

SEARCH PROFILE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

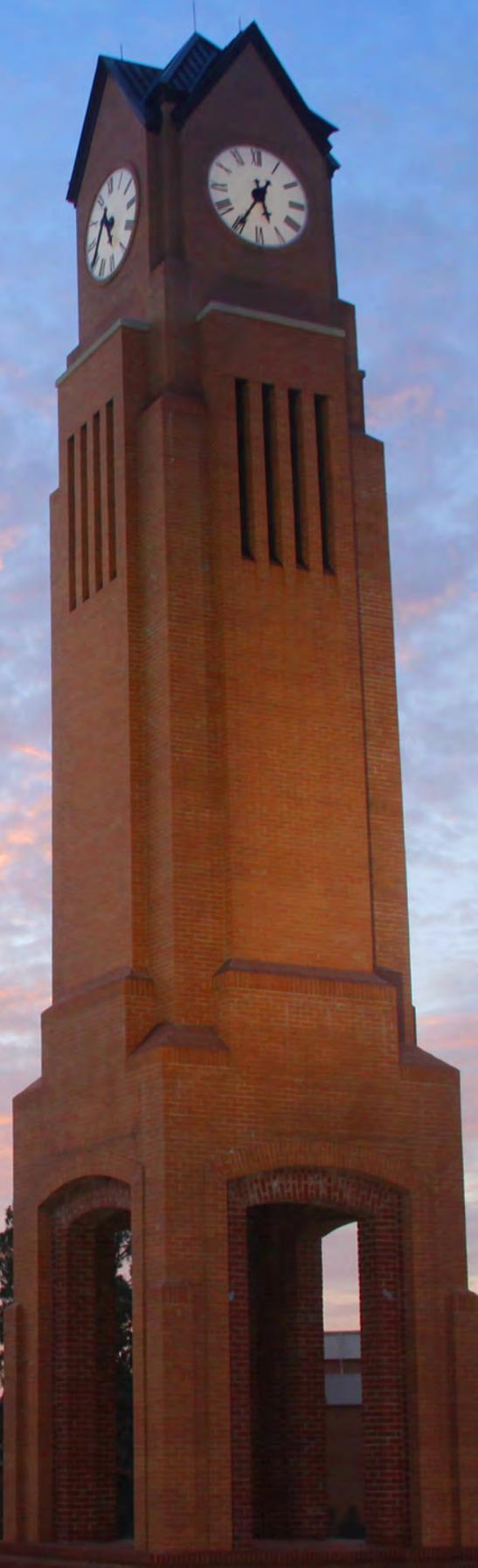


COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

in partnership with



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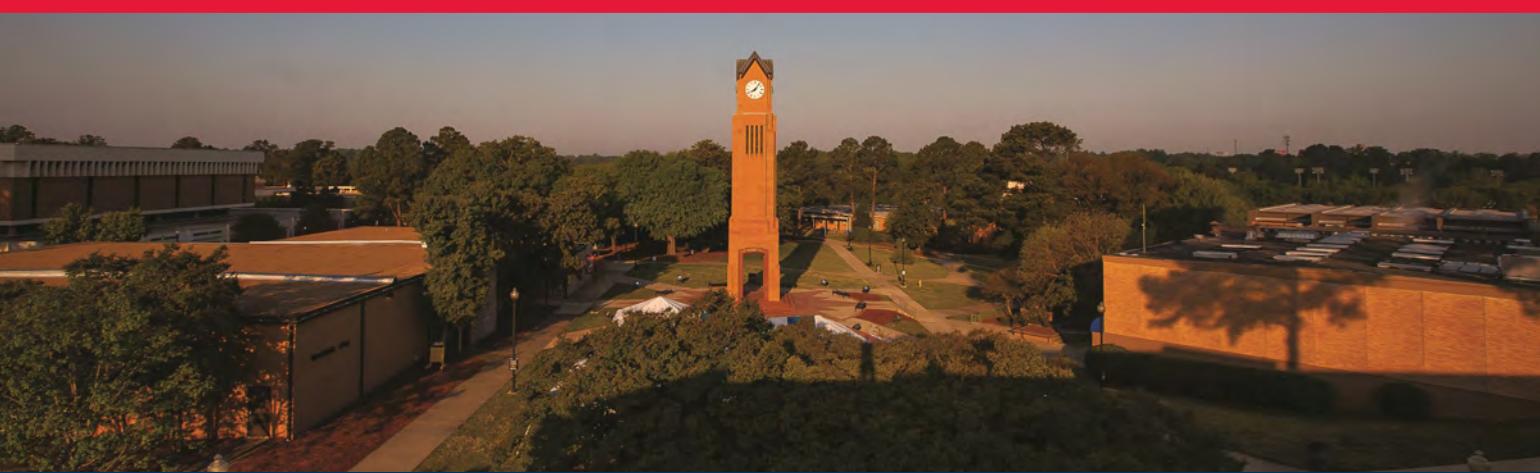
COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

SCHUSTER STUDENT
SUCCESS CENTER

SCHUSTER
SUCCESS CENTER

- Academic Center for Excellence
- Careering Center
- Center for Career Development
- Disability Services
- Honors College
- Servant Leadership
- Student Affairs

The Schuster Student Success Center on Columbus State's Main Campus is home to a wide range of programs under the oversight of the Office of the Provost, as well as other student-facing services that include accommodation and access, career design, global engagement, counseling services, military-connected student services, and servant leadership.



