University of Pittsburgh

Dean of the School of Social Work

Leadership Profile

January 2026

WittKieffer

Executive Summary

The University of Pittsburgh seeks an experienced, strategic, and visionary leader to serve as dean of the School of Social Work, a nationally recognized and mission-driven professional school grounded in academic excellence, community engagement, and social justice. The next dean will be a visible, values-driven leader who builds upon the School's deep strengths while guiding it thoughtfully through a period of opportunity and change.

Founded in 1787, the University of Pittsburgh is a leading public research university and a proud member of the Association of American Universities (AAU). Recognized by Forbes as a "New Ivy" in 2025, Pitt is the #1 public institution in Pennsylvania and ranks among the top 2% of universities worldwide. Serving more than 35,000 students across 16 schools and colleges, with a global alumni network of more than 340,000 graduates, Pitt is widely acclaimed for its strengths in health sciences, interdisciplinary research, public service, and its success in preparing students for lives of purpose and impact.

Established in 1918, the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work is one of the nation's oldest and most respected programs, consistently ranked among the top schools in the country. Currently ranked #12 nationally by U.S. News & World Report, Pitt Social Work enrolls over 500 students across undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs and is supported by a diverse and accomplished faculty and staff. More than 11,000 alumni worldwide extend the School's impact through leadership in practice, policy, research, nonprofit management, and public service. The School is widely recognized for preparing graduates who are highly sought after for their professional readiness, ethical grounding, and commitment to social and racial justice.

The School offers a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW), Master of Social Work (MSW), and PhD in Social Work, along with certificate programs, continuing education, and joint and dual degree pathways. A hallmark of Pitt Social Work is its strong commitment to community-engaged education, including practicum partnerships with more than 600 agencies, providing students with rigorous, supervised practice experiences across a wide range of professional settings. This practice-centered approach reflects the School's understanding of social work as a profession grounded equally in education, practice, research, and community impact.

Pitt Social Work is also distinguished by its robust research enterprise. Faculty lead more than 100 active research projects, representing approximately $32.5 million in annual research expenditures, supported by federal agencies, state and local partners, and private foundations. The School values a broad and inclusive definition of scholarly excellence, including community-engaged, practice-based, and justice-oriented research. The School is home to the Center on Race and Social Problems, one of the first research centers of its kind housed within a school of social work, and the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, which provides services designed to facilitate and sustain positive change in the child welfare system across the commonwealth.

The School benefits from the resources and infrastructure of the University of Pittsburgh and operates with an annual budget of approximately 8.5 million. Located on Pitt's main campus and with a presence on the Bradford and Johnstown campuses, the School fosters interprofessional collaboration and deep engagement with community partners throughout the Pittsburgh region and beyond. With significant statewide programs and long-standing grant-funded initiatives, the School's impact extends well beyond its primary campus footprint.

As the chief academic and executive officer of the School, the dean will provide leadership to advance academic excellence; strengthen the School's national and global reputation; support faculty, staff, and student success; steward financial and institutional resources; and advance the profession's core values. The dean will be expected to lead with authenticity and visibility, cultivating strong relationships with students, faculty, staff, alumni, community partners, and University leadership. The dean will play a central role in shaping the School's strategic vision, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, expanding research and external partnerships, and leading fundraising and resource development efforts aligned with University priorities.

The ideal candidate will bring a record of distinguished scholarly accomplishment and senior leadership experience appropriate for a tenured faculty appointment at the rank of full professor. The successful candidate will demonstrate a deep commitment to social work education and practice, an appreciation for the full spectrum of faculty and staff contributions, and the ability to recruit, retain, and support an excellent and diverse community of faculty, staff, and students. They will be a collaborative yet decisive leader, capable of navigating complex institutional and political environments while remaining steadfast in the School's mission and values. The new dean will build upon the School's many strengths while guiding Pitt Social Work into its next chapter of impact and leadership.

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

About Pitt's School of Social Work

The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work is committed to its mission of preparing courageous leaders to transform social work practice, policy, research, and education in a community-engaged and inclusive environment. We build and develop collaborative partnerships to understand, prevent, and ameliorate complex social problems with innovative approaches that promote social justice.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work is a nationally recognized leader in social work education, research, and community engagement. Founded in 1918, the School has a long-standing tradition of preparing ethical, skilled, and engaged leaders for social work practice, research, policy, and education. Through a continuum of accredited undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs, Pitt Social Work advances the profession's core, including equity, inclusion, and social justice, and is widely respected for its consistent and principled commitment to scholarly leadership in these areas, effectively and responsibly navigating shifting political and institutional contexts.

