



## College of Humanities and Social Sciences

### **Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Kennesaw State University invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Kennesaw seeks a collaborative, inspiring, and experienced leader with a record of scholarly accomplishment who is poised to work with a dynamic faculty, staff, and administration.

Kennesaw State University has witnessed tremendous growth and driven significant economic impact in the region. As one of four comprehensive universities in Georgia, Kennesaw State is positioned to capitalize on the Southeast region's increasing population and civic and economic vitality. This period of growth provides both opportunities and challenges for the next dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS). Leading the largest college at the university, the next dean will have the chance to play a key role in advancing the university's recently-completed strategic plan. Amid growth and new initiatives at the university level, the CHSS dean will be a strong advocate for the college and a collaborative leader who builds consensus from the bottom up. S/he will ensure that the success and contributions of CHSS are supported and celebrated at the university level and beyond.



## About Kennesaw State University

A leader in innovative teaching and learning, Kennesaw State offers more than 150 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees to its more than 35,000 students. With 13 colleges on two metro Atlanta campuses, Kennesaw State is a member of the University System of Georgia and the third-largest university in the state. The university's vibrant campus culture, diverse population, strong global ties, and entrepreneurial spirit draw students from throughout the region and from 92 countries across the globe. The university's alumni network is 100,000 strong. A Carnegie-designated doctoral institution, it is one of the 50 largest public institutions in the country.

## Kennesaw State University Mission Statement

Kennesaw State offers high-quality and productive undergraduate, graduate, continuing education, and co-curricular programs. These include learning opportunities in architecture, the arts, business, computing, education, engineering and engineering technology, health and human services, honors experiences, humanities and social sciences, interdisciplinary studies, leadership development, the natural and physical sciences, study abroad, and other related areas. The university's research, scholarship, creative activities, and public service initiatives expand and apply knowledge, contribute to economic development, and improve the quality of life in local communities, Georgia, the nation, and the world.

The Kennesaw State community values open, honest, and thoughtful intellectual inquiry, innovative and creative problem solving, and professionalism. Collaboration, integrity and ethical behavior, engaged citizenship, and global understanding are highly valued as well, as are commitments to sustainability, mutual respect, and appreciation of human and cultural diversity. The university community strives continually to enhance student success, improve institutional quality, and respond to public demand for higher education.

## Academics

Kennesaw State provides educational programs that serve its diverse student body, which includes young adults who enroll as first-time undergraduates or transfers and an equally large number of older adults who return for undergraduate or graduate study. The University's more than 4,300 faculty, staff, and administrative leaders are committed to providing an environment that fosters the development of high-quality academic preparation, critical thinking, global and multicultural perspectives, social responsibility, and lifelong learning.



The foundation for all undergraduate majors is a comprehensive and coherent general education program that promotes internationalized and connected learning in the liberal arts tradition. Kennesaw State offers more than 100 accredited disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and professional undergraduate baccalaureate degree programs in the arts, humanities, social sciences, mathematics, natural sciences, accounting, business fields, architecture, engineering, teacher education specialties, computing and information systems, and nursing. An expanding array of graduate programs exists in education specialties, accounting, business fields, public

administration, professional writing, conflict management, and nursing. Kennesaw State also offers a number of applied undergraduate and graduate certificate programs as well as a multitude of minors.

In 2018 Kennesaw State was elevated to an R2 classification—a doctoral institution with high research activity—by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning. The university has seen a rapid increase in external funding for basic research from \$4.3 million in 2006 to \$51 million over the past five years, leading to new knowledge and discoveries by faculty and hands-on opportunities for students. The university is comprised of [13 Colleges](#), including:

- Bagwell College of Education
- Coles College of Business
- College of Architecture and Construction Management
- College of Computing and Software Engineering
- College of Continuing and Professional Education
- Honors College
- College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- College of Science and Mathematics
- College of the Arts
- Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Graduate College
- University College
- WellStar College of Health and Human Services
- Library Systems

## Recognition

Kennesaw State has garnered national attention for its programs and is consistently recognized in national rankings, with highlights including:

### *U.S. News and World Report (2018)*

- Ranked 14<sup>th</sup> nationally in admissions yield rates
- Online MBA program (19<sup>th</sup> among programs nationally)
- Ranked No. 52 nationally for Master of Science in Information Technology
- Top 100 in six engineering graduate degree programs
- Recognized for graduate degrees in nursing and education and online bachelor's degrees

### *Diverse: issues in Higher Education (2017)*

- Top 100 in degrees conferred to minorities (ranked 24<sup>th</sup> nationally)
- Diversity Champions (among top 12 nationally)

### *American Council of Trustees and Alumni (2016-2017)*

- An “A” rating for high-quality core curriculum for three consecutive years

### *Princeton Review (2016)*

- Most Environmentally Responsible “Green” Colleges
- Top 50 Undergraduate schools to Study Game Design (ranked 37<sup>th</sup>)

## **Location**

Kennesaw State is spread across two campuses, located in Kennesaw and nearby Marietta, and is situated on more than 580 acres. Located just outside of Atlanta, the City of Kennesaw has a population of approximately 32,000. Residents enjoy excellent educational resources, first-rate parks and athletic facilities, affordable recreational programs, outstanding museums and cultural arts, a wide variety of shops and restaurants, and new and established neighborhoods. Thirty miles south on the interstate is downtown Atlanta, the largest metropolitan city in the Southeast.

