



# Provost Prospectus

Search for The Executive Vice President and Provost

The  
University  
of Akron

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## Search for The Executive Vice President and Provost





## The Opportunity

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The University of Akron (UA) invites nominations and expressions of interest for the position of Executive Vice President and Provost (“Provost”). This new leader will be the second-ranking officer of the University and a close partner of President Gary L. Miller, who began his tenure in October 2019.

The University of Akron is one of Ohio’s most influential public urban research universities, conducting high-quality research in focused areas of excellence, contributing to the vitality of the local economy, and providing a workforce highly trained

in diverse disciplines. UA offers nearly 20,000 students a wide variety of in-demand associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral and professional degree programs with a career-focused emphasis. As a STEM-intensive institution, UA has strong connections with industries such as polymers, advanced materials and engineering. UA brings together a diverse group of learners — full-time, part-time and online students, veterans, and adults returning to the classroom — enrolled across eleven colleges and schools, including Engineering, Health Professions, Arts and Sciences,

Business Administration, Applied Science and Technology, Education, Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, Law, the Graduate School, the non-degree-granting Williams Honors College, and a branch campus (Wayne College), along with three other sites in Northeast Ohio.

The Provost will be a forward-looking academic leader with the vision, leadership skills and strategic management experience to take UA to the next level of academic excellence and student success. Embracing the mission of public education in an urban environment, the Provost



will understand and strengthen the important social, cultural and economic roles public education plays in the city, region and state. Equally important is the need for the Provost to apply strong management skills in implementing the next phase of UA's overall strategic plan, including ensuring an aggressive enrollment strategy; recruiting and empowering a strong team of entrepreneurial deans; advancing the University's research prominence and productivity; and championing UA's commitment to creating a framework for excellence that incorporates diversity at its core.

The University of Akron's next Provost will have the opportunity to contribute to the University's future successes and achieve the following professional and personal aspirations:

- Serve as a passionate advocate of the academic mission to enhance the University's success, reputation and quality;
- Personally oversee the implementation of the academic affairs elements of a thoughtful and comprehensive strategic plan that will further strengthen the University's mission, impact and resources;
- Recruit and develop a high-performing team of new college deans;
- Partner with a seasoned President and energetic corps of faculty, contract professionals and staff; and
- Actively engage as an influential leader in the city of Akron as well as the region and meaningfully impact the quality of life for people across the state of Ohio.

For information regarding how to make a nomination or to express personal interest in this position, please see the section titled "Procedure for Candidacy" on page 11.





## The Role of the Provost

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The Executive Vice President and Provost serves as the chief academic officer of The University of Akron with responsibility for academic leadership. This position has recently been reestablished following a reorganization and restructuring of UA's Office of Academic Affairs. This executive also serves as the second-in-command senior officer for the University and plays a leadership role in all aspects of the University's management, including working with the President, senior leadership team and the Board of Trustees to shape

UA's strategic priorities. The Provost works with members of the Board of Trustees and appropriate committees on issues related to academic affairs and other issues as delegated by the President.

The Provost assumes a lead role in UA's strategic planning for academic programs, fostering the development and enhancement of high-quality certificate, associate, baccalaureate, master's, doctoral-level and professional programs through ongoing review and assessment, ensuring

strong academic standards, and expanding research. As an important part of this process, the Provost works with the deans, Academic Division staff, and the advancement team to identify new sources of financial support — including grant and philanthropic donations — for existing and new programs. The Provost leads University processes for accreditation of the institution by the Higher Learning Commission as well as the professional accreditation of individual academic programs.

The Provost reports to the President and serves as the senior member of the cabinet, which currently includes the following senior leaders: Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Vice President/General Counsel, Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice President of Advancement, Vice President of Communications and Marketing, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, Director of Athletics, and Vice President/Chief of Staff.

The Provost oversees the deans of each of the university's 11 colleges and schools, including the School of Law, and leads a multifunctional integrated operation, ensuring closely linked operations across Academic Affairs, Enrollment, Information Technology, Research and Sponsored Programs, and University Libraries as well as close coordination with the Divisions of Student Affairs and Finance. There are approximately 1,800 current faculty, contract professional and

staff members (full-time and part-time) in the colleges and schools. The General Fund Budget for the colleges is approximately \$91 million; this is for salaries only, as fringe benefits are accounted for centrally. The General Fund budget for the Office of Academic Affairs is approximately \$6 million (salaries only). An organization chart is appended to this document.

Related activities in which the Provost plays a key leadership role include:

- Actively participating in shared governance with the Faculty Senate, University Council, and the Council of Deans;
- Engaging with advisory councils, corporations, local and national foundations, donors, and community organizations to expand and enhance academic offerings and units;
- Ensuring that the curriculum is of high quality and relevant to today's students and employers;
- Overseeing UA's research enterprise and related initiatives;
- Facilitating the selection and appointment of faculty, and recommending the reappointment, promotion and tenure of faculty;
- Actively participating in shared governance with the Faculty Senate, University Council, the University of Akron chapter of AAUP (the sole collective bargaining agent for all full-time faculty members), and the Council of Deans;
- Assessing student success and learning outcomes;
- Collaborating with other institutions of higher education; and
- Enhancing the University's academic centers, institutes and special programs.



## Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Beyond the management of a complex academic enterprise, the next Provost of The University of Akron will be encouraged to place a particular emphasis on several strategic imperatives that will continue to strengthen the University and add value to its students, faculty, staff and community.

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### ***Assume the lead role in refining and implementing the Academic Affairs priorities in UA's upcoming strategic planning process.***

On Oct. 9, 2019, the UA Board of Trustees passed a resolution directing the President to launch an institution-wide [strategic plan](#) for the next three to five years. This plan, titled “Affirming Our Promises,” will be presented to the Board in June 2020 and implemented in fall 2020 and will establish an exciting path to the future. The strategic plan will build on insights gained through a recent three-year planning process, an Administrative Activities Review and other initiatives in order to embrace a vision for the University, clarify its mission, and focus attention on initiatives and priorities that will move the University forward over the next three to five years.

President Miller's charge to the University community highlighted key expectations for this plan:

- Reinforce and support UA's mission as an urban research university;

- Hold true to UA's commitment to the success of all students (undergraduate, graduate and all others);
- Emphasize UA's academic strengths and establish a select number of prioritized goals linked to the financial model;
- Include a holistic enrollment strategy to encompass all types of students throughout the University;
- Focus and expand University external engagement activities;
- Be grounded in data and predictive analytics;
- Link to a time horizon commensurate with UA's financial realities; and
- Adopt needed efficiencies and reductions, particularly in the short term.

The Provost will be intricately involved in the final stages of that process once hired, and will be responsible for collaborating with the President in implementing the strategy going forward.

