



**ROOSEVELT
UNIVERSITY**

Presidential
Leadership
Profile



CONTENTS

- Executive Summary 3
- Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership 4
- Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities 6
- Founded with Bravery and Integrity 7
- Advancing Our Mission 8
- Building a Legacy 9
- Roosevelt at a Glance 10
- Living Social Justice 11
- Commitment to Access 12
- Vision for the Future 13
- Structured for Student Success 14
- Foundations for Academic Excellence 15
- Engaged Faculty and Teaching 17
- Supporting Students and the Learning Environment 18
- Vibrant Campus Life 19
- Competing with Purpose 20
- Live, Learn and Thrive Here 21
- The Historic Auditorium Theatre 22
- Dedicated and Impactful Alumni 23
- Shared Governance and Leadership 24
- Strengthening Financial Sustainability 25
- Connecting to Chicagoland 26
- Compensation and Benefits/Procedure for Candidacy 27

Roosevelt University Presidential Search

Executive Summary

In the spirit of the ideals of its founders, the Board of Trustees of Roosevelt University invites nominations of, and applications from, exceptional leaders to serve as the University's seventh President.

Roosevelt University is a private, non-sectarian university founded in 1945 by faculty, students and staff dedicated to fundamental access to education, excellence in teaching and social justice issues. The University is a community of educators, scholars and learners committed to academic, creative and service excellence who value differences in personal experiences and perspectives; ask the difficult questions; and promote mutual understanding, inclusion, social consciousness and action toward social justice. Roosevelt serves a diverse student body of more than 4,500 students on campuses in downtown Chicago and in suburban Schaumburg, and it offers 128 undergraduate and graduate programs. More than 560 faculty and 358 academic, administrative and support staff provide a learning environment for students that is focused on helping them grow and achieve their educational and life goals. Over 50 student organizations, along with being the only NCAA Division II athletics program in Chicago (Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference), round out the Roosevelt student experience. More information about the University can be found at www.roosevelt.edu.

With four consecutive years of enrollment growth and strengthened financial stability, Roosevelt University has built meaningful momentum at a time when many colleges and universities across the country continue to face enrollment pressures and fiscal uncertainty. The University seeks a President to build on this progress and lead Roosevelt to continued growth, heightened visibility and long-term strength in a rapidly changing higher education landscape. The next President will build on the successful tenure of Roosevelt's retiring President, Ali Malekzadeh, who has served the University with distinction since 2015.

The next President of Roosevelt University will lead an institution that has a clear mission. Roosevelt University seeks a student-centered President who is committed to the University's social justice mission and who has the imagination and energy to build on the University's current trajectory, leading it boldly and creatively into the future. The President will work closely with the Board and the University community to provide leadership aligned with the University's mission and commitment to shared governance and student success; expand and optimize academic programs and student support services; grow and diversify the University's revenue streams; engage with the University community, the City of Chicago, the Village of Schaumburg, the State of Illinois and beyond; and advance the University brand.

It is essential that the next President demonstrate significant experience at the senior level of an educational institution or organization of substantial complexity along with proven values-driven leadership, fiscal acumen and managerial success. The ideal candidate will have experience working with populations similar to those that the University serves, be an effective fundraiser and public ambassador and demonstrate integrity, transparency, accountability, emotional intelligence and ethical judgment in words and actions. A terminal degree (including, but not limited to, a PhD, JD or EdD) is required.

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



Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Among the many duties of the next President, the following opportunities and expectations are of particular importance:

Provide visionary, strategic and sustainable leadership that centers on Roosevelt's social justice mission and shared governance principles.

Roosevelt University has a compelling history grounded in courage, acceptance and a commitment to social justice. Since its founding in 1945, the University has embodied democratic principles and has remained truly open to all. The University's view of justice is based on the belief that fairness, honesty, integrity, equity and critical agency should resonate throughout every institution.

While the University is rooted firmly in its historic founding, the University community is aware of the dynamics of the competitive, crowded higher education market in which the University operates, and that the challenge of managing and leading institutions like Roosevelt has grown more complex. The next President of Roosevelt must understand the changing landscape of higher education and lead the University amid an uncertain economic and political environment to ensure a sustainable future. The desire on campus for both inspiring leadership and a thoughtful, proactive, relational management style reflects the University's history, values and culture. The University's strategic plan, RU30: Roosevelt Students Succeed, provides a framework and vision for the University's future from which the next President can build. Shared governance is valued at Roosevelt, and the campus community will welcome the opportunity to engage with the next President in generating creative solutions to help the vision come to fruition.

Continue to develop and expand academic programs and support services across all colleges at the Chicago and Schaumburg campuses.

Roosevelt University has campuses both in downtown Chicago and in the northwest suburb of Schaumburg. The majority of Roosevelt's student body attends classes at the downtown campus, where students take advantage of close proximity to career connections and an expanding portfolio of academic programs in business, science, healthcare and the arts. At the same time, there is a significant opportunity for thoughtful enrollment and programmatic growth at the Schaumburg campus. Roosevelt University is the only four-year institution in a 30-mile radius of the Schaumburg campus. The Schaumburg campus is currently being renovated to support new academic programs in the health sciences, including Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. Schaumburg is home to several corporations that present opportunities for expanded business education.

The University is known for the support services it provides for students. These supports require appropriate investment in staffing and resources, especially as enrollment grows. The next President will develop a plan to continue growing enrollment and expanding programming across all campuses to provide students with an optimal mix of programs and services vital to fulfilling their aspirations along with the University's mission.

Support an environment that enables access, opportunity and student success for Roosevelt's diverse student body.

Roosevelt University seeks and serves a diverse, promising student body from metropolitan Chicago and around the world and prepares them to become socially conscious persons who are leaders in their professions and their communities. The University is nationally recognized as a catalyst for students from all walks of life to receive transformational learning experiences through strong student-faculty interaction and engagement with metropolitan Chicago, both as a laboratory for learning and as an expression of its commitment to social justice. As a Hispanic-Serving Institution and one of the most diverse university communities in Chicago, Roosevelt University seeks a President who will embrace its commitment to serving and investing in its diverse student population. The University seeks to continue providing strong outcomes for its students. Doing so will require a President who brings a vision for student success and understands the University's student population, which is composed of 55% first-generation college students and 55% Pell Grant-eligible students. The President will be expected to continually underscore investment in top-quality teaching, student services (including financial aid) and high-impact practices, which are critical to advancing access, opportunity and student success.

Grow and diversify revenue streams.

