



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

# DEAN SEARCH COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

A large, detailed bronze statue of a knight in full plate armor riding a horse. The knight's shield prominently displays the letters "UCF". The entire scene is bathed in a monochromatic yellow light, creating a dramatic and historical atmosphere.

2021 SEARCH FOR DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCES



# INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

The University of Central Florida (UCF) invites applications for the position of Dean of UCF's College of Sciences (COS). Located in vibrant Orlando, the University of Central Florida is a thriving, preeminent research university that prides itself on providing access and supporting student success. UCF aspires to be one of the nation's leading metropolitan research universities, one that is committed to the success of students from all backgrounds. UCF seeks a Dean with the ability and vision to advance these key aspects of the College's mission.

Home to 1,900 outstanding faculty, 12,300 dedicated staff, and almost 72,000 students, UCF is one of the largest and most dynamic universities in the nation. UCF leads all universities in Florida in conferring more than 17,000 degrees a year. Research, scholarship, and creative activities have increased rapidly in quality and reputation across the University. The University has an operating budget of \$1.9 billion and, in fiscal year 2020, UCF researchers received just over \$204 million in research funding. UCF holds the Carnegie Foundation's highest designation in two categories: very high research activity and community engagement.

The University has a strong commitment to balancing increased recognition as a research-intensive university with the access and success of its highly diverse population. The University has strong ties with regional state colleges, leading to a large transfer population that contributes significantly to the diversity of the student body. Nearly a quarter of UCF undergraduates are the first in their family to attend college, and nearly half of the students are from underrepresented groups. UCF was recently designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution and is one of only 14 universities in the nation with that federal designation and a Carnegie Classification of very high research activity.

The College of Sciences is a unique combination of eight departments, two schools, and 11 centers and institutes that span the natural and social sciences. Located on both the UCF main

campus and the downtown Orlando campus, it is the largest college at UCF. The COS includes 14,800 undergraduates, 990 graduate students, 62,000 alumni, over 420 faculty, and over 160 full-time staff — people whose collective achievements make an impact throughout the university, community, nation, and world. Among the College's goals is the improved academic and career success of students in all fields, offering more and better international experiences for students, and the recruitment of students from underrepresented groups into the sciences. The College is also focused on fostering research, scholarship, and creative activity; expanding and strengthening its doctoral programs; recruiting and supporting world-class faculty; and heightening its national profile.

Reporting to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the new Dean will work with faculty and staff members to improve the success of a diverse student body; continue the growth in quality and impact of research and scholarship, including increasing external funding; and lead the philanthropic efforts of the College. The next Dean will be a collaborative, forward-thinking, and entrepreneurial leader who can guide the College to new levels of academic quality, fiscal proficiency, and operational effectiveness. The Dean will work closely with administrators, faculty and students, alumni, and community stakeholders to elevate the College's profile and impact. As a top campus administrator, the Dean will also engage with other deans, the provost, the president, and other executive leaders to advance UCF as a pacesetter for higher education innovation, opportunity, and inclusive excellence.

Isaacson, Miller, a national executive retained search firm, is assisting UCF with this recruitment. All inquiries, applications, and nominations for this opportunity should be directed to the search firm, as indicated at the end of this document.

# ADVANCING INNOVATION

**UCF's** main campus is 13 miles east of downtown Orlando and adjacent to one of the top research parks in the nation. The University also has an accredited College of Medicine in the Medical City at Lake Nona, Rosen College of Hospitality Management located off International Drive, a campus in downtown Orlando, and UCF Connect locations throughout Central Florida.

UCF and its 13 colleges provide opportunities to nearly 72,000 students, offering 194 bachelor's and master's degrees, 34 doctoral, and three specialist degree programs. Students come from all 50 states and over 147 countries. In fall 2020, the freshman class had an average SAT two-score of 1320, and the University ranked among the top 40 colleges and universities for the number of incoming National Merit Scholars. Twenty years of experience and a strong faculty development program have made the institution a leader in on-line teaching; most undergraduates take courses both on-line and face-to-face.



## ALEXANDER N. CARTWRIGHT, PRESIDENT

Dr. Cartwright became UCF's sixth president in April 2020. Prior to joining UCF, Dr. Cartwright served as the chancellor of the University of Missouri with an appointment as a professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at the College of Engineering.

As a first-generation college student whose journey to higher education was not traditional, Dr. Cartwright understands and prioritizes the need to build successful outcomes for students from all backgrounds. Among his proudest accomplishments from his time at Missouri is the launch of the Missouri Land Grant program, a commitment to helping students who are Pell Grant eligible by covering their tuition and fees. He has since overseen the launch of programs designed to improve retention and graduation rates as well as post-graduation outcomes.