Consistently ranked among the nation's leading schools of social work, Pitt Social Work is ranked #12 nationally by U.S. News & World Report. The School is widely recognized for its deep commitment to community engagement, its emphasis on policy-relevant and practice-informed research, and its role in shaping professional leadership within the field of social work. Faculty and staff take pride in building on long-standing strengths rather than pursuing change for its own sake, reinforcing a culture of stewardship, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

Pitt Social Work is home to one of the nation's oldest and most highly regarded macro social work programs, with a long-standing legacy in community practice, policy analysis, organizational leadership, and systems-level change. This macro tradition is deeply embedded in the School's identity and informs its approach to education, research, and community engagement, positioning Pitt Social Work as a national leader in advancing social work's impact at the organizational, community, and policy levels.

The School enrolls approximately 500 students, with a diverse student body in which 24% identify as students of color. Its impact extends far beyond campus through a global network of more than 11,000 alumni who advance social work practice, policy, research, nonprofit leadership, and public service in communities across the country and around the world. More than 37% of full-time faculty members identify as faculty of color, contributing to a richly diverse academic community. The School's graduates are widely regarded as exceptionally well prepared for practice and leadership and are in high demand across nonprofit, public, and community-based sectors.

Academic Programs

Pitt Social Work offers a robust and integrated suite of academic programs that bring together theory, research, and practice, reflecting the School's strong identity as a practice-centered professional school and its commitment to meeting students where they are through both traditional delivery and online education.

Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW): Prepares students for generalist practice and graduate study through a curriculum grounded in social work values, ethics, and community engagement. The BASW program has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1974.

Master of Social Work (MSW): Prepares advanced practitioners and leaders through multiple specialization pathways, offered in on-campus and online formats, reflecting the School's commitment to expanding access and meeting the evolving needs of students and the profession. The online MSW program is a growing and strategically important component of the School's future, offering high-quality, practice-focused education to students beyond the Pittsburgh region. The MSW program is fully accredited by CSWE.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Social Work: Prepares scholars for careers in research, teaching, policy, and leadership, with a strong emphasis on theory development, research methodology, and policy-relevant scholarship.

The School also offers certificate programs, continuing education, and joint, dual, and cooperative degree options that expand interprofessional training and professional opportunities, allowing students to tailor their academic preparation to specific practice and research interests.

Centers, Research, and Community Engagement

Research and community engagement are central to the identity of Pitt Social Work. Faculty, students, and community partners collaborate extensively with local, regional, national, and international organizations to address pressing social challenges and translate research into practice and policy. Long before community-engaged scholarship became a common term, the School cultivated deep, reciprocal partnerships rooted in trust, accountability, and shared purpose.

The School is home to the Center on Race and Social Problems, one of the first research centers of its kind housed within a school of social work. The Center advances multidisciplinary research and public dialogue focused on race, equity, and social outcomes. The School also houses the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, which offers services designed to facilitate and sustain positive change in the child welfare system. Located in Mechanicsburg, near the state capitol of Harrisburg, the Resource Center partners with families, communities, public and private agencies to support professionals and systems across the commonwealth through education, research, and a commitment to best practice. Faculty also participate in a range of research collaboratives and initiatives addressing areas such as mental and behavioral health, disability, child welfare, aging, community well-being, and social policy. Together, these centers exemplify the School's statewide reach and its ability to bridge academic, policy, and practice worlds.

Pitt Social Work serves as a leadership partner and the primary research partner for Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh (AFGP). AFGP, which is part of the World Health Organization Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, works to ensure that Pittsburgh and Allegheny County become environments that are more accessible and respectful for everyone, regardless of age. This partnership plays a pivotal role in altering the paradigm on aging, impacting policy and countering ageism.

Practicum education and partnerships are a defining feature of Pitt Social Work. Through the Practicum Education Office, the School maintains partnerships with more than 600 agencies, providing students with high-quality, supervised practice experiences that integrate classroom learning with real-world social work across diverse settings. Recognizing the financial demands associated with practicum education, the School continues to pursue partnership-based awards and scholarship opportunities that support students engaged in field placements, with a focus on expanding access and reducing

barriers over time. This infrastructure reflects the School's belief that student success and workforce preparation are mission-critical priorities across both traditional and online programs.

