



University of Findlay®

Meaningful Lives. Productive Careers.



Presidential Search Prospectus

November 2025

OUR MISSION

The University of Findlay's mission is to equip students for meaningful lives and productive careers.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Trustees of the University of Findlay, in Findlay, Ohio, announces a national search for the 18th President of the University and invites expressions of interest for this distinctive leadership opportunity.

The search is launched in response to the decision of President Katherine Fell, Ph.D., to retire from the presidency at the conclusion of the 2025-26 academic year.

President Fell has guided the University through a time of expansion and strategic decision-making to achieve a position of strength in the higher education community. Her tenure has been marked by a student-centered focus on academic excellence, experiential learning opportunities, and enhanced campus facilities – all advancing the University's regional and national reputation.

The University of Findlay is poised to continue its forward momentum as a distinguished and innovative private university. This presidency provides a significant opportunity for creative and inspired leadership.

The successful candidate will be grounded in best leadership practices and emotional intelligence. She or he will have experience in fundraising, financial acumen/budget management, strategic thinking and planning, and enrollment, retention, and student success.

The anticipated start date is July 1, 2026. The Board of Trustees will consider flexibility for the selected candidate.

The new president will join an institution with an entrepreneurial spirit and a strong and collegial senior leadership group. In the past several years, the University of Findlay has expanded and strengthened curricular and student programs, enhanced its facilities and student services, and deepened its sense of community on campus.

OUR HISTORY, OUR FUTURE

The University of Findlay traces its roots back to 1882 when it was founded as Findlay College by the City of Findlay and the Churches of God, General Conference. The institution changed its name to the University of Findlay in 1989 to reflect its growth in enrollment and the breadth and diversity of its academic offerings, including newly instituted graduate programs.

We believe in cultivating the potential within each student through academic excellence, transformative experiences, and a supportive community that is grounded in Christian faith.

UF offers 86 baccalaureate, 10 master's, and five doctoral degrees. The University is known for its excellence in science, health professions, animal science, and equestrian studies programs, as well as cultivating the next generation of business leaders, educators, and innovative thinkers through a dedication to experiential learning and service learning, both in and outside of the classroom.



The University has nearly 30,000 living alumni in 75 countries. The successes of our many alumni are a tribute to UF's commitment to academic excellence, demonstrated by many accolades, including three top rankings:

- For 20 consecutive years, top rankings in “**America’s Best Colleges**” list by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Listed among the “**Best Midwestern Colleges**” by the *Princeton Review*.
- Named to *Money* magazine’s “**Best Colleges in the United States**” based on quality, affordability, and student outcomes.

Learning permeates the campus culture, and **the University’s 213 full-time and 198 part-time faculty members** embrace a commitment to personalized teaching. The student-to-faculty ratio is 13:1. Many alumni cite close relationships with faculty members as hallmarks of their educational experience at Findlay.

More than 3,200 students are enrolled at UF and about 90 percent of first-year students live in University housing. Our student population is highly engaged in the life of the University, participating in over 90 organizations, including special interest clubs, student media, student government, performing arts groups, service clubs, Campus Ministries, academic honorary societies, and Greek life.

Reaching out to the upcoming generation, our **College Credit Plus (CCP) program** serves 2,114 high school students. Findlay is the largest private provider in Ohio to offer high school students the opportunity to earn college credits by attending UF classes or taking classes at their high schools with credentialed instructors trained by our faculty.

The fine arts flourish on campus through a variety of theatre productions, art exhibits, and vocal and instrumental music concerts that offer creative outlets and training for students, while serving as a source of cultural enrichment for the community.

The Findlay Oilers participate in 22 NCAA Division II intercollegiate men's and women's sports as a member of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC). Last year, five teams were conference champions, and 13 teams earned trips to the NCAA postseason. In addition, our student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom and graduate at a 15 percent higher rate than the national average. In 2024-25, UF was ranked No. 4 in the nation for the most athletes with a 3.5 GPA or better.



The English and Western equestrian teams are members of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association and have won a lion's share of national championship titles between them. The English and Western farms at UF are jewels of our campus. With daily instructor-led riding classes, an exceptional school herd, and nationally and internationally renowned instructors, UF equestrian studies programs have set the highest standard in the equestrian world for decades.

Our beautiful main campus facilities, on 86 acres, include academic, administrative, and athletic buildings along with eight residence halls, 19 townhouse units, and 21 cottages, as well as faculty and staff offices. The newest building on campus is the Center for Student Life and College of Business. Along with business classrooms and faculty offices, it houses the bookstore and a large food court. In 2024, the Dick Strahm Champions Field turf project was unveiled. This 83,000-square-foot, high-quality artificial turf system benefits Oiler teams and helps to recruit talented student-athletes.

The University also operates a 52-acre facility on the east side of town, the **James L. Child Jr. Equestrian Complex**, containing the English equestrian studies program. South of town is a university-owned 153-acre farm housing the Western



riding and animal science programs. That complex includes the **Dr. C. Richard Beckett Animal Science Building**, an impressive \$3.7 million facility for UF's premier animal science programs. In addition, the 54-acre **Rieck Center for Habitat Studies** serves as a biology field station and is located just a short drive from the main campus.

