



# PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

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**SAINT LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY™**

— EST. 1818 —



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Students walking through the iconic SLU gateways on the first day of class





DOISY RESEARCH CENTER

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SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY (SLU) SEEKS A BOLD, STRATEGIC AND MISSION-DRIVEN LEADER TO SERVE AS ITS 34TH PRESIDENT.

SLU was founded as a Catholic institution in 1818, making it the first university west of the Mississippi River and the longest continuously operating institution in the region. It was entrusted to the Society of Jesus in 1829. Today, more than 15,200 students are taught by more than 2,100 faculty members on campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. The University is dedicated to educating the whole person and supports scholarly activity of superior quality and importance. This vibrant and diverse learning community combines a rigorous academic liberal arts core with graduate and professional schools, including schools of medicine, law, business and nursing, as well as innovative research

programs and over \$60 million annually in sponsored research. SLU attracts students from 96 countries, with an international enrollment of more than 3,100. The University's NCAA Division I athletics program is an important part of the institutional mission and adds to both the student experience and national reputation. SLU's annual operating budget is more than \$600 million, and the endowment exceeds \$1.8 billion. Guided by the Catholic Church and the Society of Jesus, SLU encourages students, faculty and staff to explore their faith and deepen their understanding of its role in their lives. People from every religious identity, practice and tradition are welcome at Saint Louis University.





Members of the SLU community exit St. Francis Xavier College Church after celebrating the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Saint Louis University's next president will build upon the transformative achievements of Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D., who helped navigate SLU through a particularly turbulent time for U.S. higher education, as universities across the country grappled with increasing financial pressures, social upheaval and a global pandemic. For the past decade, he successfully led SLU through these and other challenges, breaking institutional records for enrollment, research funding and fundraising; envisioned and supported partnerships to redevelop Midtown St. Louis; and established a new healthcare partnership with SSM Health that set the stage for the new SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital. Furthermore, he has galvanized the University community around a compelling vision: to be a global Catholic, Jesuit university that is mission-focused, student- and patient-centered and research-driven – one that is working with the people of St. Louis to reimagine, transform and unify the city.

Saint Louis University is poised to expand its impact and reach exponentially. The next president will be a visionary, collaborative and unifying leader who will build on the University's compelling history, mission and accomplishments to optimize this potential, bringing a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing higher education and the leadership record necessary to helm a complex organization. The president will be a Roman Catholic, either lay or in a religious order, who resonates deeply and has demonstrated a life consistent with the University's Catholic, Jesuit mission and identity. A personal commitment in word and deed to diversity in all its forms, equity and inclusion across the institution and society is essential. Outstanding financial and budgetary skills and experience in a complex environment are required; a working knowledge of the issues facing academic medicine is an advantage. The president will appreciate intercollegiate athletics and understand its role at a NCAA Division I university. Superior communication and relationship-building skills and an enthusiasm for supporting and engaging productively with the St. Louis community are required. An earned terminal degree is strongly preferred but not required.

Recruitment will continue until the position is filled. For information regarding how to apply, submit nominations or inquire about the role, please see the "Procedure for Candidacy" section at the end of this document.



# ABOUT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Saint Louis University – located in St. Louis, Missouri, with a campus in Madrid, Spain – is one of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious Catholic universities. Founded in 1818, SLU is recognized for world-class academics, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service. Guided by SLU’s enduring Jesuit mission, SLU offers more than 15,200 students a highly rigorous and deeply transformative education that helps them develop into bold, confident leaders.

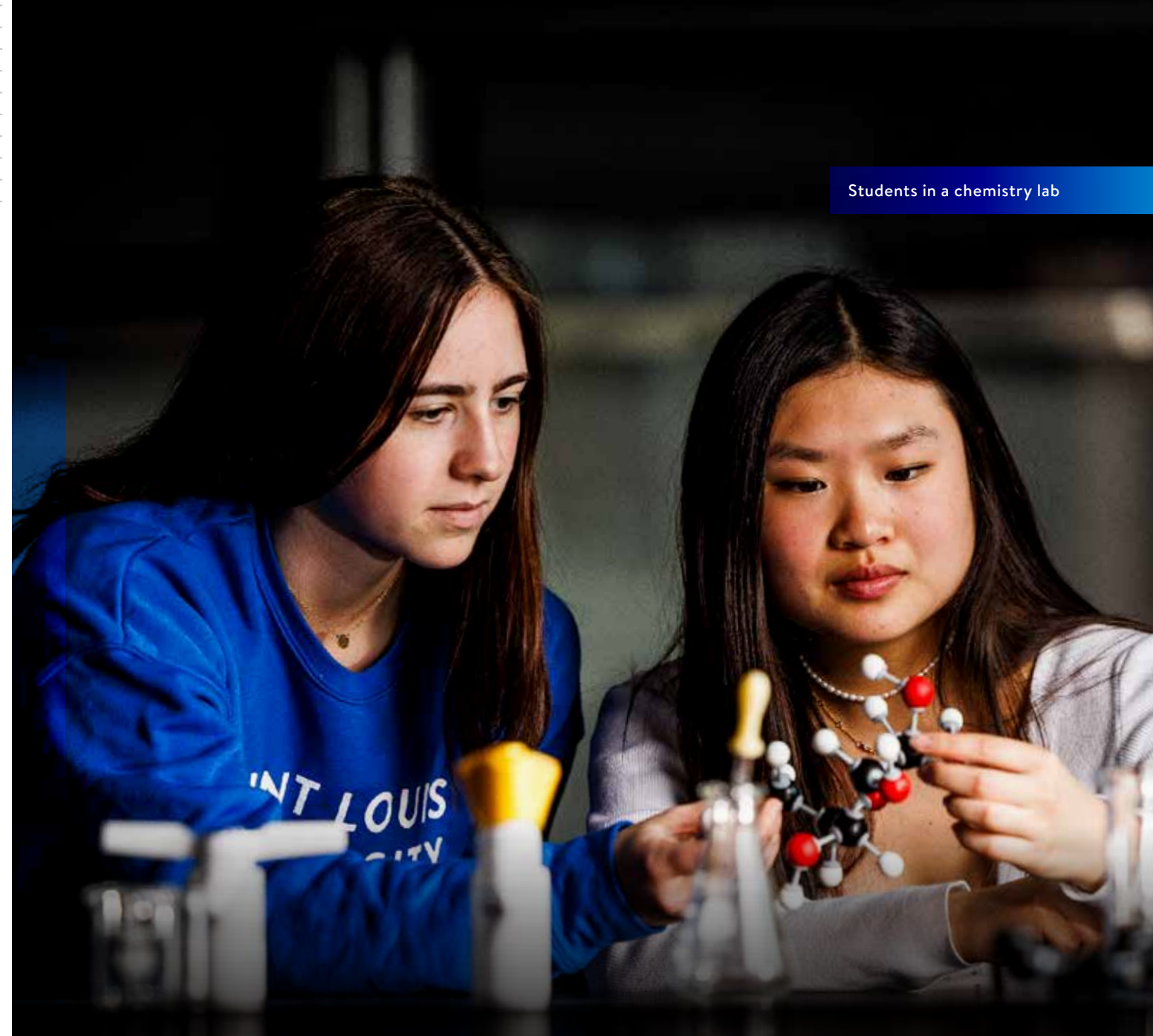
SLU is committed to providing all students an education that helps to shape the whole person. The Jesuit educational tradition encourages thoughtful reflection, prayerful discernment and an active engagement with the community for the betterment of all. The University prioritizes inclusion, celebrates diversity and respects the dignity of every individual.