Research Impact

Pitt Social Work has a robust and growing research enterprise that informs policy, strengthens practice, and advances social justice. Faculty currently lead more than 100 active research projects, representing approximately $32.5 million in annual research expenditures, supported by federal agencies, state and local partners, and private foundations.

Research conducted by Pitt Social Work faculty addresses a wide range of societal challenges, including racial inequities, mental and behavioral health, child welfare, aging, poverty, and social policy reform. Faculty research is interdisciplinary and collaborative, drawing on partnerships across Pitt's health sciences, public health, education, and public policy schools, as well as with regional and national academic partners, including institutions without schools of social work, where Pitt Social Work faculty contribute essential disciplinary expertise. The School values multiple forms of scholarly excellence, including community-engaged, practice-based, and justice-oriented research, alongside federally funded work.

Pitt Social Work demonstrates strong scholarly influence and visibility, ranking in the 99th percentile nationally for citations per publication among peer social work programs. Dedicated research and grants staff provide comprehensive support to faculty throughout the lifecycle of sponsored projects, enabling sustained external funding and meaningful community and policy impact.

Finance and Facilities

The School of Social Work operates with an annual operating budget of approximately $8.5 million, supporting academic programs, research initiatives, student support, and community engagement. As part of the University of Pittsburgh, the School benefits from the financial resources, administrative infrastructure, and scale of a leading public research institution, while maintaining a distinct professional identity and mission. Operating within the University's responsibility-centered budget model, the School has increasing opportunity and accountability to align revenues, expenditures, and strategic priorities in ways that support long-term sustainability and academic excellence. Faculty and staff have emphasized the importance of resource alignment that recognizes the labor-intensive and relational nature of social work education, practice, and community engagement across both in-person and online environments.

Pitt Social Work is housed in academic facilities on the University's main campus in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood, providing modern instructional spaces, research offices, and collaborative environments. The School also has a presence on the campuses at Bradford and Johnstown, and in Mechanicsburg. This distributed footprint reinforces the School's commitment to statewide impact and inclusive engagement beyond the main campus. The School's locations facilitate interprofessional engagement across the University and strengthen partnerships with community organizations throughout the Pittsburgh region and beyond.

To learn more about Pitt's School of Social Work, click here.

Role of the Dean of the School of Social Work

The dean of the School of Social Work reports to the provost and senior vice chancellor and serves as the chief academic and executive officer of the School. As a member of the University's academic leadership team, the dean provides strategic, intellectual, and administrative leadership for one of the University of Pittsburgh's most highly regarded professional schools. The dean is expected to lead with a values-grounded and relational manner, and a deep respect for the School's professional culture and values.

The dean has overall responsibility for defining and advancing the School's vision and strategic priorities, in partnership with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and University leadership, ensuring alignment with Pitt's mission as a leading public research institution. In doing so, the dean builds upon the School's long-standing strengths rather than approaching the role as a turnaround effort. The dean fosters excellence across the School's academic, research, and community-engaged missions; recruits, retains, and supports a diverse and distinguished faculty and staff; and ensures the delivery of high-quality, innovative educational programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels.

The dean advances scholarship and research that strengthen social work practice, inform policy, and address pressing social challenges. This includes valuing and supporting multiple forms of scholarly excellence, including community-engaged, practice-based, and justice-oriented research, alongside externally funded work. The dean encourages interprofessional collaboration and promotes meaningful integration across theory, research, teaching, and practice. The dean plays a central role in positioning the School to respond effectively to the evolving landscape of higher education and the social work profession, ensuring resilience, adaptability, and continued national distinction.

Serving as the School's principal ambassador, advocate, and spokesperson, the dean engages actively with internal and external constituencies, including University leadership, alumni, donors, community partners, policymakers, and professional organizations. The dean is expected to be a visible and authentic presence with students, faculty, staff, and community partners, including across the School's statewide programs and off-campus locations. The dean strengthens partnerships, expands the School's reach and influence, and reinforces its reputation as a national leader in social work education, research, and community engagement.

In collaboration with advancement partners, the dean leads fundraising and resource development efforts to support the School's strategic priorities, enhance student access and opportunity, and ensure long-term financial sustainability. This includes diversifying funding sources and advocating for resources that recognize the labor-intensive and relational nature of social work education, practice, and community engagement. The dean also stewards the School's budget and oversees sponsored grants and contracts with sound fiscal management and strategic oversight.

