



**SUNY  
BROCKPORT**

**President**  
Leadership Profile  
December 2025



*WittKieffer*

## Executive Summary

[SUNY Brockport](#), a public, comprehensive institution located in a charming village on the historic Erie Canal, seeks its eighth President. Founded in 1835 as the Brockport Collegiate Institute and later renamed the Brockport State Normal School, SUNY Brockport became an official college in 1942. In 2022, it became a university, and its Carnegie classification is Professions-focused Undergraduate/Graduate-Master's Large/Medium.

SUNY Brockport has experienced remarkable growth over the past three years, with enrollment increasing by 23%. The University's current enrollment is 7,930 (fall 2025), including 6,154 undergraduate students and 1,776 graduate students. It is the only SUNY comprehensive university to offer doctoral degrees (in nursing practice and educational leadership), underscoring its commitment to academic program innovation and expansion.

Reporting to SUNY Chancellor John King, the President serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the campus, maintains a publicly visible role both internally and with the external constituency of the University, oversees a budget of nearly \$200 million, and will begin their tenure following a highly successful comprehensive campaign. In late 2025, the University publicly launched its largest and most comprehensive fundraising campaign to date, aiming to raise \$40 million by June 30, 2026. With more than \$31 million secured in advance of the public launch, the campaign reflects the strong support and confidence of alumni and partners in SUNY Brockport's mission and future.

Enjoying enrollment growth and improved student success measures, and buoyed by the fruits of this successful fundraising campaign, the next President will continue the University's upward trajectory, taking the University's reputation to even greater heights, expanding strategic partnerships, elevating the University's distinctiveness, and fulfilling the promise of the University's strategic plan, [Building a Better Brockport](#).

Bringing financial acumen, a passion for the student experience, and a warm, accessible demeanor, the next President will be both an internal and external champion for students and a strategic partner in the region and beyond.

A terminal degree is required.

This is an exceptional opportunity to take on a thriving institution and build on the successes of the past decade.

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



## Role of the President

### Office of the President

The President serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the campus and maintains a publicly visible role both internally and externally with the University's constituency. It is anticipated that the President will be visible in the higher education and policy communities locally and nationally and will also serve as an advisor to the Chancellor of the State University of New York System. In support of these roles, the University is advised by several formal bodies, as discussed in the governance section of this document, and by numerous other informal groups.

The following Vice Presidents and senior staff report to and support the President in assuring the proper management and oversight of the University:

- Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Vice President for Administration and Finance
- Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Vice President for Student Affairs
- Vice President Advancement + Communications; President of the Brockport Foundation
- Chief Diversity Officer
- Executive Director + Dean of Rochester Educational Opportunity Center
- Senior Assistant to the President

A SUNY President's responsibilities include administrative oversight of their campus, strategic and financial planning, academic leadership, and representing the institution externally. They are the Chief Administrative Officer, responsible for all campus operations, and report to the University's College Council, SUNY Board of Trustees, and the SUNY Chancellor.



## Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

SUNY Brockport has experienced remarkable growth and stability over the last three years. Poised to build on this success, the next President of the University will be expected to address the following imperatives:

- **Engage and energize the community around shared vision, goals, and values**

SUNY Brockport is a premier public comprehensive institution in the Northeast region known for its commitment to student engagement, belonging, and success. The University is proud of its identity as an institution that combines rigorous academic programs with spirited co-curricular opportunities and comprehensive support services — preparing graduates to thrive in an ever-changing world. After over a decade of strong leadership, the University is poised to welcome a new leader who will quickly and thoroughly engage the community in charting the University's next chapter by building on its strengths and past successes while navigating the challenges facing higher education.

- **Sharpen distinctiveness**

SUNY Brockport is a vital comprehensive public university that provides excellent education to a diverse student population. The next President will work with the campus community, external supporters, and partners to sharpen the University's distinctiveness and elevate its reputation beyond the region. By communicating the value proposition of the Brockport experience and inclusive environment through national engagement, the next President will further strengthen enrollment, continue momentum in student satisfaction, and therefore further enhance the University's value proposition, drawing upon new and existing champions to further its goals.

