sound policy development and implementation.

Tallahassee

Tallahassee is a distinctive capital city defined by education, public institutions, and a high quality of life. As Florida's seat of government and home to Florida State University, Florida A&M University, and Tallahassee State College, the city brings together higher education, healthcare, and statewide organizations in a collaborative and accessible environment. Its role as the capital provides proximity to state agencies, academic institutions, and cross-sector partners, creating opportunities for meaningful partnership and applied impact while maintaining the collegial atmosphere of a university-centered community.



Cultural life in Tallahassee reflects both heritage and momentum. The Florida Historic Capitol Museum and the modern State Capitol complex stand as architectural markers of the city's evolution, while destinations such as the Challenger Learning Center, Railroad Square Art District, and a growing array of galleries and performance venues contribute to a vibrant creative scene. Midtown and downtown districts continue to expand with locally owned restaurants, cafés, and gathering spaces that foster connection and community.

Unlike many Florida cities, Tallahassee is distinguished by its natural landscape. Rolling hills, live oaks draped in Spanish moss, and scenic canopy roads lend the city a character more reminiscent of the Southeast's historic college towns than coastal resort communities. Residents enjoy extensive parks and trails, including Cascades Park, Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park, and the St. Marks Trail, along with convenient access to freshwater springs and the Gulf Coast. Tallahassee International Airport provides regional connectivity while preserving the ease and livability of a mid-sized city.

With a population of approximately 200,000 and a metropolitan region approaching 400,000, Tallahassee offers the resources of a capital city within a setting that remains navigable, affordable, and community-oriented. The partnership between Florida State University and the broader Tallahassee region supports innovation in research, healthcare, the arts, and economic development. Leaders who choose Tallahassee will find a community that values academic excellence, thoughtful growth, and collaborative progress in an environment that balances professional opportunity with personal quality of life.

To learn more about Tallahassee, Florida, click [here](#).

Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV/resume and a letter of interest. Please do not add photos or reference contacts to your application materials. Review of applications has begun and will continue until the position is filled. For fullest consideration, all materials should be received by **March 27, 2026**.

Please submit all applications, nominations, and inquiries to the WittKieffer consultants, Alejandra Gillette-Teran and Bree Liddell, through the WittKieffer Candidate Portal by [clicking here](#). New users should select "Register Here" to create an account before proceeding. After logging in, navigate to "Open Positions," then locate the role by entering the institution's name and clicking the search wheel.

Applications, nominations, and inquiries can also be directed to the WittKieffer consultants assisting Florida State University with this recruitment via e-mail to FSUSocialWorkDean@wittkieffer.com.

This position requires successful completion of a [criminal history background check](#).

This position requires annual Financial Disclosure based on Florida Statutes 112.3144 and 112.3145.

FSU is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Florida's "Sunshine Law" requires that all search committee business be open to public review.