



President

The [Great Lakes Colleges Association](#) invites nominations and applications for the position of President.

Founded in 1962, the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) is a nonprofit organization governed by a Board of Directors and charged with working on behalf of its member institutions, a consortium of thirteen private liberal arts colleges located in Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The Association comprises [Albion College](#), [Allegheny College](#), [Antioch College](#), [Denison University](#), [DePauw University](#), [Earlham College](#), [Hope College](#), [Kalamazoo College](#), [Kenyon College](#), [Oberlin College](#), [Ohio Wesleyan University](#), [Wabash College](#), and [The College of Wooster](#). The GLCA operates through an interlinked structure of committees, councils, and advisory groups composed of faculty, staff, and administrators from the consortium's member campuses and the Association's staff located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. These groups contribute to the development of consortial initiatives and priorities.

The mission of the GLCA is to take actions that will help strengthen and preserve its member colleges and to be a leading force on behalf of education in the tradition of the liberal arts and sciences. Rich in tradition, the GLCA continues to enhance its member colleges by leading as new areas of opportunity and challenge emerge.

A mission-driven organization whose values are derived from its college members, the GLCA shares these core values:

- The *centrality of the liberal arts* as an educational philosophy, which informs both the curriculum and modes of teaching;
- *Relationships* in an environment that supports the building of personal connections among members of a campus community;
- *A tradition of rigor and seriousness*, both in teaching and in the expectations of students' approach to their learning;

- *A sense of community*—working to create an environment of acceptance and social justice that imparts a feeling of belonging to people from different backgrounds; and,
- *A culture of helping students develop values in a holistic way*, encouraging them to overcome obstacles, instilling the quality of grit that helps them to succeed in college and beyond.

With those institutional values in place, the GLCA operates with the following set of guiding tenets:

- Benefits are derived from working with a sense of consultation, collaboration, and cooperation to identify priorities and develop programs which serve the common needs of consortium members, as they and their faculty members build on both their shared and distinctive strengths;
- Direct and indirect good come from the provision of a greatly expanded network of peers for faculty members and administrators who share common interests across the thirteen GLCA colleges and beyond;
- Expanded professional horizons result from bringing together faculty and administrators from a range of liberal arts institutions in the U.S. and other nations to share innovative ideas, consider challenges, and gain insights into the role and contributions of liberal arts education in cultures different from their own;
- Opportunities for leadership development for individuals at all career stages improve institutions; and,
- Professional enhancement results from the availability of grant funding for collaborative teaching and research projects, as well as the benefit accrued from the cooperative network of the GLCA Tuition Remission Exchange Program.

In 1962 the Association was originated to facilitate study abroad opportunities for member-institution students at one another's overseas campuses. As the range of study abroad sites expanded over time, the GLCA's attention shifted to faculty and leadership development. Currently, faculty are engaged and supported through programs that hone their understandings of innovative curricular approaches, collaboration possibilities within and between member institutions, and disciplinary-based opportunities for faculty connection and growth. Significant energy in recent years has been dedicated to the [Global Liberal Arts Alliance](#)—an international alliance of liberal arts institutions dedicated to effective pedagogy and enriching experiences for students and faculty. The GLCA also maintains its commitment to building the leadership pipeline for its member institutions through programs. They educate prospective campus leaders about the responsibilities of administrative roles and foster the skills and mindsets required for future leaders to ensure long-term institutional success at private liberal arts colleges. In addition to the programs benefitting students, faculty, and administrators, the GLCA administers a tuition remission exchange for students with a parental employee at a member institution.

The current President's direct reports manage the daily affairs of the Association's portfolio and include the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Global Liberal Arts Alliance Program Officer, the Director of Program Development, the Associate Program Officer for Events and Administrative Groups, and the Executive Assistant. The Association's annual operating budget exceeds \$3.2M of which \$2M come from grant sources, and the \$12M endowment supports the GLCA's endeavors. Cultivating and maintaining exceptional relationships with foundation leaders is a significant responsibility of the President.

Role of the President

The next GLCA President will lead the Association at a pivotal time for its member colleges and the organization itself. Longstanding programs will be reviewed and new directions will be explored, all with extensive consultation and collaboration from the [Board of Directors](#) and both the [Deans'](#) and [Academic Councils](#).