Dedicated in 1991, the Thomas Y. Whitley Clock Tower is the heart of Main Campus and a central, gathering point for students. It is named in honor of Columbus State's first president, who served from CSU's founding in 1958 until his retirement in 1979. Students, faculty and staff cleaned more than 20,000 bricks salvaged from the Shannon Hosiery Mill's old smokestack, which now form the clock tower's inner arches.

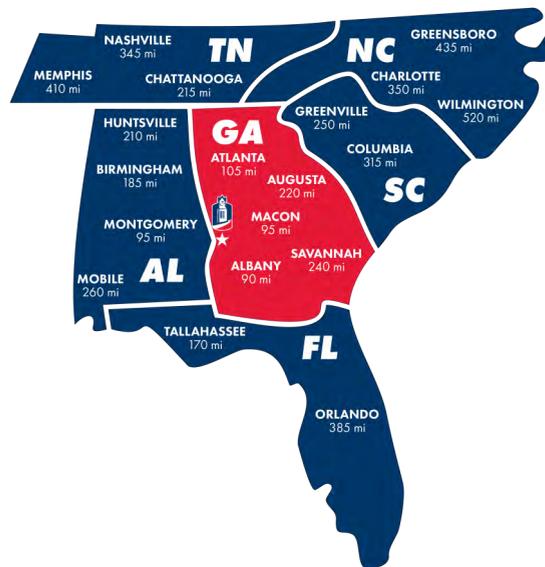
President Stuart Rayfield and the search committee invite nominations and applications for the position of Provost and Executive Vice President (Provost) of Columbus State University (CSU). This is an excellent opportunity for an accomplished academic leader who is inspired by CSU's emphasis on excellence in lifelong learning, community engagement, cultural enrichment, teaching and research, and service to others.

Located just 100 miles southwest of Atlanta, CSU is part of the [University System of Georgia](#). Each year, CSU enrolls more than 7,600 students from the Southeast, across the nation, and around the world. Columbus is a vibrant and diverse community offering a low cost of living, world-class museums, celebrated arts and culture, and amazing recreational opportunities.

With two campuses, exceptional facilities, ideal class sizes, and unique field experiences, Columbus State students have room to create. CSU provides students with academic enrichment opportunities beyond the classroom through the [Bo Bartlett Center](#), the [Center for Global Engagement](#), the [Carson McCullers Center](#), the [TSYS Center for Cybersecurity](#), the [Coca-Cola Space Science Center](#), [Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center](#), and

[Pasaquan](#). These learning laboratories offer student opportunities for research, engagement, and community projects. At CSU, every faculty and staff member is part of the educational process, actively mentoring students and championing each new step in the journey.

In its next provost, Columbus State seeks a servant leader with a deep commitment to the mission, vision, and values of the university as well as the enthusiasm, energy, and optimism for the work ahead. A proven record of successful, progressive leadership in a university of similar size and complexity is a must. In addition, the provost will possess an earned doctorate or terminal degree; a record of teaching, publication, and service that would warrant appointment as a tenured full professor in an academic department at CSU; experience with the tenure and promotion process; a commitment to shared governance; superior communication skills; and proven financial acumen with evidence of strategic resource allocation in a complex environment.



For information on how to apply or submit a nomination, please see Page 16.

Columbus State has been woven into the fabric of the Columbus community for more than 60 years.

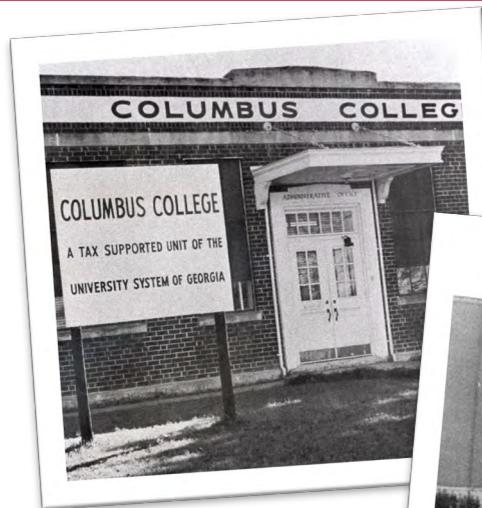
As early as the 1940s, local leaders identified that having a Columbus-based college was a priority. They began collecting money, looking for a site, and lobbying the state for a local college. Through their persistence, donations of nearly \$100,000, and the support of two voter-approved bond issues, Columbus College first opened on Sept. 22, 1958, in a temporary location — the Shannon Hosiery Mill on Talbotton Road. Nearly 300 students enrolled under the care of 15 faculty members and six administrators.

Those humble beginnings began a story that spans more than six decades of a deeply rooted relationship between what is now Columbus State University and the Chattahoochee Valley. Columbus College moved to its current Main Campus location in 1963 and became a four-year institution just two years later.

Campus master planning hit its stride in the early 1980s as construction expanded to match the growth in CSU's new collegiate structure and academic offerings. The late 1980s marked additional capital growth on campus, including the school's signature clock tower — completed in 1991 and named after its first president, Dr. Thomas Whitley. In 1996, the college was designated as a university and became Columbus State University.