The dean provides leadership, mentorship, and support to faculty and staff; cultivates an inclusive, collaborative, and mission-driven culture; and works to ensure that all members of the School community can succeed and thrive. The dean values shared governance, transparent communication, and inclusive decision-making while exercising timely, decisive leadership and accountability in advancing the School's mission.

The dean works closely with the School's leadership team, which currently includes the following positions:

- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Associate Dean for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Associate Dean for Research
- Director of Administration
- Director of the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) Program
- Director of Career Services and Continuing Education
- Director of Development
- Director of Marketing and Communications
- Director of the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program
- Director of Online Programs and Distance Education
- Doctoral Program Director
- Director of Recruitment and Admissions

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The next dean of the School of Social Work will have the opportunity to lead a highly regarded, mission-driven school at a consequential moment for higher education, the social work profession, and society at large. Building on a strong foundation of academic excellence, community engagement, and national distinction, the dean will be expected to advance a bold, inclusive, and forward-looking vision that positions the School for sustained impact, relevance, and leadership. This role calls for a leader who approaches the work as stewardship and growth from strength, not as a turnaround effort.

The dean will undertake a set of interrelated leadership priorities that will shape the next chapter for Pitt Social Work:

- **Articulate and Advance a Compelling Vision for the School's Future**
  The School seeks a strategic and visionary leader who can articulate a clear and compelling direction for the School of Social Work, one that honors its historic strengths while positioning it for the future. The dean will recognize, elevate, and integrate the impactful scholarship, teaching, community engagement, and professional leadership already underway, aligning the School around a shared sense of purpose, momentum, and aspiration. Working collaboratively with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and University leadership, the dean will guide the development and execution of a vision that ensures resilience, innovation, and continued excellence in a rapidly changing landscape of higher education, policy, and social services. This work is grounded in intentional growth, focus, and clarity, rather than reinvention for its own sake.

- **Advance Scholarship in Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice**
  The School of Social Work's commitment to advancing scholarship that addresses questions of equity, inclusion, and social justice is deeply embedded in its mission and professional identity. The next dean will champion research and academic inquiry that interrogates structural inequities, advances inclusive practices, and informs policies that promote social justice. This includes fostering scholarship that addresses systemic disparities, supporting interprofessional collaborations that elevate marginalized voices, and ensuring the School's research agenda contributes meaningfully to national and global conversations on equity and justice. The dean will also affirm and protect a broad and inclusive definition of scholarly excellence, encompassing community-engaged, practice-based, and justice-oriented research alongside externally funded work.

  At a time when these values face heightened external scrutiny and challenge, the dean must steward this scholarly commitment responsibly, thoughtfully and courageously, ensuring that research grounded in principles of equity and inclusion remains effectively supported within the School's work while navigating complex institutional, political, and societal contexts. The dean will cultivate an environment where faculty and students engage critically with issues of power, privilege, and access, producing scholarship that not only advances theory but also drives transformative practice and policy. Through this work, the School will continue to shape the future of social work as a discipline committed to justice and human dignity.

- **Strengthen National Reputation and Thought Leadership**
  Maintaining and advancing the School's national standing is a key priority. The dean will serve as a visible, credible, and engaged leader on local, national, and international stages, amplifying the School's contributions to social work education, research, policy, and practice. This includes elevating faculty scholarship, strengthening the School's public voice, and ensuring its work informs

professional discourse and decision-making across the field. Through authentic engagement rather than performative visibility, the dean will extend and illuminate the School's already significant influence, reinforcing its position among the nation's leading schools of social work while expanding its reach and impact.

- **Lead Strategically Through Change in Higher Education and the Profession**
  The dean will guide the School through significant and sustained change, including shifts in enrollment patterns, educational delivery modalities, funding models, public policy, technology, and the evolving demands placed on the social work profession. The dean must anticipate emerging challenges and opportunities, balance innovation with continuity, and position the School as adaptable and future-oriented while maintaining excellence across its core academic, research, and professional missions. This leadership requires comfort with ambiguity, sound judgment, and the ability to make timely decisions in complex environments.

