Executive Summary

Saint Louis University (SLU), one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious Jesuit, Catholic universities, invites nominations and expressions of interest for the position of university provost.

Located in the heart of the city of St. Louis, MO, Saint Louis University is driven by a clear purpose: educating the whole person – mind, body, heart and spirit – within the Jesuit tradition of educational excellence. With over 2,300 faculty, SLU offers its 13,000 students (drawn from all 50 states and over 80 foreign countries) a rigorous and transformative education that helps them to develop into bold, confident leaders. The region's leading university for educating adult learners, as well as enrolling an additional 7,000 students in its 1818 advanced college credit program, SLU is consistently lauded as one of the nation's top universities with 18 of its graduate and undergraduate programs ranked among the top 50 in the country by US News and World Report (2020). SLU is also ranked within the top 10 Niche 2021 “Best Catholic Colleges in America” List, and is one of only nine Catholic universities to receive a Carnegie classification of “higher” or “highest” research activity. In 2019, SLU welcomed the largest freshman class in its history. This talented group had an average high school GPA of 3.9 and an ACT score of 28, placing them in the top 10% of test takers in the nation. Other notable accolades include its reputation as a leader in community service, ranking second in the nation for this aspect of its work by The Princeton Review, as well as being selected as a Top Place to Work for Women in 2020 by the Women’s Foundation of Greater St. Louis.

The university takes enormous pride in its academics and research, as well as its passion for the ethical, spiritual, and compassionate preparation of its students. Saint Louis University is now entering a new and exciting era with significant opportunities for leadership and innovation for the next provost. Shortly after his arrival to SLU in 2014, the university president, Dr. Fred Pestello, initiated a broadly inclusive strategic planning process, focused on identifying the ways in which the university’s Jesuit mission might be maintained and enhanced given the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century higher education environment.

Enrollments have remained stable despite the uncertainties prompted by the current COVID-19 pandemic. The university’s leadership has taken a science-based, consensual approach to the impact of COVID-19. Its decisions have been guided by Jesuit values, and the expectations of students and their families, faculty and staff. Both faculty and students had the choice to decide how classes would be taught and taken in the fall 2020 semester. The result is that SLU is among the estimated 30 percent of American colleges and universities that are providing primarily in-person instruction to its undergraduate and graduate students. At the time of writing, positive COVID-19 cases have been low, and a tenuous stability has taken hold.

This is an exceptional opportunity for an experienced and distinguished academic leader to serve one of the nation's most forward-looking universities, and to help advance Dr. Pestello’s vision for the university: to be a global Jesuit university that is mission-focused, student and patient-centered, and research driven, while also working with the people of St. Louis to reimagine, transform, and unify the city. In addition to academic oversight, the provost's portfolio will include the Divisions of Student Development and Enrollment and Retention Management. The next provost will have an invaluable opportunity to build an academic strategic plan that enhances a student's experience from recruitment through graduation,
and on to employment or further advanced study. Promoting the values of the Jesuit Catholic mission, the provost will lead this 202 year-old university to an even brighter future.

Additional information about Saint Louis University may be found at www.slu.edu. To submit a nomination or to express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy on page 18.

**About Saint Louis University**

Founded in 1818 as the first university to be established west of the Mississippi River, Saint Louis University is one of the nation’s most prestigious Catholic universities. Geographically, the university is accommodated on five distinct sites. In the midtown area of St. Louis, the arts, the humanities, the social and natural sciences, and the main core of the university administration are located on the North Campus. Health sciences, the School of Medicine, and the university hospital are situated nearby on the south campus. In downtown St. Louis, the School of Law is a short walk from the city’s nineteenth-century Old Courthouse, giving students and faculty ready access to the city’s legal infrastructure. Overseas, in the heart of Spain’s capital is SLU-Madrid. This campus, which opened in 1967, is located in the cosmopolitan Chamberi district of the city, and is home to 900 students from 50 countries. SLU-Madrid is a recognized center of international education offering complete US degree programs. Finally, SLU’s Center for Aviation Science (part of Parks College of Engineering, Aviation, and Technology) lies just across the Mississippi river at St. Louis Downtown Airport, a ten minute drive from midtown. All the university’s sites in the St. Louis area are linked by shuttle transportation.