Guided by the Catholic Church and the Society of Jesus, SLU encourages students, faculty and staff to explore their faith and deepen their understanding of its role in their lives. People from every religious identity, practice and tradition are welcome at Saint Louis University.

The University serves approximately 8,500 undergraduates and 6,700 graduate and professional students across 12 colleges and schools.

- + [College of Arts and Sciences](#) (1818)
- + [School of Medicine](#) (1836)
- + [School of Law](#) (1843)
- + [College of Philosophy and Letters](#) (1889)
- + [Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business](#) (1910)
- + [School of Science and Engineering](#) (1927)
- + [Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing](#) (1928)
- + [School of Social Work](#) (1930)
- + [Doisy College of Health Sciences](#) (1979)
- + [College for Public Health and Social Justice](#) (1991)
- + [School for Professional Studies](#) (1996)
- + [School of Education](#) (1998)

Saint Louis University has more than 2,100 faculty members, and 90% of SLU’s full-time instructional faculty members hold the highest or terminal degree in their fields.



## UNIVERSITY POINTS OF PRIDE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- |  |   |   |   |  |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| +  | +   | +   | +   | +  | +  |
| The first institution of higher learning west of the Mississippi River | Despite demographic challenges, SLU boasts the highest total enrollment in its history for 2023-24. | More than 180 of SLU’s courses integrate community engagement into academics. | 25,380 internship opportunities posted to SLU’s career database in 2023 | 1.6 million community service hours completed each year by the SLU community | 137,364 alumni living in 50 states and 154 countries |



# RANKINGS AND HONORS

Saint Louis University is recognized as one of the nation's best values in higher education and one of the leading Catholic universities in the country. SLU's many national rankings are listed below.

6

Catholic colleges  
*Wall Street Journal/  
Times Higher Education*

9

Private Schools  
"Making an Impact"  
*The Princeton Review, 2024*

1

Health law program  
*U.S. News & World Report, 2024*

22

Service-learning programs  
*U.S. News & World Report, 2024*

52

Best Value School  
*U.S. News & World Report, 2024*

TOP  
25

Graduate programs in  
entrepreneurship, finance,  
health care management  
and international business  
*U.S. News & World Report, 2024*

TOP  
30

University for study  
abroad participation  
*Institute of International  
Education, 2023*

25

Community service  
engagement among  
U.S. universities  
*The Princeton Review, 2024*

TOP  
12%

Among the 936 Top Private  
Universities in America  
*Niche, 2024*

TOP  
24%

Among 439 national  
universities  
*U.S. News & World Report, 2024*

TOP  
39%

Among the top 400  
universities in the country  
*The Wall Street Journal, 2024*

Profiled in **Princeton  
Review's Best  
389 Colleges 2024**  
edition, which includes  
only 15% of America's  
four-year colleges

SLU earned the **Carnegie  
Foundation's  
2024 Community  
Engagement  
Classification**, which  
honors the community-  
centered work of the  
University's faculty,  
staff and students.

JOHN & LUCY COOK HALL,  
HOME OF THE RICHARD A. CHAIFETZ  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS





ST. FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE CHURCH

# 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 leadership in 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:

- + Encourages and supports 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.
- + Creates an academic environment that values and promotes free, active and original intellectual inquiry among its faculty and students.
- + Fosters 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.
- + Strives continuously to seek means 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 as a whole.
- + Welcomes students, faculty and staff from all racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds and beliefs and creates a sense of community that facilitates their development as men and women for others.
- + Nurtures within its community an understanding of and commitment to the promotion of faith and justice in the spirit of the Gospels.
- + Wisely allocates its resources to maintain efficiency and effectiveness in attaining its mission and goals.



# RESEARCH

Saint Louis University is a preeminent Jesuit research university that is on track to become a Carnegie R1 institution in early 2025.

This accomplishment would make SLU one of only four Catholic universities that have achieved R1 status and solidify SLU's status as one of the fastest-growing private research universities in the nation.

From innovations that allow people with blindness and low vision to access scientific information in unprecedented ways to participating in nationwide, federally funded research efforts to build one of the most diverse health databases in history, SLU researchers are exploring new frontiers and tackling the greatest questions of our time.

## THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

In 2018, SLU received a historic \$50 million gift from Dr. Jeanne and Mr. Rex Sinquefeld to establish the Saint Louis University Research Institute, which allowed for investment in SLU's faculty and research infrastructure, building areas of research strength, fostering new collaborations and partnerships, and recruiting outstanding new scholars and scientists.

## TAYLOR GEOSPATIAL INSTITUTE

SLU was also instrumental in helping to launch the Taylor Geospatial Institute in 2022 with a legacy investment from Andrew C. Taylor and the commitment of eight academic and research institutions led by Saint Louis University. TGI is the cornerstone of establishing a global center of geospatial excellence in St. Louis and focuses on sparking a revolution in geospatial technology and science by catalyzing research across domains such as climate, digital agriculture, health care, national security and more.

Students conducting research at the Rockwoods Reservation near St. Louis



## RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS

**\$60 million**

in external research expenditures in 2023, up 5% from 2022 and 50% from 2018

**44%**

increase in research expenditures in the School of Science and Engineering from 2022, to \$7.2 million

**26**

new SLU Research Institute fellows named in 2023

**96%**

increase in research expenditures compared to 2016. This places SLU within the top five fastest-growing private research universities in the United States (excluding institutions with less than \$40M in FY22 research expenditures).



# STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Saint Louis University’s commitment to educating and caring for the whole person encompasses not only the education it provides but also the experience it offers every student.

