



Director, Center for Global Engagement

Leadership Profile

Summer 2026



WittKieffer

Executive Summary

Florida State University (FSU) seeks a strategic and experienced leader to serve as the next Director of the Center for Global Engagement (CGE).

FSU is a premier public research institution (R1) located in Tallahassee, Florida's capital city. A top 25 public university nationally recognized for its student experience, FSU enrolls more than 46,000 students across a comprehensive portfolio of academic programs. With a long-standing commitment to international education and global engagement, FSU continues to expand opportunities for students, faculty, and scholars to learn, collaborate, and connect across cultures and borders.

The Center for Global Engagement plays a central role in advancing the University's global priorities by supporting international students and scholars, fostering intercultural exchange, and contributing to campus-wide internationalization efforts. Serving more than 2,400 international students and over 250 scholars and faculty, the Center provides immigration advising and compliance, global exchange programming, a unique global certificate program, and a broad range of educational and cultural initiatives that enrich the campus community. Signature programs and events promote cross-cultural dialogue, community building, and global awareness, positioning CGE as a visible and impactful hub of student engagement and support.

Reporting to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, the Director provides strategic leadership and operational oversight for all aspects of the Center, including International Student and Scholar Services, Global Exchanges, the Global Citizenship Certificate, and intercultural programs. The Director collaborates with senior leadership, including Academic Affairs and the Office of the Provost, to advance institutional priorities related to international partnerships, student engagement, and global learning. This role also serves as a key resource on immigration and international education practices and represents the University in campus-wide initiatives and external partnerships.

The Director of the Center for Global Engagement presents an exceptional opportunity for a collaborative and forward-thinking leader to strengthen FSU's global engagement efforts and enhance the campus experience for international and domestic students alike. The successful candidate will bring a commitment to international education, intercultural understanding, and organizational excellence, while maintaining and continuing to build strong partnerships across the University to advance a shared vision for global engagement.

Qualifications: A master's degree with at least six years of relevant experience (or a bachelor's degree with eight years of experience) is required. A doctorate degree is preferred. The successful candidate will demonstrate leadership experience in international education, student services, or a related field, along with expertise in immigration compliance, global programming, and organizational management.

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

Role of the Director, Center for Global Engagement

Reporting to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, the Director of the Center for Global Engagement (CGE) provides strategic leadership, vision, and operational oversight for one of Florida State University's most visible resources for international student and scholar engagement and support, as well as promoting global awareness across the University community through CGE's various offerings. The Director is responsible for contributing to the University's commitment to global engagement by leading a comprehensive portfolio that includes immigration services and compliance, bilateral global exchange partnerships, the Global Citizenship Certificate, and a wide range of intercultural and educational programs that serve the entire campus community. The Director ensures that CGE's programs and services align with institutional priorities and contribute meaningfully to student success, belonging, and global competence.

The Director oversees multiple functional areas within CGE, including International Student and Scholar Services, Global Exchanges, intercultural programming, communications, and administrative operations. This position plays a critical role in strengthening internationalization by collaborating with academic leadership, including the Office of the Provost, and contributing to University-wide strategies related to global partnerships, international enrollment, and student engagement. The Director serves as a key institutional resource on immigration, international student support, and global engagement practices, while representing the Center for Global Engagement on campus committees and in external partnerships.

The current organization chart for the Center for Global Engagement is at the end of this leadership profile.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership and Program Oversight

- Provide vision, direction, and leadership for all CGE functional areas, ensuring programs effectively support international students and scholars and advance intercultural engagement across the University
- Contribute to [FSU's Strategic Plan](#) to increase international exchanges and enrollment in the Global Citizenship Certificate, and support the [Division of Student Affairs' strategic plan goals](#)
- Use data-driven decision-making to assess program effectiveness, allocate resources, and support continuous improvement
- Elevate the visibility and impact of CGE through strategic communications, outreach, and campus partnerships

Global Partnerships and Institutional Collaboration

- Sustain and strategically expand international partnerships with universities and organizations worldwide to expand exchange opportunities and strengthen FSU's global network
- Maintain deep, ongoing collaboration with Academic Affairs, including the Assistant Provost for International Initiatives, given the academic nature of global exchanges, the Global Citizenship Certificate, and visiting scholar activity
- Provide oversight of large-scale auxiliary programs for non-degree students from international partners who attend an intensive 10-day program at FSU followed by a 6-month internship in the state of Florida.
- Serve on key University committees and working groups—including [Vision 2030](#), International Graduate Recruitment Committee, [International Advisory Committee](#), and Foreign Countries of Concern—contributing to strategic initiatives and policy development related to international education

Operational, Financial, and Administrative Leadership

- Oversee the Center's operating and auxiliary budgets, including multiple funding streams and foundation accounts
- Ensure compliance with current federal immigration regulations, University policies, and contractual obligations
- Monitor developments in the external environment and provide guidance to University leadership regarding federal immigration policy, state regulations, and institutional responses
- Lead staff planning, development, and supervision across a multi-functional team, fostering a high-performing and service-oriented organizational culture
- Ensure spaces in the Globe Building are available to student groups and departments. Including appropriate funding and staffing

Campus Engagement and Representation

- Serve as a central campus resource on international student and scholar issues, immigration compliance, and intercultural engagement
- Represent CGE and the Division of Student Affairs in institutional initiatives, events, and external partnerships
- Support campus-wide programming, and other signature initiatives that promote global awareness, including chairing FSU's International Education Month planning committee

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

Florida State University seeks a collaborative and strategic leader with deep expertise in international education, student services, and global engagement. The ideal candidate will bring a strong record of leadership, operational management, and cross-cultural competence, along with the ability to build partnerships and advance institutional priorities in a complex university environment.