The five-acre **All Hazards Training Center** offers hands-on simulations for students, industry, and government agencies involving emergency planning

and response. The center provides health and safety training in all 50 states to keep people and the environment safe.

Another jewel of the UF campus is the **Mazza Museum**, which is now home to more than 22,000 pieces of original artwork. It is the first and largest collection of picture book art in the world with a mission to promote literacy and enrich the lives of all people through the art of picture books. In 2021, the **Joseph & Judith Conda STEAM Education Center** opened as a 4,000-square-foot addition to the museum, blending art and science activities, and drawing thousands of area schoolchildren and families to campus year-around.

The greater Findlay region is an ideal place to live and work. It is located approximately 40 miles south of Toledo and 90 miles from Columbus, Dayton, and Detroit. Located in Hancock County, Findlay is a family-friendly city close to major metropolitan centers and airports, restaurants, parks, events, and entertainment.

Among the highlights of the region:

- High salary-to-cost-of-living ratio
- No. 1 Micropolitan in the U.S. based on 543 statistical areas
- A community of higher education, health care, business, retail, and agriculture
- Ten public school districts in Hancock County, including Findlay City Schools and private school options
- Major employers include the Fortune 500 Marathon Petroleum Corp., Cooper Tires/Goodyear, Whirlpool Corp., and Ball Corp.
- International businesses and distribution centers with enterprises from nine different countries

The University of Findlay maintains a solid financial position with a strong balance sheet, growing net assets, and consistently clean audits. Its annual operating budget is \$82.4 million, supported by investments exceeding \$81 million that reinforce long-term stability and enable strategic priorities, one of which is the expectation to advance the University to a hybrid Responsibility Center Management (RCM) model in the upcoming academic year.

The University is in the last year of “Together We Will,” its largest comprehensive campaign in history, and quite close to reaching our \$75 million goal for crucial projects that will transform student support, programs, and facilities.

LEADERSHIP AGENDA FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT

The University of Findlay community is eager to support a new president as she or he builds upon the institution’s many established strengths.

Key to the success of our next president will be these traits:

- **Leadership with emotional intelligence**
- **Integrity and honesty**
- **Strategic thinking and planning**
- **Vision for achieving and sustaining excellence in independent higher education**
- **Inspiring fundraiser**
- **Financial acumen and budget management**

DESIRED ATTRIBUTES OF THE NEW PRESIDENT

The University of Findlay's next president should possess a combination of professional experiences and personal qualities that match well the aforementioned agenda for leadership. Strong academic credentials coupled with meaningful academic accomplishments, an affinity for teaching and learning, and an understanding of the academy are all essential qualities.

She or he will bring integrity of the highest order, an entrepreneurial spirit, high energy, a creative mind, a flexible manner, and an exceptional work ethic. Beyond this, other specific attributes will be important.

The successful Findlay president will be:

- A person of Christian faith, welcoming of all.
- A person of proven leadership who will inspire trust and instill confidence.
- A person of vision who builds consensus and understanding around new initiatives.
- A strategic thinker, able to conceptualize, plan, and lead institutional priorities.
- A person who enjoys engaging student perspectives on a day-to-day basis.
- A person comfortable with the pluralism of the comprehensive university and able to articulate Findlay's strengths and distinctions with enthusiasm.
- An eager fundraiser, experienced in building a positive culture of philanthropy and equipped to increase Findlay's financial support.
- A person of financial acumen who can think creatively about growth opportunities while operating within the parameters of finite resources.
- A person who understands and embraces the value of the Judeo-Christian heritage as reflected in life at the University of Findlay and in the University's relationship with the Churches of God.
- A strong communicator and gifted listener who can build relationships and who will be visible, clear, and authentic with all of Findlay's constituencies.
- A person of higher education, knowledgeable about key issues including enrollment management, distance learning, and administrative and academic best practices.
- A visible leader interacting with various constituencies by actively engaging multiple perspectives on campus, enthusiastically participating in the Findlay and northwest Ohio communities, and favorably influencing the regional and national reputation of the University.

The Process of Candidacy

The University of Findlay presidential search committee will begin to evaluate the applicant pool in January 2026.

Although applications will be accepted until the time that a new president is selected, candidates should submit materials as soon as possible to ensure fullest consideration. The new president is expected to begin work on or about July 1, 2026.

Applications should be submitted electronically to Vice President of Human Resources Heather Ward at heather.ward@findlay.edu. Applications must include a cover letter that addresses the priorities and qualifications described in this search prospectus; a curriculum vitae; and a list of at least three professional references with contact information, including telephone and email, and a note indicating the candidate's working relationship with each. References will not be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate.

The University of Findlay is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer. It is the university's policy to prohibit discrimination and provide equal opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment, without regard to their race, sex (including gender identity/expression), color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, military, or sexual orientation.



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