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### ***Sharpen The University of Akron's enrollment strategy and practices.***

In light of challenging demographic trends in the region and intensifying competition from other universities in Ohio and from surrounding states, the new Provost will take a lead role in ensuring sustainable enrollment levels (and associated revenues) through a focused and effective enrollment management strategy. Working closely with Enrollment Management leadership, the Provost will align Academic Affairs in support of an enrollment plan that balances appropriate admission standards with an enrollment yield that provides the tuition and housing revenues necessary to sustain the University's budget.

As emphasized in the President's strategic plan charge, this enrollment strategy should focus on the holistic success of students, with an emphasis on student development — not just student admission. Student retention and graduation outcomes will be key measures of success here, driven by initiatives that contribute to



student success. It will also further stress opportunities to increase UA's enrollment in a highly competitive market, including strengthening partnerships with regional community colleges and K-12 school districts.

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***Explore new markets for students and revenues and expand academic delivery models.***

Beyond stabilizing — and ideally growing — UA's traditional tuition revenues, the Provost should empower the Office of Academic Affairs and the deans to be more aggressive in the University's pursuit of alternative sources of revenues, such as those driven by online learning and by serving non-traditional learners. This will require a more robust build-out of both the technology infrastructure and teaching protocols. UA's access to the growing population of adult learners can be bolstered by building partnerships with the local business community and repositioning its academic programs with these customers (who today are developing their own in-house training resources).

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***Assess and optimize the academic affairs structure and processes.***

The new Provost will be expected to assess with “fresh eyes” the Office of Academic Affairs. This includes evaluating the current structure to ensure that all academic units are optimally and consistently aligned and best positioned to achieve their individual and cross-disciplinary goals.

The Provost should thoughtfully assess the infrastructure of staff, processes, programs and technologies to ensure that the organization continues to be characterized by exceptional talent and planning/financial/administrative “best practices.”

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***Recruit and develop an exceptional decanal leadership team.***

Of UA's eleven schools and colleges, eight are currently led by interim deans or have anticipated vacancies. An immediate and remarkable opportunity for the new Provost is to actively participate in the recruitment and selection of a new cohort of innovative academic leaders, and to build a cohesive and collaborative culture of teamwork among them. Preparation for conducting the deans' searches will be underway in the near future, and the new Provost will lead the search process and have significant input into the hiring decisions.

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***Bolster UA's research prominence and productivity.***

The University of Akron is the public research university for Northern Ohio, with total annual research expenditures of more than \$32 million and a portfolio of more than 300 issued, pending and provisional patents. UA is home to best-in-class programs, including the largest polymer science and polymer engineering program in the world.

UA is committed to further building

its research productivity and reputation, and the next Provost will champion efforts to enhance the University's research credentials with increases in grants/contracts and faculty/student scholarship. The Provost will formulate a clear vision that ensures progress in research prominence, including significant undergraduate research activity, integrated with UA's traditional reputation for outstanding classroom teaching. The Provost must provide clear guidance and infrastructure support as faculty increase research productivity and create innovative teaching experiences that are intellectually vigorous and technologically savvy.

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***Contribute to UA's commitment to diversity and inclusion.***

The University of Akron has worked effectively in recent years to significantly expand the diversity of its students, faculty and staff, but the need for continued progress in this area remains an important goal. The new Provost will join the senior leadership team in lending personal authority and passion to efforts underway to impact this profile, including targeted recruiting, and by conveying a personal commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

## Professional Qualifications and Qualities

The Provost of The University of Akron will be an engaged, inspiring leader who first and foremost demonstrates an active commitment to the University's academic mission and the students it serves. The Provost will embrace the faculty's commitment to excellence in teaching, underscored by quality scholarship, and will understand the important connections between the two. The Provost will foster and embrace a vibrant and diverse community of faculty, students and staff, enhancing relationships with alumni, parents, and friends of the University.

The Provost must present the following required qualifications:

- earned doctorate from an accredited institution

- demonstrated record of distinguished research/scholarship and teaching
- tenurable at the rank of full professor
- demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion
- excellent verbal and written communication skills

The Provost should possess the intellectual vision and energy necessary to lead a complex, urban institution of higher education to new levels of success among learning and research communities. In addition, it is critical that the Provost has an ability to successfully motivate a university-wide team at all levels; develops an understanding of core values at

UA; and demonstrates appropriate responsiveness to the needs and concerns of students, faculty, contract professionals and staff of a public doctoral research university with off-campus instruction and research locations.

The ideal candidate will bring experience in administrative leadership and a sense of integrity to the position. He or she will be an experienced leader in higher education and have an established record of teaching, research and service. The successful candidate will also be an outstanding leader of people, programs and budgets.

The ideal Provost will present the following preferred experiences, qualifications and personal qualities:





- The ability to plan, direct and evaluate a complex operation, effectively managing people, time, funds and other resources for the accomplishment of long-term and short-term goals of the institution;
- The ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with students, faculty, staff and the public to provide administrative guidance within the Provost's area of responsibility, and the ability to apply budgetary and fiscal planning techniques within financial constraints;
- Interpersonal skills including the ability to listen and respond effectively, eagerness to build strong working relationships with colleagues in all areas of the University, and readiness to use an open style of communication that builds trust and mutual respect;
- A collaborative approach to team-building and problem-solving that prioritizes empathy, listening, and the recognition of individual's lived experiences.
- Successful administrative and management experience in higher education, including faculty and staff personnel issues, the management of complex budgets, and the readiness to recruit, develop, evaluate and support a high-performing leadership team of deans and directors;
- A demonstrated ability and desire to advocate on issues of importance to the faculty and to the administration and serve as the primary advocate for academic quality;
- Knowledge and/or experience with faculty collective bargaining and comfort working in that environment;
- Familiarity with public systems of higher education and the ability to represent the campus effectively in that context;
- Experience with the development of distance education and other modes of instruction, new curricula, accountability and outcomes measurement, and the ability to lead institutional effectiveness system reviews;
- Understanding of and successful experience with current challenges in higher education, including student access, enrollment management, retention, curriculum development and revision, and information technology;



- Substantial experience with strategic planning, including a readiness to provide leadership for institutional planning, and the ability to articulate a shared academic vision and engage others in its implementation;
- An appreciation, understanding and respect for issues of diversity, equity and inclusion and their relationship to academic excellence;
- Decisiveness and the ability to lead complex deliberations and bring them to a timely conclusion;
- Ability to build external relationships, including partnerships with the corporate community that can lead to development of new academic programs and to philanthropic contributions;
- Experience with both undergraduate and graduate programs and professional degrees;
- Ability to articulate and advocate for the institution's mission both within the campus community and beyond; comfort with a high level of transparency; outstanding communication skills, both in writing and in speaking, to individuals as well as to groups both large and small; consultative but decisive approach; and
- The personal qualities of courage, integrity, trustworthiness, optimism, persistence, flexibility, openness to new ideas, accessibility to colleagues, a calm and reassuring demeanor, and an intense commitment to invest energy and time to bring UA to the highest level of academic excellence.