The SLU student experience is comprehensive, community-centered and wholly unique to the University. It features a wide range of opportunities and activities and a high level of support for students throughout their time at SLU.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

At SLU, campus organizations allow students to connect through shared interests and aspirations, helping foster a sense of community, encouraging learning and empowering student leaders. The University has over 200 student organizations, including service groups, art clubs, sports clubs, the SLUnatics spirit squad and more than 20 Greek letter organizations.

## CAMPUS LIFE

Campus life at SLU is busy in the best way — a full, thriving approach to ensuring all students have everything they need to feel at home. SLU’s undergraduate students are required to live on campus for their first two years of study, but many upper-class students choose to live on campus as well, making the most of apartment-style living and convenient campus access.

Inspired by the Jesuit call to support the whole person in mind, body and spirit, SLU offers all students access to its 120,000-square-foot Simon Recreation Center, where they can work out, swim, play sports and take fitness classes. Students can also access mental health services, Campus Ministry resources, academic support and more.

SLU’s campus serves as a hub for year-round campus events, from Billiken athletics to popular wellness events, the globally focused Atlas Week, lectures, concerts and more.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community engagement is essential to the SLU student experience, and the city of St. Louis provides an invaluable source of enrichment and opportunity — a thriving community where students can learn, grow and connect through internships, cultural experiences and service.

At present, SLU has more than 500 sites for volunteer opportunities and service learning, and 80% of SLU students volunteer each year. In 2023, more than 40,000 meals were prepared and delivered to those in need by nearly 3,000 volunteers through SLU’s Campus Kitchen.



SLU law students listen to a lecture.



Students work in a community garden during Showers of Service.



Students attend the Mass of the Holy Spirit in St. Francis Xavier College Church.



Christine Jacobs, M.D., Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine, watches as students work in the simulation centers.

## HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP

In 2022, Saint Louis University and SSM Health deepened their partnership to advance health equity, strengthen medical education and improve the health of the St. Louis community and beyond. At that time, the SLUCare Physician Group integrated with SSM Health, providing the community with improved and seamless access to all levels of care, including clinical trials that can deliver potentially breakthrough life-saving treatments. The partnership also generated significant resources for the University to invest in education and medical research. SLU students receive hands-on clinical training at several SSM Health facilities, including Saint Louis University Hospital and Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital, both of which are adjacent to SLU’s South Campus.

3,895

students live on campus, including 89% of first-year students

10

residential learning communities

200+

student organizations

300+

student leadership roles

1,261

students, faculty and staff trained in Mental Health First Aid



# CAMPUSES



DUBOURG HALL



SCHWITALLA HALL



SCOTT HALL



PADRE ARRUPE HALL

## ST. LOUIS

**NORTH CAMPUS:** The 161-acre campus in the heart of St. Louis' midtown neighborhood features abundant green spaces, fountains and gathering areas and is frequently referred to as an "urban oasis." It is home to the academic programs for more than 9,100 undergraduate, graduate and professional students attending the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Philosophy and Letters, Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business, School of Science and Engineering, School of Social Work, School for Professional Studies and School of Education. Spanning four city blocks and situated near the city's arts and entertainment district, the University moved to this site in 1888, having been located in downtown St. Louis for its first 70 years.

**SOUTH CAMPUS:** The 100-acre South Campus is SLU's health sciences center and includes the state-of-the-art Doisy Research Center. Located just one mile south of SLU's North Campus, the campus is the academic home to more than 4,400 undergraduate, graduate and professional students attending the School of Medicine, Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing, Doisy College of Health Sciences, College for Public Health and Social Justice, and Center for Advanced Dental Education. It is adjacent to SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and the Center for Specialized Medicine, where many SLU students perform clinical rotations and members of the medical school faculty see patients.

**DOWNTOWN:** SLU's School of Law, which enrolls 564 students, is located in Scott Hall in downtown St. Louis, near court buildings, top law firms and government offices. The 12-story building also houses SLU's law library and legal clinics.

## MADRID

Over 1,100 students study at **SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY'S MADRID CAMPUS**, a comprehensive degree granting and study abroad campus in Spain that was established in 1967. SLU Madrid offers 18 undergraduate degrees and two graduate degrees, along with courses that satisfy the requirements for many other SLU degree programs. More than 500 SLU students from the St. Louis campus spend a semester at SLU Madrid each year. The campus is also an approved study abroad site for several U.S. colleges and universities. The campus is located near the Ciudad Universitaria area of Madrid and currently occupies almost 75,000 square feet of facilities in three full buildings and office building spaces close by. Due to its continuous and rapid growth, it is currently seeking additional facilities.

## OF NOTE:

Saint Louis University has two properties in outstate Missouri that are used for research and retreats.



The 225-acre Reis Biological Station is located in the eastern Ozarks, about 100 miles southwest of St. Louis.



The 332-acre Lay Center for Education and the Arts is located in Louisiana, Missouri, about 90 miles north of St. Louis.



# FACILITIES

Saint Louis University has been called an “urban oasis” due to its lush lawns and flowers, numerous fountains and ponds, and park-like setting. The North Campus is home to 109 buildings encompassing 5.6 million square feet. The South Campus boasts 20 buildings and more than 2 million square feet. SLU-Madrid occupies 74,747 square feet of facilities in three full buildings and office building space close by, with plans for expansion underway.

## SLU’S MANY NEW BUILDINGS AND CLASSIC STRUCTURES INCLUDE:



INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING BUILDING (2020)



O’LOUGHLIN FAMILY CHAMPIONS CENTER (2023)



BILLIKEN SOCCER LEGACY CENTER (2022)



GRAND HALL (2017)



SPRING HALL (2016)



JESUIT CENTER (2022)



DOISY RESEARCH CENTER (2007)



CHAIFETZ ARENA (2008)



SAN IGNACIO HALL IN MADRID (RENOVATED 2012)



SAMUEL CUPPLES HOUSE (1890)



EDUCATION UNION (2011)



CENTER FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP (BUILT 1926, RENOVATED 2013)





Sherri Cheng, Ph.D., teaches a business technology management class.

# FACULTY AND TEACHING

At Saint Louis University, students receive personalized attention from expert faculty.

In fact, 39% of SLU's undergraduate courses have fewer than 20 students. Faculty members make themselves accessible to students in and out of the classroom.

Nearly 2,200 faculty members carry out Saint Louis University's Jesuit mission by inspiring students, researching in their fields, and engaging with the community through service and leadership. Faculty members are world-renowned for their work in vaccine development, geospatial science, health law, biomedical science, entrepreneurship, education, engineering and public health.