Despite widespread higher education budget cuts marking the late 2000s, Columbus State continued to prosper. This included establishing several new graduate programs — including its first doctoral degree — and its inaugural appearance on U.S. News & World Report's list as one of the top 50 comprehensive public universities in the South. During this time, the university also strengthened its relationship with U.S. Army Fort Moore (the Fort Benning), expanded its online degree offerings, added NCAA and club sports, and established the Honors College.

Since 2000, Columbus State has concluded two successful comprehensive fundraising campaigns. The "Investment in People" Campaign, which exceeded its \$67 million goal by nearly 50%, wrapped in 2005. In 2012, CSU's "First Choice" Campaign concluded after



exceeding its \$100 million goal by 20% with the support of more than 8,000 alumni and community donors.

CSU's integration with the Columbus community deepened in 2007 with its new RiverPark Campus near the banks of the Chattahoochee River in historic Uptown — making it difficult to determine where Uptown Columbus ends and Columbus State begins. Today, the urban campus includes much of the university's fine, performing and communication arts programs and facilities; is home to the College of the Arts, the College of Education & Health Professions and several of its outreach centers; and offers students learning, living and dining options in addition to those on Main Campus.

In recent years, CSU has broadened its creativity, innovation and efficiency in its academic, operational and outreach efforts. This includes an intentional focus on servant leadership as both an institutional core value and an academic discipline. This innovative spirit has led to new workforce development-focused degree programs and increased standings in many regional and national higher education ranking programs.

During its 60-plus-year history, the university has been under the leadership of six presidents — including its current president, Dr. Stuart Rayfield, who began her tenure on June 1, 2023.

Click to learn more about Columbus State at columbusstate.edu/aboutus

At Columbus State University, we believe college is the foundation for students' futures, and we're committed to helping them create a future of endless opportunities.

EQUIPPING STUDENTS TO CREATE THEIR FOUNDATION



- [90-plus programs](#) in business, education, fine and performing arts, health professions, humanities, social science and the STEM fields.
- traditional undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as one-year certificates, stackable credentials and the University System of Georgia's one-of-a-kind, workforce-focused [nexus degree](#) in cybersecurity of fintech, film production and public safety.
- a comprehensive curriculum focused around "[career-ready competencies](#)"—skills like communication, critical thinking, collaboration, problem-solving and conflict resolution—that complement what students learn in their fields of specialty.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AS THEY CREATE THEIR COMMUNITY



- 7,600-plus students from every Georgia county, nearly every U.S. state and 45 countries.
- more than [80 active student organizations](#) and [13 championship-caliber NCAA Division II sports teams](#).
- a [recently launched well-being initiative](#) linking physical, emotional, academic, social, cultural and financial programs to foster student success and retention.

ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO CREATE THEIR PERSPECTIVE



- singular experiences help students gain new perspectives and maximize their career potential as they become civically, culturally and globally engaged.
- the [Honors College](#) and our unique [Servant Leadership Program](#) help students benefit from a community-within-a-community while opening doors to mentoring, discovery and service.
- [global engagement programs](#) that expand students' viewpoints that include study abroad experiences and on-campus programming.

POSITIONING GRADUATES TO CREATE THEIR FUTURE

No matter where their Columbus State degree takes them, our graduates receive an education that helps them build their network, expand their knowledge and develop the career competencies they'll need as they create their future. That's especially true in programs such as:

Cybersecurity: includes traditional degrees, stackable one-year credentials and certificates, and nexus programs.



Education: features our unique "Teacher Contract Guarantee" with the Muscogee County School District to address understaffing and bolster local workforce development.



Film and Entertainment: includes traditional and nexus degree options through our Georgia Film Academy partnership.



Laboratory Sciences: features professional-grade STEM experiences with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and other field-based partners.



Military: a nationally ranked, military-friendly university now offering graduate-level transfer credit to all U.S. Army Captain Career Course graduates at nearby Fort Moore and posts nationwide.



Nursing and Healthcare: offering state-of-the-art nursing simulation labs and benefiting from employer partnerships to address critical staffing shortages.



Robotics Engineering: a 3+2 undergraduate/graduate program benefiting from industry and military partnerships and preparing students for advanced-technology career opportunities.



Click to explore more of the Columbus State Experience
at columbusstate.edu/viewbook



Through our 35-plus graduate degree programs, Columbus State University awards an average of 535 master's, specialist and doctoral degrees each academic year. This accounts for approximately 30 percent of all degrees the university awards annually.

Columbus State includes four degree-granting colleges—the [College of the Arts](#), the [D. Abbott Turner College of Business & Technology](#), the [College of Education & Health Professions](#), and the [College of Letters & Sciences](#) — along with the [Honors College](#) and the [Graduate School](#).



The university offers its students more than [90 degrees and programs of study](#) — ranging from traditional undergraduate and graduate degrees to one-year certificates, stackable credentials and the University System of Georgia’s [newest one-of-a-kind, workforce-focused nexus programs](#).



[CSU Libraries](#) maintains both the Schwob Memorial Library on Main Campus and a Music Library on the RiverPark Campus. Through its 72,500-plus patron visits annually, students, employees and community members benefit from its 398,000-plus volumes, Archives & Special Collections, and wealth of electronic resources.



Columbus State’s student body represents nearly every Georgia county and U.S. state, and more than 40 countries. Its 40,000-plus [alumni](#) can be found in all 50 states, three U.S. territories and 70 countries.