- **Champion Student Success, Access, and Affordability**
  Students are central to the School's mission and identity. The dean will prioritize student access, affordability, enrollment stability, and holistic support, particularly given the unique pressures social work students face through practicum requirements, policy and regulatory shifts, immigration status, disability, and mental health needs. Student engagement is understood as both a moral and strategic imperative, directly linked to recruitment, retention, and long-term institutional vitality. Transparent communication, advocacy within the University, and strategic resource development and deployment will be essential for ensuring students thrive academically and professionally while remaining grounded in the School's values. The dean will play a critical role in aligning programs, policies, and resources to support student success across undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral pathways.

- **Build Institutional Capacity, Resources, and Strategic Partnerships**
  The dean will embrace fundraising, external engagement, and partnership development as core leadership responsibilities. This includes securing philanthropic and public support aligned with the School's mission; strengthening relationships with alumni, donors, foundations, and community partners; and expanding collaboration across the University, particularly with health sciences and other academic units. The dean will also work to diversify funding sources and advocate for resources that reflect the labor-intensive and relational nature of social work education and practice. As the University enters a campaign period, the dean will play a pivotal role in aligning resources with strategic priorities, enhancing student access and opportunity, and ensuring the School's long-term vitality and sustainability.

- **Foster a Cohesive, Inclusive, and High-Performing Community**
  The School values a culture of collaboration, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. The dean will lead inclusively, value the contributions of faculty, staff, and students across roles and appointment types, and continue efforts to address hierarchies, strengthen mentorship and professional development, and support well-being. As a visible, relational, and accessible leader, the dean will build trust, empower others, and cultivate an environment in which all members of the School community can succeed and thrive, advancing the School's mission through collective purpose and shared leadership

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The ideal candidate will possess the following professional qualifications and personal characteristics:

- **Academic accomplishment and stature:** A record of scholarly achievement, teaching, and service appropriate for appointment as a tenured full professor in the School of Social Work; demonstrated credibility within the social work profession or closely allied fields with clear alignment to social work values and practice; and an understanding of the role of a major public research university in advancing knowledge, practice, and policy. The successful candidate will be respected as a scholar and educator and able to engage meaningfully with faculty across research, teaching, and community-engaged practice. The University also welcomes candidates with senior leadership experience in academic, policy, practice, research, or mission-driven organizational settings—particularly where such experience aligns with social work core disciplinary tenets—and who demonstrate the scholarly engagement and credentials necessary for appointment at the rank of full professor.

- **Commitment to mission and public purpose:** A deep and demonstrated commitment to the mission, values, and ethics of the social work profession and to the role of higher education as an engine of economic mobility and social good; intellectual openness and respect for diverse perspectives; and a clear appreciation for the responsibilities and opportunities inherent in leading a highly ranked school within a major public research university. The successful candidate will be able to articulate, with clarity and conviction, how social work education, practice, research, and community engagement advance the University's broader mission locally, nationally, and globally.

- **Demonstrated leadership and vision:** The ability to conceive, articulate, and implement a compelling and shared vision that builds on the School's strengths while positioning it for the future; capacity to lead strategically and with agility in a rapidly changing higher education and social policy environment; and skill in guiding an academic community through complexity, change, and growth. The successful candidate will respect faculty governance, engage collaboratively with stakeholders, and bring the experience and confidence to lead effectively, demonstrating the judgment and resolve to make and implement difficult decisions when necessary.

- **Experience advancing scholarship in social justice, equity, and inclusion:** A record of research and academic leadership that supports the interrogation of structural inequities, informs policy, and advances inclusive practices within social work and related fields; demonstrated success in fostering interdisciplinary scholarship that addresses issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, and other dimensions of diversity; and the ability to position the School as a thought leader in producing knowledge that drives equity and justice. The dean must value and champion multiple forms of scholarly excellence, including community-engaged, practice-based, and justice-oriented research, alongside externally funded work.

- **Collaborative leadership and institutional engagement:** The ability to work effectively and collegially with faculty, staff, students, alumni, community partners, and University leadership; demonstrated success collaborating across disciplines and academic units; and a willingness to serve as an active and visible ambassador for the School within the University and beyond. The successful candidate will demonstrate a leadership style that is relational and accessible, including a willingness to engage directly with students, faculty, staff, and partners across the School's

statewide and off-campus programs. The dean must be capable of strengthening partnerships across Pitt, particularly with health sciences and related fields, and of representing the School with credibility and clarity to external audiences.

