

# Emerson

COLLEGE

# President

## THE OPPORTUNITY

Emerson College stands at the forefront of the future of higher education. Our distinct integration of technical training in arts and communication within the context of the values of a liberal arts education delivers successful, cost-effective outcomes for our students in dynamic, expanding industries. Our nationally recognized programs in the arts and communication are driving unprecedented demand for an Emerson education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. We are well positioned financially to thrive in an evolving and increasingly competitive environment and to take full advantage of market opportunities, such as our global expansion and the successful addition of Marlboro College in 2021. Emerson is committed to delivering against our mission of betterment of society through communication and the arts, and provides a national and global platform for addressing today's most pressing social problems.

At this pivotal moment in our history, Emerson seeks a President who understands both the value of higher education and the power of communication and the arts to shape and influence our world. Emerson's next President should embody the College's values and serve as a forward-looking leader who models a global mindset, intellectual curiosity, and our collaborative spirit. We seek a President who will work closely with all members of the Emerson community to develop a clear vision for the College that generates internal alignment, strong alumni engagement, and external philanthropic support. The President will be an inclusive leader who will foster and embrace diversity, equity, and social justice across the institution and who believes deeply in shared governance.

## IDEAL EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES

*While we understand that candidates will have a range of experiences and attributes, the following represents the ideal set of qualities and experience the search committee is seeking:*

### **Authentic and Inspirational Ambassador**

The ability to understand and advocate for Emerson's mission to educate students to assume positions of leadership in communication and the arts and to advance scholarship and creative work that brings innovation, depth, and diversity to these disciplines. Demonstrated alignment with core liberal arts values that seek to promote civic engagement; encourage ethical practices; foster respect for human diversity; and inspire students to create and communicate with clarity, integrity, and conviction.

### **Senior Leadership Experience**

Experience leading within a multi-stakeholder, multidisciplinary organization of complexity and scale. An individual who has faced challenges and moved an organization forward with energy and a sense of purpose.

### **A deep commitment to advancing equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice**

Evidence of compassionate interaction with stakeholders of varying views and backgrounds, and by measurable and impactful outcomes that drive an organization to be inclusive at all levels.

### **The ability or clear potential to be an effective spokesperson and fundraiser**

Enthusiasm and talent for building support through fundraising, as well as successful work with boards, government and community leaders, organizations, and corporations.



## CRITICAL LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES

### Transformational, Strategic Leadership

A passionate and skillful ambassador for the College, the President will articulate a vision and direction for Emerson that engages and energizes our community. With a nuanced understanding of the societal and economic factors impacting higher education and the arts and communication industries, the next President will work with the Board and the broader Emerson community to assess the current state of the College, serve as a catalyst for dynamic discussions, and set strategic priorities for future initiatives that continue the strong trajectory of the College.

### Organizational Leadership

Our President will be responsible for the translation and execution of a bold and strategic vision: one that is grounded in our values and capitalizes on our distinct positioning in the arts, communication, and the liberal arts. Emerson College, like all institutions, will face the economic and demographic headwinds of higher education, but we are better positioned than most given our strong investment strategy and rapidly expanding student demand. The next President will be an adept steward of the College—a leader who is organizationally savvy, recruits exceptional talent, and evidences strong business acumen and smart fiscal management strategies. The President will work collaboratively with the Board of Trustees and engage faculty, staff, and students in Emerson’s vision for the future.

### Community Building and Collaboration

A skillful communicator and relationship builder, the President will build rapport and trust across the Emerson community and will have demonstrated skill fostering consensus and collaboration among a diverse group of constituents. The President will be a visible presence and will serve as a compelling spokesperson for an Emerson education. The next leader will be prepared to further develop a culture of philanthropy to support the

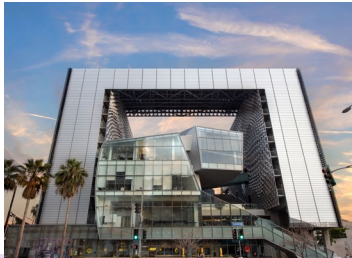


---

College's ambitions and will also enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to develop strong relationships with Emerson alumni, further strengthening their connections with the institution. The President will work to maintain and enhance a campus culture that reflects and supports the College's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

---

## BACKGROUND



With campuses in Boston, Los Angeles, and the Netherlands, Emerson College is internationally recognized as the premier liberal arts institution devoted to communication and the arts. The College's mission is to educate leading professionals in the arts and communication; to inspire students to think boldly and creatively; and to ensure students, faculty, staff, and alumni make positive contributions to the cultural, social, political, and civic landscape. Emerson's academic course of study and programs reflect its commitment to real-world experiences in film, theatre, television, communication, journalism, marketing, writing, communication sciences and disorders, and comedic arts.

### Key Facts and Figures

- Top 10 in Most Innovative Schools and Undergraduate Teaching (*U.S. News & World Report*)
- Top 10 American Film Schools (*The Hollywood Reporter*)
- Top 1% Journalism, Communications, and Writing Programs (*College Factual*)
- #16 Most Entrepreneurial (*Forbes*)
- Emerson's applications doubled between 2012 and 2019, and its acceptance rate dropped from 48% to 33%.
- \$1.1 billion total gross assets, \$540 million net assets
- \$244 million endowment as of May 2022

---

**Underpinning the College's academic core is a set of non-negotiable values including:**

- Respect and equal treatment for people of all backgrounds, orientations, beliefs, and physical capabilities;
- Appreciation for diverse ideas and the free expression of them;
- Academic excellence throughout the institution; and,
- Critical and creative thinking that inspires audiences; elevates the arts and communication; and advances social justice, global responsibility, and environmental sustainability on campus, in our nation, and throughout the world.



---

## THE SEARCH PROCESS

Emerson College is assisted in this process by Spencer Stuart, a global leadership advisory firm. The search committee welcomes comments, nominations, or expressions of interest.

Diversity and inclusion are core values for Emerson College. The successful candidate must have the ability to work effectively with faculty, students, and staff from diverse backgrounds. Members of historically underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply. Emerson College is an Equal Opportunity Employer that encourages diversity in its workplace.

To contact the search committee, please send an email with any supporting materials to the confidential email address [EmersonPresident@SpencerStuart.com](mailto:EmersonPresident@SpencerStuart.com).