Annual senior surveys consistently report that 90% to 95% of graduates say CSU’s degree programs prepared them for their first job or for continuing education. Of those same students, 88% self-reported that they grew in their creativity and innovation while at Columbus State.



During Fiscal Year 2022, Columbus State’s institutional spending had a [\\$290.2 million economic development impact](#) — a 2.5% increase over its FY21 regional economic impact.



Columbus State [currently ranks 30th among public universities](#) and 64th overall in U.S. News’ “Best Regional Universities South” category. In the same rankings cycle and category, U.S. News ranked CSU 36th as a “Best Value School” — the highest-ranking public university in Georgia on the list.



Columbus State is frequently lauded as a military-friendly institution. [MilitaryFriendly.com](#) [currently ranks it No. 8 nationally as a military-friendly school](#) in its “Small Public School” category. More recently, U.S. News ranked CSU 28th in its “Best Colleges for Veterans-Regional Universities (South)” — up four spots from the previous year.



The [CSU Cougars’](#) six men’s and seven women’s NCAA Division II sports teams, plus its competitive Cheer program, are members of the [Peach Belt Conference](#). CSU also offers students access to more than 10 [club](#) and [intramural](#) sports programs, as well as an [eSports team](#).



The [Leadership Institute](#) [provides](#) its individual, corporate and nonprofit clients with consulting, experience and training in leadership development, team building, assessments, executive coaching and strategic planning. Since 2005, it has worked with more than 200 organizations and has helped develop thousands of leaders — from front-line supervisors to C-suite executives — by cultivating and enhancing their leadership skills through engaging, challenging and interactive sessions and programs.



CSU’s unique [William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership](#) and its embedded academic program equips students and employees alike with the skills and disposition to be servant leaders. Columbus State has offered an undergraduate servant leadership program since 1999; in 2017, a \$1 million gift from The Coca-Cola Foundation renamed and rededicated the center in honor of its current namesake, Coca-Cola board director, local leader and renowned philanthropist.



With more than 500 learning events each year, [Continuing & Professional Education](#) works closely with community organizations and industry to identify and build essential skills that foster long-term agility and knowledge transfer from K-12 through careers.



OUR MISSION

Columbus State University will empower individuals to contribute to the advancement of local and global communities through an emphasis on excellence in teaching and research, lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, public/private partnerships and service to others.

OUR VISION

Columbus State University will be a model of empowerment through transformational learning experiences that prepare students to serve the world as creative problem-solvers and high-impact leaders.

OUR CORE VALUES

Excellence: Commitment to best practices in teaching and learning, scholarship and creative activity, student engagement, cultural enrichment and campus environment.

Creativity: The pursuit of distinction through inquiry and innovation, challenging convention and focusing on solutions.

Engagement: Active civil participation by students, faculty and staff in the university experience.

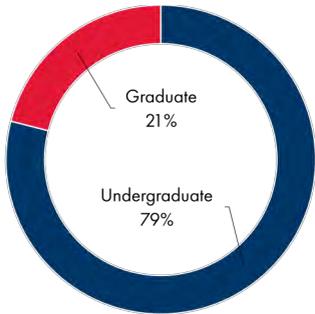
Servant Leadership: Effective, ethical leadership through empowerment and service.

Sustainability: Commitment to behaviors that recognize and respect our environmental context.

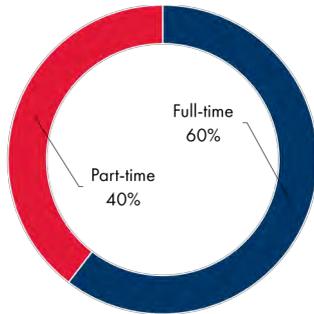
Inclusion: Fostering and promoting a campus that embraces diverse people, ideas, views and practices.

7,637 STUDENTS ENROLLED

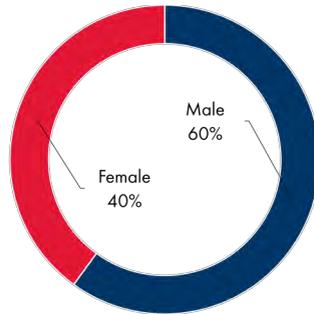
total enrollment ▲ 1.8% compared to Fall 2022



Enrollment by Classification



Enrollment by Enrollment Type



Enrollment by Gender



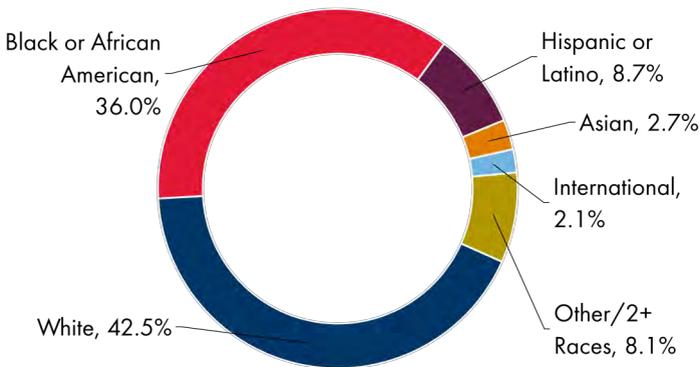
17.5%

of Columbus State's current student body has an affiliation with the military: active duty, retired, veteran, or military dependent.