Roosevelt's recent enrollment growth has strengthened the financial picture of the University. With finances currently stabilized, the next President must work towards ensuring the financial health of the University in the future. The next President will bring a sophisticated and entrepreneurial approach to strengthening the University's financial foundation, with a clear expectation to grow and diversify revenue streams beyond tuition. As chief philanthropic ambassador, the President must inspire confidence among donors, cultivate transformational gifts and lead ambitious fundraising initiatives in close partnership with the Board and advancement team. Equally important, this leader will advance revenue growth through strategically aligned academic programs, including expanding market-responsive, workforce-oriented offerings—particularly on the Schaumburg campus—such as health sciences, business and other interdisciplinary programs that leverage regional demand and partnerships. Doing so will require clear-eyed leadership that is attentive to the financial realities of a tuition-dependent institution carrying significant debt while balancing fiscal discipline with strategic investment to strengthen long-term sustainability and advance the University's mission.



Build community with all University constituents to improve engagement and morale.

The next President must be a highly visible, relational leader who builds authentic community across all University constituencies—students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni and external partners—fostering trust, engagement and shared purpose. They are expected to listen actively, communicate transparently and lead with empathy to strengthen collaboration, improve morale and reinforce confidence in the University's direction and leadership. Keeping in mind that presence matters, the President must be meaningfully engaged on both the Chicago and Schaumburg campuses, serve as the defining public face of Roosevelt University and embrace the Chicagoland region as their community. By cultivating strong internal relationships and sustaining a visible, values-driven presence across the campuses, city and region, the President will promote Roosevelt's identity and mission; renew a sense of pride and belonging; and position the University as an essential contributor to Chicago's civic, cultural, educational and social fabric.



Advance the brand of the University both locally and nationally.

The next President will be charged with advancing and clarifying the Roosevelt University brand—locally, nationally and across key constituencies—strengthening the University's visibility, distinctiveness and reputation. This leader must serve as a compelling storyteller and ambassador who can clearly articulate Roosevelt's mission, impact and value proposition, elevating the University's profile through sustained engagement with civic, cultural, corporate, philanthropic and higher education partners. Success will be reflected in increased visibility and greater notariety, as well as in the strengthening, broadening and deepening of strategic relationships and partnerships that expand Roosevelt's influence and opportunity. A stronger, more clearly defined brand will also play a critical role in catalyzing enrollment growth beyond the University's traditional local and regional reach, helping Roosevelt attract students from new geographies and populations aligned with its mission. By cultivating a robust external presence and meaningful collaborations, the President will position Roosevelt University as a recognized, respected and essential institution within Chicago and on the national stage.



Founded with Bravery and Integrity

Est. 1945

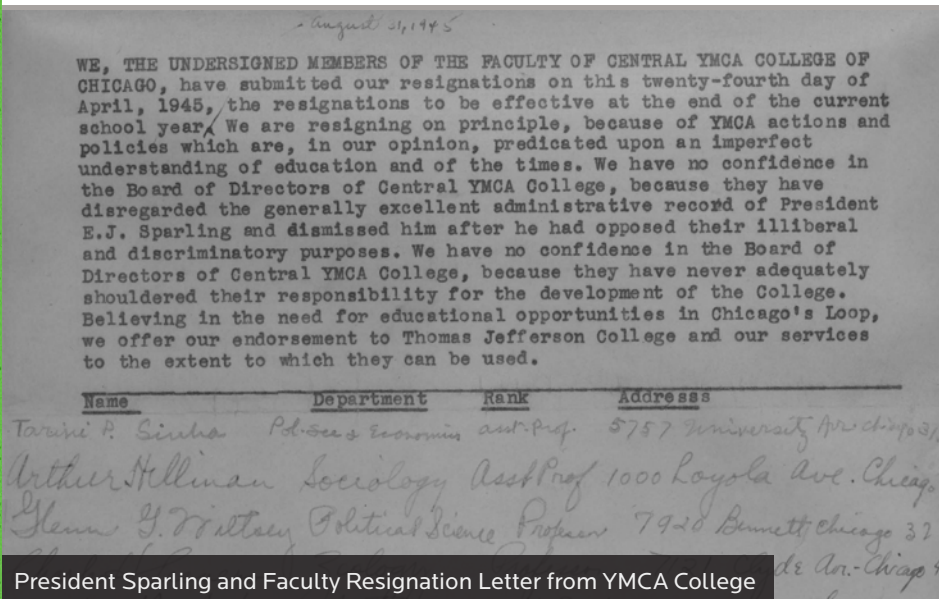
In 1945, visionary leader Edward J. Sparling and 62 faculty members made a defining choice. At a time when many colleges enforced exclusionary quotas based on race, religion and gender, they were asked to do the same. Their response was simple and courageous: **“We don’t count that way!”**

That moment became the foundation of Roosevelt University.

Originally chartered as Thomas Jefferson College and soon renamed with the permission of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to honor President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s legacy of opportunity and public service, the University opened its doors without quotas and without exclusion. From the start, Roosevelt chose inclusion over exclusion—and that choice continues to define who we are.



President Edward Sparling and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt



President Sparling and Faculty Resignation Letter from YMCA College

Rooted in courage, acceptance and grit, Roosevelt’s history is not simply something we remember—it is something we live.

Early advisory board members included:

- Marian Anderson
- Pearl Buck
- Ralph Bunche
- Draper Daniels
- Albert Einstein
- Thomas Mann
- Gunnar Myrdal
- Albert Schweitzer.



Advancing Our Mission

Reflecting the ideals of its founders in 1945, Roosevelt University is a private, nonsectarian community of educators, scholars and learners committed to academic, creative and service excellence. This community values differences in personal experiences and perspectives; asks the difficult questions; and promotes mutual understanding, inclusion, social consciousness and action toward social justice. Recognizing that difference broadens perspectives, Roosevelt University seeks and serves a diverse, promising student body from metropolitan Chicago and around the world.

The hallmarks of the Roosevelt University experience are strong student-faculty interaction and engagement with metropolitan Chicago as both a laboratory for learning and as an expression of its commitment to social justice. The experience is created through the efforts of a strong faculty dedicated to excellence in teaching, research and creative activity and a staff equally focused on helping students grow and achieve their educational and life goals.

Roosevelt is a metropolitan university that is an active partner in the social, economic and cultural development of the communities it serves. It offers a broad array of academic programs, from associate degrees to doctoral degrees, in a highly interactive environment where students can explore, discover and develop their unique abilities and interests.

Building a Legacy



1945

President Sparling and 62 faculty members resign, and Thomas Jefferson College is formed. The new school is renamed to honor President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Classes begin with over 1,300 students, including hundreds of veterans.



1946

Roosevelt College purchases the Auditorium Building to provide more classroom, lab and office space for the growing academic community.



1951

Graduate division established.