Being located just north of metro Atlanta, Kennesaw State has become a destination institution, where more than 5,200 students live in eight distinctive residential communities in Kennesaw and Marietta. Students who reside on campus and those who commute have access to a full-range of world-class facilities, resources and activities. There are more than 300 student organizations including student governance and media, co-curricular clubs, athletics, Greek letter organizations, and community service and advocacy-oriented groups. Kennesaw State also competes at the NCAA Division I level in the Atlantic Sun Conference.

## **Leadership—President Whitten**

[Pamela S. Whitten](#) was named Kennesaw State University's fifth president on June 12, 2018 by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, following a nationwide search. Whitten began her tenure on July 16, 2018, bringing with her a strong emphasis on expanding successful outcomes and meaningful learning experiences for students, boosting faculty research, and providing greater outreach services to the community.

Previously, Whitten served as senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of Georgia (UGA), from February 2014 to June 2018. As the chief academic officer, she was responsible for overseeing instruction, research, public service and outreach, student affairs, and information technology. Prior to serving as provost at UGA, Whitten moved through the faculty ranks at Michigan State and served as dean of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences.

Whitten holds a Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Kansas, a Master of Arts in Communication from the University of Kentucky and a Bachelor of Science in Management from Tulane University.

## **College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

The [College of Humanities and Social Sciences \(CHSS\)](#) enrolls approximately 6400 undergraduate majors and 342 graduate students with 256 tenured and tenure-track faculty members, 95 lecturers, and approximately 246 part-time faculty. The College encompasses the humanities and the social sciences and offers more than 80 programs of study in both traditional and interdisciplinary fields. CHSS delivers 20% of all its courses online.

The mission of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is to prepare students with a Liberal Arts education that empowers them to understand the human condition, to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, and to become contributing citizens in a global society. CHSS builds a



diverse and self-reflective community of scholars, educators, and other professionals who value and foster critical thinking, creativity, inclusiveness, and fairness.



The college consists of 11 schools and departments offering 14 graduate level programs and 69 undergraduate level programs. In addition, CHSS houses an [Undergraduate Advising Center](#) and a number of scholarly centers and institutes that advance the frontiers of knowledge and provide students with opportunities to conduct research alongside faculty and apply and share their learning.

- [School of Communication & Media](#)
  - [Center for Sustainable Journalism](#)
- [School of Conflict Management, Peacebuilding and Development](#)
  - [Center for Conflict Management](#)
- [School of Government and International Affairs](#)
  - [A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service & Research](#)
- [Department of English](#)
- [Department of Foreign Languages](#)
- [Department of Geography & Anthropology](#)
- [Department of History & Philosophy](#)
  - [Center for the Study of the Civil War Era](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Studies Department](#)
- [Department of Psychological Science](#)
- [Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice](#)
- [Department of Technical Communication and Interactive Design](#)

A complete listing of degrees can be found here: [Academic Programs by School/Department](#)

### **The Role of the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

The dean reports directly to the provost and is the chief academic and administrative officer for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. S/he is responsible for leading a cohesive and collegial administrative team to support the college. S/he also represents CHSS to the broader Kennesaw State community and to the outside world, including alumni, donors, and other external stakeholders. The dean takes the lead in strategic planning and in solidifying and implementing the vision, mission, and goals for the college.

The CHSS staff includes a senior associate dean for personnel and graduate affairs, an associate dean for curriculum and teaching, an associate dean for academic support, department chairs and directors, and operations and business managers. A link to the college's organizational chart can be found [here](#).

Responsibilities of the next dean include:

- Developing and articulating a compelling vision for the college consistent with the university's mission and vision; Advocating for and supporting the faculty, staff, and students in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences;
- Guiding and coordinating the college's instruction, research, service, and development activities;
- Preparing and managing the college budget and strategically allocating resources among departments, programs, and initiatives;
- Collaborating with unit leaders and faculty to guide the hiring, development, evaluation, and retention of high quality full- and part-time faculty within the college.
- Facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration within the college and with other colleges and units of Kennesaw State;
- Supporting and advancing scholarship, research and/or creative activity, and the pursuit of grants and other research funding sources;
- Working with faculty and administrative leaders to identify and obtain revenue sources to support existing and new activities within CHSS;
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with external partners and constituencies; and
- Serving as a member of a team of deans and other administrative leaders who report directly to the provost.

