

UNLV

Executive Vice President and Provost Leadership Profile

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Executive Summary

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) invites nominations and applications for the position of Executive Vice President and Provost. This is an exceptional opportunity to join one of the nation's most dynamic public research universities at a moment of growth and transformation. Reporting directly to the President, the Provost serves as UNLV's chief academic officer and a key member of the President's Cabinet and executive leadership team. The University seeks an innovative, collaborative, and forward-looking leader to shape its academic vision and strengthen its impact as a leading Carnegie R1 research institution.

UNLV stands at an exciting inflection point as it continues its ascent as a premier public research university. As a Carnegie R1 institution, UNLV combines academic excellence, innovation, and access in one of the fastest-growing and most diverse metropolitan areas in the country. The Provost will play a pivotal role in advancing the University's strategic goals, expanding research and graduate education, supporting faculty excellence, and enriching the academic experience for all students.

Located in one of the world's most vibrant and entrepreneurial cities, UNLV enjoys unique opportunities to partner with industry, government, and community organizations. The Provost will help the University leverage its metropolitan advantage to expand experiential learning, research collaboration, and workforce development – building on UNLV's growing influence across Nevada and the broader region. UNLV's next Provost will lead a broad and complex academic enterprise, working collaboratively with deans, vice provosts, faculty, and staff to shape the institution's academic priorities. The role calls for an experienced and strategic academic leader who can manage complexity with clarity, inspire innovation, and strengthen the infrastructure that supports UNLV's teaching, research, and community engagement missions.

The successful candidate for Provost will be a strategic, collaborative, and visionary academic leader with a distinguished record in teaching, research, and service that earns faculty respect and institutional confidence. They will possess extensive experience managing complex academic organizations, with the insight to enhance faculty excellence, advance research and graduate education, and support student success across a diverse university. As a forward-thinking planner and effective administrator, the Provost will set clear academic priorities, align resources with mission, and convert strategic goals into measurable outcomes while fostering innovation and a culture of accountability and collaboration. Credible, approachable, and skilled in consensus building, they will connect colleges, schools, and administrative units to achieve institutional objectives, demonstrating the ability to listen thoughtfully, act decisively, and inspire trust among faculty, staff, students, and community partners. Combining intellectual depth with operational acumen, the ideal candidate will lead with vision and disciplined execution, embracing transparency, academic innovation, and continuous improvement. Above all, they will embody UNLV's mission as a public urban research university committed to transforming lives through education, discovery, and community engagement.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy on page 8.



Role of the Executive Vice President and Provost

The Provost serves as UNLV's chief academic officer and is responsible for leading all academic planning, operations, and policies that advance the University's mission of teaching, research, and service. This leader ensures academic programs remain rigorous, innovative, and aligned with institutional priorities, while promoting excellence in faculty recruitment, development, and retention.

The Provost provides vision and direction for academic strategy, resource allocation, and program development across all colleges, schools, and academic support units. They will guide faculty affairs, accreditation and assessment, shared governance, and student success initiatives while fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Externally, the Provost represents UNLV's academic mission to the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), the Board of Regents, and state and local partners. They will build partnerships with PK-12 education, industry, and government agencies to strengthen educational pathways, expand research opportunities, and enhance the University's contribution to Nevada's economic and social vitality.

The position requires a visionary leader who combines academic excellence with administrative acumen and who can inspire confidence and trust across a complex institution. The Provost must demonstrate an ability to translate institutional priorities into action, balancing ambition with pragmatism and innovation with operational excellence.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide strategic leadership for the University's academic mission through planning, policy development, and resource alignment.
- Lead academic budgeting and multi-year academic resource planning processes that align instructional, research, and student support priorities.
- Guide faculty recruitment, development, promotion, and tenure processes to strengthen academic quality and faculty engagement.
- Oversee curriculum development, assessment, and accreditation to ensure excellence, compliance, and relevance across all programs.
- Advance research, graduate education, and interdisciplinary collaboration across colleges and schools.
- Promote student achievement, inclusive excellence, and innovation in teaching and learning.
- Work in partnership with the Faculty Senate, deans, vice provosts, and academic leadership to ensure transparency and shared governance.
- Collaborate with NSHE, the Board of Regents, and state agencies on systemwide academic and policy initiatives.
- Build and sustain external partnerships that enhance UNLV's visibility and impact across Nevada and beyond.
- Serve as a visible ambassador for UNLV's academic enterprise.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The successful candidate will be a strategic, collaborative, and visionary academic leader with a record of distinguished achievement in teaching, research, and service that commands the respect of faculty and inspires confidence across the institution. They will bring substantial experience leading complex academic organizations, with the insight and judgment to strengthen faculty excellence, advance research and graduate education, and promote student achievement across a diverse and dynamic university.

The Provost must be a forward-thinking planner and effective administrator, skilled at setting clear academic priorities, aligning resources with mission, and translating strategic goals into measurable outcomes. They will demonstrate the capacity to manage complexity with clarity, foster innovation, and sustain a culture of accountability, collaboration, and shared purpose.

An effective communicator and consensus builder, the Provost will bring credibility, integrity, and approachability to their leadership. They will be adept at working across boundaries to connect colleges, schools, and administrative units in pursuit of institutional goals. The ability to listen thoughtfully, act decisively, and inspire confidence among faculty, staff, students, and community partners will be essential.