1959

Roosevelt University is rededicated to honor First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt as well as President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



1996

The Albert A. Robin Campus moves to Schaumburg and transforms a former office building into the largest comprehensive university in the northwest suburbs.



1978

After years of extension classes for military, adult and continuing students, Roosevelt creates its first satellite campus at North School in Arlington Heights.



1970

The 17-story Herman Crown Center opens adjacent to the Auditorium Building with housing for 350 students.



1967

After a quarter-century of decline, the Auditorium Theatre reopens with a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by the New York City Ballet.



2010

The athletic program is revived after 22 years of dormancy and joins the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference.



2012

The 32-story Wabash Building opens. The “vertical campus” features classrooms, labs, offices, dining and fitness centers along with 16 floors of student housing. Across the street the Lillian and Larry Goodman Center Fieldhouse opens.



2020

Roosevelt University integrates Robert Morris University Illinois academically and fiscally.



2025

Roosevelt welcomes the largest first-year class in University history.



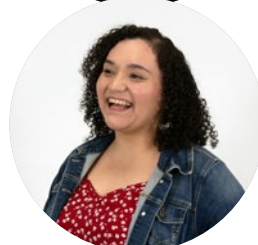
2026

Roosevelt Lakers Athletics program officially becomes an NCAA Division II program and joins the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC).

Roosevelt at a Glance

UNIVERSITY FACTS

- ▶ Named for both President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt
- ▶ Campuses in downtown Chicago and northwest suburban Schaumburg
- ▶ 128 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs
- ▶ 24 certificate and professional diploma programs
- ▶ 850+ degrees awarded annually
- ▶ Fall / Spring / Summer academic calendar
- ▶ Longtime home in the Auditorium Building, which was built in 1889 and was the world's first multi-use skyscraper.
- ▶ The Wabash Building is the second-tallest educational building in the country, combining student residences, classrooms, labs, dining and fitness into a single building.
- ▶ University Athletics teams are nicknamed the Lakers and our mascot is called Fala, who is named after FDR's Scottish terrier.
- ▶ The student newspaper is *The Torch*.



Identified as a
TOP PERFORMER
in Social Mobility
(U.S. News and World Report)

#1
College
Location
in Illinois
(Niche.com)

#2
Most Diverse
College
in Illinois
(Niche.com)

#12
Best Colleges
for Women in
Biology
(Washington Monthly, 2025)

#20
Best Colleges
for Women in
Computer Science
(Washington Monthly, 2025)

STUDENT FACTS

Roosevelt students are ambitious, reflective and socially conscious. They come from every background and are united by a shared drive to transform their lives—and their communities.

Fall 2025

- Total Enrollment: **4,600**
- Undergraduate Enrollment: **3,272**
- Graduate Enrollment: **1,328**
- **80%** from the Chicago area
- Students coming from outside the Chicago area represent **46** states and **69** foreign countries
- **55%** first-generation college students
- **57%** minority students
 - American Indian/Alaska Native: **.2%**
 - Asian American: **4.7%**
 - Black or African American: **20.2%**
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: **.2%**
 - Hispanic or Latino: **31.6%**

Living Social Justice

At Roosevelt, social justice is woven into our foundation—and shapes everything we do. Through curriculum, research, dialogue and engagement, students learn to think critically, act compassionately and use knowledge as a force for good.

Roosevelt University's culture is grounded in a long-standing commitment to access and social justice, shaped by its service to the diverse communities of Chicago and beyond.

Since its founding, the University has advanced a vision of justice rooted in fairness, integrity, equity and critical agency—values that inform its teaching, research, community partnerships and public engagement. By extending learning beyond the classroom and linking education to action, Roosevelt prepares graduates to lead as socially conscious, ethical citizens equipped to strengthen a democratic society.



The University's unwavering dedication to social justice has become a fundamental part of my own identity and drives me to seek out ways to be of service, no matter my chosen field. Roosevelt has lit a fire within me that continues to burn brightly.

Melissa M. Prusko | PsyD, '08

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION AT ROOSEVELT:

The American Dream Reconsidered Conference

Roosevelt's signature annual event brings scholars, students, activists and local and national leaders to explore the American Dream.

The Center for New Deal Studies

The center engages the wider community through partnerships to examine, foster and preserve the values of and legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Experiential Curriculum

Students are required to complete at least two experiential learning courses, many of which focus on social justice.

"Ideas of Social Justice" Course

Required for all undergraduate students, this signature course focuses on a specific social justice idea, theme or question.

The Legal Clinic

The clinic provides community-facing legal support and advocacy grounded in service and access.

The Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation

The institute offers scholarships and events focused on equity, justice and meaningful social change.

The St. Clair Drake Center for African and African American Studies

Named for the groundbreaking Roosevelt sociologist and professor, this is a hub for research, dialogue and learning rooted in community and equity.

The VITA Tax Preparation Clinic

This free, IRS-supported tax preparation clinic assistance for eligible community members.

Commitment to Access

Roosevelt was built to expand access and create opportunity, and that commitment remains central today. Roosevelt creates an environment where difference is not only welcomed—but celebrated—and where **students of all backgrounds are supported in reaching their full potential**. Roosevelt is proud to support these access-focused efforts and designations:

Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI)

Federal designation recognizing service to Latino/a/e students and communities

HSI STEM Grantee

Grant-funded efforts to strengthen STEM pathways, success and completion for HSIs

McNair Scholars Program Grantee

Research, mentoring and graduate school preparation for aspiring doctoral students

PRIME Grantee (Producing Research and Innovation through a Mentoring Ecosystem)

Educational and research opportunities supporting students in STEM pathways towards doctorate degrees

Robert L. Johnson Leadership Academy

Leadership development and mentoring that prepares underrepresented students to lead with purpose

The Roosevelt Equity Teaching Academy

Faculty development that advances inclusive, equitable student-centered teaching practices

The Roosevelt Pledge

Guarantees free tuition for Illinois families with household incomes under \$50,000

SSS Grantee (TRIO Student Support Services)

Comprehensive academic, advising and personal supports to promote retention and graduation

SSS STEM Grantee (TRIO Student Support Services—STEM)

Wraparound advising and academic supports to help STEM students stay on track and graduate

Veterans Upward Bound

College readiness support for veterans—course refreshers, advising and transition resources

65%

of Roosevelt students receive institutional aid

Students received
\$4.6 MILLION
in donor-funded and endowed scholarships in 2025

55%

of undergraduate students received Pell Grants

262 OF OUR 845
first-year students received Roosevelt Pledge support in Fall of 2025



Vision for the Future

At Roosevelt University, we are dedicated to helping students succeed in a global world. We believe that every student's background—whether it is language, culture, life experience, disability, socioeconomic status, immigration status, sexuality or more—adds unique value to our community. Instead of seeing differences as barriers, we embrace them as strengths. Roosevelt University prepares students to become socially conscious citizens who are leaders in their professions and their communities. Roosevelt University is nationally recognized as a catalyst for students from all walks of life to receive transformational learning experiences.