Professional Qualifications

Education and Experience

- Master's degree and a minimum of six years of progressively responsible experience in international education, student affairs, or a related field; or a bachelor's degree with eight years of relevant experience. A doctorate degree is preferred.
- Demonstrated leadership experience overseeing complex programs, budgets, and professional staff, preferably within a higher education environment

International Education and Regulatory Expertise

- Strong knowledge of international student and scholar services, including U.S. immigration regulations, SEVIS, and compliance requirements
- Experience managing or supporting global exchange programs, international partnerships, and intercultural initiatives
- Understanding of academic program planning, development, and evaluation
- Insight about the broader international education landscape, including student mobility, global engagement strategies, and best practices for supporting students, scholars, and exchange programs

Collaboration and Institutional Engagement

- Experience working effectively with senior administrators, faculty, and campus partners in a shared governance environment
- Ability to represent the University in internal and external settings, including partnerships with global institutions and organizations
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to translate complex policies and processes for diverse audiences

Strategic and Operational Leadership

- Proven ability to lead strategic planning, program development, organizational change, and assessment
- Excellent team leadership and organizational management skills, including an ability to cultivate a shared team vision, motivate staff, and provide effective professional development and feedback
- Demonstrated experience managing budgets, contracts, and multiple funding sources, with a commitment to responsible stewardship
- Strong analytical and assessment skills, including the ability to use data to inform decision-making and measure outcomes

Personal Qualities

- Collaborative and Relationship-Oriented Leader: Builds trust and fosters strong partnerships across divisions, academic units, and external stakeholders. Demonstrates a commitment to shared goals and inclusive decision-making.
- Strategic and Forward-Thinking: Understands the evolving landscape of international education and positions CGE to respond proactively to emerging opportunities and challenges.
- Student-Centered and Mission-Driven: Maintains a clear focus on supporting the success, well-being, and engagement of international students and the broader campus community.
- Effective Communicator and Advocate: Communicates with clarity, transparency, and purpose, and effectively represents CGE and international initiatives to a wide range of audiences.
- Operationally Strong and Results-Oriented: Brings strong organizational and financial management skills, with the ability to execute complex initiatives and deliver measurable results.
- Team Builder and People Developer: Creates a positive, high-performing work environment that supports staff development, accountability, and engagement.

About Florida State University



Overview

Florida State University (FSU) is 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 over 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 and World Report ranks Florida State University as #21 among all public universities 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, specialist, and professional 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 and 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 an arts education comparable to 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 some of 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, placing in the top 10 of public universities for best first-year experience, best student life, and Living-Learning Communities (LLCs) programs, as well as top 25 for best public universities for veterans.

Mission

Florida State University preserves, expands, and disseminates knowledge in the sciences, technology, arts, humanities, and professions, while embracing a philosophy of learning strongly rooted in the traditions of the liberal arts. The University is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, creative endeavors, and service. The University strives to instill the strength, skill, and character essential for lifelong learning, personal responsibility, and sustained achievement within a community that fosters free inquiry and diverse viewpoints.

Vision

Florida State University will be among the nation's most entrepreneurial and innovative universities, transforming the lives of our students and shaping the future of our state and society through exceptional teaching, research, creative activity, and service. We will amplify these efforts through our distinctive climate—one that places a premium on interdisciplinary inquiry and draws from the rich intellectual and personal experiences of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. These three forces—entrepreneurship, interdisciplinarity, and experiential breadth—deepen FSU's impact and result in a powerful return to our students and the people of Florida for their continued support and trust.

Core Values

Transformative Daring

We support thoughtful risk-taking that leads to successes that improve our world dramatically. And when we face challenges, we confront them with resilience, curiosity, and renewed desire to overcome hurdles to our goals.

Inspired Excellence

We achieve the highest levels of success by drawing strength and understanding from the talents of those around us and from our interactions with them.

Dynamic Environment

We believe the benefits of a richly varied community arise not only from the plurality it includes, but more importantly from intentional efforts to create a strong sense of belonging that encourages deep and high-quality connections.

Responsible Stewardship

We transform the resources we are given and the public's trust in us into a powerful impact that betters the lives of those around us, near and far.

Engaged Community

We uphold the traditions and history that create a small-college culture within a large university. This makes FSU a welcoming place where people discover others like themselves—while also connecting to and learning from classmates and colleagues of vastly different backgrounds and experiences.