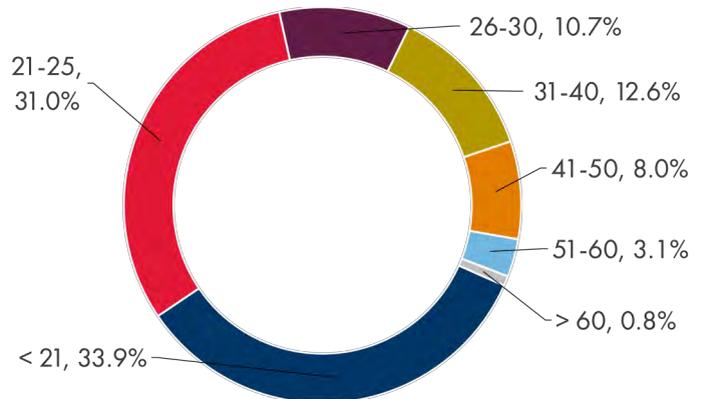


6.0%

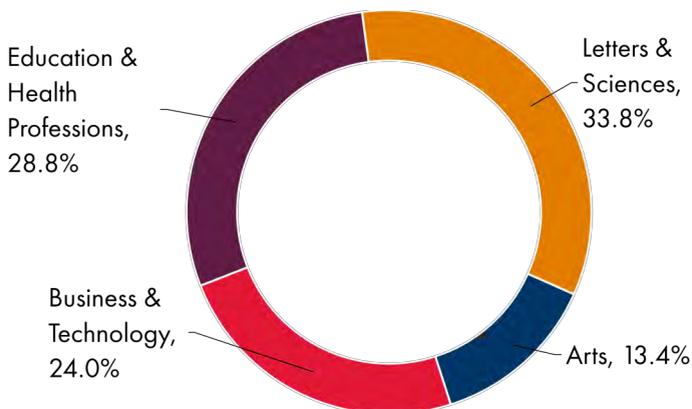
of Columbus State's current undergraduate enrollment is composed of dual-enrollment students — ▲ 3.0% over Fall 2022.



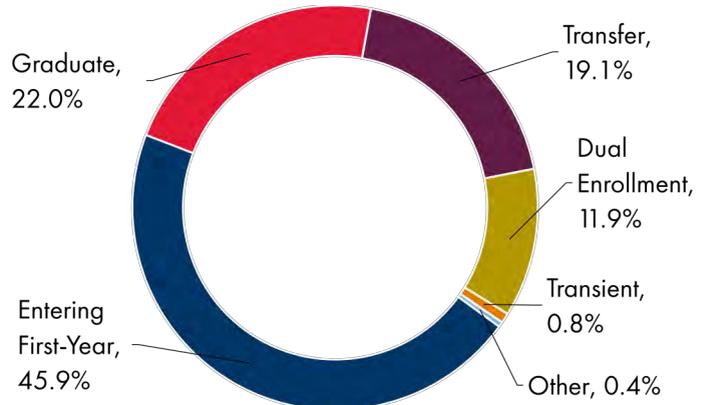
Enrollment by Ethnicity



Enrollment by Age Range



Enrollment by College



New Students by Entrance Category

TOP ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

listed in descending order by overall headcount

Undergraduate Programs

| Program | Degree Type | College |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Psychology | BS | Letters & Sciences |
| Biology | BS | Letters & Sciences |
| Kinesiology | BS | Education & Health Professions |
| Nursing | BSN | Education & Health Professions |
| General Business | BBA | Business & Technology |
| Public Safety | Certificate | Letters & Sciences |
| Communication | BA | Arts |
| Health Science | BA | Education & Health Professions |
| Criminal Justice | BS | Letters & Sciences |
| Management | BBA | Business & Technology |

Graduate Programs

| Program | Degree Type | College |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Family Nurse Practitioner | MSN (online) | Education & Health Professions |
| Public Safety Administration | MPSA | Letters & Sciences |
| Curriculum & Leadership | EdD | Education & Health Professions |
| Organizational Leadership | MS | Business & Technology |
| Nursing | MSN (online) | Education & Health Professions |
| Elementary Education | EdS | Education & Health Professions |
| Applied Computer Science | MS (online) | Business & Technology |
| Applied Computer Science | MS | Business & Technology |
| Elementary Education | MEd | Education & Health Professions |
| Clinical Mental Health Counseling | MS | Education & Health Professions |

CREDIT HOUR PRODUCTION

| Academic Year | Undergrad Credit Hours | Graduate Credit Hours | Total Credit Hours | % change |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 2022-23 | 155,722 | 25,147 | 180,869 | ▼2.6% |
| 2021-22 | 160,830 | 24,932 | 185,762 | ▼7.4% |
| 2020-21 | 175,014 | 25,661 | 200,675 | ▲5.3% |
| 2019-20 | 166,732 | 23,888 | 190,620 | ▼4.1% |



The arts meet nature at our RiverPark Campus, where patrons are entertained and students hone their craft in the Riverside Theatre's performing arts spaces. The theatre is a backdrop for the many outdoor gatherings, events and activities that take place outside in Woodruff Park on the banks of the Chattahoochee River and next to the iconic Dillingham Bridge.