The Faculty Senate is the principal organ and voice of the faculty in matters of University-wide concern, and it is the primary means by which the faculty members of the University participate in the governance of the University as a whole.

## CORE CURRICULUM

Launched in 2022, the Saint Louis University Core is an integrated intellectual experience completed by all baccalaureate students, regardless of major, program, college, school or campus. It prepares all SLU undergraduates to be intellectually flexible, creative and reflective critical thinkers in the spirit of the Catholic, Jesuit tradition.

## FACULTY FACTS

8 to 1

student-faculty ratio, ensuring that students have access to SLU's world-class faculty

90%

of SLU's full-time instructional faculty members hold the highest or terminal degree in their fields.

They are nationally recognized teachers, researchers and mentors.

2,137

faculty members

35

endowed chairs

24

named professorships





## FINANCIALS

Saint Louis University's annual operating budget for fiscal year 2024 is more than \$600 million. As of April 1, 2024, the endowment value exceeded \$1.8 billion. SLU has an A1 rating from Moody's Investors Service and is rated AA- by Standard and Poor's.

## FUNDRAISING AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In June 2022, Saint Louis University completed a \$604 million fundraising campaign, Accelerating Excellence, exceeding its \$500 million goal by 20%. The campaign generated 190,402 gifts, including 98 gifts of \$1 million or more. It also bolstered existing scholarships, created 416 new student scholarships/awards and funded 36 endowed academic positions. During the campaign, SLU had four record-breaking fundraising years, including \$139 million raised in fiscal year 2022 alone.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Saint Louis University has a University-wide strategic plan that was launched in 2014 that defines how SLU carries out its responsibilities in a rapidly changing and challenging world. Among its key initiatives are transformative educational and research excellence, health care leadership and innovation rooted in SLU's institutional mission and Catholic, Jesuit values. SLU's academic strategic plan, which launched in 2023, is centered around the goals of teaching and learning; research, scholarship and creative work; community well-being and equity; access and reach; and institutional planning.

INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING BUILDING





# UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

In 1967, Saint Louis University became the first major Catholic university in the United States to give lay and clergy people combined legal responsibility for institutional policy as members of its Board of Trustees. SLU's board, led by Chair Joseph Conran, Vice Chair Marian V. "Bo" Mehan and Chair-elect Eric Engler, is the principal governing authority for the University, charged with fiduciary responsibility and with preserving and enhancing SLU's Jesuit mission.

Many of its members are graduates of the University's various schools or members of the Society of Jesus. SLU's president serves as an ex officio voting member of the board. The board is composed of qualified, dedicated and highly professional individuals who understand the complexities of higher education and the University. The maximum number of trustees allowable under the bylaws is 55. Currently there are 38 trustees.

SLU's Faculty Senate is the principal organ and voice of the faculty in matters of University-wide concern, and it is the primary means by which the faculty members of the University participate in the governance of SLU as a whole. It is made up of more than 60 members, elected proportionately from the faculties of SLU's colleges and schools. In addition, all SLU schools, colleges and the University libraries have representative bodies, such as faculty councils and assemblies.

Finally, SLU has three groups of union-represented employees, including adjunct faculty and facilities employees in the classification of custodians, grounds and delivery workers who are represented by Service Employees International Union, Local 1 (SEIU Local 1), and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 148 representing the University's skilled maintenance employees.



## UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:



### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- + Provost
- + Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
- + Vice President for Compliance and Ethics
- + Vice President for Development
- + Vice President for Diversity and Innovative Community Engagement
- + Vice President for Enrollment Management
- + Vice President for Facilities
- + Vice President for Human Resources
- + Vice President and Chief Information Officer
- + Vice President and General Counsel
- + Vice President for Marketing and Communications
- + Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine
- + Vice President for Mission and Identity
- + Vice President for Research and Partnerships
- + Vice President for Student Development
- + Director, Athletics

### DEANS

- + Dean, [College of Arts and Sciences](#)
- + Dean, [College of Philosophy and Letters](#)
- + Dean, [College for Public Health and Social Justice](#)
- + Dean, [Doisy College of Health Sciences](#)
- + Dean, [Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business](#)
- + Dean, [School of Education](#)
- + Dean, [School of Law](#)
- + Dean, [School of Medicine](#)
- + Dean, [School for Professional Studies](#)
- + Dean, [School of Science and Engineering](#)
- + Dean, [School of Social Work](#)
- + Dean, [Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing](#)
- + Vice President and Academic Dean, [SLU-Madrid](#)



STATUE OF ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA



# SLU HISTORY

In 1818, Missouri was three years from statehood, and St. Louis was a pioneer settlement of just 3,000 people.

That year would also be a pioneering moment for education west of the Mississippi River as the first students in Saint Louis University's long and storied past began their classes. Louis William DuBourg, the first bishop of St. Louis, opened St. Louis Academy in a one-story stone house near the riverfront. In 1819, citizens gathered donations to relocate the school to a new, two-story brick building, and the academy was renamed St. Louis College.

After a few years, the growing school overtaxed the local clergy. So, steps were taken to transfer the administration to the Society of Jesus, renowned even then for its devotion to education and service.

In 1823, Bishop DuBourg invited the Jesuits to St. Louis. He directed that enslaved persons accompany them to ensure they could sustain themselves on the frontier. The first Jesuits to come to St. Louis included two Jesuit priests, three Jesuit brothers and seven Jesuit novices, as well as six enslaved men and women. Along with the Society of Jesus and many Jesuit university peers, SLU continues its efforts to acknowledge and reconcile with this shameful history of slavery. The University has partnered with the Jesuits' USA Central and Southern Province on the Slavery, History, Memory and Reconciliation Project on outreach to descendants.

In 1829, the Jesuits took over the administration of St. Louis College. That same year, the college moved to 9th Street and Washington Avenue downtown. On Dec. 28, 1832, the college officially became Saint Louis University when it received a formal charter from the State of Missouri, which makes it the oldest university west of the Mississippi River.

In 1867, the Jesuits purchased land on what was considered the outskirts of the city to develop a new campus. In 1888, DuBourg Hall opened, and SLU permanently moved to its current location in what is now known as Midtown St. Louis.

With the move to midtown, the University finally had the room to expand its academic programs greatly. SLU re-established medical and legal education and founded one of the first collegiate business schools in the American West. Schools of science and engineering, nursing, social work, health sciences, public health, professional studies and education were introduced throughout the 20th century.

The 20th century also brought great change beyond academics. In 1908, the University admitted its first female students. In 1944, SLU became the first university in a former slave state to establish an official policy admitting African Americans. In 1967, SLU was the first major Catholic institution in the world to include lay leaders on its board. That same year, the University established its campus in Madrid, Spain.

