



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Dean of the College of
Visual and Performing Arts
Search



About Northern Illinois University

Chartered in 1895, Northern Illinois University (NIU) is a student-centered, regional public research institution with a diverse and international student body of 20,130. NIU's main residential campus is located just 65 miles west of Chicago in one of the most dynamic regions of the country. Three extension centers are located in Naperville, Rockford, and Hoffman Estates. The University contains 42 academic departments across seven colleges of Business, Education, Engineering and Engineering Technology, Health and Human Sciences, Law, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts. NIU offers 56 undergraduate majors and 80 graduate degree programs, including 22 doctoral programs, and the Juris Doctorate. NIU is a member of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. DeKalb is a safe and affordable environment with a high quality of life. The university's main campus is set on 756 acres of rolling country land, featuring two lagoons, several museums, and a broad variety of cultural activities.

The vision of Northern Illinois University is to be a premier student-centered, research-focused public university, contributing to the advancement of knowledge for the benefit of the people of the region, the state, the nation, and the world. With this vision, the mission of the University is to promote excellence and engagement in teaching and learning, research and scholarship, creativity and artistry, and outreach and service

NIU is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a research university/high research activity as well as an institution of community engagement. The Association for Public and Land-Grant Universities recently awarded NIU its "place" award for leadership in innovative practices contributing to economic prosperity in a given region.

NIU has a proud alumni base of more than 225,000 individuals who contribute \$8 billion a year to the Illinois economy with engagement efforts that bring 25,000+ alumni in personal contact with their alma mater each year.

In July of 2013, Dr. Douglas Baker became NIU's 12th President. The Board of Trustees selected Dr. Baker in great part because of his bold vision that is focused on student career success and excellence in teaching, research, and outreach, and that is founded upon unwavering commitments to thriving communities, ethically inspired leadership, and financial sustainability.



Institutional Points of Pride



Toward NIU's vision of student career success, recent accomplishments include the following:

- Expanding engaged learning, internship and mentoring programs on campus as well as with regional businesses and not-for-profits;
- Ranking in U.S. News and World Report's elite "National Universities" category.
- Nationally accredited programs in business; clinical and school psychology; engineering; nursing; visual and performing arts; and teacher licensure, among others that meet the highest standards of academic quality and rigor;
- A rapidly growing Honors program attracting increasing numbers of high-achieving students;
- Growing service to a large, diverse, suburban and urban population, including many who are first-generation college students;
- Internationally acclaimed faculty members who are teachers, scientists and artists. More than 35 have been named Fulbright scholars;
- Rapid growth in private support from alumni and friends that has grown from a total of \$35 million in the 1990s to more than \$190 million since the year 2000;
- Four multi-million dollar building projects on campus that have been funded through private donations from proud alumni since 2000;
- A brand new, state-of-the-art, 1,000-bed residence hall that represents the best combination of living space, privacy, amenities, and technology anywhere in the nation;
- A highly successful and competitive NCAA Division I athletics program that ranks with the best in the nation in academic performance and graduation rates.





About the

College of Visual and Performing Arts

<http://www.vpa.niu.edu/cvpa/>

The College of Visual and Performing Arts at Northern Illinois University is a major provider of artistic presentations and services to the region in ways that strengthen student learning and faculty and student artistry and research.

The College's contributions to the region play a critical role in the continuing richness of its cultural landscape:

- 30% or more of all exhibitions of contemporary art in museums and galleries in the region annually represent the work of alumni, current faculty, or current students of the School of Art
- 100% of the jazz alumni, current faculty, or current students of the School of Music are involved in the Chicago area and regional jazz communities.
- 100% of the major repertory theatre and dance companies in the region have among their personnel alumni, current faculty or students of the School of Theatre and Dance.
- The vast majority of the college's graduates in art and music education who wish to teach in the public schools find employment - and many of them teach in northern Illinois.



Northern Illinois
University

School of Art and Design

<http://art.niu.edu/art/>

The School of Art and Design at NIU is a highly visible participant in a rich cultural landscape that attracts students of exceptional talent and commitment. The long-standing quality of the School's programs, its affiliation with a major university, its location near the population centers of northern Illinois, and the competitiveness of its educational costs make NIU's program in the visual arts one of the best education values for art students.

- The School of Art and Design at NIU has 550 majors, 35 tenured and tenure-track faculty members, and more than 20 part and full-time instructors with a student to faculty ratio of 16 to 1 for studio and design classes. A recent NASAD site visitor noted the "strong student body overall, one that demonstrates talent, intelligence, comprehension, creativity and dedication. There are a number of exceptional individuals whose work and accomplishments compete with the best in the country – this is true for lower division, upper division and graduate students."
- Well funded, the School of Art and Design offers an abundance of incoming Freshman Scholarships and Continuing Student Scholarships totaling \$237,000 in awards for 2013/2014.
- Offering degrees in Art and Art History (B.A., M.A.); Art and Design Education (B.S.Ed., M.S., Ph.D.); Design and Media Arts in Photography, Time Arts and Visual Communication, and Studio Arts, with emphases and specializations in Ceramics, Fiber, Metals, Jewelry & Digital Fabrication, Sculpture, Drawing, Illustration, Painting and Printmaking (B.F.A., M.F.A.).