- **Communication skills and emotional intelligence:** A leadership style grounded in listening, transparency, and thoughtful communication; the ability to explain the principles underlying decisions and to engage stakeholders in meaningful dialogue; and the emotional intelligence required to build trust, foster collaboration, and sustain morale during periods of change. The successful candidate will be known as an authentic, approachable, and respectful leader who communicates with clarity and care.
- **Operational acumen and capacity for execution:** Demonstrated experience leading and managing complex academic organizations; ability to translate vision into strategy and action; experience overseeing budgets, personnel, and academic operations; and a commitment to equitable and effective management practices. The dean must be capable of balancing strategic priorities with operational realities and of advocating for resources that recognize the labor-intensive and relational nature of social work education and practice, while supporting faculty, staff, and students across varied roles and appointment types.
- **Engagement with the Board of Visitors**: Experience working collaboratively and productively with a Board of Visitors or comparable advisory body. The successful candidate will value the Board as strategic partners and ambassadors for the School, engage members with transparency and respect, and work effectively to align Board engagement with the School's mission, strategic priorities, and shared governance.
- **Capacity to develop resources and partnerships:** Evidence of success in fundraising and resource development from private and public sources; the ability to cultivate and steward relationships with donors, alumni, foundations, and community partners; and a willingness to engage deeply in development efforts aligned with the School's mission and strategic priorities. The successful candidate will be comfortable diversifying funding sources and serving as a persuasive spokesperson for the societal value of social work. The dean must be an effective advocate for the School and able to communicate a compelling case for investment in social work education, research, and community impact.
- **Personal qualities and leadership presence:** Integrity, values-driven and a strong ethical compass; intellectual curiosity and a commitment to continuous learning; energy, resilience, and optimism; and a leadership presence that is inclusive, steady, and grounded. The successful candidate will lead with openness rather than ego, value teamwork over hierarchy, and demonstrate a genuine commitment to supporting the success and well-being of faculty, staff, and students.

About the University of Pittsburgh

Overview

Since 1787, Pitt has never stopped pushing the edge of what's possible. From research achievements to the quality of its academic programs, the University of Pittsburgh ranks among the best in higher education. With an enrollment of over 35,000 students across its campuses, Pitt is internationally respected as a center for learning and research.

Faculty members have earned prestigious honors such as the National Medal of Science, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "genius grant," the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award; election to the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Academy of Inventors; and receipt of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Staff members' enthusiasm, talent, and dedication help ensure operational excellence and an outstanding student experience. Students come to Pitt from all 50 states, three territories, the District of Columbia, and more than 105 countries.

With regional campuses in Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville, Pitt offers more than 750 degree and certificate programs, providing a wide range of academic opportunities. Nearly 15,000 faculty, research, and postdoctoral associates, and staff work on the Pittsburgh campus, with an additional 720 at the regional campuses. Pitt offers generous benefits and values work-life balance.

The 132-acre Pittsburgh campus, in the vibrant and beautiful Oakland neighborhood, is home to the Cathedral of Learning, a renowned and popular landmark that, at 42 stories, is the tallest academic building in the Western Hemisphere. The Pittsburgh campus is also home to the University's health sciences schools and is co-located with the highly ranked UPMC (formerly University of Pittsburgh Medical Center) and its flagship medical facilities. Pitt has served as an integral partner and a key player in driving the growth of the education and health services sector in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region.

For more information about the University of Pittsburgh, please visit www.pitt.edu.

Leadership

Joan Gabel, Chancellor

Joan Gabel is chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, leading a community of more than 35,000 students and over 15,500 faculty, researchers, and staff across five campuses with an annual operating budget exceeding $3 billion. She has guided Pitt through a comprehensive, metrics-driven strategic plan that has delivered growth in enrollment, postgraduation placement, research expenditures, invention disclosures, and industry partnerships, while elevating the University's reputation with designations such as a New Ivy and Best-In-State Employer.

Previously, Gabel served as president of the University of Minnesota System and Twin Cities campus, where she launched the system's first strategic plan, catalyzing record philanthropic investment and next-generation health sciences education and strengthening the regional agro-food economy.

Her previous leadership roles include executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of South Carolina; business dean at the University of Missouri; and faculty positions at Georgia State University and Florida State University, where she was the DeSantis Professor of Legal Studies and chair of the Department of Risk Management and Insurance, Real Estate and Legal Studies.