In the past 50 years, SLU has experienced some of its most dynamic growth, constructing major facilities, including Chaifetz Arena and the Edward A. Doisy Research Center. The University also re-established its downtown presence when the law school moved to Scott Hall near key court buildings in 2013.

Building on the legacy of great Jesuit leadership, Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D., began his tenure in 2014 as the University's first lay president, continuing the investments in campus growth with the addition of two new residence halls and several other buildings. But Pestello's impact goes beyond bricks and mortar. During his time at SLU, the institution has set records for enrollment, fundraising and research funding. He also oversaw the creation of a new core curriculum and the expansion of offerings, students and facilities at SLU-Madrid. In addition, he successfully led the University through the COVID-19 pandemic. During his presidency, Pestello articulated a vision for SLU to become a global Jesuit university that is mission-focused, student and patient-centered, and research-driven — one that is working with the people of St. Louis to reimagine, transform and unify the city.





Students work with circuits in a physics lab.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

SLU aspires to build a school community that prioritizes inclusion, celebrates diversity and respects the dignity of every individual. Drawing on its Jesuit roots, the University is committed to ensuring that social justice and equity are an intrinsic part of the education it imparts, the resources offered and the community it serves in St. Louis and worldwide.

In fall 2023, SLU welcomed the most diverse first year class in the University's history. But beyond opening its doors to more students, SLU's Jesuit mission also calls for institutional transformation so all students can thrive. The African American Male Scholars Initiative (AAMS) and the Audre Lorde Scholars Program for students who identify as women of color are just two examples of innovative programs to support students.

Many of SLU's diversity programs are rooted in the 13 point SLU Clock Tower Accords, a commitment for resources, community outreach, and continuing scholarship and dialogue. The accords concluded six days of a peaceful occupation by SLU and local activists at the campus clock tower during October 2014 following the officer involved shootings of two African American men in the St. Louis region.



## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

SLU's Jesuit tradition calls for care and development of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. The University offers an extensive support network for students, allowing them to lead, grow, connect, live in a welcoming community and access the care they need to thrive at SLU. Nearly 3,900 students live on campus, including 89% of first year students. And more than 200 student organizations offer something for every student and every interest.

As part of the University's commitment to supporting the mental health and well being of its students, SLU is proud to be an official JED Campus. In partnership with the Jed Foundation, a leading non-profit organization dedicated to helping universities evaluate and strengthen their mental health, substance misuse and suicide prevention programs, SLU is working to foster an even stronger culture of well being, hope and resilience on its campuses and among its students. More than 1,250 members of the SLU community also have been trained in Mental Health First Aid.



Students sign a banner during Fresh Check Day.



Members of the 2024 Billiken Women's Basketball NIT Championship team

## ATHLETICS

An NCAA Division I institution, Saint Louis University is a member of the Atlantic 10 Conference and competes in 18 sports, including baseball, basketball, cross country, field hockey, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. Recent successes include six consecutive A 10 conference championships for the women's soccer team, the 2024 WNIT Championship for the women's basketball team, and 38 team conference championships in various sports since 2003. SLU's more than 400 student-athletes boast an average GPA of 3.44, and 271 Billikens were named to the A 10 Commissioner's Honor Roll in 2023.

## MIDTOWN ST. LOUIS DEVELOPMENT

In partnership with SSM Health, the University serves as the master developer for approximately 400 acres in Midtown St. Louis. Together, the organizations formed the St. Louis Midtown Redevelopment Corporation, which works to attract investment to the area, as well as oversees all construction and rehabilitation projects to ensure they align with a Redevelopment Plan approved by the city's Board of Aldermen.

This effort has led to the renaissance of SLU's neighborhood, which is home to more than \$1.2 billion in new housing, retail and business development. Topgolf, City Foundry STL dining and retail space, Alamo Drafthouse movie theater, the Armory entertainment venue and an Element hotel are just a few of the recent additions to Midtown. A new Target store is slated to open in 2024.



CITY FOUNDRY STL



# TRADITIONS

Saint Louis University has a unique mascot, the Billiken, a mythical good-luck figure who represents “things as they ought to be.”

But that’s not the only special thing about SLU. Below is insider information on SLU’s traditions and quirky customs.

- + The Billiken is seen all over campus. Students rub the belly of the bronze Billiken statue for luck. **A**
- + Those in the know pronounce Saint Louis University’s abbreviation as “slew,” never S-L-U.
- + SLU is also part of many campus-insider words, including:
  - SLU-blue** for the University’s iconic color
  - SLU-mor** for campus rumors
  - SLU-lips** for the beautiful tulips on campus each spring
  - SLU-ruba** for the Simon Rec Center outdoor pool
- + Oriflamme **B** is a group of 180 diverse student leaders who serve as mentors and guides to new SLU students during the first weeks on campus. Established in 1963, members unpack cars, rally first-year students during spirit competitions and lead small group discussions.

- + Each semester, wellness days allow students to take a break and participate in calming activities, which have included pottery painting, karaoke, entertainment and even goat yoga. **C**
- + During finals, students get energy from an annual midnight breakfast. And the president has customarily handed out treats – from cookies to ice cream – to students who are cramming for their tests.
- + Each fall, SLU celebrates Homecoming and Family Weekend with numerous activities, including a golf cart parade, soccer game and fireworks. **D**
- + Each spring, SLU sponsors Atlas Week, **E** which recognizes the international dimension of the University’s academic programs and celebrates SLU’s role in international education. A symposium, lectures and a Parade of Nations are highlights.
- + Every year at commencement, graduates are hailed as “sons and daughters of SLU forever” **F** with a burst of confetti.