Steeped in a 500-year-old Ignatian tradition of spirituality, pedagogy, and intellectual inquiry, Saint Louis University enters its third century with a clear vision for its future, and that of a city in which students, staff, and faculty can have enormously constructive impacts. Racial justice, social justice, economic opportunity, the social determinants of health, and child and adult education are local issues in which the SLU community is intent on making a difference, while working alongside residents and neighborhood and city leaders to reimagine, transform, and unify St. Louis.

To cater for the ambitions of its students and faculty, the university has embarked on an exciting series of initiatives. The north and south campuses of the university are situated in the middle of the St. Louis Central Corridor, which is receiving $8 billion of investment in the areas of high-tech research and development, healthcare, as well as commercial and residential projects. In those areas which will report directly to the new provost, SLU is on track to double its funded research activity over the next five years.

Among the many projects in which the university is directly involved, are:

- Prompted by the $1.7 billion development of the new National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency West campus, close to the university, SLU’s Geospatial Institute (GeoSLU) launched in October 2019, led by researchers in Public Health, Sociology, and Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, is taking advantage of these exciting opportunities for research collaboration.

- The Saint Louis University Research Institute, together with the recent completion of a $50 million state-of-the-art Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building, will give students and faculty the
facilities and tools they need to conduct ground-breaking research, as well as to support cutting-edge teaching in the natural sciences and engineering.

- A $550 million university hospital and outpatient care center that opened this fall will keep SLU at the leading edge of health care innovation and delivery. SLU’s Center for Vaccine Development is one of ten NIH-funded Vaccine Treatment and Evaluation Units, currently conducting a phase III Moderna trial. Over 60 faculty from 20 departments were able to rapidly respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

- Midtown St. Louis is experiencing a major transformation, and SLU is working with developers and community partners to shape the future of the region through projects such as Prospect Yards – an ambitious redevelopment of a 150 acre site connecting the north and south campuses of the university.

- Adjacent to the western boundary of the north campus is the Cortex Innovation District: a 200-acre hub for technology startups, and biological science research development and commercialization. SLU is helping to develop this site in partnership with Washington University in St. Louis, BJC HealthCare, the University of Missouri–St. Louis, and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

- The recently opened Midwest headquarters of Microsoft on this site underpins the university’s commitment to providing its students with real-world experience in business and entrepreneurship programs offered by the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business.

- In keeping with its liberal arts tradition, the university will continue to invest in the humanities and social sciences, by seeking to hire and retain scholars and teachers of the highest caliber in these disciplines, and continuing to invest in the infrastructure needed to support their work.

The new provost of Saint Louis University will be helping to lead a dynamic, innovative, and intellectually ambitious community of students, faculty, administrators, and staff. They will also be helping to guide a university which is a major catalyst for urban renewal in the heart of a vibrant and confident city. With nearly 7,000 employees, a $1.25-billion endowment, an annual operating budget of more than $975 million, and a contribution of $715 million in annual economic impact to the region, the provost will have an unrivalled opportunity to shape the academic future of this historic institution.
Mission

The mission of Saint Louis University is the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity. The university seeks excellence in the fulfillment of its corporate purposes of teaching, research, health care and service to the community. It is dedicated to the continuing quest for understanding of God’s creation and for the discovery, dissemination and integration of the values, knowledge and skills required to transform society in the spirit of the Gospels.

As a Catholic, Jesuit University, this pursuit is motivated by the inspiration and values of the Judeo-Christian tradition and is guided by the spiritual and intellectual ideals of the Society of Jesus.

In support of its mission, the university aims to:

- Encourage and support innovative scholarship and effective teaching in all fields of the arts; the humanities; the natural, health and medical sciences; the social sciences; the law; business; aviation; and technology.

- Create an academic environment that values and promotes free, active, and original intellectual inquiry among its faculty and students.

- Foster programs that link university resources to local, national and international communities in collaborative efforts to alleviate ignorance, poverty, injustice and hunger; extend compassionate care to the ill and needy; and maintain and improve the quality of life for all persons.

- Strive continuously to build upon its Catholic, Jesuit identity and to promote activities that apply its intellectual and ethical heritage to work for the good of society.

- Welcome students, faculty and staff from all racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds and beliefs to create a sense of community that facilitates their development as people for others.

- Nurture within its community an understanding of and commitment to the promotion of faith and justice in the spirit of the Gospels.