## Procedure for Candidacy

The executive search firm Witt/Kieffer is assisting The University of Akron in the search for an Executive Vice President and Provost. Inquiries, nominations and expressions of interest are invited and should be sent to Witt/Kieffer consultants John Thornburgh and Elizabeth Bohan at [UAkronProvost@wittkieffer.com](mailto:UAkronProvost@wittkieffer.com).

For formal consideration, individuals should submit materials including the following:

1) a letter of interest addressing the leadership opportunities and qualifications articulated within this

document; 2) a curriculum vitae or resume; and 3) a list of at least five references with contact information.

The position will remain open until filled. For fullest consideration, expressions of interest materials should be received by January 15, 2020. Nominations and expressions of interest will be treated in confidence. References will not be contacted without prior knowledge and approval of candidates. The process is confidential until the point where finalist candidates are invited to campus. No names of individuals other than those finalists will be released.

*The University of Akron is an equal education and employment institution. It is the policy of this institution that there shall be no unlawful discrimination against any individual in employment or in its programs or activities at The University of Akron because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, genetic information, military status or status as a veteran. The University is also committed to the principles of affirmative action and acts in accordance with state and federal laws.*

### Search Committee Members:

- **Dr. Paul Levy**  
Search Committee chair;  
Professor, Chair of the Department of Psychology, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
- **Dr. Sheldon Wrice**  
Associate Dean, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
- **Dr. Julie Zhao**  
Assistant Dean,  
College of Engineering
- **Dr. James Thomson**  
Professor of Finance, Chair of the Department of Finance, College of Business Administration
- **Dr. Judith Juvancic-Heltzel**  
Associate Professor, Interim Chair, School of Sport Science and Wellness Education, College of Health Professions
- **Dr. Abraham Joy**  
Associate Professor of Polymer Science, College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering
- **Dr. Nidaa Makki**  
Associate Professor of Curricular & Instructional Studies, LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education and co-director of the Urban STEM Center
- **Professor Willa Gibson**  
School of Law
- **Dr. Angela Hartsock**  
Associate Professor of Biology, Wayne College
- **Dr. Nicole Hunka**  
Associate Professor of Instruction, College of Applied Science and Technology
- **Dr. Linda Saliga**  
Professor of Mathematics, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences; Chair of Faculty Senate
- **Ruth Nine-Duff**  
Senior Business Analyst, College of Applied Science and Technology; Chair of University Council
- **William Cole**  
Assistant Vice President for Principal Gifts, Department of Development; Chair of Contract Professional Advisory Committee (CPAC)
- **Michele Novachek**  
Coordinator, Center for Gift & Estate Planning, Department of Development; Chair of Staff Employee Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- **Mark Okocha**  
President of Undergraduate Student Government
- **Dr. Pamela Schulze**  
Professor of Child & Family Development, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences; President of Akron Chapter of the American Association of University Professors



Student Recreation and Wellness Center Arches





Jean Hower Taber Student Union

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# The University



## 150 Years of Innovation and Growth

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Since its founding as Buchtel College in 1870 by the Ohio Universalist Convention, The University of Akron has been making and keeping its promises to its students, the community and the American Academy — meeting the educational and technological needs of the region while advancing research and innovation in diverse disciplines. The University of Akron has been responsive to the educational and technological needs of the region. Located in the city that became known as the “Rubber Capital of the World,”

the then small liberal arts college offered the **world’s first courses in rubber chemistry** in 1909. The college then transferred its assets to the city and became the Municipal University of Akron in 1913. A year later, the College of Engineering was formed and pioneered **one of the country’s first cooperative education programs**, working with industrial giants such as Goodyear, Firestone and Goodrich. Later, the U.S. government contracted with the University to establish a rubber research laboratory to **aid in the development of synthetic**

**rubber for World War II.** As the rubber industry in Akron declined in the decades following the war, the University continued to evolve by becoming a state university in 1967 and establishing the **world’s first College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering** in 1988. The University carried this momentum into the 2000s, entering a new phase of academic and physical expansion, in keeping with its **tradition of bold, responsive innovation and growth.**





*That tradition continues today.*

With **top-ranked and in-demand degree programs** ranging from associate through doctoral degrees in engineering, arts and sciences, business, health care, law and education, the University is classified at the highest level as a comprehensive, doctoral-degree-granting institution accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. It serves

almost 20,000 students through 11 colleges and schools, including satellite campuses in Lakewood, Medina, Millersburg and Orrville.

Moreover, the University [continues to invigorate the region](#) and prepare students for a lifetime of success. In fiscal year 2016-17, the University had an **estimated \$2.7 billion economic impact** on its primary service area of Summit, Cuyahoga, Stark, Medina,

Portage and Wayne counties, supporting 36,732 jobs, or one out of every 47 jobs. During the same period, former UA students currently employed in the regional workforce generated **\$2.2 billion in added income for the region**. The increased lifetime earnings for UA students are projected at almost \$1.263 million, a **return on investment that is almost five times the cost of earning a degree**.



## Colleges and Academic Distinctions

The University of Akron has received **state, national and global recognition** for the strength of its colleges and programs and the achievements of its faculty members and students.

The **Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences** is the largest and oldest degree-granting college at the University, home to more than 20 schools and departments and nine centers and institutes.

- The **Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics**, a bipartisan research and teaching institute, is one of the nation's premier centers of research and instruction on politics. Many former Bliss interns now hold leadership positions in government around the United States.
- The University has the [No. 2 Counseling Psychology Ph.D. program in the U.S.](#) according

to CounselingPsychology.org, and the Industrial/Organizational (I/O) Psychology program has for decades been one of the country's most respected and prolific producers of scholarship and I/O professionals. Also, the **National Museum of Psychology, the only one of its kind in the United States**, opened at the University in June 2018. It is housed in The Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, which was accepted into the prestigious Smithsonian Institution's Affiliations program.

- The School of Communication is home to the highly rated student radio station, WZIP, and the student-run television station, **Z-TV, which has won eight, and been nominated for more than 30, Emmy Awards.**

### BUCHTEL COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:

**20+**  
schools and departments

**8**  
centers and institutes

**8**  
Emmy Awards



**1st**  
in producing the most  
I/O Psychology PhDs  
according to SIOP



- The School of Communication's Speech and Debate Team **won its fourth consecutive Ohio Forensics Association State Championship** in 2019.
- The University is home to the **National Center for Choreography, one of only two such centers in the nation**, providing world-class facilities and resources to professional choreographers — as well as opportunities for students in the University's dance program to engage with artists who are shaping the future of dance.