- **Manage growth**

The University has experienced healthy increases in student enrollment and has adjusted its staffing, physical space, and organizational structure to support student success and timely graduation. Faculty and academic administrators want to ensure that they can meet the needs of a growing campus population. As SUNY Brockport moves forward, the University must ensure that its enrollment goals and standards remain consistent with its mission, vision, and promise, and that the enrollment plan continues to anticipate external higher educational challenges. The President will be expected to guide the University in managing its growth while balancing access, enrollment demand, and excellence, while anticipating the needs of emerging growth areas, including opportunities to attract non-traditional student populations.

- **Increase philanthropic support**

SUNY Brockport needs an entrepreneurial leader who can identify and implement strategies for the external pressures facing higher education. In late 2025, the University publicly launched the largest and most comprehensive fundraising campaign in its history, aiming to raise \$40 million by June 30, 2026. With more than \$31 million secured in advance of the public launch, the campaign reflects the strong support and confidence of alumni and partners in SUNY Brockport's mission and future. The President is expected to lead and participate materially in all efforts to raise awareness and philanthropic support for the University, propelled by these recent achievements.

- **Maintain and strengthen community engagement**

SUNY Brockport has a strong relationship with the Village of Brockport and the Greater Rochester Region. The next President must grow, strengthen, and leverage current partnerships while adding new ones, engaging with local and state elected officials, the Town-Gown Committee, regional educational partners, donors, and alumni in various settings, and help foster their desire and willingness to support the University's mission. The next President will join a community that expects a visible, tangible, meaningful presence on

campus, a leader who knows and engages with the students, faculty, and staff, and who is an enthusiastic participant in campus life.

- **Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging**

SUNY Brockport and the State University of New York continue to embrace and advance the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. SUNY Brockport seeks a President who embodies the values of inclusive excellence and belonging and who is steadfast in advancing these values. Thus, the President will continue to foster an environment in which all are welcome.





## Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The next SUNY Brockport President will build upon the incumbent's successful, long-term leadership and bring the progressive leadership skills and experience required to continue the institution's success, as well as the warmth and accessibility that embody the institution.

A terminal degree is required.

The ideal candidate will present many of the following professional qualifications and personal qualities described below:

### Leadership & Strategic Vision

- A record of leadership and management experience required to guide a public institution of higher learning, including demonstrated success at progressive levels of leadership in a college, university, or similarly complex organization.
- Demonstrated commitment to shared governance and evidence of authentic collaboration and community engagement.
- High emotional intelligence and the ability to build trust quickly are essential, as is the courage to lead and bring new ideas during challenges in higher education today and in the future.
- Adaptability and the willingness to embrace change while respecting the institution's history, identity, and mission.
- A track record of success in expanding enrollment and leading initiatives that improve student success and completion rates.

### Student-Centered Focus

- Deeply student-centered leadership style with an awareness of the issues that affect students both inside and outside the classroom.
- A demonstrated commitment to creating environments of belonging, and a desire to make all members of the community – both current and future, domestic and international – feel welcomed and supported.
- Clear understanding of the teacher-scholar model and how that model contributes to strong student outcomes.
- A demonstrated commitment to student academic success and well-being, holistic development, and an ability to connect with students in a personal and meaningful way.

### Strong & Accessible Advocate

- Accessible and visible to faculty, staff, and students, while maintaining an authentic approach that fosters an environment where all feel valued and supported.
- A commitment to transparency, cultivating a culture of belonging, and demonstrating empathy and respect for all members of the campus community.
- An authentic and energetic leadership style that builds collaborative, agile, empowered, and accountable teams; actively engages the community and inspires excellence and innovation.

- Passionate advocacy for shared governance and for public higher education.
- Aptitude for external relations and political savvy.
- Experience with a union environment is desirable.
- A partner to sister SUNY institutions and the Chancellor in achieving the [SUNY Academic Momentum Campaign](#) (ACMO), coupled with respectful advocacy for SUNY Brockport among its peers.

## Financial & External Engagement

- Strong financial acumen, along with a proven track record in fundraising, alumni, and community engagement.
- An ability to assess current resource allocation practices, identify and optimize operations to ensure efficiency and coordinated infrastructure, and align budgets with institutional priorities.
- An active advocate for the institution, demonstrating exceptional community engagement and public relations skills, particularly building and expanding relationships and meaningful partnerships with the broader community, employers, the system, and the state.