Northern Illinois
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School of Music



<http://www.niu.edu/music/>

The School of Music enrolls over 275 majors from throughout the world and offers the B.M. in music education, performance (including jazz) and composition, the B.A. in music, the M.M. in music education, performance, jazz studies, and individualized studies (including recording arts, music and composition), and the Performers Certificate. The School is recognized nationally and internationally for the activities of its distinguished faculty of 34 full-time and 25 part-time performing artists, composers, conductors, and scholars, and its students. Faculty hold leadership positions in national and international organizations and serve as guest artists and clinicians in significant venues.

Together, faculty and students present well in excess of 200 performances on campus each year and many more off-campus. Programs of particular distinction include: a long history of a faculty string quartet-in-residence (30 plus years with the Vermeer Quartet and since 2007 with the Avalon Quartet partially supported by the Richard O. Ryan Endowed Chair in Violin); a long history of excellence in jazz studies including top ten rankings by U.S. News and World Report; a long-standing commitment to world music studies and performance; the world's only institution offering a B.M. and M.M. in performance with steelpan as the performing medium; as well as a tradition of excellence in performance by student ensembles through repeated appearances at national and international choral, jazz, and percussion conventions.

The Music Building continues to function as a fine facility more than thirty years after opening. It contains instructional spaces, administrative/staff offices, ensemble rehearsal rooms, student practice rooms, and performance spaces adequate for the current music major population, recording arts facilities, live webcasting of performances, internet2 technology, as well as the Music Library branch of the University Libraries.

Alumni of the School of Music perform with some of the world's most recognizable artists and ensembles, teach at respected music institutions, and work for prestigious music corporations and organizations.



Northern Illinois
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School of Theatre & Dance

<http://www.niu.edu/theatre/>



The School of Theatre and Dance enrolls over 200 majors from across the nation and offers the B.A. in theatre studies, the B.F.A. in theatre with emphases in dance performance, design/technology, and acting, and the M.F.A. in theatre with emphases in acting and design/technology. In addition to its NAST membership, the School is also a member of the University Resident Theatre Association. The Dance program includes the only academic ballet training in the state of Illinois. A notable faculty of 19 full-time and 2 part-time designers, actors, directors, dancers, coaches, technicians, story tellers and choreographers maintain a national and international leadership profile through practice of their art forms and through professional organizations. The School presents a seven production main stage season as well as up to eight studio pieces annually. Additionally, the school presents a student-run late-night season. SummerNITE is a program that supports internships and other bridge-to-the-profession programming of SOTD. In recent years it's been working in collaboration with the Organic Theater Company of Chicago. A unique program established with the cooperation of the Moscow Art Theatre School (MATS) takes B.F.A. acting students to Moscow for a semester-long course of study in their junior year. Graduate Acting and Design students spend a month in a similar course of study at the same facility. Both curricula are taught by MATS faculty and are structured in close consultation with the School of Theatre and Dance faculty.



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The NIU Art Museum



The NIU Art Museum began in the 1960s as a faculty-curated exhibition space within the School of Art. The NIU Art Museum evolved over the years into a collecting institution and, in 1990, separated from the School to become a distinctive unit of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The mission of the NIU Art Museum is to “exhibit, preserve, educate and enlighten.” The Museum strives to do this by balancing the challenges of contemporary art with the riches of traditional art for a comprehensive examination of visual culture. As an art museum belonging to an academic institution, the dual roles of the NIU Art Museum are to contribute significantly to the university’s educational curriculum, and to provide opportunities of art education and cultural enrichment to the people of the northern Illinois community. The NIU Art Museum’s 3000 square feet of gallery space on the first floor of NIU’s historic Altgeld Hall is comprised of several distinct exhibition areas allowing for the versatility to present up to four concurrent exhibitions. Exhibitions typically change twice per semester during the academic year. Biennially, the museum hosts exhibitions of the NIU School of Art Faculty and NIU’s renowned Burma Art Collection. Museum exhibitions are developed from the university collections, museum staff or guest-curated thematic contemporary exhibitions of the work of regional, national, and international artists, and nationally traveling exhibitions. The exhibitions of the museum are augmented by artist talks, scholarly lectures, artist demonstrations and interactive workshops, panel discussions, symposia, Seeing Art-Making Art gallery tours and hands-on art projects for children and disabled adults, Senior Art Breaks to introduce contemporary art concepts to an elder audience, Get-On-The-Bus art excursions, and publications including Gallery Notes, Museum Notes, brochures, and catalogues. The museum exhibitions and programs are supported, in addition to its operating budget, by grants from the Illinois Arts Council and other funding entities and an annual giving members’ group The Friends of the NIU Art Museum.