**A**



**D**



**B**



**E**



**C**

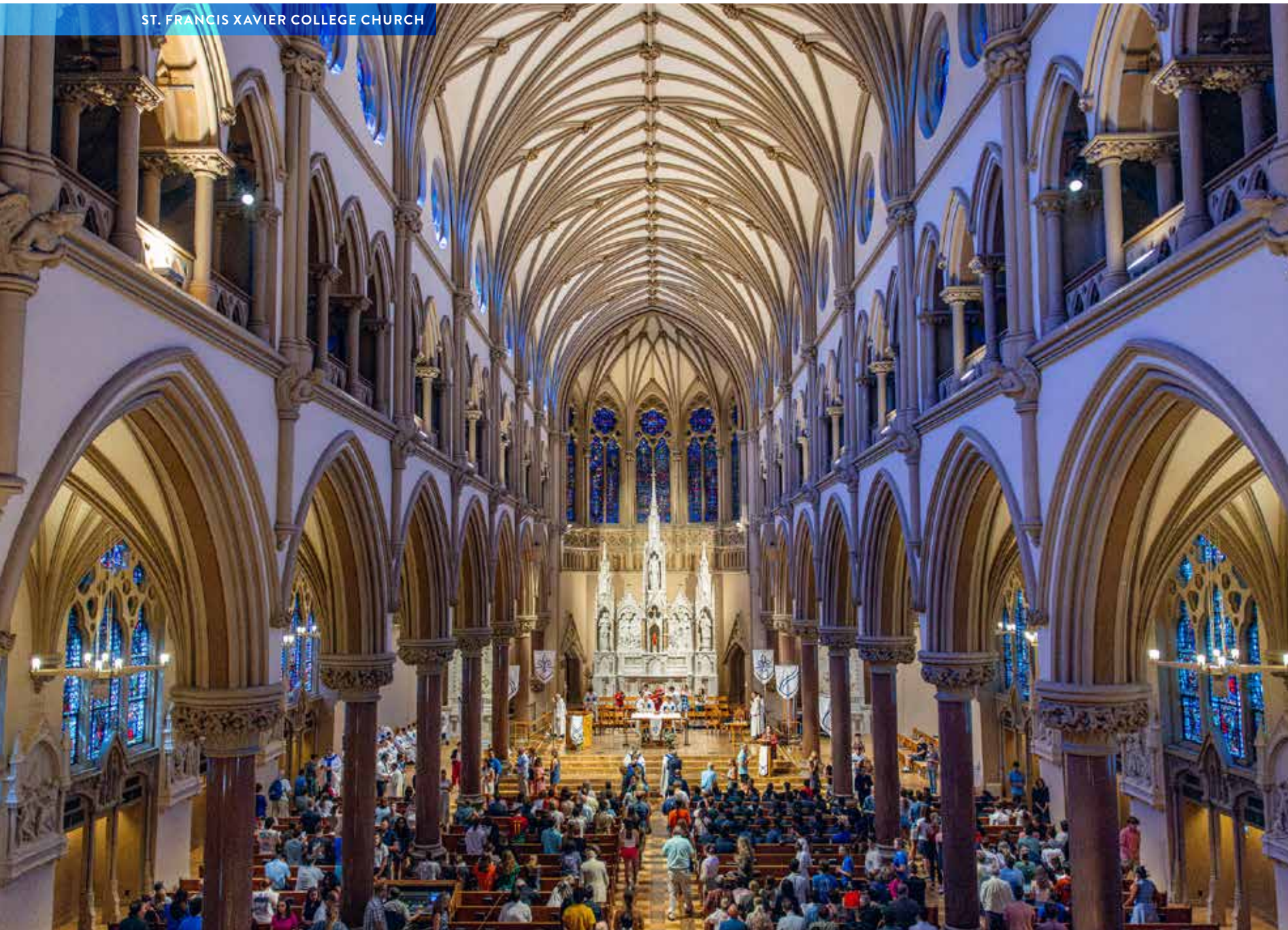


**F**



# OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE CHURCH



The past decade has been a transformative period for Saint Louis University.

In keeping with the Jesuit principle of *magis*, SLU strives always for new levels of excellence and impact. SLU's next president will build upon the achievements of the past while charting a course for an even stronger future. Key priorities for the new president's leadership agenda include the following:

**+ ARTICULATE A COMPELLING VISION AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY THAT ELEVATES ITS IMPACT AND REACH**

SLU has never been in a stronger position. Working in concert with the Saint Louis University Board of Trustees, University leadership and faculty, the new president will define and articulate the vision for SLU's future, one that is deeply grounded in its Catholic, Jesuit mission and identity. The University has many strengths:

- > It is on the cusp of achieving Carnegie Research 1 status.
- > Its commitment to internationalization is embodied in its unprecedented enrollment of international students as well as its flourishing SLU-Madrid campus.
- > The health sciences are growing in quality and impact, and SLU's relationship with its SSM partner is thriving.
- > Its highly-successful athletics program elevates its stature and recognition.
- > Its commitment to the St. Louis community is vibrant and strong.
- > Its distinctiveness in delivering an exceptional undergraduate experience and excellence in teaching remains steadfast.

The vision for the future of SLU will articulate how this exceptional university will achieve new levels of excellence. The president will go about this work in the context of and with a deep understanding of the dynamic and complex landscape of higher education and the ways it impacts SLU, bringing a values-centered and nimble approach to the work that appropriately questions the status quo, with a strong orientation to positive change, to achieve all of which SLU is capable.

SLU's recognition does not yet reflect the transformational gains of the past decade. While rankings are one part of increasing visibility, the president will be expected to grow the University's stature and reputation in meaningful ways that add value to SLU. The president should view the University's location as a great advantage, treasuring its St. Louis and Madrid campuses and embracing the city that SLU calls home. The president will position the University as a critical asset for the city, the state, the nation and the world while leading SLU's impact and contributions through its teaching, research and public service missions.



**+ ADVANCE THE UNIVERSITY'S CATHOLIC, JESUIT MISSION AND VALUES**

SLU holds its Catholic, Jesuit mission as central. The president will lead SLU by drawing upon, advancing and preserving the University's Catholic, Jesuit identity. Essential to this identity is caring for the whole person – mind, body and spirit – and encouraging students to become well-rounded people who contribute to the greater good, finding God in all things through a broad range of study in keeping with the Catholic intellectual tradition; and the idea of *magis*, which leads to excellence in all pursuits and to the Jesuit legacy of academic rigor. SLU's Jesuit education prepares students to make the world a better place by seeking justice and serving the most vulnerable.

The president will join SLU as it enters the final stages of its next round of the Jesuit Mission Priority Examen (MPE) process, which began in January 2024 and is led by the vice president for mission and identity. The process is grounded in the examen, a practice of Ignatian reflection which invites the campus community to reflect upon areas of strength in embodying the University's Catholic, Jesuit identity and opportunities for deepening its mission. (Information on SLU's MPE process can be found [here](#).)

The University is home to 50 Jesuits who study, teach and minister at SLU. The president will engage and foster relationships with SLU's Jesuit community and the provincial superior of the USA Central and Southern Province.

SLU's president must embody and model the University's commitment to its Catholic, Jesuit mission, seeing the richness of SLU's Jesuit heritage as an opportunity for engagement and as the basis for the diversity and inclusion that also lies at the heart of its identity. Whether religious or lay, the president will project care and concern for faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends as individuals and as a community, and will shepherd the SLU community with courage, compassion and care.