Gabel serves on the boards of UPMC, the Association of American Universities, and the Pittsburgh Symphony. She also holds leadership positions with the U.S. Council on Competitiveness, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and Fulbright Scholar Advisory Board (CIES).

Gabel has been recognized by The Wall Street Journal as a "shining star," elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and named to the Pittsburgh Business Times' Power 100. She is a sought-after national and international speaker and adviser on leadership, risk management, insurance, and governance for industry and government.

Joseph J. McCarthy, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

As provost and senior vice chancellor, Joseph J. McCarthy has primary responsibility for the University of Pittsburgh's academic mission, including supporting scholarly excellence among more than 5,900 faculty members and academic success among over 35,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students on all five campuses.

McCarthy assumed the role of provost and senior vice chancellor in April 2024 after a national search and after having served as interim provost and senior vice chancellor beginning in July 2023.

Prior to this role, McCarthy served as vice provost for undergraduate studies, focusing on enhancing the academic experience of Pitt's undergraduates. This

work included developing and facilitating programs to improve student satisfaction and retention, student success, and the overall learning environment (quality of programs, dissemination of opportunities, undergraduate advising and mentoring, and diversity of perspectives and people). In addition, he and his team coordinated the review of programs and policies affecting undergraduate education and collaborated with University committees, including the Provost's Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Programs and the Enrollment Management Steering Committee.

McCarthy is also the William Kepler Whiteford Professor in the Swanson School of Engineering's Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. A member of Pitt's faculty since 1998, he has been recognized for his contributions to teaching and curriculum development and for his leadership of undergraduate research programs. In 2008, he earned the Carnegie Science University Educator Award for developing and implementing the innovative "Pillars" curriculum that reshaped undergraduate education in chemical engineering. His other accolades include the Swanson School's Outstanding Educator Award (2012) and the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award (2015).

McCarthy's record of administrative experience in the chemical engineering department dates back to 2005 and includes serving as undergraduate coordinator, then as vice chair for education. In these roles, he focused on leading department-wide educational initiatives for undergraduate and graduate programs during a period when the department's undergraduate enrollment more than tripled.

He is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), American Physical Society (APS) and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). He also has served on the editorial board of the AIChE Journal and as an executive committee member for the 2013 APS – Division of Fluid Dynamics meeting and as an organizer and plenary speaker at the 2007 international Discrete Element Methods conference in Brisbane.

McCarthy has published more than 60 peer-reviewed manuscripts in various international journals, conference proceedings and popular press outlets such as Nature, PNAS, Langmuir, Angewandte Chemie, Soft Matter, Physical Review Letters, Physical Review E, ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, the Journal of Physical Chemistry C, the AIChE Journal, Powder Technology, Chemical Engineering Science, the International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer, and Chaos. His publications have resulted in an H-index of 34, and his research group has given more than 45 invited lectures to industry, national laboratories, academia, international conferences, and workshops.

McCarthy holds a PhD in chemical engineering from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

Pittsburgh

The University views the city of Pittsburgh as an extension of its campus, and Pittsburgh is no ordinary college town. The city is transforming from an industrial capital to a center of education, research, and innovation. Pitt actively engages with the surrounding community through its Community Engagement Centers, community-driven partnerships, and volunteer service. The city hosts a high concentration of influential nonprofits and, as an international center of emerging information technology, is home to companies such as Duolingo, one of Google's national offices, and over 140 robotics companies. The city also has a long history in banking and manufacturing and is becoming a leader in advanced manufacturing technologies and nanotechnology.

Pittsburgh's reinvention since its days as a smoky steel town has received national acclaim and garnered numerous accolades. Pittsburgh is a vibrant, approachable mid-sized city with world-class arts and cultural institutions, as well as multiple notable foundations that support social impact. Wrapped in rivers, intertwined with trails, and packed with parks, Pittsburgh is a green and outdoor city with fantastic urban views and a famed downtown skyline. In the eyes of its many visitors, Pittsburgh offers a surprising and unexpected experience, with natural beauty, unique terrain, and diverse offerings at every turn.

For more information on the city of Pittsburgh, please visit coolpgh.pitt.edu.

Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting the University of Pittsburgh in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by **March 9, 2026.**

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's **candidate portal**.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Robin Mamlet, Bree Liddell, and Tyler Workman

Pitt-SWDean@wittkieffer.com

The University of Pittsburgh is an equal opportunity employer / disability / veteran.