- Allocate wisely its resources to maintain efficiency and effectiveness in attaining its mission and goals.
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Saint Louis University is committed to diversity as a value rooted in Ignatian spirituality. Because of this commitment, as well as its central location in a city that has experienced the injustices of poverty, racism, and segregation, the university's students, faculty, and staff aspire to build communities that are unburdened by discrimination and oppression while advancing the Ignatian concepts of educating the whole individual as people for and with others.

SLU is proud to have been the first historically white institution of higher education in a former slave state to formally admit African American students. The university’s School of Law (founded in 1843 as the first law school west of the Mississippi) was also the first ABA-recognized law school in St. Louis to accept African American students.

We are also proud that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered a civil rights speech on our campus just one week before he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. However, SLU is keenly aware of aspects of its foundational history that are difficult to confront. It was this awareness that led the university to partner with the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province to address a shared history of involvement in the enslavement of African Americans, dating back to the early years of the institution. The Slavery, History, Memory and Reconciliation Project (SHMR), seeks to develop a more complete understanding of the university's own involvement in slavery, to honor the memories of those individuals held in bondage, and to find a path toward reconciliation. This national project is based in St. Louis, and is centered on the Jesuit Archives and Research Center, a short walk from the north campus of the university.

In more recent history, student and community activists held a week-long occupation of the campus to protest racial injustices locally and nationally, as part of the 2014 Ferguson protests which drew national and international attention to the St. Louis region. In common with other colleges and universities, SLU experienced the justified anger and despair of protestors. At SLU, the protests ended peacefully with the Clock Tower Accords. The Accords are a 13-point agreement that aligns with SLU's mission and will further its goal to become a national model for diversity and community engagement.
St. Louis University’s Oath of Inclusion is a student-led initiative that sets the expectation to promote inclusion on campus. The Oath serves as an inspiration of what the institutional community can accomplish together.

At the faculty level, The Institute for Healing Justice and Equity is a multidisciplinary initiative designed to transform SLU into the epicenter of equitable community building and knowledge curation related to healing from social injustice, trauma and oppression.

The university has made much progress in these vital areas, which have led to it being the first Jesuit University to receive the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award. However, SLU’s location in a city with a largely marginalized population of Black and Latinx people, as well as its Jesuit mission and identity, compels it to address these issues. The university is committed to enhancing the racial and ethnic diversity of faculty in particular, instituting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training to confront explicit or implicit bias for all departments, schools, and colleges, as well as monitoring and adjusting hiring practices where these fall short of the goal of helping to recruit, support, and retain a more diverse faculty.

Academics

SLU's Jesuit tradition demands excellence in research and teaching, and a profound commitment to the liberal arts tradition: values which are promoted by our renowned faculty with their consistent focus on academic quality. Jesuit schools are known for high academic standards, and we uphold this reputation with pride.

SLU seeks to support its students, but also to challenge them, ensuring that they are better prepared to make a difference in an increasingly complex and demanding world.

Colleges & Schools

- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Philosophy and Letters
- College for Public Health and Social Justice
- Doisy College of Health Sciences
- Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business
- Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology
- School of Education
- School of Law
- School of Medicine
- School for Professional Studies
- SLU Madrid
- Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing

**Degree-Granting Centers**

- Center for Advanced Dental Education
- Center for Outcomes Research

**Libraries**

- Pius XII Memorial Library
- Vincent C. Immel Law Library
- Medical Center Library

**Museums**

- Saint Louis University Museum of Art
- Museum of Contemporary Religious Art
- Historic Samuel Cupples House and Gallery

**Summer Programming**

- Summer Courses/Visiting and High School Students
- K-12 Academic and Cultural Camps

**Technology Training and Certifications**

- Workforce Center
## Athletics

The Saint Louis University Billikens compete very successfully at the NCAA Division I level as a part of the Atlantic 10 Athletic Conference in baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s cross country, field hockey, men’s and women’s indoor and outdoor track and field, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s swimming and diving, softball, men’s and women’s tennis, and volleyball.

## Alumni

Approximately 131,000 alumni live in all 50 states and 154 countries around the world. The university sponsors alumni clubs in 24 American cities and international chapters in Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, and South Korea. SLU alumni are recognized for their accomplishments around the world. Locally, there is also a strong SLU alumni network of more than 51,000 people in the St. Louis region.
Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Saint Louis University’s new provost will take office at an opportune moment in the university’s history. A source of great pride for the city, SLU’s mission, values, history and location put it literally and metaphorically in the center of great social movements and the higher education marketplace, which provide both challenges and opportunities for the university.