# About State University of New York Brockport

## Overview

Located in a charming village on the historic Erie Canal, SUNY Brockport is a public, comprehensive master's institution. Founded in 1835 as the Brockport Collegiate Institute and later renamed the Brockport State Normal School, SUNY Brockport officially became a college in 1942. In 2022, it became a university.

SUNY Brockport has experienced remarkable growth over the past three years, with enrollment increasing by 23%. The University's current enrollment is 7,930 (fall 2025), including 6,154 undergraduate students and 1,776 graduate students. It is the only SUNY comprehensive university to offer doctoral degrees (in nursing practice and educational leadership), underscoring its commitment to academic program innovation and expansion.

In late 2025, the University publicly launched its largest and most comprehensive fundraising campaign to date, aiming to raise \$40 million by June 30, 2026. With more than \$31 million secured in advance of the public launch, the campaign reflects the strong support and confidence of alumni and partners in SUNY Brockport's mission and future.

The University's main campus spans 464 acres and features 77 buildings and structures that, along with athletic playing fields, occupy about one-quarter of the campus. It also has a downtown Rochester location at the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center, which the University sponsors.

Dedicated to fostering student success, SUNY Brockport combines rigorous academic programs with exceptional co-curricular opportunities and comprehensive support services — preparing graduates to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Learn more about SUNY Brockport in this [video](#).

## Mission

SUNY Brockport is an inclusive learning community that inspires excellence through growth, engagement, and transformation.

## Vision

Building meaningful lives and vibrant communities.

## Promise

SUNY Brockport promises to engage its students each day in cultivating their capacity for intellectual, physical, and creative accomplishment.

## Strategic Plan: Building a Better Brockport

SUNY Brockport's [2022-2027 strategic plan](#), "Building a Better Brockport," positions the University as a student-centered, inclusive learning community that is committed to excellence, engagement, and transformation. The plan emphasizes delivering high-quality, innovative academic programs and experiential learning opportunities, strengthening community partnerships and alumni engagement, ensuring institutional sustainability through strategic enrollment management, financial stewardship, and environmental responsibility, and fostering a supportive and diverse workplace culture. Guided by core values — excellence, community, inclusion,



transformation, and engagement — the plan serves as a framework for continuous improvement, aiming to prepare graduates for success and advancing the University's role as a regional leader.

## Academics

SUNY Brockport is consistently ranked by *US News & World Report* as a top regional college/university in the north region. The University offers a diverse range of academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professions, including 76 undergraduate majors, 65 undergraduate minors, and 45 graduate programs. The University has a College of Arts & Sciences, a College of Education & Health, a School of Nursing, and a School of Business & Management.

Brockport's 643 faculty (338 full-time and 305 part-time) are prolific scholars and teachers, and 91 of them have been recognized with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence, a prestigious system-wide award for consistently superior professional achievement. Engaged learning is the hallmark of a SUNY Brockport education. Brockport students learn by doing, and in the process, they gain knowledge and experience that changes their lives. In 2024-2025, 64% of students participated in research and/or field study, and 340 students presented their scholarly activity or performed at [Scholars Day](#) — Brockport's annual day-long celebration of academic excellence.

While the University is primarily a residential campus, it demonstrates a strong commitment to online learning and the flexibility it provides — particularly for non-traditional students. There are nine undergraduate online degree completion programs and 40 online graduate offerings (including certificate programs) from which to choose.



## Student Life

Residential life is a cornerstone of the Brockport student life experience, with 44% of the undergraduate population living on campus in the University's residence halls and townhomes. First-year students have the opportunity to choose from 13 distinct Living Learning Communities, where they can live alongside other students who share similar interests and passions. Incoming students are encouraged to participate in [Saturday of Service](#), an annual tradition that offers them the opportunity to explore their new home by giving back to the community.

The Seymour Student Union is home to [the Brockport Student Government](#) and its 100+ [clubs and organizations](#), the campus store, a café, and other retail eateries that bring students, faculty, and staff together throughout the day. The Joey Jackson Intercultural Center, which fosters an inclusive and supportive environment that inspires students to become engaged community members, is located on the second floor of the Union.