RU30 STRATEGIC PLAN : ROOSEVELT STUDENTS SUCCEED

In 2025, hundreds of members of the RU community came together to envision our University's future. The result is RU30, a bold strategic plan that builds on Roosevelt's unique history and potential.

RU30 prioritizes student success and academic discovery, fosters a vibrant community of learners and positions Roosevelt as a leader in building a diverse workforce both locally and nationally. This maintains our mission of access and inclusion while embracing innovation and the evolving needs of today's students. Through RU30, Roosevelt will expand its reach – strengthening its reputation as a top-tier educational institution, growing its enrollment and deepening ties to the communities we serve. The foundational pillars of the plan include:

SUCCEED Cultivating an engaged learning environment that prioritizes access and student success.

THRIVE Fostering and sustaining a culture of institutional effectiveness.

DISCOVER Strengthening, growing and promoting Roosevelt's academic programs.

LEAD Optimizing the University's future so it remains a workforce-development leader in the Chicago area.

RU30 will guide the University from 2025 to 2030. Already in Year 2, the Roosevelt community continues to make tremendous progress on our institutional strategies and tactics, with just a few of the many ongoing efforts highlighted below:

Tactics Completed:

- Launched a Career Task Force
- Built 8 new academic programs across 3 colleges
- Hired student success coaches
- Expanded research and creative symposium for students at both campuses
- Developed a 3-year strategic plan for the Schaumburg campus
- Hired a business development position for corporate recruitment
- Launched University-wide process improvement initiative leveraging AI

Tactics In Progress:

- Moving to centralized advising
- Building a mental health infrastructure for students
- Creating experiential career maps
- Launching data-informed student success initiatives
- Expanding experiential learning
- Partnering with Association of College and University Educators for pedagogical development
- Starting a Roosevelt principal investigators academy
- Investing in digital media and brand marketing

Structured for Student Success

Student success at Roosevelt University is intentionally holistic and deeply embedded in the institution's mission. The University meets students where they are—academically, personally and professionally—and provides coordinated, high-touch support throughout the student journey. **This approach reflects Roosevelt's longstanding commitment to access, belonging and upward mobility.**

Roosevelt has built an integrated student success ecosystem that combines proactive outreach, personalized advising and comprehensive wraparound services. Students benefit from:

- In-person and virtual academic advising supported by coordinated care models
- Dedicated Student Success Coaches who provide ongoing guidance and accountability
- Early alert and progress reporting systems that trigger timely interventions
- Financial support programs, including the Laker Grant for students with demonstrated need
- Basic needs resources, including a Food and Hygiene Pantry
- Loaner laptop program to ensure technology access
- Career development access for every student through Handshake
- Counseling services and 24/7 mental health resources
- Career Closet resources to support professional readiness

These services are complemented by institution-wide strategies such as early academic interventions, structured onboarding and career-integrated learning experiences, which ensure that support is both proactive and sustained across the student lifecycle.

Roosevelt continues to advance measurable outcomes in retention, persistence and completion, particularly for students who have historically been underserved in higher education.



Student success at Roosevelt is not a single program or office; it's a coordinated commitment to meeting students where they are and ensuring they have the support, guidance and opportunity to persist and graduate. Our work is about removing barriers, building belonging and walking alongside students every step of the way.

Katrina Coakley | Vice Provost for Student Success & Chief Retention Officer



Foundations for Academic Excellence

Roosevelt offers 128 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs across four colleges that are career-focused, grounded in critical thinking, curiosity and real-world application. The University's curriculum ensures that students develop adaptable skills, practice disciplinary and creative inquiry and benefit from experiential learning and cocurricular opportunities. Academic advising, faculty-driven assessment and student initiatives support informed decision-making and reinforce a commitment to equitable, inquiry-based learning.

Heller College of Business

The Heller College of Business (HCB) delivers career-driven education grounded in integrity, accountability and social responsibility. Its undergraduate, graduate and post-baccalaureate programs emphasize applied learning in a global business context—preparing students to lead organizations with both competence and conscience.

Heller College of Business offers a diverse array of programs designed to meet the evolving needs of today's business landscape. Through a combination of classroom instruction, experiential learning and industry partnerships, Heller programs emphasize practical business acumen and prepare graduates for leadership roles in both private and public sectors. The college offers scholarships and events focused on equity, justice and meaningful social change.

Faculty in the Heller College are actively engaged researchers whose scholarly work informs their classroom pedagogy, solves real-world problems and creates new knowledge in the teaching of business. They are published authors in national and international scholarly journals and present at academic and professional conferences. Areas of expertise include forensic accounting and fraud examination, finance and asset pricing, real estate development, consumer identity, change management, ethical management and leadership, statistical modeling, supply chain management and more. HCB faculty members' research and industry consulting experiences bring real-world examples into the classroom as they deliver course materials, analyze case studies and guide student research projects and internships.

College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

The College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences (CHESS) represents the liberal arts foundation of Roosevelt's academic portfolio and offers courses central to the University's social justice mission. Students cultivate critical thinking, effective communication and adaptability—skills that are essential in a rapidly changing world. By encouraging intellectual curiosity and a broad understanding of diverse perspectives, CHESS prepares graduates to navigate complex challenges and contribute thoughtfully to their communities and workplaces.

Offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees—including the Doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership (EdD) and the APA-accredited Doctorate in Psychology (PsyD)—the College prepares educators, counselors, scholars and civic leaders to think deeply, act ethically and lead with empathy. CHESS programs integrate theory with lived experience, advancing social responsibility, inclusive practice and meaningful impact in schools, communities and public life.



The College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences includes leading scholars in the fields of state and federal politics, criminology, language and literacy including bilingual studies, multicultural psychology and sociology, tax policy as it impacts education and the namesakes of our institution; Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and the New Deal.

Chicago College of Performing Arts

The Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) is a nationally recognized, distinguished college within the University that offers conservatory training. Founded as the Chicago Musical College in 1867, CCPA will celebrate 160 years of continuous operation in 2027. The college is embedded in one of the world's great cultural capitals, Chicago, and shaped by direct access to the city's vibrant arts community and institutions. Comprised of the Music Conservatory, Theatre Conservatory and Interdisciplinary Conservatory, CCPA offers rigorous, performance-driven education committed to social justice.