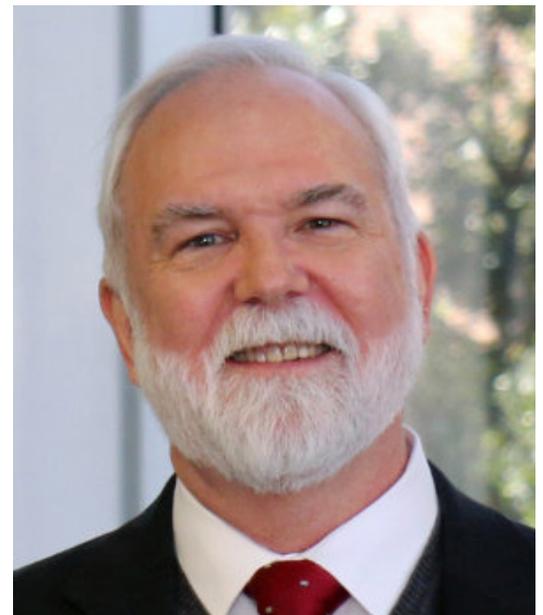
Dr. Cartwright previously served as provost and executive vice chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY) from September 2014 to July 2017. At SUNY, Dr. Cartwright oversaw a broad portfolio, including academic policy, enrollment management, and more. Dr. Cartwright holds a doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Iowa.



## MICHAEL D. JOHNSON, INTERIM PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

As the chief academic officer, Dr. Johnson leads UCF's academic programs and initiatives across the University. His responsibilities also include multiple campuses, research centers, and institutes. In addition, he manages UCF's academic operating budget in collaboration with the president's office, vice presidents, deans, and other academic leaders.

Dr. Johnson joined UCF in 1990 and in 2011 became dean of the College of Sciences, where he is also a professor in the Department of Physics. As dean, Dr. Johnson oversaw all the College's education, research, and service activities. He earned his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Virginia.



# THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

The **College of Sciences** includes natural and social sciences, with departments of **Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, Sociology, Statistics and Data Science**, as well as the **School of Politics, Security and International Affairs**, and the **Nicholson School of Communication and Media**. Each department and school offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs. Specialized centers housed in the College include the **Arboretum, Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, iSTEM, Kurdish Political Studies Program, Lou Frey Institute, National Center for Forensic Science, Center for Global Economic and Environmental Opportunity, National Center For Integrated Coastal Research, The India Center**, and **UCF RESTORES**.

The College offers 24 bachelor's, 13 master's, and 11 doctoral programs. The COS is a core part of the undergraduate experience for all UCF students, providing the scientific, mathematical, and communication background important for success in life and full citizenship in a democracy. The College has 22 percent of the University's undergraduate majors, and, by virtue of its responsibility for a significant fraction of general education and introductory courses required by students university-wide, teaches approximately 34 percent of the University's student credit hours. The College conferred nearly 3,650 undergraduate and graduate degrees last year.

The College emphasizes exploration, innovation, and learning. The COS annually secures approximately \$27 million in research grants and awards, and \$3.5 million in philanthropy. Faculty members have won many national and international awards for research and teaching, are fellows of the American Academy of Sciences, serve as presidents of national scientific societies, and act as advisors to international, national, and state agencies.

## VISION STATEMENT

The College of Sciences at the University of Central Florida aims to become nationally and internationally recognized for excellence in education and research in each of its disciplines, for contributing to the economic and intellectual growth of the region and state, and for educating students who are committed to excellence, leadership, service, and lifelong learning.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The College of Sciences provides students the foundations needed for critical thinking as well as career and life success. Through research and discovery, the college expands knowledge in communication and the physical, biological, social, behavioral, and computational sciences. The College seeks to conduct research that matters, and to prepare students to be thoughtful, ethical, and engaged members of society locally, nationally, and worldwide.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Focus on student learning: innovation, experimentation, and evaluation.
2. Pursue research that is important for scientific understanding and for the common good.
3. Shape nationally competitive Ph.D. programs and professionally useful master's programs.
4. Increase fundraising – both annual giving and major gifts.
5. Foster internationalization efforts in appropriate departments.
6. Improve faculty members' long-term career success and satisfaction.
7. Foster outreach, recruitment, and retention in the natural sciences, particularly of underrepresented groups.



## **KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE COS DEAN**

There are substantial opportunities awaiting the new Dean in the future:

### **EMBRACE THE UCF MISSION AND PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR A MAJOR EMERGING 21ST-CENTURY UNIVERSITY WITH A DEEP COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

Members of the COS community are deeply committed to the University, extremely proud of its mission, and have created a highly supportive learning environment for students. The Dean will share this deep dedication to higher education opportunities for students of all backgrounds and an unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion. Working collaboratively across the College and the University, the Dean will increase access and retention of underrepresented students, faculty, and staff, and ensure that all members of the COS community feel welcome and valued. These efforts will require ongoing attention and resources, as well as a clear and personal leadership commitment on the part of the Dean. Moreover, in making challenging decisions, the Dean will be a skillful communicator who engages faculty, students, and staff in the direction of the COS and the broader institution.