Intercollegiate and intramural athletics are a key element of campus life. The Brockport Golden Eagles compete in 24 intercollegiate sports, primarily as part of the Empire 8 Athletic Conference, except for the men's hockey team (United Collegiate Hockey Conference) and women's gymnastics (National Collegiate Gymnastics Association). During the 2024-2025 season, three teams and 10 student-athletes advanced to the NCAA Division III Championships, and 13 student-athletes earned All-American honors. Collectively, student-athletes earned a 3.27 GPA. Brockport also offers competition in club and intramural sports. The most recently added sport is women's flag football (2025-26). The total number of student-athletes has grown from 650 to 900 over the last three years.

## Financials and Budget

SUNY Brockport's total campus budget is \$218 million, including the College's operating budget and the financial operations of related entities (including Brockport Auxiliary Services Corporation, the Brockport Foundation, and Sponsored Research). The Brockport Foundation has an endowment and assets valued at more than \$40 million (as of November 2025) and has entered the public phase of its largest comprehensive fundraising campaign, which is expected to be completed by June 30, 2026.

The University's operating budget is approximately \$119 million, supported by general state revenues at 22% and campus-generated revenue at 78%. SUNY Brockport has five separate operating budgets:

- State Operating Budget, supported by state tax dollars and tuition revenue
- Dormitory Income Fund Reimbursable (DIFR), supported by room rentals
- SUNY construction and DASNY construction
- Income Fund Reimbursable (IFR), supported by student fees and other campus-generated revenue
- State University Tuition Reimbursable Accounts (SUTRA), supported by tuition from summer, winter, and overseas programs

SUNY System Administration sets annual budget totals for each operating fund based on estimates of state support and campus revenues. The campus sets allocations at the division/department level, with approval by the University President, and monitors and manages fiscal operations throughout the year. The Joint Planning and Budget Committee advises on recommended resource priorities, provides a degree of financial oversight, and responds to specific charges set by the president each year. The President's Cabinet receives regular budget updates from the VP for Finance and Administration. In addition, position requests are reviewed at the cabinet level.

The estimated cost of attendance for an in-state undergraduate residential student is \$29,004, and \$36,494 for an out-of-state undergraduate residential student. Tuition for graduate students varies by program.

The fiscal operations of individual institutions within the SUNY system are integrated with the central administration's data structures. Campus leadership sets a strategy in alignment with SUNY goals. The campus maintains significant autonomy in terms of implementing strategy and achieving goals.

Capital funding for academic and administrative facilities is handled centrally by the state through the State University Construction Fund, thereby allowing Brockport to free itself from the concerns of selling bonds.

## Facts and Figures

- 7,642 students from New York State
- 104 students from states other than New York State
- 110 international students from 25 countries
- 24 intercollegiate sports teams
- 44% of undergraduates live on campus
- 60% female; 40% male
- 15% first-generation; 41% Pell recipient
- 75.9% of first-time, full-time students who entered in fall 2004 returned in fall 2025
- 2,014 degrees awarded (1,370 undergraduate, 644 graduate) in 2024-2025

## President's Residence

Since the 1960s, the President of SUNY Brockport and their family have resided in Burlingame House, a historic home built in 1836, located on campus next to the Tower Fine Arts Building. Burlingame House has a private side for the president's family and an extension from the late 1990s that created a public wing for hosting community and university events. The home also has a large, fenced-in backyard that is used for an annual summer barbecue and other events. The building is in need of renovation. As a result, the Brockport Foundation has tentatively approved a plan to construct a new Presidential residence just down the block on Holley Street, with construction scheduled for later in 2026.