The **College of Applied Science and Technology** offers a wide range of associate and bachelor's degrees providing practical skills for in-demand careers.

- The college offers a bachelor's degree in computer information systems with a focus on

cybersecurity, the **first four-year track of its kind among public universities in Ohio**. It is also among the first cybersecurity degree tracks in the country to offer courses in applied cryptography, which are typically offered at the graduate level. Moreover, the University was selected by the Ohio Adjutant General's Department to join the Ohio Cyber Range, a collaborative effort to train the cybersecurity workforce in public, private, government, military and education constituencies.

- UA has the **only ABET-accredited B.S. in Surveying and Mapping in Ohio**.
- The college's **Emergency Management and Homeland Security** program was the **first of its kind to be accredited in the country**. A recent graduate of the

## COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

### 1st

four-year cybersecurity track of its kind among public universities in Ohio

### 1st

Emergency Management and Homeland Security program to be accredited in the country



## College and Academic Distinctions, continued

program was hired as an emergency management specialist for the Pentagon.

Through connections with top businesses and executives, the **College of Business Administration (CBA)** prepares students to become competent and responsible professionals and leaders.

- With the support of 280 donors from the business community, the CBA recently opened its 11,850-square-foot **Anthony J. Alexander Professional Development Center**, a one-stop training spot for business students.
- The CBA is **one of only 188 business schools among thousands worldwide to hold dual accreditation (business and accounting) from the AACSB**.
- The CBA has been **ranked among the top 50 undergraduate business schools** at public universities by Bloomberg Businessweek (2016).
- The college's **MBA program was named a "Tier One" program by CEO Magazine (2018)** and one of

the **best programs in the Midwest by The Princeton Review (2019)**.

The **College of Engineering** produces some of the most sought-after, job-ready engineering graduates in the country.

- The college is home to **one of the oldest traditional co-op programs in the U.S.**, in which students gain valuable, practical work experience with **more than 2,000 employers nationwide**.
- The college's **student design teams build race cars, rockets, robots and more, frequently ranking among the best in the nation and the world**. UA's design teams — including Formula Combustion, Formula Electric, Baja, Human-Powered Vehicle, Concrete Canoe, NASA Robotics Mining, and Akronauts Rocket teams — all placed in the top 10 in at least one of their respective major competitions in the 2018-19 season.
- UA's bachelor's degrees in corrosion engineering and aerospace systems engineering were the **first**

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION:

**1**

of only 188 business schools among thousands worldwide with dual AACSB accreditation

### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING:

**2,000+**

employers nationwide help students gain experience through one of the oldest traditional co-op programs in the U.S.

**1st**

corrosion engineering and aerospace systems engineering undergraduate degrees of their kind to be established in the U.S.





**undergraduate degrees of their kind to be established in the U.S.**

The **College of Health Professions** cultivates an interprofessional perspective on health and wellness in fast-growing degrees, giving student access to clinical experiences at renowned hospitals, clinics and social service organizations. The college houses seven different schools focusing on a broad range of health-related professions, such as physical health, lifestyle development and social and psychological well-being.

- UA offers the **only bachelor's degree program in Ohio in food and environmental nutrition**, for students interested in working in the food industry as product developers, food safety experts and regulators.
- The **Nurse Anesthesia Program** is one of Ohio's largest, with **more than 35 clinical sites throughout the state**.

The **College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering** is one of the biggest and best-known research and academic programs in the world devoted to the study of polymers.

- UA is the **only university in the world to offer graduate programs in both polymer science and polymer engineering**.
- Polymer faculty research has resulted in **more than 300 issued and pending patents and helped launch more than two dozen regional startup businesses**.

The **LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education**, in collaboration with K-12 partners, provides preservice teachers with valuable experience through field and coursework in urban, suburban and rural teaching settings.

- After rigorous review, the college of education was reaccredited and **recognized for "national excellence"** by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation in 2018.
- Through the Urban STEM Center, the H. Kenneth Barker Center for Economic Education, and the Center for Literacy, the **college equips teachers and community members to provide crucial STEM, economic and literacy education** to students throughout Northeast Ohio.

## **COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS:**

**35+**

clinical sites throughout the state for the Nurse Anesthesia Program

## **COLLEGE OF POLYMER SCIENCE AND POLYMER ENGINEERING:**

**300+**

issued and pending patents

**24+**

regional startup businesses launched with the help of the college's research



The **School of Law** — housed in the recently renovated, debt-free, \$21 million C. Blake McDowell Law Center — provides a top-ranked legal education with flexible degree options.

- Akron Law's **Intellectual Property (IP), Trial Advocacy, and Part-Time Studies programs were ranked among the top 50 in the country** by U.S. News & World Report (2020). Each ranked highest, or tied for highest, in Ohio.
- The school's moot court and client counseling teams earned Akron Law a **top-10 position in the American Bar Association's 2019 Competitions Champion national ranking**. Akron Law's trial advocacy teams have won more than 20 national and regional championships.

- Akron Law **students serve more than 500 clients annually through clinics. Also, students completed more than 5,600 pro bono and community service hours** in 2018-19.

The **Williams Honors College** is an intellectual community of high-achieving students of broad academic interests and backgrounds. Its distinguished members enjoy additional scholarships, first-priority class registration, one-on-one research with faculty members, leadership training, interdisciplinary seminars, additional student groups, education abroad opportunities, and access to the residential and academic Honors Complex.

**THE LEBRON JAMES FAMILY  
FOUNDATION COLLEGE OF  
EDUCATION:**

**"National  
Excellence"**

recognition by the Council for  
the Accreditation of Educator  
Preparation in 2018

**SCHOOL OF LAW:**

**Top 50**

rankings for IP Law, Trial Advocacy,  
and Part-Time Studies; U.S. News  
& World Report, 2020