Music Conservatory students study with faculty that include members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Lyric Opera and the Grant Park Orchestra as well as internationally recognized performing artists and pedagogues. Interdisciplinary Conservatory faculty include Grammy Award-winning jazz artists and faculty who are active within the lively Chicago jazz scene. Theatre Conservatory students gain a wide range of onstage performance experience (plays, musicals, student-directed and student-written works and interdisciplinary collaborations) led by faculty with deep professional acting and dance credentials who have active connections to Chicago's robust theatre scene. CCPA alumni perform on leading stages and with professional performing arts organizations worldwide—as musicians, vocalists, actors, directors and performing arts leaders—shaping the cultural life of their communities.

Institutes and Centers Housed at Roosevelt University:

- The Center for Arts Innovation and Leadership
- The Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation
- The Marshall Bennett Institute of Real Estate
- The Center for New Deal Studies
- The St. Clair Drake Center for African and African American Studies

College of Science, Health and Pharmacy

The College of Science, Health and Pharmacy (CSHP) advances knowledge where discovery meets care. Offering undergraduate and graduate programs in the life sciences, health sciences, healthcare administration, mathematics and computer science—alongside post-baccalaureate certificates—the College prepares students for high-impact careers in research, clinical practice and industry.

Roosevelt's PharmD, the first accelerated three-year accredited pharmacy program in the Midwest, exemplifies the College's innovative approach. National recognition underscores its impact; Roosevelt's biology and computer science programs rank among the top programs nationally for earnings outcomes for women, reflecting the College's strength in preparing diverse talent for STEM leadership.

In the College of Science, Health and Pharmacy, faculty are accomplished scholars and mentors whose work spans biology, chemistry and other STEM fields, with records of publication, national and international recognition, and externally funded research. Their achievements strengthen the college's academic reputation while creating meaningful opportunities for students to learn directly from active researchers.

Faculty also expand learning beyond the classroom through hands-on research experience, collaborative publications, conference and poster presentations, scholarships, and global experiences, including research and study opportunities abroad. Together, these experiences allow students to contribute to real-world discovery, engage with pressing scientific questions and graduate with a stronger foundation for professional success.



Engaged Faculty and Teaching

Teaching, mentorship and intellectual inquiry are central to the Roosevelt experience. Faculty are deeply engaged educators who challenge students to think critically, connect knowledge to real-world contexts and develop as scholars, professionals and citizens.

Roosevelt's academic programs are grounded in rigorous learning outcomes, consistent across all modalities and reinforced through a strong culture of faculty governance, assessment and continuous improvement. The University's curriculum—anchored by the **CORE (Connection, Opportunity, Responsibility, Experience)** general education framework—emphasizes critical inquiry, communication, experiential learning and career readiness.

Roosevelt's commitment to experiential and applied learning is evident across programs, with students engaging in internships, research, community-based learning and creative practice. These experiences prepare graduates to adapt to evolving professional environments and contribute meaningfully to society.

Key characteristics of the faculty and teaching environment include:

173

full-time faculty, with **87%** holding terminal degrees in their fields

394

adjunct faculty, who bring significant industry experience and professional expertise into the classroom

14:1

student-to-faculty ratio, supporting personalized learning

15.7

average class size, **20** (undergraduate), **10.6** (graduate) and **16.5** (doctoral)

Faculty scholarship and creative activity span disciplines and contribute to national and international conversations while also directly informing teaching and student engagement. Institutional investments in research, professional development and interdisciplinary collaboration ensure that faculty remain active contributors to their fields.



I want to mentor our students and help them become the best version of themselves.

Dr. Oluseye Onajole | Professor of Chemistry



I love the passion that Roosevelt professors have towards their courses and their students.

Jael Rodriguez | BA, '26

Supporting Students and the Learning Environment

Roosevelt's commitment to student success extends beyond the classroom through a coordinated network of staff, services and learning environments designed to ensure access and achievement for all students.

Core student support units, including Academic Advising, the STEM Center, the Registrar, the Learning Commons, Student Success Coaching, the Dean of Students and TRIO programs work collaboratively to provide seamless, student-centered support.

The University has intentionally expanded services to ensure full access regardless of modality, reflecting the needs of both traditional and non-traditional students. These include:

- Library services with embedded online librarians, 24/7 database access, digital course materials and interlibrary loan capability
- Tutoring support available both in real time (Zoom) and asynchronously through 24/7 online platforms
- Learning Commons services, including disability support and academic skill development, offered in-person and online
- Integrated advising, financial aid and academic planning support accessible across campuses and remotely

These services are designed to function as an integrated support ecosystem, ensuring that students can easily navigate resources and receive timely assistance. The model reflects Roosevelt's broader commitment to equity, access and student-centered design.



[There are] a lot of wraparound services so that you don't have to feel so alienated and alone in this process.

Davonte Dudley | BA, '29



Vibrant Campus Life

STUDENT LIFE

Students can take advantage of everything the Chicago region has to offer. Located in the heart of the Loop, Roosevelt University's downtown campus is infused with the unmistakable energy of Chicago. Students live and learn in the heart of one of the greatest cities on Earth. Steps outside the door are world-class museums, restaurants, shopping and Lake Michigan with Chicago's famed 25 miles of shoreline parks.

Our Schaumburg campus is an oasis in the middle of the bustling northwest suburban corridor. Ideally located amidst major corporate headquarters, shopping, restaurants and population centers, students take advantage of spacious study areas, lounges and state-of-the-art labs on 36 acres of recognized prairie habitat.

200+
art galleries
and landmarks

3,400+
acres of parkland
on Lake Michigan

77+
Chicago
neighborhoods

7,300+
restaurants,
including 22
Michelin-starred
eateries

60+
world-class
museums

400+
miles of hiking
trails and
bike paths

70,000
acres of Cook
County Forest
Preserves

FITNESS AND RECREATION

Students can take advantage of Roosevelt's comprehensive fitness centers on both campuses, including a wide range of activities hosted by student organizations such as dodgeball, dance classes and gaming.

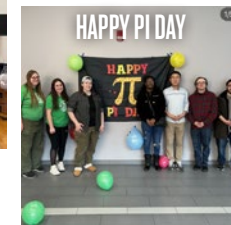
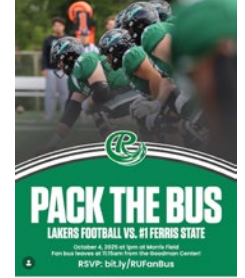
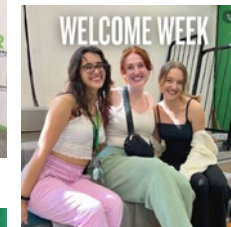
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Roosevelt students can deepen their college experience by diving into campus life. With over 50 vibrant student organizations, it's easy to build connections, spark lifelong friendships and step up as leaders. Students can follow their passion and even start new student organizations to shape their experience. Student organizations include:

- Association of Latin American Students
- Black Student Union
- Heller College of Business Student Advisory Board
- College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences Advisory Council
- International Student Association
- Investment Club
- RU Funny
- RU Proud
- Women in Cybersecurity
- And many more!