### **SET A VISION TO BROADEN AND DEEPEN RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY**

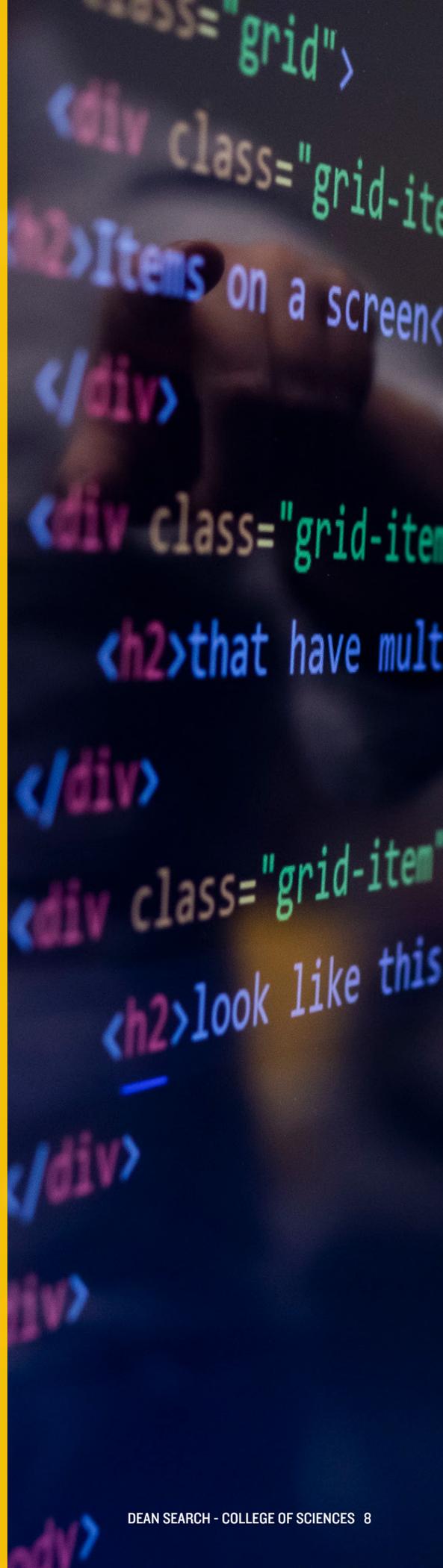
The COS has an incredibly talented faculty, from those who are well recognized to those who are rapidly rising in prominence and impact. The next Dean will bring significant experience in supporting the growth of research and scholarship, including providing greater opportunities for students to be engaged in these activities. The Dean will build strong collaborations across COS and UCF to provide opportunities for and support of interdisciplinary collaborations. The next Dean will do so in a fashion that conveys and ensures equal support for the broad array of work engaged in by faculty. The Dean will work with COS leadership and faculty to develop a vision to advance high-impact scholarship and creative activity that aligns with the University's goals as a major public research university of the 21st century.

## STRENGTHEN ACADEMIC AND CAREER SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

There is deep interest in leadership at all levels that can support the success of a diverse student body, including sensitivity to effective strategies to support students who have an array of learning styles, needs, and talents. The next Dean will work with COS leaders, faculty, and staff to enact innovative approaches and services to ensure that students from all walks of life are able to thrive and achieve a quality education. The COS is passionately focused on ensuring its students graduate and is well prepared for successful careers.

## EXPAND RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

As the College balances its rapid growth and future development, the Dean will need to creatively seek resources to support its work. A crucial role for the Dean is serving as the face of the College in both advocating for and broadcasting the mission of the COS. The College annually secures approximately \$27 million a year in research grants and awards, and \$3.5 million in philanthropy. The University has an incredibly dedicated alumni base in addition to other supporters. The College has a goal to continue growing its revenue generating operations focusing on philanthropy and new research grants. To that end, the Dean will work with the advancement team and COS leaders to highlight the unique and innovative work of the COS. The Dean will focus on cultivating donors and other partnerships for securing additional funding for student and faculty support, programs, and facilities.





# THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

While no one candidate will embody every quality, the successful candidate will bring many of the following professional qualifications and personal attributes:

1. Ph.D. or other terminal degree in a discipline represented in the College, or a closely related field, and a distinguished record of accomplishment meriting appointment at the rank of professor.
2. Successful leadership and administrative experience in academia as a dean, assistant or associate dean, department chair, or similar position.
3. Demonstrated collaborative management and inspirational leadership skills.
4. A transparent communicator who empowers their team.
5. A demonstrated ability to lead programs toward prominence in graduate education, research, scholarship, and creative activity, including growth of research funding.
6. Proven experience improving the success of undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds.
7. The skills and interest to attract philanthropic support.
8. Success in nurturing a welcoming and equitable community for students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds.
9. A demonstrated ability to develop partnerships with business or other community partners.
10. The ability to be an effective spokesperson, advocate, and relationship builder with a wide variety of audiences.



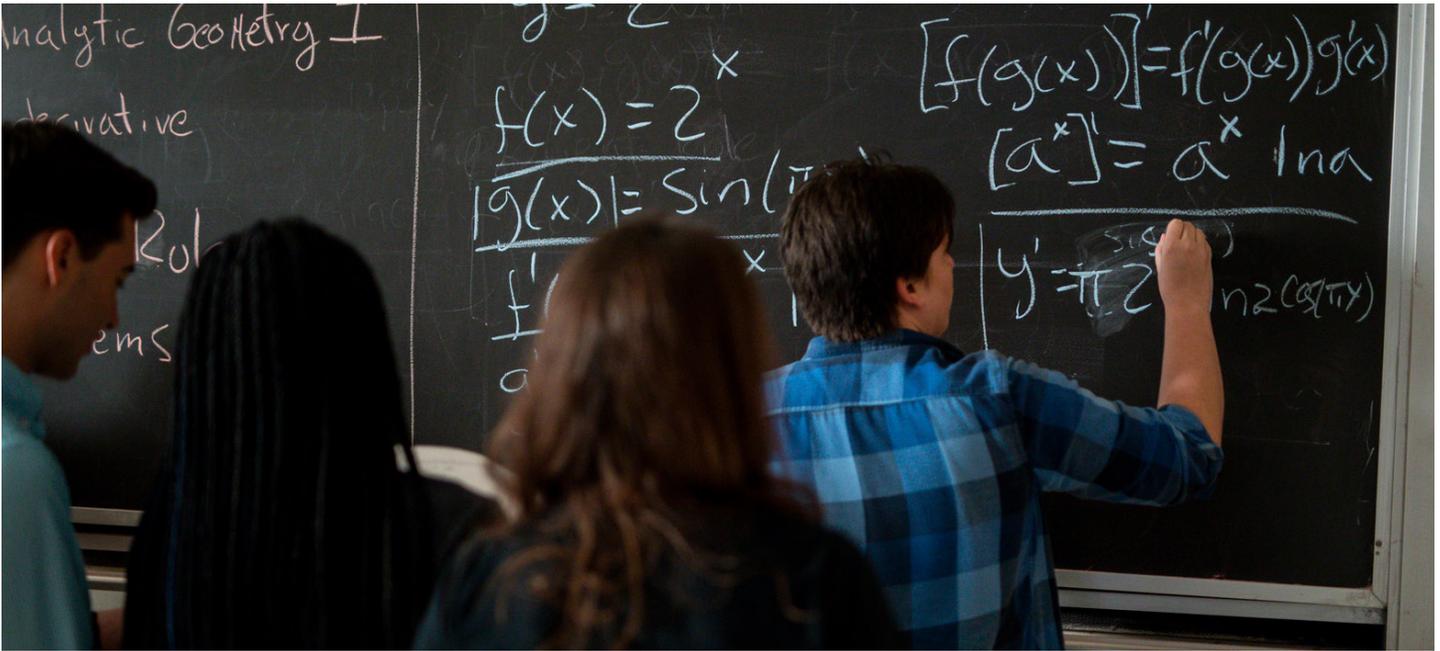
# INQUIRIES, NOMINATIONS, AND APPLICATIONS

The State of Florida has a Public Meetings Law and a Public Records Law. All meetings of the Search Committee are publicly announced and conducted. All documents submitted to the Committee are treated as open materials with the exception of evaluative documents specific to the performance of the faculty of the State University System of Florida. Please feel free to reach out to Isaacson, Miller with any questions before submitting a formal application.

**ALL INQUIRIES, NOMINATIONS/REFERRALS, AND RESUMES WITH COVER LETTERS, SHOULD BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO:**

Sean Farrell, Partner  
Amy Segal, Managing Associate  
Clay Batley, Search Coordinator  
Isaacson, Miller

<https://www.imsearch.com/search-detail/S7-855>



# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

As an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, UCF encourages all qualified applicants to apply, including women, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and members of traditionally underrepresented populations. UCF's Equal Opportunity Statement can be viewed at: <http://www.oie.ucf.edu/documents/PresidentsStatement.pdf>.

As a Florida public university, UCF makes all application materials and selection procedures available to the public upon request.





Milligan Hall