The Office of External Programs

The Office of External Programs manages many of the outreach activities for the College of Visual and Performing Arts especially in coordination with the College's three academic Schools. Additionally, the office oversees the following major areas: the NIU Community School of the Arts; the Summer in the Arts at Northern program (residential summer camps in theatre, art, and music); and off-campus and online credit course offerings. The Community School of the Arts brings to campus over 500 avocational learners per semester, from pre-schoolers through senior citizens, to participate in a wide variety of arts instruction utilizing the College's specialized facilities. The office provides service to the College in a number of important ways: student recruitment for the Schools' undergraduate programs; helping faculty organize programming such as conferences, workshops, etc; providing teaching experience to many NIU students through the community school and summer camps; showcasing the programs of the College; and bringing more arts to the community through the many public events offered by the office.



About the Dean Position



Northern Illinois University (NIU) is seeking an experienced, energetic, and visionary leader to serve as the Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The Dean serves as the chief academic officer of the only comprehensive public arts college in Northern Illinois, a region adjacent to the city of Chicago one of the world's great cultural centers, with a population exceeding 8 million people, and with global impact in the arts.

With its adjacency to the Fox River Valley, the communities immediately surrounding NIU offer outstanding family-centered living that includes excellent public schools. In the city of DeKalb itself, the arts have been identified by both local government and the NIU administration as a significant contributor to the potential revitalization of the historic downtown, and thus the position offers the possibility for forging greater and even more robust partnerships that strengthen both the university and the local community.

The Dean is the principal officer and spokesperson for the College, participates in national discussions around educational renewal and maintains a leadership role in relationships with regional education entities, external legislative constituencies and local communities.

As a member of the Council of Deans, the Dean reports directly to the Executive Vice President/Provost and works closely with the Deans of the six other academic colleges, the Dean of the University Libraries, the Dean of the Graduate School, the Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships, the Vice President for Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development, the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, the Vice President for Advancement, as well as with the Executive Vice President/Provost and President in shaping overall university direction and in defining the role and contribution of the arts within that context. NIU enjoys a mature and successful system of shared governance. Faculty, administration, staff and students share a positive and dynamic learning community.

The University seeks an exceptional leader who is a dynamic and energetic individual with the ability to effectively engage faculty, staff, students, and external constituencies in a collegial and collaborative manner. Reporting to the Executive Vice President/Provost, the Dean serves as chief academic and administrative officer of the college responsible for the administration of academic programs; student success; strategic and fiscal planning; evaluation of faculty and staff; promoting of diversity and inclusion; and planning and promoting new academic programs, regional engagement, and campus facilities. The Dean has a key leadership role in the economic and cultural needs of the region; ensures the appropriate balance of staffing through talent acquisition, retention, and performance management; leads fundraising and grant acquisition; and engages with community to align program offerings of fields in demand.

The Dean must be a strategic thinker, adept at building partnerships within a diverse community, knowledgeable in higher education issues, collaborative in developing team-focused, data-driven approaches to problem solving, and possess strong people-skills.



Responsibilities

The Dean is responsible for the overall administration of the college including its programs and people with a special emphasis on resources (both internal and external), personnel, and planning. Specifically these responsibilities include:

- Fostering innovative and challenging curricula, and encouraging student engagement in and out of the classroom
- Recruiting and retaining dynamic and effective faculty to deliver curriculum from diverse perspectives
- Recruiting and retaining a diverse student body who are committed to developing their potential
- Developing and allocating resources (human, fiscal, and physical) including external friend and fundraising
- Implementing strategic management and leading the college units in planning within the college/university planning context
- Establishing and maintaining existing partnerships both within the institution and external to it including working collaboratively with stakeholders in carrying out the mission of the College and University



Required Qualifications

- A terminal degree, or its equivalency, in one of the disciplinary specialties contained within the college and a record of teaching and scholarship sufficient to warrant an appointment at the rank of professor with tenure in one of the schools of the college
- Experience as an arts administrator at the level of department chair/school director, associate dean or higher. A record of national leadership.

Preferred Qualifications

- Record of effective communications and relationship building with institutional and external stakeholders as well as successful external fundraising.
- Record of success in recruiting and retaining an excellent and diverse faculty, staff and student body
- Demonstrated understanding of the visual and performing arts and a significant record of professional, scholarly or creative accomplishments related to at least one of the visual and performing arts.
- Successful experience teaching and demonstrated commitment to quality instruction
- Record of success in the oversight of the day-to-day operations of an academic unit
- Experience with a system of shared governance
- Record of leadership at the international level in appropriate professional activities and organizations



Procedure for Candidacy

Review of applications will begin immediately, and continue until the position is filled. Applications should include a current curriculum vita and letter explaining interest and relevant experience. For additional information concerning Northern Illinois University visit www.niu.edu

Nominations and applications should be submitted electronically in confidence to Jeffrey Harris.

Contact Information:

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I N N O V A T I O N + T A L E N T

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