ROOSEVELT TRADITIONS

Roosevelt traditions celebrate pride, resilience and belonging. Some traditions include: Welcome Week, Happy Pi Day, On Thursdays We Wear Green, *The Torch*, Fala, Convocation, Finals Fest, Late Night Finals Breakfast, Holiday Brunch, Diwali Celebration, "White Out" Games, Basketball Tip Off Celebration, Roller Rink Party, the Melanin Ball and Pack the Bus.



Competing with Purpose

Roosevelt University is **Chicago's only NCAA Division II** program. Our Lakers Athletics programs develop student-athletes who compete with integrity, both academically and athletically. Re-established in 2010, Lakers Athletics boasts over 600 student-athletes across 24 varsity sports, with 18 competing at the NCAA Division II level in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletics Conference (GLIAC).



Men's Sports

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track and Field (Indoor/Outdoor)
- Volleyball

Women's Sports

- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Track and Field (Indoor/Outdoor)
- Volleyball

Coed Sports

- Cheer
- Dance
- Esports

RECENT LAKERS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ At the end of the 2024-2025 season, 127 student-athletes earned GLIAC Academic All-Conference, and 52 of those were named to the GLIAC Academic Excellence Team for earning a 3.5 GPA or higher.
- ▶ Student-athletes earned a cumulative 3.1 GPA for the Fall 2025 semester.
- ▶ Our 83% NCAA Academic Success Rate is 7% higher than average for NCAA Division II institutions.
- ▶ Men's soccer claimed the 2024 GLIAC regular season title in its first season of NCAA Division II competition.
- ▶ The Roosevelt cheer program claimed 3 National Cheer Association (NCA) National Championships (2023, 2024, 2025) while our dance program claimed the 2025 hip-hop national title at the National Dance Alliance Championships.



Live, Learn and Thrive Here

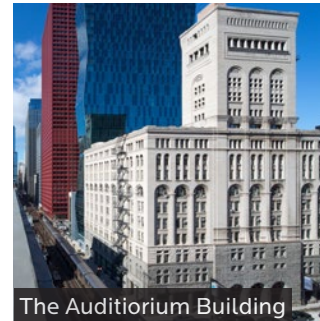
DOWNTOWN CHICAGO

Roosevelt's Downtown Chicago campus offers an array of modern facilities designed to support student life, learning and community. Along iconic Michigan Avenue stands Roosevelt's longtime home, the historic landmark Auditorium Building, which houses classrooms, offices, study spaces and academic resources, including the Murray-Green Library. Adjacent is the 32-story Wabash Building, serving as a vibrant hub with student residences, a fitness center, classrooms, labs, performance halls and faculty and administrative offices—all within a structure recognized with LEED Gold certification for its sustainable design.

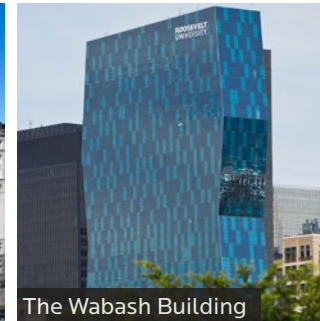
The primary home of Lakers Athletics is the Lillian and Larry Goodman Center, which is the first standalone college athletics facility in the Loop. Lakers teams also practice and compete in a range of premier facilities throughout the Chicago area. Just a block away from the Auditorium and Wabash Buildings is the University Center, which provides additional, convenient student housing. Roosevelt's many facilities, all located close together in downtown Chicago, create a dynamic urban campus and learning environment.

SCHAUMBURG

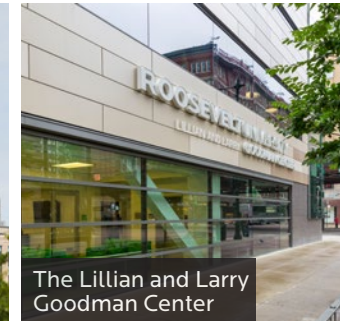
Roosevelt's Schaumburg Campus is the only four-year institution in Chicago's northwest suburbs. Serving as a hub for science, healthcare and business programs, Roosevelt University Schaumburg brings career-minded students together with industry-connected faculty. Community and local business partnerships connect our students with internships and experience to build their career portfolios. Home of Roosevelt's groundbreaking 3-year PharmD program, the Schaumburg campus will host the new Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program in fall 2026 and will launch a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies in 2028.