## Opportunities and Challenges

In this time of growth and ambitious strategic initiatives, the next dean will have many opportunities to shape the direction of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The dean will bring a steady and collaborative leadership style that helps to energize and unify the college and broader university community. Priorities for the next dean include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ❖ **Advocating on behalf of the college and its faculty, staff, and students:** One of the central strengths of the College of Humanities and Social Science is its faculty's dedication to excellence in teaching and scholarship. Serving as a prominent voice within Kennesaw State, the next dean will champion initiatives and support systems that advance the College of Humanities and Social Science faculty's vital contributions to the university, the University System of Georgia, and beyond. S/he will also be the leading spokesperson for the college itself, sharing its successes with internal and external constituencies and garnering support for CHSS's continued growth and distinction.
- ❖ **Tackling the challenges of rapid growth:** Kennesaw State has experienced rapid growth in the past decade. The next dean will ensure that the college's educational programs and activities are appropriately resourced as enrollments and aspirations continue their upward trajectory. Investments in faculty positions, for example, are needed as the college seeks to improve the

student-faculty ratio across the variety of programs in the college and improve four-year graduation rates. Managing growth with constrained resources will be a responsibility in the coming years. The dean also will serve as the chief fundraiser for the college and establish a strong record of obtaining private resources to support student and faculty initiatives.

- ❖ **Promoting inclusive excellence and building a supportive community:** Kennesaw State serves a racially, economically, ethnically, and culturally diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. It is home to a dynamic mix of students – adult and traditionally-aged learners, first-generation college matriculants, veterans, international, and transfer students. The dean will continue to promote a climate that is welcoming and inclusive and one in which all individuals experience being a valued member of the community. The dean will recognize and affirm that the diversity of the college community is not merely an existing feature of CHSS, but rather an essential ingredient for the learning and knowledge creation that distinguish the college and Kennesaw State nationally and internationally.
- ❖ **Supporting scholarly activity and curricular innovation:** With Kennesaw State recently having been designated a Carnegie R2 institution, the dean will be expected to provide vision and leadership for research and creative activity within the college. The dean will be charged with devising strategies for increased support and enhanced scholarly activity of faculty, both individually and as a community. Additionally, the dean will build a collaborative intellectual community that provides mentorship to new and long-serving faculty members and develop opportunities that will both attract and retain outstanding faculty members. The dean's efforts to support the research enterprise must not be interpreted by members of the CHSS community or external audiences as a weakened commitment to high-quality instruction and curricular innovation. As such, the dean will articulate the importance of instructional excellence and demonstrate that commitment in a multitude of ways.
- ❖ **Creating an atmosphere of collaboration and transparency:** Kennesaw State is a caring community of faculty, students, and staff working together in an atmosphere of respect and common purpose. The dean will work collaboratively with the community to promote consensus and engender teamwork. S/he will model the importance of effective and transparent communication and ensure that the college's commitment to community is realized. Inherent in this effort is the need for the dean to share information, facilitate communication among others, and ensure effective and timely decision making and action.

## **Attributes and Qualifications**

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences seeks an innovative and accomplished academic leader ready to harness the excitement and growth of Kennesaw State and collaborate with the dedicated faculty and staff of CHSS to build and strengthen the college's academic mission. In order to move CHSS forward, the college seeks a passionate advocate, a transparent leader, and a strong collaborator who is inspired by the opportunity to build upon a distinguished academic community. In addition, the ideal candidate will be:

- A proven academic leader who will provide vision and inspire and motivate others;
- A committed teacher-scholar with a deep understanding of and respect for the college's commitment to shared governance;
- A diplomatic and approachable team leader with experience in change management;

- A superb listener and transparent communicator who is at ease in a multitude of settings with multiple constituencies;
- An eloquent and compelling advocate for the humanities and the social sciences who will articulate the strengths of the programs and the value of these areas of study;
- A mentor with experience supporting research and scholarly productivity among faculty;
- An inclusive leader committed to promoting diversity in all of its forms;
- A partnership builder who is experienced in working with external stakeholders, which may include alumni, donors, and leaders from industry, government, and community organizations;
- An entrepreneur whose approach to allocating the college's limited resources will have positive effects for CHSS well beyond the current period of robust growth;
- A willing and proven fundraiser with a knowledge base and personal commitment to be appropriately engaged in creating a positive culture of philanthropy for the college;
- A scholar of higher education, knowledgeable about enrollment management best practices, academic budget models, marketing and branding, technology, and environmental sustainability; and

The dean will bring to the role a record of teaching and scholarly achievement reflective of Kennesaw State's own standards of excellence and coupled with integrity and vision. The successful candidate should possess an earned doctorate or foreign equivalent in a discipline relevant to the college as well as academic qualifications appropriate for appointment at the rank of professor in one of the academic departments of the college.

### **Nomination and Application Process**

The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and continue to accept applications and nominations until **February 11, 2019**. Requested application materials include a letter of interest; curriculum vitae; and the names, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of five professional references. All applications, nominations and inquiries will remain confidential until finalists are identified for campus interviews. References will not be called until after the first screening of applications and then only after the applicant has given explicit permission.

Please submit inquiries, nominations and application materials to:

**Tom Fitch**, Partner  
**Jim Sirianni**, Partner  
**Amanda Bennett**, Senior Associate  
 Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates  
[KennesawDeanCHSS@storbecksearch.com](mailto:KennesawDeanCHSS@storbecksearch.com)

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