Campuses and Facilities

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. 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-designed 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 at 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.

Research and Scholarship

FSU has received the Carnegie Foundation's highest designation (Doctoral Universities: Very High Research Activity, R1) 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.

Intercollegiate Athletics

[Florida State University's athletics program](#) is one of the most prominent and successful in the United States. It operates within NCAA Division I and is a long-standing member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Seminole athletics is recognized as one of the nation's top all-around programs, having finished 13 of the last 14 seasons ranked among the 20 best programs in the country, including 12 among the top 15. Within the last few

years, FSU has played for the national title in women's soccer, men's golf, softball, and beach volleyball, and the program has won 17 National Championships in its history.

Division of Student Affairs

The FSU Division of Student Affairs is a comprehensive student support enterprise that empowers and supports all students to achieve their full potential by advancing learning, development, and well-being beyond the classroom. The division delivers an integrated portfolio of programs and services designed to enhance the student experience, foster belonging, and promote academic success, leadership development, and lifelong engagement. Its work is guided by the University's mission, vision, and values, as well as the division's [2024-2029 strategic plan goals](#).

Core functional areas include health and wellness (University Health Services, Counseling & Psychological Services), student success and retention (Center for Academic Retention & Enhancement, Student Support & Transitions), career development (The Career Center), global engagement, leadership and service, campus recreation, housing, and student conduct, as well as student engagement, governance, and new student and family programs.

Organized across 16 departments, the division serves the entire FSU community—supporting students' academic progression, personal development, safety, and co-curricular involvement while partnering closely with faculty and campus units to create a holistic educational environment. The Division of Student Affairs employs approximately 1,000 full-time and part-time staff members.

The current organization chart for the Division of Student Affairs is at the end of this leadership profile.

Center for Global Engagement

The Center for Global Engagement (CGE) at Florida State University is a unit within the Division of Student Affairs that serves as the institution's hub for supporting international students and scholars and for fostering intercultural engagement across the University. The Center advances internationalization by providing immigration advising and compliance support, orientation, and ongoing services to more than 2,400 international students and approximately 250 visiting scholars and faculty, while also offering opportunities that promote global awareness and cross-cultural learning for the University. Its work is primarily focused on the student and campus experience—helping international students navigate U.S. regulations and campus life, while creating inclusive spaces that connect domestic and international populations.

The Center's core functional areas include International Student and Scholar Services (immigration advising and support), Global Exchanges with partner universities worldwide, the academic Global Citizenship Certificate, and a suite of intercultural programs and events open to the entire FSU community. Signature initiatives—such as International Coffee Hour, Global Café programs, leadership and speaker series, and the annual International Bazaar—create opportunities for cultural exchange, dialogue, and community-building among students, faculty, and staff.

In support of campus globalization and student mobility, the Center works collaboratively with students, faculty, and staff, including those affiliated with [International Programs](#), [FSU Global](#), and FSU's schools, colleges, and other offices.

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Leadership

Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs



Dr. Amy Hecht serves as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Florida State University. In this role, she serves as an officer of the institution and provides vision and leadership for the Division of Student Affairs.

Prior to joining FSU as the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Hecht has served in a number of leadership roles including Vice President for Student Affairs at The College of New Jersey, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, the Associate Dean of Students at Temple University in Philadelphia, Assistant Dean of Students at Temple University, and Assistant Director of Student Activities at Cabrini College in Radnor, PA.

Dr. Hecht earned her Bachelor's degree at Florida State University in Mass Communications and completed her Master's degree and Doctorate in Higher Education Administration at the University of Pennsylvania.

She has published a book on the role of assistant/associate vice presidents in student affairs and book chapters and articles focused on organizational learning, change, and executive transitions. Her research interests include organizational culture, organizational learning, and the effective use of business practices within the field of higher education.

Brandon Bowden, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs



Dr. Brandon Bowden serves as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Florida State University (FSU). Dr. Bowden directly supervises Strategic Planning and Assessment, Information Technology, DSA Marketing and Communications, the Center for Leadership and Service, the Center for Global Engagement, the Student Union, and co-supervises the Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE) along with the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

A three-time alumnus, Dr. Bowden earned his Bachelor's in Exercise Science from FSU in 2002, his Master's in Higher Education Administration from FSU in 2006 and his Doctorate of Education from FSU in 2014.

His past experiences include serving as an Assistant and Associate Director in the Oglesby Student Union, as Dean of Students and as a Title IX Director. Dr. Bowden also has experience in the areas of staff development, events planning and programming, crisis management, policy development and professional development.

Tallahassee, Florida

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. In addition, the Tallahassee International Airport provides regional connectivity while preserving the ease and livability of a mid-sized city.

With a population of roughly 200,000 and a metropolitan region of nearly 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 or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting Florida State University in this search. Applications will be received until the position is filled; however, we strongly encourage candidates to submit their materials as soon as possible for full consideration.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's [candidate portal](#).

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Robert Springall and Roxana Woudstra

rwoudstra@wittkieffer.com

This position requires successful completion of a [standard FSU 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.



Organizational Charts