Town and gown blend seamlessly at our RiverPark Campus, where Frank D. Brown Hall stands as one of our campus' pillars in Uptown Columbus. Through philanthropic support, the university acquired, rehabilitated and expanded the historic Columbus *Ledger-Enquirer* newspaper building, which is now home to the College of Education & Health Professions and is named in honor of Columbus State's third president.

The provost reports directly to the president, is the senior leader responsible for academics, and is a member of the university's [Executive Leadership Team](#). With a budget of \$54,710.914 and a total Academic Affairs staff of more than 450 faculty and staff positions, the provost is a partner to the president, the second-in-command, the leader of the academic enterprise, and oversees a variety of colleges, centers and units.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

The new provost will join the university at an exciting time in its history and has an opportunity to help reshape the university to respond to community and workforce needs in a way few other universities can accomplish. It is expected that the new provost will address the following priorities, listed below in no order of importance:

Provide Leadership

Columbus State University's next provost will embody the qualities of servant leadership and lead with enthusiasm, optimism, and inspiration. The provost must be capable of advocating for and championing the work of Columbus State University. With a deep understanding of the latest trends in higher education, they must possess big-picture thinking and be able to anticipate the driving forces that impact change at institutions such as CSU. The provost will work collaboratively with the faculty and staff to assess opportunities, build new programs, and establish strategic partnerships that align with the vision and strategic plan of the university.

The provost will be a leader who:

- Establishes and openly communicates a shared vision for the CSU academic enterprise;
- Articulates the value of higher education in today's context;
- Ensures that all degree programs are of high quality and produce graduates that are prepared for their future;
- Ensures that the general education/core curriculum advances articulated learning outcomes and career competencies;
- Sets an example for others;
- Empowers the Academic Affairs team;
- Recognizes the accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff;
- Advocates for faculty, department chairs, and deans in the context of the university priorities;
- Ensures the successful continuance of institutional and specialized accreditation for the university and support a system of assessment, evaluation, and academic program review (This is a particular priority as CSU prepares for its SACSCOC decennial reaffirmation to be submitted in Fall 2025); and
- Values, and capitalizes on, the unique relationship between CSU and the Columbus community, which is critical to the university's success.

Implement and Operationalize Strategic and Student Success Plans

Beginning on Oct. 10, 2023, a campus-wide committee of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners began the process of drafting a new strategic plan. The amount of change CSU — and higher education in general — has witnessed since the last plan was implemented in 2018 presents much opportunity for Columbus State and will require an equal amount of foresight and forethought. The committee's work over the last several months has engaged stakeholders who have provided overwhelming input and feedback that is currently being incorporated into a new strategic plan.

In addition, CSU has partnered with the National Institute for Student Success (NISS) to identify barriers to college completion, increase capacity to implement data-driven interventions and enact systematic change to institutional processes and procedures. The NISS team has thoroughly reviewed the university's current structures, policies, procedures, and student outcome data. The upcoming report will offer a diagnostic roadmap to improve the student experience and student outcomes.

Both the strategic plan and the NISS report will be presented in February 2024, thus the provost must have the ability to quickly come up to speed and skillfully prioritize strategies to ensure the successful implementation of the recommendations that will drive student success.

Foster Curricular Innovation and Oversee Core Curriculum Redesign

The new provost is expected to bring an innovative, student-centered approach to curriculum design, and will lead improvements in curriculum review, revision, and development. The core curriculum will be reimagined with student success as its foundational goal and within the framework of the USG's IMPACTS curriculum.

A critical component of the role is to partner with business and community leaders to identify workforce needs and develop programs that address the changing demands of employers. An equally important consideration is the needs

of the CSU student population, which includes traditional and non-traditional students including adult learners and active and former military.

The provost should be eager to understand the students' desires for current, relevant programming and the different modalities of delivery that may be required to serve this dynamic and diverse student population to not only prepare them for the workforce but also assist in advancing their careers. The provost should quickly engage with deans, faculty, students, and the community to better understand the gaps and opportunities in the curriculum, as well as think about different pathways to degree completion. The provost will explore micro-credentialing, stackable credentials, and different modalities of delivery to ensure that the needs of students and the community are being met.

Any new advances must align with the new strategic plan, reflect the needs of employers and students, conform with appropriate accreditation and compliance standards, as well as increase enrollment and revenue. The provost will enhance critical academic support functions related to curricular innovations with an eye toward retention, persistence, and student success.

Foster a Collaborative Campus Culture

The provost is expected to provide visible leadership and nurture a culture of transparency, open communication, mutual respect, and trust. To create a unified academic enterprise that extends beyond the university walls, the provost should work on breaking down silos and bridging the gaps between the campuses and outreach centers. In their next provost, faculty seek a leader who is a colleague, advocate, and active listener who will delegate; empower deans and faculty; and enhance professional development opportunities for both faculty and staff.

To improve the student experience and alleviate administrative burdens and workload concerns, the university would benefit from a provost who could simplify processes, integrate faculty and staff, align staff resources with the needs of faculty and students, and identify effective ways to manage demands for teaching, research, and service, recognizing that the demands are unique according to discipline and must align with institutional mission.

Click to learn more about role of the provost at columbusstate.edu/academic-affairs.

QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

In its next provost, CSU seeks a servant leader with a deep commitment to the mission, vision, and values of the university as well as the enthusiasm, energy, and optimism for the work ahead. A proven record of successful, progressive leadership in a university of similar size and complexity is a must. In addition, the provost will possess:

Required qualifications

- An earned doctorate or terminal degree;
- A record of teaching, publication, and service that would warrant appointment as a tenured full professor in an academic department at CSU;
- Experience administering tenure and promotion processes and policies; and
- Proven financial acumen with evidence of strategic resource allocation in a complex environment.

Preferred Qualifications

- Passion for higher education with the ability to articulate its value in a compelling manner;
- Empathetic, collaborative leadership style;
- Ability to prioritize, make strategic decisions, and exercise authority;
- Transparent, inspirational communication style and the authenticity to garner respect internally and externally;
- Strong commitment to shared governance, advocating for, and partnering closely with faculty;

- Broad knowledge of enrollment and student affairs with an appreciation of CSU's student demographic;
- Ability and desire to develop relationships/partnerships in Columbus and beyond;
- Strong understanding of curriculum development, professional programs, and accreditation, particularly SACSCOC;
- An aptitude for the use of technology in various instructional settings;
- Evidence of data-informed decision-making with a willingness to engage in tough conversations
- Superb listening skills and problem-solving skills with an openness to different points of view;
- Understanding of philanthropy and willingness to partner with advancement staff and to meet with donors; and
- Experience working within a system of higher education with a statewide governing board.

Personal Qualities

Ethics, character, integrity, honesty, gratitude, humility, empathy, courage, respect, and a sense of humor.



A member of the Peach Belt Conference, Columbus State hosts 13 NCAA Division II sports teams: baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, women's soccer, softball, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's track and field. Columbus State claimed the PBC Commissioner's Cup in 2023 for the second year in a row. It was also the university's eighth — the most of any school in PBC history.

About President Rayfield

Dr. Stuart Eddings Rayfield was named Columbus State University's sixth president by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on March 9, 2023. She began her official tenure on June 1, 2023.



An Alabama native, Dr. Rayfield earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. She then earned a master's in higher education administration focused on student affairs from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa before earning a doctorate in higher education administration focused on leadership, policy and organizations from Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

President Rayfield's original tenure at Columbus State began in 2006 as an assistant professor, later holding the Frank D. Brown Distinguished Chair in Servant Leadership. Along with teaching, she directed the Servant Leadership Program, co-led the SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation, and co-developed the Master of Science in Organizational Leadership program, Servant Leadership track in the D. Abbott Turner College of Business & Technology. In 2015, she was also named interim associate provost for undergraduate education.

A year later, she accepted the role of interim president at the former Bainbridge State College, where she co-led the college's consolidation with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. She then immediately stepped into the role of interim president of Gordon State College and led the college's transition to new leadership.

In July 2018, President Rayfield was named the University System of Georgia's vice chancellor for leadership and institutional development — stepping away only briefly in late 2019 to serve as the interim president of the University of West Georgia. In 2022, she served as interim executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, overseeing the system's entire academic enterprise. As vice chancellor for leadership and institutional development, Dr. Rayfield led support for USG's 26 public colleges and universities as well as the University System Office in areas that included management, leadership transitions, training and orientation.

Before her service to the University System of Georgia, she held positions at Auburn University, Vanderbilt University, Middle Tennessee State University (Murfreesboro), and the University of Alabama.

The President's Executive Leadership Team

**Maj. Gen. (ret.)
Patrick J. Donahoe**

*Special Assistant to the President for
Military Liaison*

Whitley Hall, Esq.
General Counsel

Rocky Kettering, Ed.D., CFRE
*Vice President for University
Advancement*

John Lester, DPA
Vice President for External Affairs

Theodore Laskaris
Chief Information Officer

Pat McHenry, Ph.D.
*Interim Provost & Executive Vice
President*

Aaron "Chip" Reese, Ed.D.
*Interim Vice President for Enrollment
Management*

Richard Sears, CPA, CGMA
Vice President for Business & Finance

Gina Sheeks, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

Jay Sparks
Interim Director of Athletics

Click to find biographies of our
Executive Leadership Team at
[↗ president.columbusstate.edu](https://www.president.columbusstate.edu)

ABOUT THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY

Originally inhabited by the Creek Indians, the area referred to as the Chattahoochee Valley was settled in 1828, and the city named for Christopher Columbus. It became an important shipping port and textile hub, and in 1918, home of the U.S. Army's Camp Benning (now [Fort Moore](#)).

Today, Columbus' blend of old and new, wild, and mild, entertainment and experiences makes it a getaway destination. Just 100 miles southwest of Atlanta and minutes from the Alabama state border, it is Georgia's second-largest city with a population of approximately 205,000 citywide and 350,000 in the greater metropolitan area (according to 2020 U.S. Census data).

Nowhere else can you raft or kayak the white waters of the Chattahoochee River, zipline between states, enjoy outdoor recreational facilities — including walking trails, bike riding and cultural events — visit world-class museums, dine at top-flight restaurants, catch Broadway-caliber performances, and then groove to live music late into the night.

Even its past comes alive with living history events and lifelike museum exhibits. For sports fans, it's home to sporting venues and professional athletics teams — including the recently announced relocation of the Atlanta Braves' Double-A affiliate baseball team from Mississippi. Columbus gives you all those options [and more](#) — all in the same place!

