Dean of the College of Arts and Letters

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

California State University, Los Angeles, seeks an inspiring and innovative leader to serve as Dean of the College of Arts and Letters. Reporting to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and working in collaboration with faculty, students and staff, the Dean will provide dynamic, visionary leadership to build upon the strengths of the College and develop new opportunities to fulfill the College’s role as a model of intellectual and community engagement.

The Dean provides academic and administrative leadership to nine departments, the Fine Arts Gallery, the Arts and Letters Advisement Center, the University Times and California’s only prison-based degree program. The College is also home to the university’s first-year writing curriculum and provides significant support to the university’s General Education requirements. The College offers eleven baccalaureate degree programs or options and ten graduate degree programs, including a degree completion program at the university’s Downtown LA (DTLA) campus. The College has 100 tenure-track faculty, two hundred part-time lecturers and 3700 students. With an operating budget of close to $16,000,000, it generates 4400 annual FTES.

Cal State LA is engaged in an exciting period of transformation as it revitalizes its curricula, fulfills its mission as an engine of social mobility by producing well-prepared 21st century graduates and bolsters its presence as a regional leader. This is an exceptional opportunity for a dynamic and talented individual to advance the College during an exciting time of change and renewal. The successful candidate will bring a commitment to student success and scholarship, a strategic vision to energize and support research and entrepreneurial activities, and the ability to ensure administrative excellence as Cal State LA becomes a destination campus and a dynamic force in the LA region.

THE UNIVERSITY

Cal State LA is one of 23 campuses within the California State University system. With over 60 undergraduate and 58 graduate degree programs led by award-winning faculty, Cal State LA’s dedication to access and excellence has been recognized nationally. Our success as an engine of change was recently confirmed in a study by The Equality of Opportunity Project that ranked Cal State LA #1 in the U.S. for the upward mobility of its graduates. Founded in 1947, the University is located just minutes from downtown Los Angeles, adjacent to the San Gabriel Valley, and serves more than 30,000 students. Cal State LA’s students and 235,000 alumni reflect the City’s and County’s dynamic mix of
populations, with a wide variety of interests, ages and backgrounds. The University has one of the most diverse student populations of any college or university in the nation: more than 60% of students identify as Latino, over 14% as Asian American or Pacific Islander, almost 8% as White, and more than 4% as African American.

As a federally recognized Hispanic-serving and Minority-serving institution, Cal State LA recognizes the transformative power of education and embraces its duty to identify and serve the needs of all of its students. This longstanding commitment is reflected in its history as home to the nation’s first Chicano Studies program, second Pan-African Studies program, and Latin American and Asian and Asian American Studies programs. In addition to meeting fully its obligations under federal and state law, Cal State LA is committed to creating a community in which a diverse population can live, work and learn in an atmosphere of civility and respect for the rights and sensibilities of each individual.

For more information about Cal State LA, visit: http://www.calstatela.edu/.

THE POSITION

The Dean serves as the chief operating and academic officer of the College of Arts and Letters and is responsible for creating and sustaining an environment in which academic excellence is pursued by faculty, students, administrators and staff. With the Provost and other officers of the University, the Dean participates in developing University policy and strategic planning and represents the College internally and in the larger community and region. To support the growth and success of the College, the Dean also seeks broad-based support from external constituencies and plays a leadership role in fundraising and development for the College.

The Dean is responsible for providing dynamic leadership to the College’s nine departments: Art; Communication Studies; English; Liberal Studies; Modern Languages & Literatures; Music; Theatre and Dance; Philosophy; and Television, Film, and Media Studies

Among many notable achievements, the College of Arts and Letters is home to award-winning faculty and the nationally ranked Cal State LA Forensics Team. An active participant in the American Democracy Project, College faculty are nationally recognized leaders in civic learning. Arts students enjoy access to state of the art studies in Television, Film & Media and in Animation. The Animation program was recently ranked the 25th top school in the west. Deeply committed to issues of social justice, the college recently launched the state’s only undergraduate prison-based degree program at the California State Prison in Lancaster, a BA in Communication Studies.

The successful candidate will be an experienced academic administrator with the energy and interpersonal and leadership skills necessary to achieve ambitious goals.
Minimum Qualifications:

- An earned doctorate in a related field and a record of recognized research, scholarship and teaching accomplishments sufficient to merit appointment as a tenured full professor
- At least five years of progressive experience in academic administration
- A history of effective leadership in a culture of shared governance
- An ability to successfully lead and work collaboratively with faculty
- A commitment to professional, community-based and traditional education and scholarship
- An ability to demonstrate a commitment to and evidence of securing external support and fundraising
- An ability to demonstrate a dedication to student achievement and student success
- A clear understanding of leading-edge methods and instructional technologies to support teaching and learning in a large, diverse urban public university
- Financial acumen and proven abilities in budget and financial management
- Superior communication skills and the ability to articulate a compelling message to diverse audiences
- A record as a progressive and creative thinker with the ability to make clear, informed decisions
- A record that shows a meaningful commitment to and demonstrated accomplishment in issues around inclusiveness and diversity
- Experience in promoting faculty entrepreneurialism in research, teaching, and service

Preferred Qualifications:

- Demonstrated ability to provide civic leadership and to successfully work with professionals in industry and academic, community, and governmental organizations
- Experience in strategic planning and an ability to work collaboratively with faculty and academic leaders to identify the academic priorities of the College and develop strategies and tactics for achieving them
- Experience working in a unionized environment

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Cal State LA seeks to fill this position by July 2018. The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and will continue to accept applications and nominations until the position is filled. However, for full consideration, applicants are encouraged to have complete applications submitted by January 12th. Completed applications must include: a letter of application specifically addressing and the minimum and preferred qualifications, a current curriculum vitae, and contact information for five current professional references.

Inquiries, nominations, and applications are confidential and should be directed to Isaacson, Miller via www.imsearch.com/6326.
The person holding this position is considered a "mandated reporter" under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act and is required to comply with the requirements set forth in CSU Executive Order 1083 as a condition of employment.

A background check (including a criminal records check) must be completed satisfactorily before any candidate can be offered a position with the CSU. Failure to satisfactorily complete the background check may affect the application status of applicants or continued employment of current CSU employees who apply for the position.

Cal State LA is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer with a strong institutional commitment to achieving and supporting diversity among its faculty, students, and staff. Applications from women, minorities, and individuals with a strong record of mentoring students from underserved or underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

All qualified individuals will receive equal consideration without regard to economic status, race, ethnicity, color, religion, marital status, pregnancy, national origin or cultural background, political views, sex or sexual orientation, gender identification, age, disability, disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran status.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/TITLE IX EMPLOYER

Upon request, reasonable accommodation will be provided to individuals with protected disabilities to (a) complete the employment process and (b) perform essential job functions when this does not cause undue hardship.