**Top 10**

position in ABA's 2019  
Competitions Champion ranking

**20+**

national and regional  
championships won by trial  
advocacy teams



## Research

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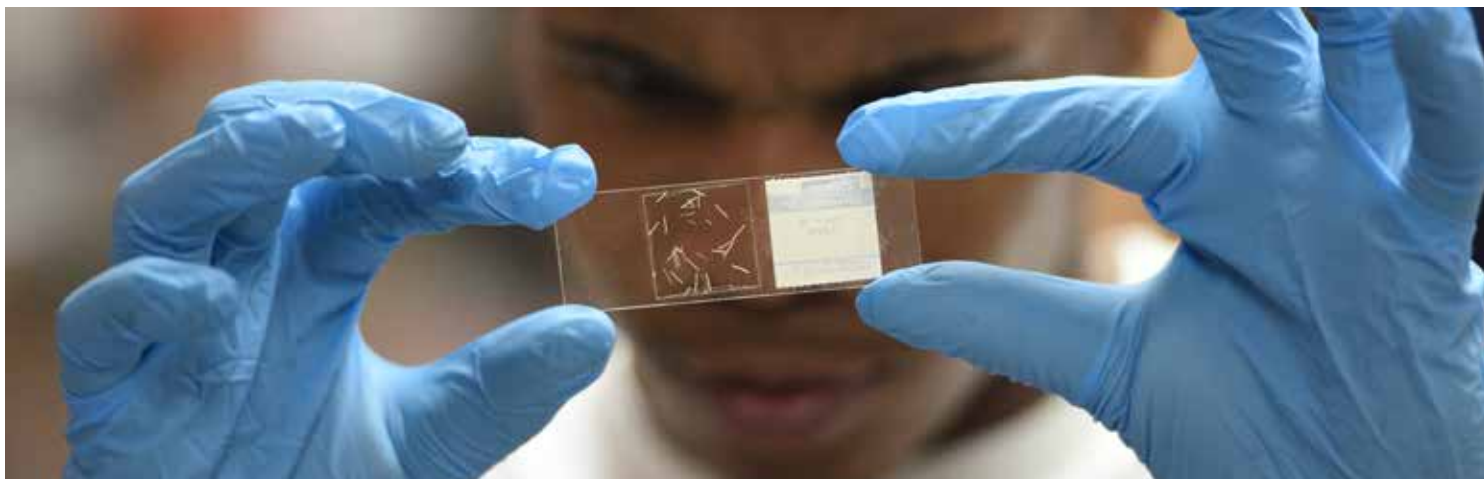
As one of Ohio's most influential public urban research universities, The University of Akron has continued to fuel the transformation of the region's base into a growing, diversified and **globally competitive leader in polymers and advanced materials** by driving innovation in the fields of manufacturing, medical devices and technology, air filtration, advanced energy, emerging green technologies and microelectronic optical devices.

The nationally recognized University of Akron Research Foundation has helped launch more than **60 startup companies**, participates in numerous joint ventures with major corporations and manages more than **300 U.S. patents and 500 patents worldwide** on behalf of the University. In fiscal year 2016-17, [startup and spinoff companies resulting from UA research were responsible for \\$15.7 million in added income to](#)

[UA's primary service area counties](#) (Summit, Cuyahoga, Stark, Medina, Portage and Wayne). Additionally, UA ranked **[No. 60 among the top 100 universities worldwide granted U.S. utility patents in 2017, and first among public research universities in Ohio](#)**, according to a 2018 report released by the National Academy of Inventors and the Intellectual Property Owners Association. UA was also the **[highest-ranked Northern Ohio university, and second only to The Ohio State University in the state, for commercialization of technology](#)**, in the April 2017 Milken Institute Center for Jobs and Human Capital's Concept to Commercialization Report.

This tremendous success is made possible, in large part, by **UA's accomplished researchers**, including:

- **Dr. Hazel Barton**, professor of biology and director of the Integrated Bioscience Program, whose research on cave formations has been featured in Sports Illustrated, Forbes, National Geographic Explorer, The Smithsonian magazines, NPR, BBC Radio, Animal Planet, the History Channel and more;
- **Dr. Joseph Kennedy**, distinguished professor of polymer science and chemistry and one of the most prolific academic inventors in the country, who has **garnered more than 120 patents for his inventions over his 60-year career**; and
- **Dr. William Schneider IV**, professor of civil engineering, who has been the **principal investigator on thirty transportation-related projects**. UA has recognized him as one of the Top 5 most productive faculty members in Spring 2016.





Moreover, the University is an **internationally recognized leader in the rapidly growing field of biomimicry**, with more than 30 faculty members from four colleges belonging to its **Biomimicry Research and Innovation Center**.

Their interdisciplinary projects draw inspiration from organisms as diverse as ants, bacteria, birds, cacti, fish, flies, geckos, snakes and spiders to inform the research and development of adhesives, color-producing additives, building construction techniques and more.

Other research centers and labs at the University include:

- The **National Polymer Innovation Center**, a facility at the leading edge of polymer advanced

manufacturing, developing novel solutions to industry challenges and supporting research for national laboratories and the University's College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering;

- The **Timken Engineered Surface Laboratory**, formed in partnership with The Timken Co., where students and faculty work alongside industry experts in surface engineering to solve complex problems associated with friction, wear and corrosion;
- The **National Center for Education and Research on Corrosion and Materials Performance**, originally funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and the only center of its kind in the U.S., providing

multidisciplinary approaches to help government and industry develop solutions for corrosion and materials performance challenges;

- The **Conquer Chiari Research Center**, a state-of-the-art facility staffed with distinguished researchers working diligently to advance the understanding of Chiari malformation and improve the outcomes of patients; and
- The **Center for Tire Research**, a National Science Foundation/ University Cooperative Research Center and consortium of tire and tire-related industry members, performing market-driven research in the areas of tire and tire-related materials, modeling, testing and manufacturing.



## Community Engagement

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True to its legacy, The University of Akron involves numerous partners in its progress, with **more than 600 collaborations with business, industry, community, academia and government.** Most recently, the University is a key collaborator with Summit County, the City of Akron and the Greater Akron Chamber in implementing the [Elevate Greater Akron coordinated economic development strategy](#).

The University continues to invest in **Northeast Ohio's workforce** through partnerships with local companies such as Tremco Roofing & Building Maintenance and Schaeffler Group USA, providing discounted and fully funded **pathways to associate and bachelor's degrees for employees and their dependents.**

Also, UA recently **joined universities from across the state in supporting**

**the Ohio IP Promise**, a best-in-class process, developed by Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, for cultivating the licensing of intellectual property (IP) to **strengthen Ohio's economy, attract innovative researchers, and serve as a magnet for investors and entrepreneurs.**

The University also partners with local public schools to cultivate the next generation of scholars and innovators. In fall 2018, the University was **named a "sister university" to three Akron Public Schools (APS)**, pledging to provide career-themed content and support to students and teachers in the schools' College and Career Academies. One of those schools, the **Akron Early College High School (AECHS)**, jointly established by the University's College of Applied Science and Technology and APS, allows APS students, many of them first-generation college students, to

earn an associate degree, or up to two years of college credit toward a bachelor's degree, free of charge. In 2019, it was **one of 14 schools in the state to receive the National Blue Ribbon Award for academic excellence.** The University recently established similar Early College programs at the Portage Lakes Career Center, Barberton City Schools, and the R.G. Drage Career Technical Center.

Through ZipAssist, UA's central hub of resources and support services, the University leverages its **partnerships with the Salvation Army of Summit County, the United Way of Summit County and Rubber City Arches LLC** to provide textbooks, childcare assistance, pre-packaged meals, financial literacy coaching and more to students in need.