Columbus State is at the heart of much of what makes the city both a visitor's and newcomer's destination of choice. From performing arts events and educational outreach centers at its RiverPark Campus to championship-level Division II intercollegiate athletics on its Main Campus, CSU — like the city itself — offers something for everyone.

Alongside the downtown museums, art galleries, concert halls and performance venues that comprise Columbus State's

RiverPark Campus are the [RiverCenter for the Performing Arts](#) and the [Springer Opera House](#). The latter is the official State Theater of Georgia and a National Historic Landmark. As the region's premier professional theatre, it annually produces more than a dozen shows with talent from Los Angeles to New York. The Springer is home to a national touring program and the largest theatre academy for young actors in the Southeast.

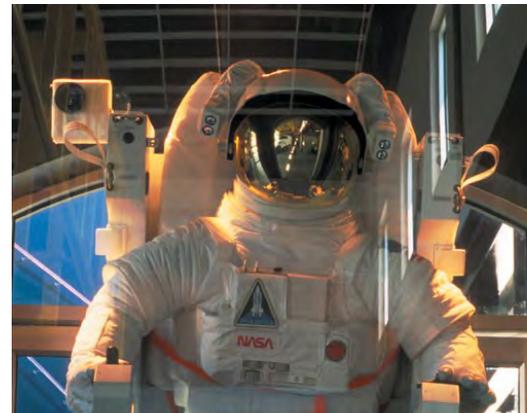
The greater Columbus region, known as the [Chattahoochee Valley](#), is comprised of seven counties: six in Georgia and one in Alabama. Collective efforts continue to strengthen the region's economy. Over the last decade, it has experienced the benefits of more than \$2.8 billion in new capital investment and 18,000 new jobs. That impact is clear in recent projects, such as the allocation of more than \$100 million to fund cultural arts projects, vital infrastructure support, the 22-mile [RiverWalk](#), and the [RiverCenter for the Performing Arts](#).

The U.S. Army's [Fort Moore](#) tops the region's largest employers list, which includes Columbus State University. Also on the list is the [Muscookee County School District](#) and Columbus-based companies that include [TSYS](#) (a Global Payments Company); [Aflac](#) and its worldwide headquarters; [W.C. Bradley](#), a home/leisure products manufacturer and real estate company; jet engine manufacturer [Pratt & Whitney](#); [Synovus Financial Corp.](#), with \$60 billion-plus in assets; and several healthcare, hospital and governmental entities.

The area's low cost of living is well below the national average. Livability has cited Columbus among its list of "Best Places to Live in Georgia," "Top 10 Places to Retire," and "Top 100 Places to Live."



Columbus State's performing arts programs and facilities located at its RiverPark Campus provide the community with more than 300 concerts and performances annually.



Destinations like Columbus State's Coca-Cola Space Science Center offer visitors both young and old with out-of-this-world educational experiences.



Getting wet and wild on the Chattahoochee River also gives Columbus visitors a "raft-by" tour of Columbus State's RiverPark Campus.

Click to learn more about what makes Columbus a great place to live and work at [livability.com/ga/columbus](https://www.livability.com/ga/columbus) and [visitcolumbusga.com](https://www.visitcolumbusga.com).



APPLICATION PROCESS AND SEARCH CONTACTS

Confidential inquiries, nominations and applications are invited. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

For fullest consideration, application materials should be received no later than March 1, 2024.

Candidates should provide a curriculum vitae and a letter of application that addresses the priorities outlined in the search profile. Nominations and application materials should be sent electronically via email to Columbus State University's search consultants Ann Yates and Dinah DeWitt at CSUProvost@buffkinbaker.com.

About Buffkin / Baker

Buffkin / Baker is a partner-led team of executive search professionals recruiting leaders who impact and transform organizations. The firm provides a high-touch, tailored search process based on deep sector expertise, while delivering outstanding outcomes for clients through professional candidate interactions and exceptional search execution.

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- Hillary Fleenor**, Director, Academic Center for Tutoring
- Dr. **Anna Hart**, Associate Professor of Teacher Leadership, Department of Teacher Education, Leadership & Counseling, and Executive Director of Assessment, College of Education & Health Professions
- Fiza Khan**, Senior, Biology enrolled in the Honors College and Servant Leadership Program

- Dr. **David Kieran**, Col. Richard R. Hallock Distinguished University Chair in Military History and Associate Professor, Department of History, Geography & Philosophy, College of Letters & Sciences
- Dr. **Tesa Leonce-Regalado**, Associate Dean and Professor of Economics, Department of Accounting & Finance, D. Abbott Turner College of Business & Technology
- Dr. **Tiffany McBride**, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, College of the Arts
- Libby McFalls**, Professor, Department of Art, College of the Arts; 2023-24 Faculty Senate Executive Officer

- David Owings**, Associate Professor, Department of History, Geography & Philosophy, College of Letters & Sciences, and Head of Archives & Special Collections, CSU Libraries
- Dr. **Lydia Ray**, Professor, TSYS School of Computer Science, Turner College of Business & Technology
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EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Columbus State University is committed to recruiting, supporting, and fostering a sense of belonging for a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community of outstanding faculty, staff, and students and is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. It is the policy of Columbus State University to recruit, hire, train, promote, and educate persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, genetic information, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or protected veteran status.