The current President, [Rick Detweiler](#), has successfully led and expanded the breadth of the organization during his tenure. He oversees the array of initiatives and programs undertaken by the Association, including the planning and delivery of professional development programs for faculty and administrators, educational offerings for students, and collaborative initiatives that bring together individuals and teams from member institutions, thought leaders, and community partners.

Opportunities for the next President

For the Great Lakes Colleges Association to have the greatest possible impact, the next President will take great care and interest in four interrelated opportunities. They are described first, followed by additional opportunities of vital importance to the GLCA:

- Engaging meaningfully with the thirteen member colleges to find common interests and needs that can be acted on to the full consortium's benefit. These consultative exchanges will guide the Board of Directors in establishing future GLCA goals and methods for pursuing them;
- Developing a strategy or set of strategies that bring compelling value to the member institutions through the GLCA's convening power;
- Assisting and supporting the GLCA colleges as they individually adjust and calibrate the collective efforts of the Association to best support their students, faculty, and administration;
- Securing the funding for existing and future GLCA initiatives and attracting support from an increasingly diverse array of sources to enhance the GLCA's prominence and access to future opportunities;
- Extolling the benefits of a liberal arts education, and promoting the GLCA colleges in the fast-changing national conversation about the value of college and various options students have for pursuing an undergraduate education;
- Leveraging technology to elevate the educational quality of teaching and research in the context of the GLCA's private liberal arts colleges;

- Capitalizing on the opportunity that comes from recent presidential transitions at member institutions to consider new directions and endeavors for the Association;
- Exploring administrative and operational synergies with an eye to lowering costs that could be achieved by the GLCA colleges through collaboration;
- Assessing the GLCA organizational structures, topical areas and modes of member interaction, as well as potential new membership alliances that would confer distinct and collective benefits to the GLCA colleges; and,
- Representing the GLCA and serving as a thought leader in the national conversation about the future of liberal arts colleges and contributions of consortial organizations in higher education.

Desired Qualifications and Characteristics:

As a leader who engages with individuals and groups across the thirteen member institutions, the next President must possess an unwavering commitment to the liberal arts in a domestically diverse and global context, a thorough understanding of institutional operations, an appreciation for the differentiated missions among the member institutions and a keen awareness in regard to the current and potential challenges for private, residential liberal arts institutions. The next President will build upon the momentum of ongoing initiatives and help to generate new, innovative ideas as well as secure the necessary resources to ensure success. The ideal candidate will bring a distinguished leadership record that commands the respect of the membership and possesses many of the following qualities and experiences:

- A proven history of being a creative, collaborative, and a conscientious listener with the ability to identify and build consensus around programs that further advance the ambitions of the collective consortial community;
- A strong entrepreneurial spirit, interest in taking advantage of opportunities to advance the GLCA as they emerge;
- A commitment to using the direction provided by the Board of Directors to craft an ambitious and credible strategic plan that drives the GLCA’s activities;
- Demonstrated experience in seeking external funding for innovative program development by presenting a compelling and eloquent case for grant funding from organizations with an interest in liberal education;
- The ability to lead and manage an organization through a time of cultural change;
- A desire to listen to and learn about the member colleges—especially their points of pride, ambitions, and the issues that challenge them—with an awareness that common ground may, at first, look and sound different at each institution;
- An ability to find direction and build consensus when next steps are opaque;
- Thorough understandings of the financial operations and business model of private liberal arts colleges, including admissions and tuition;

- Emotional intelligence, superb intellect, flexibility, high energy, and self-confidence to enable successful navigation of a complex environment;
- A personal commitment to maintaining an environment that welcomes and supports all forms of diversity;
- An interest in using literature and public discourse to increase the visibility of the GLCA;
- Detailed knowledge about national trends in higher education—including the escalating challenges and scrutiny institutions face—and a forward-looking orientation that inspires innovation and positive change;
- A willingness to travel to member campuses frequently and international locations multiple times annually; and,
- The capability to lead in a naturally collaborative and effective manner with humility, integrity, optimism, energy, and genuine warmth.

Information for Candidates

This position is anticipated to begin in early 2018. The salary and benefits will be competitive. Please send all nominations, inquiries and expressions of interest in confidence and electronically to:

Shelly Weiss Storbeck, Managing Partner

Jim Sirianni, Principal

Liz Moseley, Senior Associate

GLCAPresident@storbecksearch.com

The Great Lakes Colleges Association is an equal employment opportunity employer.