Among the provost’s first orders of business will be the development of an academic strategic plan to dovetail with the university’s overarching strategy in setting a pathway forward and establishing well-understood criteria on which future decisions will be made. Any such plan must of course be centered on SLU’s Catholic, Jesuit mission and values, and the new provost will wish to be particularly attuned to the tradition of shared governance, collaborative leadership, and the delineation of roles and responsibilities as articulated in the Faculty Manual. With the addition of student development and enrollment and retention management to the provost’s portfolio, the structure is now optimal for the provost to unify the campus behind a widely embraced plan.

This academic strategic plan must also incorporate measurements and systems to assure that the newly approved undergraduate core curriculum is assessed, and adjusted at the faculty and department level to measure student outcomes in the long-term. Slated for implementation in the fall of 2022, a proactive approach and ability to adjust as needed will be paramount.

Critical to the provost’s success and the success of the plan will be consistency, predictability and transparency in planning and decision-making.

The university community in general, and the faculty in particular, are enthusiastic to embrace a leader committed to the long term and to coordinating the faculty’s aspirations with the senior administration's realities and the board’s strategic vision.

As the provost considers the institution’s near-, mid- and long-term future, there are several institutional challenges that the provost will be expected to address, many with discussions already underway and with the potential to impact the institution profoundly. Among them are the following, which are listed in no particular order of importance.
While the university continues to expand considerable efforts to **diversify the institutional community**, these efforts must be prioritized further and vigorous momentum in advancing an actively anti-racist culture will be essential. The significant progress made in diversifying the student body must be continued and enhanced, including by further supporting non-traditional and graduate students. Diversity among the faculty lags behind that of the student body and requires sustained attention by each of SLU’s academic deans and their faculty who lead faculty searches.

As a Jesuit university dedicated to outstanding pedagogy and as a high research university, Saint Louis University, engages in constant discussion about **balancing the incentives and support** for faculty workloads and standards of excellence for both teaching and research and the role each plays in the promotion and tenure process. Attention must also be paid to the aspiration of growing its research reputation and ultimately achieving Research 1 status.

The faculty and administration are engaged in an ongoing and challenging discussion about the **structures of SLU's College of Arts and Sciences** (including whether or not to separate the humanities and sciences into their own academic umbrellas), the **Doisy College of Health Sciences and the Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology**. While a final decision on structure is anticipated before the new provost takes office, the ramifications of any such decisions will likely reverberate into the future.

The university is poised for a **new strategic plan**, which builds on the institutional efforts to pursue SLU's aspirations to become a Research 1 university, to implement a new university-wide core, and to promote SLU's Jesuit Catholic mission by offering the university community opportunities to continue their personal search for meaning in life by service to those in need. As such, the provost will be joining the university at point of transition and momentum, with an opportunity to build an academic strategic plan and to play a transformational role in SLU's future.

While the university has given much thought to addressing and responding to the anticipated **demographic decline in 2026**, and proactive steps are being taken to deal with the decline in traditional population of applicants, this will continue to be a discussion of pressing importance over
the next few years. Now residing under the president’s purview, the provost and leadership of the Divisions of Student Development and Enrollment and Retention Management will be the primary drivers and strategists in shaping a robust plan to address this anticipated student deficit through continued transformation of the university’s brand, student experience and market competitiveness. These challenges will directly impact on the allocation of resources. The provost will lead a process of continual review of the academic program and all the other activities under the provost’s purview to ensure that resources are distributed in the fairest, most productive and understandable way.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

Saint Louis University’s provost will be an experienced academic leader who benefits from demonstrated extensive experience in increasingly responsible leadership and managerial positions in one or more complex institutions of higher education. The university expects the successful candidate to possess an earned terminal degree and a history of teaching, scholarship and service commensurate with an appointment to the tenured faculty at the rank of professor. Central to the provost’s assets will be a deep resonance with the university’s Catholic, Jesuit charism, mission and values; candidates with previous experience within Catholic higher education are particularly encouraged to apply. Among these values, of particular import is a deep commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion across the institution and society as a whole, with personal examples of having made progress in these areas in previous positions.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate an extensive and actionable understanding of the current circumstances and trends in American higher education, particularly as they concern the continuum from student recruitment to curriculum to learning outcomes. With the addition of student development and enrollment management to the provost’s portfolio, previous experience in these areas is highly preferred.