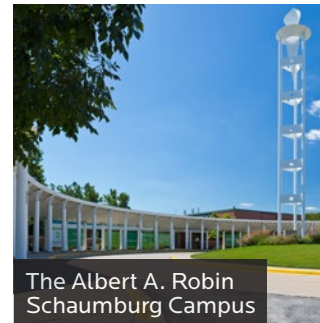
The Auditorium Building



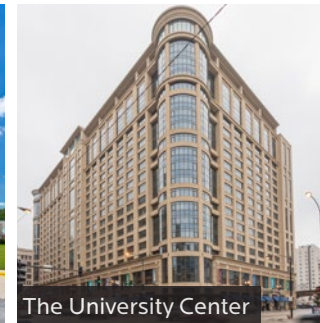
The Wabash Building



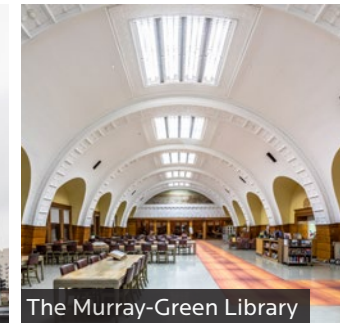
The Lillian and Larry Goodman Center



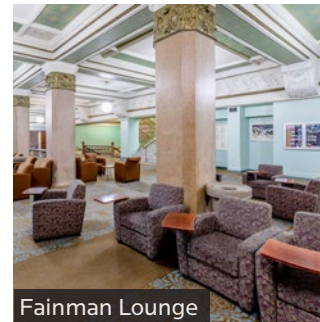
The Albert A. Robin Schaumburg Campus



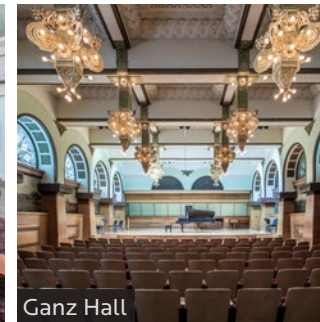
The University Center



The Murray-Green Library



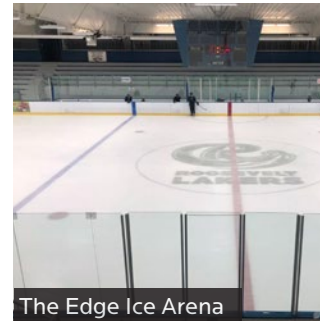
Fainman Lounge



Ganz Hall



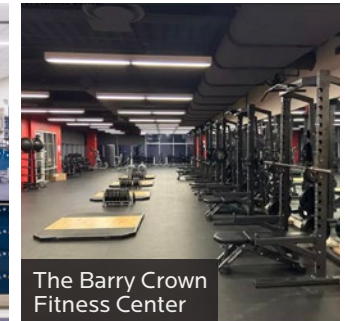
Morris Field



The Edge Ice Arena



State-of-the-Art Labs



The Barry Crown Fitness Center

The Historic Auditorium Theatre

Opened in **1889**, **The Auditorium Theatre**, or simply “The Auditorium,” is a National Historic Landmark and masterpiece of American architecture. It was designed by **Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan**, whose innovations in acoustics and design revolutionized modern theater construction. Since **1947**, The Auditorium has been owned and stewarded by Roosevelt University, forming a unique and enduring partnership that unites higher education and the performing arts. This relationship reflects shared values of access, inclusion and public service, ensuring that the venue remains both a vibrant cultural destination for students and the broader community. Together, Roosevelt University and The Auditorium continue to honor the building’s historic legacy and its place as “The Theatre For The People” while advancing a forward-looking mission that positions the arts as essential to education, civic life and social impact.

NOTABLE PAST PERFORMANCES, SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

- ▶ Former presidents including Theodore Roosevelt, William McKinley and Bill Clinton
- ▶ Historical and political figures such as Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, Kamala Harris and Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- ▶ Speakers and authors such as Melinda French Gates, Hillary Clinton, Ina Garten and Ken Burns
- ▶ Rock and pop stars from the 1960s to present including Jimi Hendrix, the Doors, Aretha Franklin, Elton John, Stevie Wonder, David Bowie, Miles Davis, Fleetwood Mac, the Grateful Dead, Yandel, David Byrne, Lily Allen, Raye, Bibi and hundreds more
- ▶ Broadway musicals like *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Elf* and *Chicago* as well as theater stars like Patti Lupone, Bernadette Peters and Sarah Bernhardt
- ▶ Auditorium Films featuring iconic movies with the scores played by the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra
- ▶ Iconic dance companies such as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and American Ballet Theatre
- ▶ Annual Roosevelt University Commencement Ceremony

Dedicated and Impactful Alumni

For over 80 years, Roosevelt University graduates have made significant contributions across many fields. Their careers reflect the University's values of innovation, determination and leadership. More than 130,000 Roosevelt alumni have advanced in business, healthcare, education, the arts and public service, challenging norms and promoting equity. Spread across every U.S. state and territory and across 134 countries, our alumni are active in the community through volunteering, alumni events, mentorship and networking. Their dedication and integrity have led to meaningful change in their communities and industries. The Roosevelt tradition is evident in the achievements of these alumni, whose ambition and purpose continue to inspire others and make a lasting impact.



Melissa L. Bean
BA, '00

*Former U.S. Congresswoman
(Illinois 8th District, 2005–11)*



Timuel "Tim" Black Jr.
BA, '52

*Civil Rights Leader
& Educator*



Melissa Conyears-Ervin
MBA, '03

*Chicago City Treasurer
(2019–present) and former
Illinois State Representative*



Merle Dandridge
BFA Musical Theatre, '98

*Award-winning actress
and singer*



Dr. Carla Hayden
BA, '73

*14th Librarian of Congress,
first woman and first African
American Librarian of Congress*



Judge Blanche M. Manning
MS, '72

*Federal judge and legal
trailblazer, first African
American woman to serve on
the federal bench in Illinois*



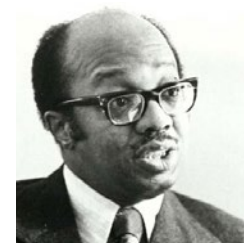
Mike Quigley
BA, '81

*U.S. Congressman (Illinois
5th District, 2009–present)
and former Cook County
Commissioner*



Bobby L. Rush
BA, '74

*U.S. Congressman &
civil rights activist*



Dempsey J. Travis
BA, '49

*Real estate entrepreneur
and civil rights leader*



Harold Washington
BA, '49

*Former Mayor of Chicago,
Chicago's first African
American mayor*



Now at 86 years old, I am grateful for the solid foundation Roosevelt provided, and I'm proud to have passed that same value of education on to my children.

Jaelyn Boyle | Class of 1966



Attending Roosevelt University was a game-changer for me. It gave me a chance when others wouldn't, and that opportunity transformed my trajectory. I'm forever grateful for that second chance.

Bill Martello | Class of 1971



Without a doubt, my time at Roosevelt University shaped who I am today. I firmly believe I would be a different person, both in my personal life and professional career, if I had not had this formative experience.

Sixia "Neo" Sun | Class of 2012



Roosevelt was where I overcame the odds and became the first in my family to earn a college degree. It instilled in me the courage to strive higher and transform my life through education.

Rosa Gutiérrez | Class of 2013

Shared Governance and Leadership

From its beginning, Roosevelt has been committed to the ideals of shared governance. Governing boards across the University are inclusive of internal constituencies, ensuring that all voices are represented.

Roosevelt University Board of Trustees consists of 31 public members, five faculty and two student representatives. Committees include Academic and Student Affairs, Audit, Compensation, Development and Board Governance, Enrollment Management and Finance and Investment. Roosevelt public trustees represent a diverse group of leaders from across the country in a variety of industries, including both Roosevelt alumni and others who care deeply for Roosevelt's mission.

The University Senate includes tenured and adjunct faculty, staff and students, with faculty as the majority. The Senate is the main legislative body, responsible for academic and curricular policies, and serves as a forum for campus-wide discussion. Meetings are open to the entire Roosevelt community and feature reports from University leaders, and they cover topics including but not limited to enrollment, faculty issues, finances, policy changes and student life.

The Administrative Assembly provides a visible and proactive voice for all administrators below the rank of dean, vice president or vice provost. Meetings of this organization provide a forum to discuss concerns, form consensus on issues of importance to staff and inform the University community on important issues.

The Student Government Association represents the student body and includes an executive board and student senate. The Student Government Association holds regular meetings to address issues and topics that matter to the student community. Meetings are open to all students, and SGA holds regular town hall meetings for both students and administrators.