With the support of the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**, the University hosts social media-driven events and activities to encourage students to become proud patrons of Akron. The **#ZipsInvade** events allow students to “invade” designated eateries, shops and other locations for free food, merchandise and experiences; and the **#Zips100** list challenges students to complete 100 traditional Akron-themed activities on campus and in the city before graduation.

Other examples of the University’s community engagement include:

- The **Medina Fiber Network**, a collaboration of the University and the school districts of Medina, Barberton and Springfield to deliver

UA courses via state-of-the-art, real-time video conferencing for students in the post-secondary enrollment option program, as well as professional development to area teachers;

- **The University Akron-Medina**, a collaboration of the University and Medina County business and community leaders to establish a workforce development center and surrounding technology park, offering standard college courses, professional development workshops and workforce training;
- Partnership with the **LeBron James Family Foundation** to provide full scholarships for eligible APS students enrolled in the Foundation’s mentorship program;
- and to provide UA students the opportunity to gain experience in preservice teacher education, mentorship, community service, and evaluation and data analysis of the Foundation’s **Wheels for Education** and **I Promise Programs**; and
- The University’s **E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall**, home to the Akron Symphony Orchestra and serving the cultural needs of Northeast Ohio with concerts of all types, theatre productions, ballets and lectures, as well as the annual **Broadway in Akron Series**, coordinated and promoted since 2015 by the University’s partner, the **Playhouse Square Foundation**, an industry-leading entertainment organization in Northeast Ohio.





## Faculty

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The University of Akron is home to nearly 1,400 full- and part-time faculty members, including **world-class scientists and scholars whose academic impact reverberates far beyond the boundaries of the classroom.**

- In keeping with the University's tradition of meeting the needs of the region, **UA's researchers have taken on the state's opioid crisis.** **Dr. Abraham Joy**, associate professor of polymer science, is developing a polymer-based fiber mat, with the potential to be embedded onto latex gloves, that can detect traces of opioid residue. This would allow first responders to overdose victims to detect

the presence of opioids in the vicinity and take the appropriate precautions to protect themselves from dangerous exposure.

- **Dr. Hossein Tavana**, associate professor of biomedical engineering, is conducting National Institutes of Health-funded research that has the **potential to improve cancer treatment.** He recently developed and patented a method to make 3D cultures of clustered cancer cells that better mimic tumors in the body than 2D cultures used in traditional methods (in which a thin layer of cells is treated on a flat, plastic dish), which may lead to more **accurate drug testing and more effective treatment.**

While the University continues to innovate in polymers and biomedical engineering, it is also leading the way in the burgeoning field of biomimicry, unraveling the secrets of nature to solve problems and improve lives.

- **Dr. Ali Dhinojwala**, H.A. Morton Professor of Polymer Science and interim dean of the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering; **Dr. Peter Niewiarowski**, professor of biology; and **Dr. Todd Blackledge**, professor of biology, have developed **adhesives inspired by spider silk and the microscopic hairs on geckos' footpads.**



- **Dr. Henry Astley**, assistant professor of biology, designed a camera-equipped robotic snake that has the potential to search for survivors under rubble in disaster situations.
- **Dr. Emily Kennedy**, director of external relations at the Biomimicry Research and Innovation Center (BRIC) and graduate of its doctoral program, is working with fellow alumnus Dr. Bor-Kai (Bill) Hsiung on a **football helmet lining, inspired by shock-absorbing hedgehog quills, designed to prevent concussions.**

UA's faculty members continue to receive national and international recognition in other disciplines as well. **Dr. Sucharita Ghosh**, professor

of economics, received her **second Fulbright Research Scholar award** in 2018 — a rare feat — and **traveled to Italy to share her expertise in international trade.**

- **Dr. Frank Ward**, associate professor of music and director of UA's opera program, is a **acclaimed opera performer** — praised by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet W.D. Snodgrass and critics for his careful diction, vocal agility and showmanship — who has appeared throughout the country and in Europe in such major productions as "The Barber of Seville," "The Marriage of Figaro," "Candide" and "The Magic Flute."
- **David Giffels**, associate professor of English and former award-winning columnist for the Akron Beacon

Journal, who has been **hailed by the New York Times as the "bard of Akron,"** recently published his latest book, a poignant memoir about his late father — "Furnishing Eternity: A Father, a Son, a Coffin, and a Measure of Life" — with critical acclaim, setting an example for aspiring writers in the **Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts program**, of which Giffels is the UA campus coordinator.

Seventy-nine percent of the University's full-time faculty members possess a terminal degree, and students enjoy a student-faculty ratio of 18:1 — allowing them to receive **close and personal attention** from dedicated experts who are eager to involve them in research, study abroad opportunities, service projects



and other forms of **practical, real-world learning**.

With support from the University's **Center for Experiential Learning**, faculty members connect academic disciplines and engage local communities. Here are some examples from spring 2018:

- **Dr. Hunter King**, assistant professor of polymer science and core member of BRIC, co-taught a course with Kelly Siman, doctoral candidate in the Biomimicry Fellowship program, in which **honors students developed technological solutions to Lake Erie's most pressing problems — including harmful algal blooms — and pitched those solutions to local industry experts.**
- **Lauren Houser**, assistant professor of practice in the Department of Marketing, had **computer science and business majors combine their programming and marketing expertise to solve client-based problems** in her “Synergistic Teams” class.
- **Dr. Melanie G. McCoskey**, an associate professor of accountancy in the College of Business Administration, has created an ongoing program for students in accounting. These **students get real-world experience by preparing tax returns for low-income individuals in the Akron community.** They prepare federal, state and city tax returns for approximately 1,000 individuals each year in collaboration with United Way, which assists with e-filing of federal and state returns.

