St. Catherine University

President

St. Catherine University seeks a visionary, innovative, and relationship-oriented leader who is deeply committed to educating women to lead lives of meaning and influence, who lives the gospel values articulated for today in Catholic social justice teaching, and who values grounding learning and leadership in the liberal arts and sciences. Applications, inquiries, and nominations are welcome and invited.

Established by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs) in 1905, St. Catherine University's intellectual tradition of Catholic social teaching guides the University's commitment to inclusivity, advancing wisdom and justice, and powering lives of meaning. The University's relationship with the CSJs continues to this day through a Covenant that nurtures and sustains this partnership and continues the relationship that has existed for more than a century. As expressed in the CSJ's early documents, St. Catherine University remains dedicated to "all of which woman is capable" and "love of God and the dear neighbor without distinction."

Founded as a women’s institution, St. Catherine University remains committed to its historic mission to educate women to lead and influence. Applicants to the traditional undergraduate program (College for Women) who self-identify as women, non-binary, and genderqueer are eligible to apply for admission. St. Catherine University also provides co-educational undergraduate programs (College for Adults) and graduate programs (Graduate College) inclusive of all genders and identities.

The College of St. Catherine (St. Kate's) became St. Catherine University on June 1, 2009. The change reflected St. Kate’s transformation into the comprehensive institution it is today, with students enrolled in three colleges (College for Women, College for Adults, and Graduate College) taking programs within four schools (School of Nursing, Henrietta Schmoll School of Health Sciences, School of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences, and School of Business). The University envisions continuing its evolution from a regional presence to a stronger national and international presence. In the 30 years leading up to the change, enrollment grew from just over 2,000 students at the baccalaureate level, to 3,550 students in programs ranging from associate to doctoral, with 83 majors. Its baccalaureate
College for Women makes St. Kate’s one of the largest private women’s universities in the nation, normalizing women leaders, and preparing its graduates to be changemakers. St. Catherine University is classified as a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) and has the Carnegie Classification of Doctoral/Professional University. The University is supported by an operating budget of $87 million and endowment of $188.9 million.

Throughout the University’s history, the fundamental platform on which it was built – the mission, the heritage, and the reputation for academic excellence – remains. St. Kate’s holds the distinction of becoming the first Catholic college in the nation to have their request for a Phi Beta Kappa chapter granted in 1937. Building upon this history of distinction, St. Kate's is recognized for the quality of its faculty and students, for the scope of its academic programs – with robust on-campus, online and hybrid offerings, and for its commitment to high impact, engaged learning, evidenced by its more than 600 internship partners and other programs housed within the Office of Scholarly Engagement. St. Kate’s students, faculty, and staff engage in research across disciplines through interdisciplinary, collaborative projects, and have received more than $20 million in new research and program awards in recent years. Students at St. Kate's – known as "Katies" – are civically active and engaged; the wide range of more than 50 clubs and student organizations reflect their interests. St. Kate's fields 12 varsity teams – the Wildcats – through the NCAA Division III Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

In its deep commitment to Catholic social teaching, St. Kate’s puts respect for human dignity, equity, and solidarity at the center of its mission and values. St. Kate's aims to build a community that recognizes the interdependence of diversity, equity, inclusion, and excellence, and works to increase its capacity to create a socially just university and society. St. Kate's has long supported access and success for Minnesota's diverse population. Of the undergraduate and graduate student population, 38% come from underrepresented groups and, among undergraduates, 35% are Pell Grant recipients. St. Kate's is ranked No. 53 nationally in Top Performers on Social Mobility. Its 54,000 Katie alumni extend the impact of the University's mission across the nation and the world.

The next president will join St. Catherine University at a pivotal moment in higher education. The University will look to the president for vision and leadership to
advance the University’s mission; to support the continued pursuit of academic excellence; to diversify and grow revenue streams; to champion social justice and inclusive excellence; to inspire a culture of innovation and thoughtful change; to diversify and grow revenue streams; to continue and stabilize the enrollment growth trend; and to design and launch the next fundraising campaign.

Qualified candidates should have demonstrated leadership experience in an organization of comparable size and scale and have a deep appreciation for an academic and scholarly environment of excellence. The ideal candidate must have an astute understanding of higher education trends, particularly as they relate to smaller, private institutions, and a strong ability to develop and activate growth and transformation strategies, including diversification of revenue streams and innovative business model development. Candidates should have a record of transparent and ethical decision-making rooted in values and principles and be willing to make difficult decisions. They must have the enthusiasm and capacity to raise philanthropic funds. Consistent with St. Kate’s mission and values, the successful candidate must fully embrace the Catholic intellectual tradition, emphasizing scholarly inquiry and social justice teaching, and show both a demonstrated commitment to and track record of advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging for students, faculty, and staff.

A detailed leadership profile is available at https://www.wittkieffer.com/position/25155-president/.

Applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in the profile.

WittKieffer is assisting St. Catherine University in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by January 5, 2024. Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer’s https://apptrkr.com/4726298.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to: Suzanne Teer, Melody Rose Ph.D., and Julia Bradley at StCatherinePresident@wittkieffer.com.
St. Catherine University is an equal opportunity employer. Our commitment to inclusion reflects the central value of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet to “love of neighbor without distinction” and provides a learning and working environment that is enriched by the diversity of all our members. Individuals of religious, racial, ethnic, gender identity, nation of origin, or disability groups that have traditionally had less representation in higher education are encouraged to apply.