Roosevelt is proud to partner with union representation from:

- Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE)
- Roosevelt Adjunct Faculty Organization (RAFO)
- Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU)

The Executive Council:

- President
- Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Senior Vice President of Enrollment Management
- Vice President of Advancement, Chief Development Officer
- Vice President of Athletics and Student-Athlete Success
- Vice President and Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees
- Vice President of Finance and Administration, Chief Financial Officer
- Vice President of Institutional Research, Assessment and Accreditation
- Vice President of Marketing and Communications
- Vice President of Technology, Chief Information Officer
- General Counsel
- Chair of the University Senate
- Chief Executive Officer of the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

The Provost's Council:

- Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Success
- Vice Provost and Dean of Students
- Associate Provost of the Schaumburg Campus and Dean of the College of Science, Health and Pharmacy
- Associate Provost for Strategic Initiatives
- Dean of the Chicago College of Performing Arts
- Dean of the College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences
- Dean of the College of Science, Health and Pharmacy
- Dean of the Walter E. Heller College of Business

Additional Leadership Committees:

- Planning and Budget Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Connected Campus (AI) Steering Committee

Strengthening Financial Sustainability

Roosevelt has demonstrated notable financial resilience in a period of significant disruption across higher education, strengthening its financial position through disciplined stewardship, strategic decision-making and a clear alignment of resources with mission and long-term sustainability.

That stability is reinforced by a committed community of alumni, donors, friends and supporters whose generosity advances Roosevelt's mission through student mentorship, advocacy, engagement and philanthropy.

As a tuition-driven institution, Roosevelt has navigated today's pressures with focus and care, balancing fiscal discipline with continued investment in access, student success and the University's enduring social justice mission.

Operating budget:
\$110 MILLION

Endowment:
\$178 MILLION
(as of 5/28/2026)

2026 Fitch Ratings Outlook:
POSITIVE

\$10.21 MILLION
in private gifts raised
in 2025

\$5.58 MILLION
in grant payments
secured in 2025



RECENT FUNDRAISING MILESTONES:

Legacy Fund

Since June 2025, donors have contributed more than \$7 million in unrestricted support to the Legacy Fund—a matching gift effort designed to support forward-thinking initiatives that extend beyond the scope of standard operating budgets.

Hall of Honor & Lifetime Giving Recognition

In April 2026, Roosevelt's new Harold L. Washington Hall of Honor opened. This permanent installation celebrates the legacy of Mayor Washington and other distinguished alumni, including donors whose cumulative contributions have reached \$1 million or more.

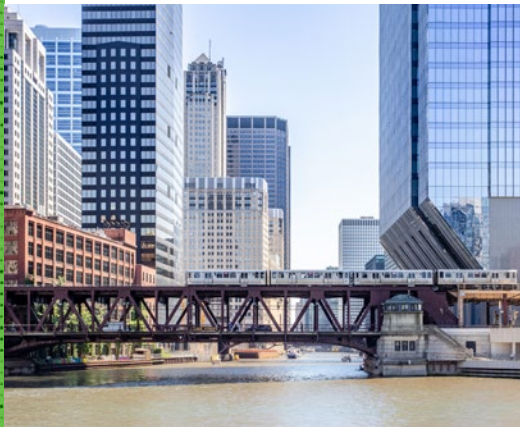
80th Anniversary Celebration

More than 7,500 community members participated in Roosevelt's 80th Anniversary Celebration, through events in Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, and by contributing to the Oral History Project.

Connecting to Chicagoland

Chicago and the surrounding area stand as a vibrant economic powerhouse, offering unparalleled opportunities for students seeking to launch their careers. Roosevelt's downtown campus places students at the heart of the city's bustling business district, where Fortune 500 companies, innovative startups and industry leaders converge. This prime location makes it easy for students to access internships, networking events and job opportunities, all while enjoying the cultural richness and variety that Chicago has to offer. The city's dynamic environment encourages professional growth, entrepreneurship and hands-on learning experiences that extend far beyond the classroom.

Roosevelt's Schaumburg campus connects students to the thriving business landscape of Chicago's northwest suburbs. As the only four-year university in the area, Roosevelt University Schaumburg brings career-minded students together with industry-connected faculty. With a strategic focus on transfer and graduate education, the campus is geared to the needs of students completing their bachelor's degree, returning to school or advancing into graduate study. Both campus locations empower Roosevelt students to take full advantage of Chicagoland's economic opportunities and build meaningful connections that drive their success.



Chicago is the greatest city in the world. Not many colleges can say they have the convenience that the downtown location offers.

Aldo Brown | BA, '26



I am eternally grateful to Roosevelt for providing the opportunity and environment for success. The convenient Schaumburg campus along with flexible class scheduling made my degree a realistic goal.

Sandra A. Lemke | BA, '01



CHICAGOLAND HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Population:
9.5 MILLION

Annual Economic Output:
\$900 BILLION

250,000+
Businesses

400
Major Corporation
Headquarters

30
Fortune 500
Headquarters

THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN CORRIDOR:

- ▶ Schaumburg: The 12th-largest community in Illinois
- ▶ Major employers:
 - Woodfield Mall
 - Zurich North America
 - Motorola Solutions
 - School District 54
 - Sunstar Americas
 - IKEA

Compensation and Benefits

The expected base salary range for this position is \$500,000–\$700,000. Roosevelt University offers a comprehensive benefits package that includes medical, dental and vision insurance, including PPO/HDHP/HMO plans and FSA/HSA options; paid and voluntary life insurance; short- and long-term disability insurance; long-term care insurance; pet insurance; retirement plan options; and paid time off, including vacation days, sick leave and University-recognized holidays as well as winter break. Additional benefits include access to Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) and wellness resources; tuition remission/tuition exchange and professional development opportunities; and commuter/parking benefits. Roosevelt University will cover expenses associated with relocation to Chicago for this role. Total compensation for this role is based on multiple factors including job-related knowledge/skills, experience and market considerations.

Procedure for Candidacy

This search is led by Christine J. Pendleton, Sandra Chu, Maya Holt-Brockenbrough, PhD, and Ray Crossman, PhD of WittKieffer. Nominations and inquiries may be directed to Sandra Chu (schu@wittkieffer.com) and Maya Holt-Brockenbrough (mayahb@wittkieffer.com). To receive the fullest consideration, candidate materials should be submitted through the [WittKieffer Candidate Portal](#) by September 4, 2026. New Candidate Portal 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. Applicants should submit, as separate documents, a CV or résumé and a letter of interest that addresses the themes outlined in this profile.

Roosevelt University is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes women, LGBTQ, disabled, veterans, international and minority-classified individuals as applicants for all positions.





GENERATION
FIRST

SPS

2020
Ω