#### ACADEMIC IMPACT:

**1,361**

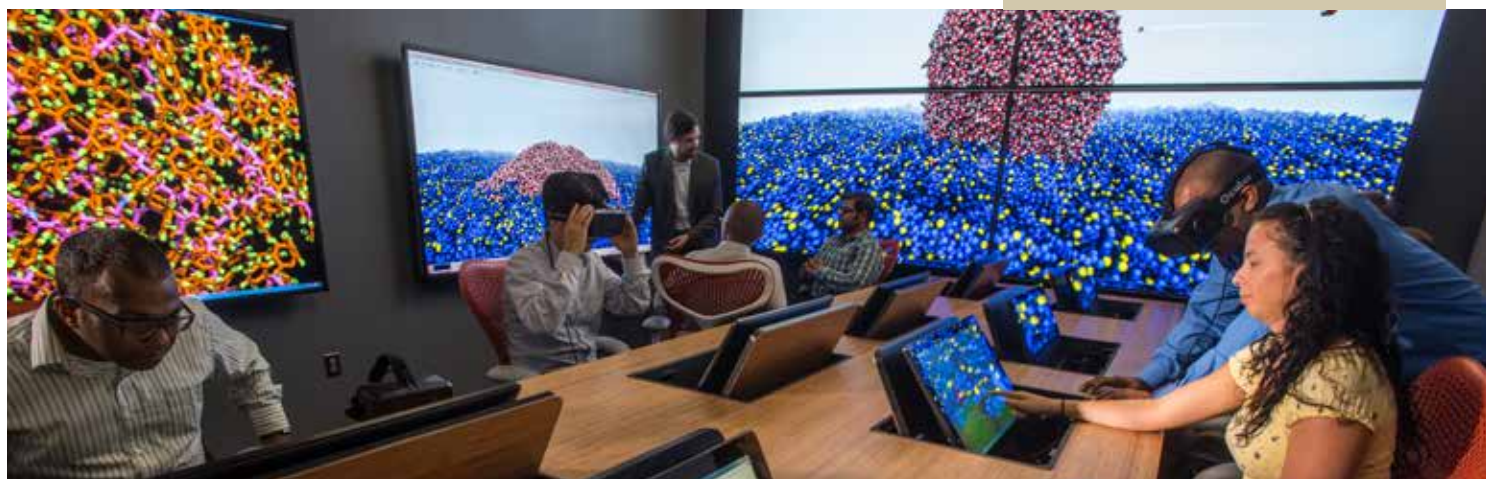
full- and part-time teaching faculty members

**79%**

full-time faculty members possess a terminal degree

**18:1**

student-faculty ratio





## Student Life

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Students at The University of Akron enjoy the full campus experience, moving seamlessly from the classroom to the city and around the country and globe.

On campus, students:

- Participate in **more than 300 student organizations and clubs** related to academics, careers, hobbies, faith, film, politics and sports — ranging from a cappella groups to legal societies and veterans associations;
- Play on the University's new esports teams — including the **first varsity esports team at a public university in Northern Ohio, and one of the first 50 in the country** — and compete in state-of-the-art

facilities totaling more than 5,200 combined square feet;

- Socialize, study and relax at **Coleman Common**, on spacious campus greens or in the **Jean Hower Taber Student Union**, where students can bowl, shoot pool, choose from a range of eateries — including Panda Express®, Chick-fil-A® and Qdoba® — or watch blockbuster films in the **Gardner Theatre**;
- Attend plays, concerts and shows at **E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall and Guzzetta Hall**;
- Work on campus as student assistants and volunteer for service events, such as **Alternative Spring Break** and **Make a Difference Day**;

- Join the **Pride of Ohio Marching Band** or the **AK-ROWDIES** and cheer on **championship-winning NCAA Division I sports teams**;
- Work out, swim, shoot hoops or climb a 53-foot rock wall at the **highly ranked Student Recreation and Wellness Center**; and more.

With **thousands of businesses in the surrounding Akron metropolitan area, including Fortune 500 companies**, students take advantage of internships, co-ops and part-time employment to set themselves apart from the competition. In fact, [UA led all Northeast Ohio universities in the number of internship and job placements](#) at area businesses and organizations in a 2018 survey of 101 organizations in the region.



Students extend their experience beyond the city of Akron by participating in **study abroad programs that take them to Germany, Italy, France, Spain, South Korea, Japan, India** and other countries. For example, since 2014, more than 90 students have traveled to Haiti to help the students of Institution Univers and the people of Ouanaminthe. The initial trip gave rise to a student organization, **Zips for Haiti**. By roasting and selling Haitian coffee through a partnering Akron coffee vendor, the student group

funded a scholarship enabling a Haitian student to attend the University.

Such global experiences are in keeping with the diversity of the University's student population, represented by **46 states** and **78 countries** from around the world. The **new International Center** serves as a one-stop shop for international students and those interested in education abroad; and institutes, programs and events such as the **Rethinking Race** events and the **Black Male Summit** (now in its 11th year) promote multicultural understanding and excellence.

#### FULL CAMPUS EXPERIENCE:

**300+**

student organizations and clubs

**1st**

varsity esports team at a public university in Northern Ohio

**46**

states and

**78**

countries from around the world represented by the student population



## Alumni

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Graduates from The University of Akron become members of the **Alumni Association, an ever-growing family of more than 177,000 living alumni**, who are making a difference throughout the United States and in 137 countries around the world.

**As proud, lifelong Zips, alumni remain connected** with one another and their alma mater through social events and reunions, the Akron E-Magazine alumni newsletter and social media. Alumni also enjoy ongoing career services at the University, professional development and continuing education, discounted access to the Student Recreation and Wellness Center and other benefits.

**Eager to give back to the University, many alumni join the Roo Crew**, a group of volunteers who help with recruitment, assist at Visit Days and other events, speak to student organizations, help graduates find jobs and mentor current students.

Through the **Legacy Scholarship**, the Alumni Association provides financial assistance to full-time undergraduate students who are the children and grandchildren of, or under the legal guardianship of, University alumni.

Last winter, the Alumni Association opened an online store selling unique UA apparel and merchandise, with the proceeds supporting student scholarships through the **Making a Difference, Moving Forward** campaign.

### PROUD, LIFELONG ZIPS:

**177,000+**

members of the Alumni Association are making a difference throughout the U.S. and in

**137**

countries around the world





## Athletics

**A rallying point for community and institutional pride**, Akron Athletics fields a variety of men's and women's varsity teams. The Akron Zips compete in the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision and belong to the Mid-American Conference (MAC). The co-ed rifle team competes in the Great America Rifle Conference (GARC). In 2019-20, the University will add baseball and women's lacrosse teams. Chris Sabo, former Cincinnati Reds' third baseman, has been named head coach of the baseball team.

The Zips have brought home more than **30 conference titles in the past nine years**; and the men's soccer team, which has captured **15 MAC tournament titles from 1998-2018**, won its **first-ever NCAA College Cup Championship** in 2010. They were runner-up in 2018.

After winning conference titles in men's soccer and basketball, along with both indoor and outdoor track and field, Akron Athletics was recognized as having the **best men's athletics program in the MAC** for the second year in a row in 2016-17, winning the Reese Trophy — the third time Akron Athletics has won the award.

Zips student-athletes have excelled in the classroom as well. **Nine UA athletics programs exceeded the national multi-year average in the Academic Progress Rate report** — a measure of eligibility, retention and graduation of student-athletes — for the 2016-17 academic year, with women's cross country and women's tennis teams each recording a perfect score.