**+ FURTHER STRENGTHEN SLU'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING**

The president will bring to SLU a record of vigorous engagement, leadership and progress in advancing institutional diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. The president will promote an understanding of the essential role these core values play in a Catholic, Jesuit university and how a commitment to these values extends to every facet of the University, including its mission, faculty and staff hiring, development and retention, student recruitment and support, curriculum and programmatic offerings, scholarly and creative activity and partnerships across SLU, in the external community and around the globe. The president will ensure initiatives and policies that reflect the mission of SLU and will strive to hire, support and retain University leadership, faculty and staff who embody its increasingly diverse and international student body. The president will infuse the values of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging into all aspects of SLU's planning and decision making.

[The Clock Tower Accords](#) commit the University to actively strengthen diversity, access and equity in pursuit of inclusive excellence on its campuses. In the spirit of the Gospels, the Accords also extend that commitment to its host city of St. Louis and suburban neighbors, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable communities.



Students explore volunteer opportunities at the Diversity and Innovative Community Engagement (DICE) Open House and Community Service Fair.

In the spirit of the Jesuit value of *cura personalis*, the president will be especially mindful and attentive to the needs and concerns of faculty, staff and students. Issues such as campus climate and belonging, mental health and wellness, meeting the needs of an increasingly international student body, shared governance and effective participation and leadership for all members of the SLU community, and making SLU a destination workplace are high on the agenda. The president must be eager to engage in conversation and take decisive action to address these important concerns and create an environment where all members of the community feel seen and valued and have a sense of true belonging.

**+ BUILD THE RESEARCH ENTERPRISE**

SLU expects to achieve Research 1 status in the 2025 Carnegie Classification. The next president will ensure an ongoing commitment to building the research enterprise to solidify the achievement of this status and continued growth of research that aligns with SLU's distinctive strengths and opportunities. Moving firmly into research prominence, the president must lead the University as it undergoes a shift in institutional character. This will require the president to attend to University culture and to the investments, processes, business models and infrastructure required to support such a robust research ecosystem.

The new president will build on the momentum of SLU's existing strengths and new and emerging research initiatives that can distinguish SLU. A prime example of such initiatives is the new [Taylor Geospatial Institute](#),

a consortium of eight research institutions led by SLU, aimed at fostering comprehensive strength in the core fields of geospatial science important to answering pressing questions in a wide variety of applied fields including agriculture, business, climate, defense, environment and health. Likewise, SLU's School of Medicine is the home of research excellence, with abundant opportunity to expand its impact. In collaboration with its partner SSM Health, SLU is advancing the health and well-being of the community through the practice of humanistic medicine in keeping with its Jesuit values. The president will ensure a rich and productive collaboration with SSM Health in supporting and extending their mutual goals, including a robust clinical research partnership.

The president must be clear-eyed and engage in open conversation about what it takes to become and support a thriving research enterprise and galvanize the organization to support that vision. This must be done while further strengthening SLU's commitment to teaching excellence.





The Billiken women's soccer team celebrates their sixth consecutive Atlantic 10 championship in 2023.

**+ SUPPORT AND EMBRACE SLU'S SUCCESSFUL DIVISION I ATHLETICS PROGRAM**

Athletics transforms the lives of its more than 400 student-athletes, enriches the student experience and provides an indispensable means of engaging alumni and friends. It also provides an essential opportunity to elevate SLU's stature and reputation and increase its visibility nationwide.

This is an exciting time for athletics at SLU. The Department of Athletics celebrated the opening of the O'Loughlin Family Champions Center in October 2023. The 25,000-square-foot center, which is adjacent to Chaifetz Arena, provides academic, nutritional and wellness support services for the University's 400-plus Billiken student-athletes under one roof. SLU has recently made an investment in its men's basketball program, hiring new Head Coach Josh Schertz. The men's soccer team is nationally recognized for its great historic and recent success, including winning 10 NCAA Division I championships. The men's baseball team is highly competitive and has won Atlantic 10 championships. The women's teams are enjoying a period of tremendous success: The women's soccer team won its sixth straight Atlantic 10 Conference Championship and reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Women's Soccer Championship for the first time; the women's basketball team won the Atlantic 10 Conference Championship in 2023 and the 2024 Women's National Invitational Tournament (WNIT), and the women's softball team also won an Atlantic 10 title.

The president is expected to be a visible and enthusiastic champion of the University's Division I athletics program as an essential and vital University asset to accelerate SLU's excellence and reach.

**+ INVEST IN AND SUPPORT THE VIBRANT ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY**

Founded in 1818, Saint Louis University was the first university in St. Louis, Missouri. SLU and the city have been shaping each other ever since. SLU's long-time importance to the city of St. Louis means that the president will have immediate status as a leader in the St. Louis community with a unique opportunity for impact. SLU is proud to be helping create a stronger St. Louis, emblemized in its charter membership in [Greater St. Louis](#). The new president will be expected to continue this important work. Midtown St. Louis is experiencing a major transformation and SLU is in the middle of it all, working with developers and community partners to thoughtfully shape the future of the region through projects like Prospect Yards, the Armory, City Foundry STL, Chouteau Greenway and more. Likewise, [SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital](#) – created in partnership between SSM Health and SLU – contributes to the region's health care innovation. Furthermore, there are many outreach ministries of SLU to raise up the underserved in the St. Louis area: Casa de Salud, a leading health care resource for St. Louis' foreign-born population, prisoner education programs, pro-bono legal clinics, and the Billiken Teacher Corps, which supports education in under-resourced Catholic schools in the St. Louis community, to name a few.

This region's vibrancy is enhanced by the University's alumni network of more than 55,000 in St. Louis. Many of the city's leaders in the political and legal arenas are proud graduates of SLU, helping

facilitate collaboration between the city and University.

The president will drive the University's vision and goals for an even stronger relationship with St. Louis, striving to be a good neighbor and respectful partner to the St. Louis community. Reflecting a desire to see the city flourish, the new president will advance the University's investment in Midtown and moving east; lead in creating entrepreneurial and community development opportunities grounded in the Jesuit charism of social innovation and impact; and play a visible and active role engaging with leaders in the region. Given the region's philanthropic opportunities, the president's activities in the community will also support the University's fundraising efforts.

The new president will be a relationship builder who exhibits a natural desire and ability to engage actively and meaningfully with all sectors of the community – corporate, not-for-profit, government, community organizations and alumni – in support of SLU's mission and priorities. This activity will contribute to SLU's distinctive place in the region and help define and shape its vision for the future.

The president must comfortably embrace this public role, integrating seamlessly into St. Louis and providing mission-driven leadership to the community and the city. The president will also be expected to engage nationally and globally in support of the University's commitment to global connectedness.