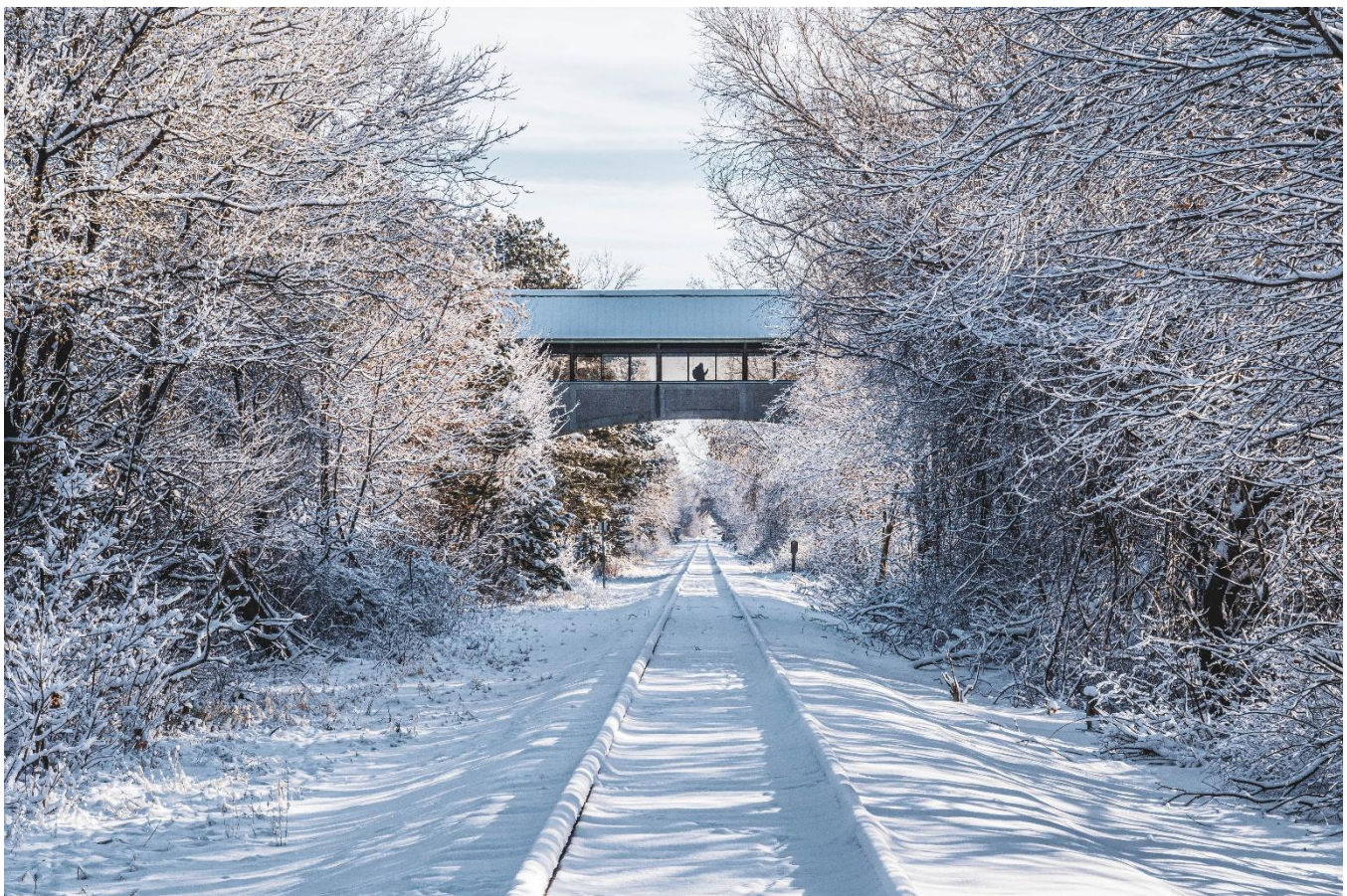


## Brockport, NY

The Village of Brockport is a picturesque college town that blends historic charm with a vibrant community life. Nestled along the historic Erie Canal, the Village offers walking trails, quaint shops, and inviting restaurants, creating a welcoming environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The Canal is not only part of the Village's identity, but a hub for recreation and cultural events throughout the year.

Located just 20 minutes west of [Rochester](#), Brockport offers easy access to all the amenities of a major city — including world-class museums, performing arts venues, diverse dining options, and a thriving business community — while maintaining the intimacy and warmth of a small town. The campus is also located 65 miles from Buffalo and 140 miles from Toronto. It is an ideal starting point for day trips to some of New York's most spectacular destinations, including the Finger Lakes wine region, Niagara Falls, and the scenic communities along Lake Ontario.