The successful candidate will possess demonstrated experience maintaining authentic engagement with students and a reputation as both approachable and inclusive of the student voice. The new provost will also prove to be comfortable and conversant across a wide variety of disciplines, including health sciences (though the Medical School does not report through the provost’s office). Excellent fiscal skills and financial literacy is required.

Of exceptional importance are superior communication and relationship-building skills, with an emphasis on both a transparent and collaborative leadership style. The provost will convene and moderate
discussions leading to critical decisions about the future of the academic program, building on the tradition of shared governance and in keeping with the covenants defined in the Faculty Manual. The provost will be an empathetic listener with the ability to lead open, collegial discussions regarding difficult and divisive subjects. Candidates demonstrating a track record for transparent, inclusive decision-making are strongly preferred, as are candidates with successful experience catalyzing institutional change.

Central to the university's desires in its next provost are the superior personal qualities that typify the successful academic leader, including unimpeachable integrity, outstanding judgment, a commitment to excellence, perseverance, trustworthiness, an open mind, a direct and transparent communication style, creativity, courage of convictions, a willingness to take calculated risks, tolerance for ambiguity and a sense of humor.

In addition, the successful candidate will demonstrate the following:

- Experience with emerging pedagogies and international, professional and non-traditional students
- A deep commitment to the liberal arts as central to a multi-disciplinary research university
- A track record for building, leading and retaining strong teams
- International experience and a global mindset
University Leadership

Dr. Fred Pestello

Dr. Fred Pestello became the 33rd President of Saint Louis University in 2014, and is the institution’s first permanent lay president. He earned his bachelor’s degree at John Carroll University and completed his graduate work in sociology at the University of Akron. Dr. Pestello joined SLU after serving six successful years as president of Le Moyne College, following a 25-year career at the University of Dayton as a faculty member, department chair, associate dean and provost and senior vice president for educational affairs.

During Dr. Pestello’s tenure, and under his guidance, the university has experienced its two most successful fundraising years in its history for a combined total of over $220 million and has raised $400 million on a current campaign goal of $500 million. The university attracted the largest first-year class in its history in fall 2019. Despite the challenges in higher education overall and the impact of COVID-19, S&P Global Ratings maintained its AA-rating for SLU, while voicing confidence in the university’s comprehensive planning and budgeting processes, its transparent approach to communications, and its comprehensive COVID response plan.

Dr. Pestello serves on the board of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and is a former member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. In St. Louis, he serves on the boards of many non-profit and civic organizations, including Civic Progress, the Cortex Innovation Community, Grand Center Arts District, and Bi-State Development. He is also a founding member of the board of the Foundation for the Pontifical Institute of Theology at Posillipo in Italy.

Living in St. Louis

Decline and Renewal

Like many great American cities which developed rapidly in the nineteenth century, St. Louis experienced a harsh period of urban decline in the mid-twentieth century. And yet this gritty interlude in the city’s past has fostered the renaissance which St. Louis is now enjoying in the twenty-first century.

The extraordinary architectural legacy of warehouses, factories, and belle-époque mansions, found throughout the city, now houses artist studios, tech startups, loft developments, bars, and high-end
restaurants. Artists, entrepreneurs, and workers in the creative industries are attracted by the city’s relatively low cost of living, and the range of affordable space that they can put to new uses. Initiatives like the Arch Grants program in St. Louis, which has helped to generate over $393 million in revenue, and attracted more than $292 million in follow-on capital to the region, are the signs of a city rebuilding for the future.

SLU faculty and students are also benefactors of this legacy. Housing is still relatively inexpensive in St. Louis, and many members of the SLU community choose to live close to the university’s midtown campuses in popular and highly walkable neighborhoods. These include: Soulard (home to the largest Mardi Gras festival in the country after New Orleans, and one of the oldest farmers’ markets in the country, as well as a host of small blues and jazz music venues); Tower Grove bounded by one of the city’s many elegant parks; Lafayette Square with its historic streets and avenues; the Central West End, with its renowned literary associations where Kate Chopin, Tennessee Williams, William S. Burroughs, and T. S. Eliot spent their childhoods; or The Grove: the thriving center for the city’s LGBTQ, artist, and cycling communities, and home to the country’s first Transgender Memorial Garden.

