



President

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) invites nominations and applications for the position of President. The member colleges launched ACM in 1958, building on a long-established tradition of athletic competition dating back to the 1920s. The 10 founding members of ACM (Beloit, Lawrence, and Ripon in Wisconsin; Coe, Cornell, and Grinnell in Iowa; Carleton and St. Olaf in Minnesota; Knox and Monmouth in Illinois) are still actively engaged with the consortium, and were strengthened by new members Macalester and Colorado Colleges in 1967, Lake Forest College in 1974, the College of the University of Chicago from 1988 through 2008, and Luther College in 2009. The ACM member colleges have shown remarkable stability and vitality over 50 years of profound change in American higher education.

The founders of [ACM](#), united in a common commitment to excellent liberal arts education, identified three main purposes to support the members through joint action:

- To advance the interests and to contribute to the educational effectiveness of the member colleges of the organization;
- To develop and assist the member colleges in improving the efficiency of their operations both administrative and cultural; and
- To assist the member colleges in developing additional sources of revenue.

Through ACM, faculty, staff, and students at member colleges participate in [collaborative programs and activities](#) focused on academic excellence and professional development. ACM aims to strengthen its member colleges as leaders and exemplars in liberal arts education through significant, innovative, and sustainable collaborations. ACM does this by fostering professional effectiveness of faculty and administrative leaders at member colleges; providing exemplary liberal arts learning through [off-campus study](#); and promoting members' excellence in teaching and learning, especially as achieved through collaboration.

This articulation of [ACM's mission](#), adopted by the Board of Directors in 2008, reaffirms the organization's role as both a creative stimulus and a facilitator for the member colleges, providing intangible benefits of community as well as a portfolio of distinctive, high-quality programs for its member colleges. As in the past, ACM seeks to foster excellence in liberal arts learning, through grant-funded opportunities for faculty and staff development, off-campus study and celebration of the excellence achieved by its members. Through these activities, ACM seeks to strengthen its member colleges as leaders in liberal education and in leadership by example.

Over the past decade, ACM has attracted more than \$20 million in external funding for a variety of initiatives, with particular focus on professional development and off-campus study programs. Individuals who take part in ACM programs bring best practices, shared experiences, and collectively-generated initiatives back to their home campuses. The relationships people develop through the consortium expand their personal networks and shape the cumulative experience of each ACM institution.

Role of the President

Working closely with an energetic, strategic, and forward-looking Board of Directors, the President will have the opportunity to build on ACM's growth and expansion in the last decade and establish a strategic vision for its future direction. At a time of great momentum for ACM, the new President will consult widely with the 14 member colleges in leading bold and innovative collaborative programs that strengthen the colleges individually and collectively.

The President oversees all partnerships and all collaborative programs and activities among the 14 member colleges, including professional development opportunities, off-campus study programs, grant-funded programs, artistic competitions, faculty and staff project outcomes, and athletic tournaments. In addition, the President oversees an endowment of approximately \$10 million, an operating budget of approximately \$5 million, and a [staff of 16 consortial staff members](#), along with staff at ACM's off-campus program sites. The President's direct reports are:

- Chief Financial Officer
- Vice President and Director of Faculty Development and Grant Programs
- Vice President and Director of Off-Campus Study Programs
- Associate Vice President for Strategic Outreach and Communications
- Assistant to the President and Director of Human Resources and Administrative Leadership Initiatives

In managing and stewarding the resources of ACM, the President oversees all grant programs, communicating with the funding agencies, coordinating writing of proposals and reports, organizing implementation of activities, and approving expenditures. The President interacts with a variety of external constituencies, the largest of which is external funding agencies and organizations. ACM is fortunate to receive generous support from the Mellon Foundation, the Teagle Foundation, the Luce Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and others in recent years. The President will continue to enhance relationships with ACM's primary funders and also identify additional funding opportunities to enable even more innovative collaborations.

In addition, the President engages with external organizations such as the Big Ten Academic Alliance and the Great Lakes Colleges Association as well as the University of Chicago. The President also participates actively in the governance of ACM through executive committees and meetings with the Board of Directors.

Opportunities for the next President

The next President will be expected to build on ACM's many achievements in the last decade to further strengthen partnerships among member institutions and identify opportunities to

innovate in ways that would be difficult to do on any single campus. With shared efforts and resources, the next President will be poised to strengthen cooperation, expand resources, and improve effectiveness and efficiency for member colleges. Specific opportunities include:

- Identifying evidence-based opportunities where consortial efforts are more productive, helpful, and cost-effective than campus-based alternatives;
- Attracting grants and making a compelling case for support to enable greater innovations and programming, with focus on diversifying external funding to further strengthen ACM's financial footing by identifying new avenues of support;
- Analyzing and refocusing off-campus study opportunities to ensure they accommodate students' interest, both in content and length of program, to strengthen student participation and enrollment;
- Leveraging the ACM's shared resources to strengthen faculty and administrator development programs, increase faculty diversity, and share knowledge of best practices in liberal arts teaching and academic administration;
- Expanding engagement with faculty across divisions, identifying opportunities for collaboration and professional development;
- Increasing collaboration among member colleges to share data and analytics to improve student success;
- Ensuring that the latest advances in technology are explored, focusing on support of liberal arts teaching and interdisciplinary curricular opportunities; and,
- Assessing consortial programs and operating procedures to assure continual improvement.

Desired Qualifications and Characteristics

Engaging closely with all 14 member institutions, the President must be innovative, entrepreneurial, and experienced in the operation of academic institutions. S/he/ze must possess a strong commitment to the member institutions, liberal arts education, and the collaborative mission of ACM as well as the proven ability to build relationships among individuals and groups. The ideal candidate will also bring many of the following complementary abilities, qualities, and experiences:

- A commitment to the liberal arts and the intellectual philosophies surrounding liberal education;
- A broad understanding of the complex issues facing higher education in the 21st century, including challenges facing private, residential liberal arts colleges;
- The ability and desire to innovate and apply creative problem-solving to the above opportunities;
- The ability to work across diverse groups of constituents and synthesize varying priorities to identify areas of common interest;
- Familiarity with granting agencies and foundations, including their philosophies, goals, and processes, as well as a strong track record of developing relationships with grant-making organizations and securing grants;
- Demonstrated success as a collaborative and creative leader;
- Outstanding diplomatic and negotiation skills, and the ability to articulate complex and nuanced topics accurately in multiple contexts;

- A holistic understanding of the full lifecycle of faculty, especially the pressures that junior faculty face in their aspirations to earn tenure;
- Experience in mentoring and supporting the development of faculty;
- Exceptionally strong interpersonal and communication skills;
- A sophisticated understanding of finances in higher education, including the funding model of small liberal arts colleges;
- A commitment to diversity and inclusion, and an understanding of the fundamental need for multiple perspectives and backgrounds in an educational context;
- The ability to see opportunity for mutual gain through collaboration; and,
- An entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, energy, and optimism.

Evaluation of candidate materials will begin immediately and continue until a new President is selected. For best consideration, nominations and application materials should be sent to:

Shelly Weiss Storbeck, Managing Partner
Ethan Dubow, Associate
Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates, LP
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