SUNY Brockport and the Village of Brockport maintain a positive and productive working relationship, in large part thanks to its Town-Gown Committee. Co-chaired by the University President and the Village Mayor, the committee addresses shared concerns, including neighborhood quality of life, landlord-tenant relations, health and safety, and economic development. Learn more about the Village of Brockport in this [video](#).



## About the State University of New York

The State University of New York public higher education system comprises 64 college and university campuses, with one campus located within 30 miles of every home, school, and business in the state. SUNY is the nation's largest comprehensive public higher education system, serving more than 1.4 million students annually, employing more than 90,000 faculty and staff, and connecting more than 3 million alumni worldwide. Research expenditures system-wide is nearly \$1.16 billion in fiscal year 2024, including significant contributions from students and faculty. The total annual budget for the system is over \$14 billion. SUNY's leadership structure consists of a board of trustees, chancellor, system administration senior staff, and campus presidents, each official working together to advance the mission of the state university system:

*...to provide to the people of New York educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population in a complete range of academic, professional, and vocational postsecondary programs, including such additional activities in pursuit of these objectives as are necessary or customary.*

The Chancellor increasingly looks to the campus presidents to work collaboratively with other SUNY colleges, administrators, faculty, staff, and surrounding communities to lower costs, enhance productivity, and elevate the importance of degree completion at each institution.

### Governance

All 64 SUNY campuses function under the overall authority and responsibility of the University Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees delegates the administration of the University to the Chancellor, who implements university-wide policies for academic, fiscal, personnel, and facilities matters. The Chancellor serves as the official liaison between the campuses and the state. Each campus president has overall responsibility, authority, and accountability for the campus. Each campus devises its own structures, programs, and procedures in alignment with the general goals and policies of the SUNY system and its specific campus mission. Each state-operated campus in the SUNY system has its own College Council, which consists of ten members: nine are appointed by the Governor, and one is elected by and from the students on the campus. The Governor designates one member as chair. The College Council functions as an advisory board for the President and the College. For more information on governance at SUNY Brockport and across the SUNY system, please visit <https://www.suny.edu/>.

### SUNY Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the State University of New York. It consists of 18 members, 15 of whom are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the New York State Senate. In addition, the President of the Student Assembly serves as student trustee, and the presidents of the College Faculty Senate and Faculty Council of Community Colleges serve as ex officio trustees. The SUNY system is committed to the principles of shared governance.





## Leadership

### John B. King, Jr., Chancellor, SUNY



John B. King Jr., Ed.D., joined the State University of New York as its 15th Chancellor in January 2023. Before being appointed SUNY Chancellor, King served as the President of the Education Trust, a national civil rights nonprofit, and professor of the practice at the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to this, Chancellor King served in President Barack Obama's cabinet as the 10th U.S. Secretary of Education. His service in Washington, DC, followed his tenure as New York State's first African American and first Puerto Rican education commissioner, a role in which he oversaw all elementary and secondary schools as well as public, independent, and proprietary colleges and universities, professional licensure, libraries, museums, and numerous other educational institutions. Since his appointment in 2023, Chancellor King has established four main priorities: student success; diversity, equity, and inclusion; research and scholarship; and economic development and upward mobility.



## 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.

This will be a representational search, with no public announcement of finalist names. Selected individuals outside the search committee who meet with finalists will have signed a non-disclosure agreement.

WittKieffer is assisting SUNY Brockport in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by **March 5, 2026**.

Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be directed to

Melody Rose, Ph.D., Christine Pendleton, and Sarah Seavey

[BrockportPresident@wittkieffer.com](mailto:BrockportPresident@wittkieffer.com)

*SUNY Brockport does not discriminate. SUNY Brockport is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. The University is committed to fostering a diverse community of outstanding faculty, staff, and students, as well as ensuring equal educational opportunity, employment, and access to services, programs, and activities, without regard to an individual's race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction. Employees, students, applicants, or other members of the university community (including but not limited to vendors, visitors, and guests) may not be subjected to harassment that is prohibited by law, or treated adversely or retaliated against based upon a protected characteristic.*