A Day (and an Evening) Out on the Town

The city’s unique history has bequeathed a cultural infrastructure which is the envy of many larger American and European cities. In Forest Park, for example, the site of the 1904 St Louis World’s Fair (celebrated in the 1944 MGM musical Meet Me in St. Louis) the St. Louis Art Museum (SLAM), holds one of the country’s most important collections of European and American classical and modern art, within a building constructed for the 1904 Fair. Downtown, the quirky and eccentric City Museum, designated one of America’s “great public spaces” by the New York based Project for Public Spaces, occupies a repurposed former shoe factory.
SLU’s north campus is a short stroll away from the vibrant Grand Center Arts District which is the artistic crossroads for the City. Access to world-class venues (the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, The Fox Theatre, Jazz St. Louis, The Big Muddy Dance Company, The Contemporary Art Museum, and St. Louis Public Radio headquarters) enhance the cultural life of the city and the University. In partnership with internationally renowned, professional theater, music, and visual arts organizations, SLU faculty and students are inspired in their own creative endeavors as well as in their research and teaching.

**So much is free...**

It is a matter of civic pride that so many of the city’s cultural institutions – the renowned Zoo, the Science Center, SLAM, the Botanic Gardens, and the Missouri History Museum – are entirely free to St. Louis residents, while they also offer opportunities to SLU students and faculty as research partners of international stature. The internationally famous (and locally much loved) Missouri Botanical Garden, for example, with its vast collections of indigenous and exotic trees and plants (the second largest in North America), together with its important library and herbarium, offers students and faculty the chance not just of recreation, but to work on their own scientific, historical, and cultural projects.

**Baseball and Bruce Springsteen**

Known as one of America’s best sports cities, downtown St. Louis is home to two professional sports teams: the Cardinals (baseball) and the Blues (hockey). In 2023, a Major League Soccer team – St. Louis City SC – will be based in a 22,000-seat stadium which is being constructed close to the revamped Union Station. The university’s 10,600 seat Chaifetz Arena is the venue for men’s and women’s basketball – but the arena has also emerged as popular regional music and event location in its own right: Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Janet Jackson, Lauryn Hill, Lil Wayne, Carrie Underwood, and Sam Smith have all appeared at “the Chaifetz” in recent years.
A City of New Arrivals

The iconic Gateway Arch, on the banks of the Mississippi, is a monument to westward expansion erected, as the local joke has it, “to the memory of the folks who left town.” But St. Louis is really a city of arrivals rather than departures. From its late 18th-century French origins, commemorated in the names of the city’s streets, squares, and districts, through the waves of German emigrants in the 1840s and 1850s who prospered in the brewing industries, then the Great Migration of African Americans from southern states in the first half of the 20th century who helped to make the city an industrial powerhouse, and now with the most recent arrivals of new citizens from war-torn Bosnia, endowing the city with the largest Bosnian Muslim population outside Europe, the city has thrived on the skills and determination of its new arrivals. Each of these new communities has contributed to the city’s culture, importing new foods, new fashions, new music and dance, and new ways of thinking and living to this Midwestern city.

A willingness to embrace change lies behind much of the city’s recent success. St. Louis is home to nine Fortune 500 companies including Bayer (Monsanto, Climate Corporation), Enterprise, Anheuser-Busch, Express Scripts, Emerson Electric and Edward Jones as well as hosting the headquarters of the former McDonnell Douglas Corporation (Boeing) and Nestle Purina all of which provide valuable sponsorship of the university, as well as research links and employment opportunities for our students.

The Big River

In 1953, the poet, critic, and founding figure of American and European modernism, T.S. Eliot, looked back on his formative years in St. Louis and wrote:

"...St. Louis affected me more deeply than any other environment has ever done. I feel that there is something in having passed one's childhood beside the big river, which is incommunicable to those people who have not. I consider myself fortunate to have been born here, rather than in Boston, or New York, or London."

It is in this spirit that St. Louis and Saint Louis University continue to welcome new arrivals to this unique city on the banks of “the big river.”
Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer’s Candidate Portal. Applications should include: a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile and a CV or resume. References will not be contacted without candidates’ knowledge.

WittKieffer is assisting Saint Louis University in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by November 2, 2020.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to Dennis Barden, Melissa Fincher, Sarah Miller and Bree Liddell at SLUProvost@wittkieffer.com.

Confidential inquiries and questions may be directed to the WittKieffer consultants supporting this search at 314-754-6066.

Saint Louis University is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer committed to providing fair treatment of all in the SLU community on the basis of merit.