**+ INCREASE RESOURCES FOR SLU AND MANAGE THEM WISELY**

Saint Louis University enjoys a strong balance sheet. The endowment stands at \$1.8 billion, with little debt and an AA- rating from Standard & Poor's. Against this backdrop of strength, SLU must prioritize its goals and make careful choices, and the new president will oversee the development and execution of plans that will ensure SLU's long-term financial strength and resilience. Overseeing annual budgeting, enrollment, capital planning, new program development and entrepreneurship, the president's influence and need for capable, strategic and adroit leadership of SLU's financial well-being cannot be overstated.

The president will take action to grow campus resources in creative ways. SLU's aspirations will require the creation of forward-looking and evolving business models. The president will be expected to lead the campus in proactively identifying, spearheading and shaping innovative opportunities to grow campus resources and partner with the board to engage in long-range strategic and financial planning for the institution.

The new president will bring genuine enthusiasm for developing the relationships with alumni, friends and community leaders necessary to build and sustain transformational philanthropic investment in SLU. The president will serve as the University's chief storyteller and fundraiser and will play an essential role in developing the strategy for the University's next comprehensive fundraising campaign, linking strategic priorities to philanthropic opportunities to fund current needs and build the endowment.



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# PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Saint Louis University is now presented with a confluence of opportunities. To fully realize these and take the University to a new level of excellence and impact, the next president must be an exceptional leader of people, organizations and programs.

The ideal candidate will possess many of the following key qualifications and qualities:

## **Leadership and strategic vision:**

The president will provide a vision that embraces a continuous pursuit of excellence. They will have significant experience in developing and executing long-term strategic plans that motivate and accelerate institutional success. As an inherent part of that vision, they will see optimistic and practical opportunities and provide ambitious roadmaps for achievement. They will demonstrate the interpersonal agility to inspire and galvanize a community around a shared, inclusive, forward-thinking vision; a successful record of accomplishment in recruiting, supporting and retaining strong leaders and of developing them into successful leadership teams as part of a culture that prioritizes continuous talent development; the ability to lead through and empower teams and to delegate, as well as the ability to lead by influence, with a character and purpose that inspire and empower accompanied by a mindset that places student welfare at the center of all decision-making.

## **Academic leadership:**

The new president will bring an unwavering commitment to academic excellence across the range of SLU's programs, and internationally recognized research. They will have a track record of academic, intellectual, scholarly and creative leadership; knowledge of the work of academic medicine is a plus. The successful candidate will bring the capacity to ensure that SLU continues to prepare students to be impactful citizens of the world through excellent teaching and strong teacher-student mentoring while looking ahead to anticipate emerging conditions and University needs. The ability to be innovative is essential. The president must exhibit a profound understanding of higher education, valuing its historical achievements paired with a vision for its future.

## **Commitment to the Catholic, Jesuit tradition:**

The next president will be a Roman Catholic who embraces and is guided by SLU's Catholic, Jesuit values and mission. They will have a lived experience of the practice of the Catholic faith and its intellectual tradition. The candidate of choice – who may be a layperson or in a religious order – will demonstrate an active commitment to social justice, to the education of the entire person, to fairness and inclusion, to rigorous intellectual inquiry and academic freedom, and to deep discernment in decision-making, and be a model for and a leader in the "pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and the service of humanity." They will uphold and advance the University's mission boldly and clearly, including creating an open embrace of students of all faiths and no faith, in keeping with the Jesuit values that call for acceptance and care for all.

**Financial and operational acumen:** The president should bring superior knowledge and a record of successful engagement with the business and financial operations of a complex organization comparable in size to SLU and outstanding fiscal acumen, including a record of sound budgetary stewardship and resourcefulness in developing ways to generate revenue through new avenues, as well as a solid understanding of student enrollment. The president's financial acumen will include the ability to assess current resource allocation practices, identify and optimize operations to ensure efficiencies and coordinated infrastructure, and align budgets with institutional priorities. A deep understanding of the higher education landscape and its challenges today and in the future, an understanding of how complex organizations function and thrive, and a capacity and aptitude for crisis management are also essential.

## **Commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging and social justice:**

The new president will bring a demonstrated record of progress in advancing issues related to diversity, equity, belonging and inclusion. They will have experience encouraging a culture of diverse thought and comfortably participating in and leading conversations about social issues that impact the community, as well as a successful track record in removing barriers to inclusion and in affirming diversity in all its forms. They will be culturally competent and cognizant of diverse lived experiences and lead with equity and social justice as key values.

**Engagement, relationship-building and fundraising skills:** The president will demonstrate exceptional community engagement and public relations skills, in particular the ability to connect with audiences large and small and a genuine enjoyment of and enthusiasm for building partnerships and engaging deeply across a broad and diverse public. They will bring an innovative, mutually beneficial and entrepreneurial spirit to further advance SLU's relationship with St. Louis and beyond. The president will be a strategic, vigorous and engaging fund- and friend-raiser, further strengthening relationships with alumni, parents, friends, and corporate and foundation partners, locally, regionally and nationally. The president will be able to envision and deliver an engaging narrative that inspires others to engage with and invest in SLU.

**Personal qualities:** The president will possess the qualities of humility, humor, authenticity and integrity. They will bring a belief in and love for this particular university in this particular place and an excitement about taking it to the next level of excellence, valuing people and the institution and holding the University accountable to its limitless potential. They will exhibit and inspire qualities of entrepreneurship and innovation. The president will have the capacity to make hard decisions for the good of the institution and will do so with compassion, grounding them in data and mission. They will be a careful listener and have a natural inclination toward shared governance, welcoming multiple perspectives in the decision-making process. The president will be a relational and transparent leader who is highly engaged, visible and accessible to internal and external constituencies in both formal and informal ways. Above all, Saint Louis University's next president will care deeply about students and their growth and development and enjoy their company.

**Academic credentials:** It is strongly preferred that the next president hold an earned doctorate or terminal degree. Candidates without such credentials may be considered if through previous experience and leadership in transformational undertakings and commitment to excellence in higher education they would garner the respect of the campus and broader communities.





# PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

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

For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by October 7, 2024.

Applications, nominations and inquiries can be directed to the WittKieffer consultants supporting this search:

Robin Mamlet, Suzanne Teer, Sandra Chu, and Maya Holt-Brockenbrough, Ph.D. at [SLU-President@wittkieffer.com](mailto:SLU-President@wittkieffer.com)

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## SLU IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Saint Louis University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All qualified candidates will receive consideration for the position applied for without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military/veteran status or other nonmerit factors.

SLU commencement at Chaifetz Arena







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