The ideal candidate will pair intellectual depth with operational acumen, bringing both vision and disciplined execution to the role. They will be a principled, student-centered, and inclusive leader who values transparency, academic innovation, and continuous improvement. Above all, the Provost will embody UNLV's mission as a public urban research university that transforms lives through education, discovery, and community engagement.

Qualifications

Required:

- An earned doctorate or terminal degree from an accredited institution.
- Academic accomplishments and credentials meriting appointment as a full professor with tenure.
- At least seven years of progressively responsible academic administrative experience in a complex institution.
- Demonstrated experience in academic budgeting, accreditation, faculty affairs, and shared governance.
- Strong record of collaboration with governing boards, system offices, or external agencies.

Preferred:

- Experience serving as a provost or dean at a research university.
- Demonstrated success fostering partnerships with industry, community, and government organizations.
- Experience in statewide or system-level coordination and/or board relations.



About The University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Overview

Founded in 1957, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) is Nevada's largest public research university and a vibrant center for education, innovation, and community impact. Designated as a Carnegie R1 institution and recognized with the Carnegie Community Engagement classification, UNLV offers more than 350 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across 17 colleges, schools, and academic units, including professional schools in medicine, law, and dental medicine.

UNLV's 335-acre main campus, located in the heart of Las Vegas, provides an unmatched environment for discovery, collaboration, and creative enterprise. The University enrolls nearly 34,000 students and employs nearly 4,400 full-time faculty and staff who advance the institution's mission through research, teaching, and service. Since its founding, UNLV has awarded more than 176,000 degrees and built a global network of 150,000 alumni who are driving economic activity, leadership, and public service across Nevada and beyond.

UNLV plays a pivotal role in the vitality and diversification of Nevada's economy. The University contributes approximately \$3 billion annually in economic impact through education, research, health care, and industry partnerships. With an endowment exceeding \$350 million, UNLV continues to invest strategically in faculty excellence, student achievement, research capacity, and academic infrastructure.

As a university of opportunity and ambition, UNLV provides access to high-quality education for students from across Nevada and the nation, including many who are the first in their families to pursue higher education.

Positioned at the center of a thriving metropolitan city and an economy defined by innovation, UNLV is shaping the future of the Silver State and the region through discovery, access, and impact.

UNLV at a Glance

- 335-acre main campus in the heart of Las Vegas
- 33,706 students
- 4,400 full-time faculty and staff
- 17 colleges, schools, and academic units
- 350 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs
- Carnegie R1 Classification
- Carnegie Community Engagement Classification
- 176,000 degrees awarded; 150,000+ alumni worldwide
- \$350 million endowment
- \$3 billion annual economic impact

Leadership

About the President

Chris L. Heavey, Ph.D., was appointed Interim President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in April 2025 by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, with a three-year appointment extending through April 2028. A longtime member of the UNLV community, President Heavey has served the University for more than three decades as a faculty member, department chair, dean, executive vice president and provost, and now president. His leadership is defined by deep institutional knowledge, integrity, and a commitment to advancing UNLV's mission through academic excellence, operational effectiveness, and community partnership.

President Heavey's vision for UNLV centers on transformation – building the systems, structures, and culture that allow the University to fulfill its potential as Southern Nevada's research university and anchor institution. His priorities focus on aligning academic programs, research, and operations to function cohesively and efficiently in support of student success and institutional growth. Under his leadership, UNLV is strengthening its foundation for innovation, expanding access and opportunity, and reinforcing the University's role in meeting the region's workforce and economic development needs.

The next provost will join President Heavey as a strategic partner in this work, helping to refine internal operations, enhance data-informed decision-making, and ensure the academic enterprise is organized for both excellence and impact. Together, they will lead with clarity, collaboration, and purpose – positioning UNLV to continue its upward trajectory as a nationally recognized public research university serving the people and progress of Southern Nevada.



Las Vegas, Nevada

Southern Nevada is a region defined by possibility. Las Vegas offers the amenities of a major metropolitan area in a setting surrounded by exceptional natural beauty, from the sandstone cliffs of Red Rock Canyon to the open waters of Lake Mead and the mountain forests of Mount Charleston. The area's more than 300 days of sunshine each year, proximity to the desert and the mountains, and easy access to national parks and scenic areas across the Southwest make it one of the country's most distinctive places to live and work. Residents enjoy a high quality of life, a reasonable cost of living compared with many large cities, and a strong sense of regional pride and growth.

Over the past several decades, Las Vegas has developed into one of the nation's most connected and forward-looking cities. Long known as a global center for hospitality, entertainment, and tourism, it is also home to an expanding knowledge-based economy anchored in health care, technology, advanced manufacturing, logistics, and professional services. The region hosts many of the nation's largest conventions, trade shows, and professional meetings, creating a constant exchange of ideas and expertise. This infrastructure connects UNLV to industries and organizations that value innovation and collaboration, giving faculty and students direct pathways to applied research, workforce development, and community engagement.

Las Vegas continues to attract new residents and businesses because of its accessibility, entrepreneurial culture, and spirit of reinvention. The city's global reach, diverse population, and emerging industries align naturally with UNLV's mission as Southern Nevada's public research university, expanding educational opportunity and driving regional progress. For those who choose to work and lead here, Las Vegas offers an ecosystem of growth and collaboration where the University's research, workforce development, and innovation initiatives directly influence the region's prosperity and long-term success.



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 Nevada, Las Vegas in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by Monday, January 19, 2026.

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

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Zachary A. Smith, Ph.D., Julia Bradley, and Kim Migoya

UNLVProvost@wittkieffer.com

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