### RALLYING POINTS:

**30+**

conference titles in the past nine years

**15**

MAC tournament titles captured by the men's soccer team from 1998-2018

**9**

athletics programs exceeding the national multi-year average in the Academic Progress Rate report



# Governance

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## Board of Trustees

The University of Akron's Board of Trustees is the governing body for the University, composed of 11 members – nine voting members and two nonvoting student members – all of whom are appointed by the governor of Ohio, with the advice and consent of the Ohio Senate. Trustees are appointed to a nine-year term of office, with the exception of the student Trustees, who are appointed to a two-year term. In addition, the Board has selected two highly regarded and successful members from the region to serve as non-voting advisory Board members. All Board members participate in all meetings of the Board, including executive sessions. The Board has been charged by the Ohio Legislature with:

- Selecting and appointing the President;
- Setting the operating budget;
- Approving personnel appointments;
- Granting all degrees awarded by the University, including honorary degrees;
- Establishing tuition and fee rates;
- Approving contracts; and
- Approving all rules, regulations, curriculum changes, new programs and degrees at the University.

Trustees of the 2019-20 Board are Joseph M. Gingo, chair; Olivia P. Demas, vice chair; Dr. Alfred V. Ciraldo, vice chair; Lewis W. Adkins Jr.; Roland H. Bauer; Cindy Crotty;

Michael J. Dowling; Thomas F. Needles; and William A. Scala. Non-voting student Trustees are Andrew M. Adolph and Taylor Bennington. Anthony J. Alexander (retired president and CEO of FirstEnergy Corp.) and Akron Public Schools Superintendent David James are advisory Trustees. More information is available online at [uakron.edu/bot/members.dot](http://uakron.edu/bot/members.dot).

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## UA's Leadership Team

The President works closely with a team of leaders, including the:

- Executive Vice President/Provost
- Vice President of Development and Executive Director of The University of Akron Foundation



- Vice President and General Counsel
- Vice President/Chief Communications and Marketing Officer
- Vice President/Chief of Staff
- Vice President for Inclusion and Equity and Title IX Coordinator
- Vice President for Student Affairs
- Vice President of Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer

### **Shared Governance**

The University Council (UC) is the representative and legislative body of the University that deliberates and makes recommendations to the President on matters such as strategic planning, University policy and other substantive matters that pertain to the strategic direction and operations of the University. University Council has three components: UC itself, the UC Executive Committee and the eight UC Standing Committees. The Executive Committee is elected by the UC from among its members and is responsible for agenda-setting and coordination. The Standing Committees are elected or selected by the University community

constituencies and report to the UC. The UC and the eight Standing Committees represent all primary campus constituency groups: faculty, staff, contract professionals, students, deans, department chairs and administrators.

As delegated by the Board, the Faculty Senate is the other legislative body of the University and is empowered to formulate suitable rules, requirements and procedures for the admission, government, management and control of the students, courses of study, granting of degrees and certificates, and other internal affairs of the institution necessary to meet the objectives of the University in accordance with the established policies of the Board.





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The **Executive Committee** of the Faculty Senate:

- Appoints members to appropriate Faculty Senate committees;
- Prepares the agenda for each meeting;
- Serves as an advisory committee to the Senior Vice President and Provost on governance matters affecting the academic mission of the University;

- Ensures that the business of permanent and ad hoc committees is completed in a timely fashion;
- Brings matters to the Senate or assigns matters to committees;
- Considers any questions and complaints regarding elections of members to the Senate and makes recommendations concerning these complaints to the Senate; and
- Certifies the validity of all Senate elections.

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### **Student Government**

The Undergraduate Student Government and Graduate Student Government represent the collective voice and interest of undergraduate and graduate students, respectively, through communication with UA administration, faculty and the broader community. The **Student Bar Association** represents students in the School of Law.

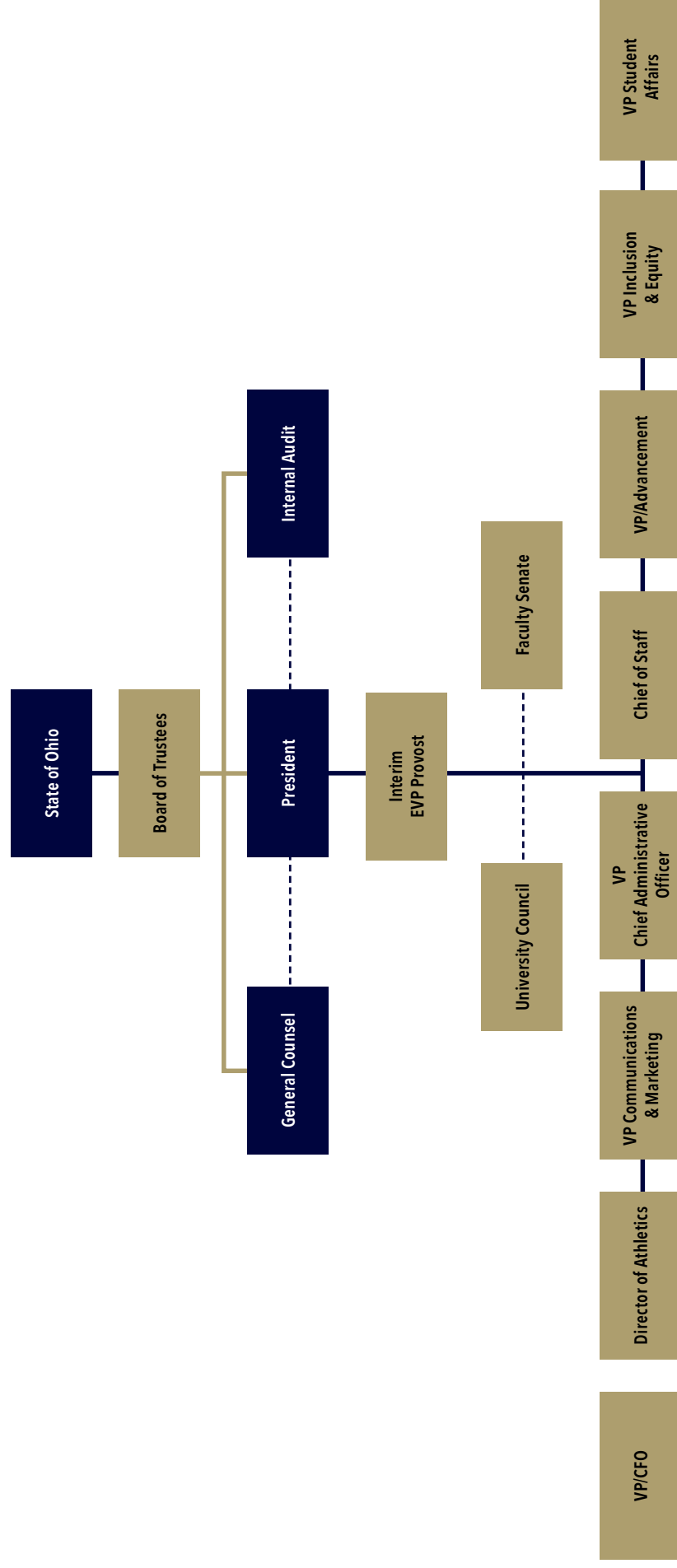
## Budget

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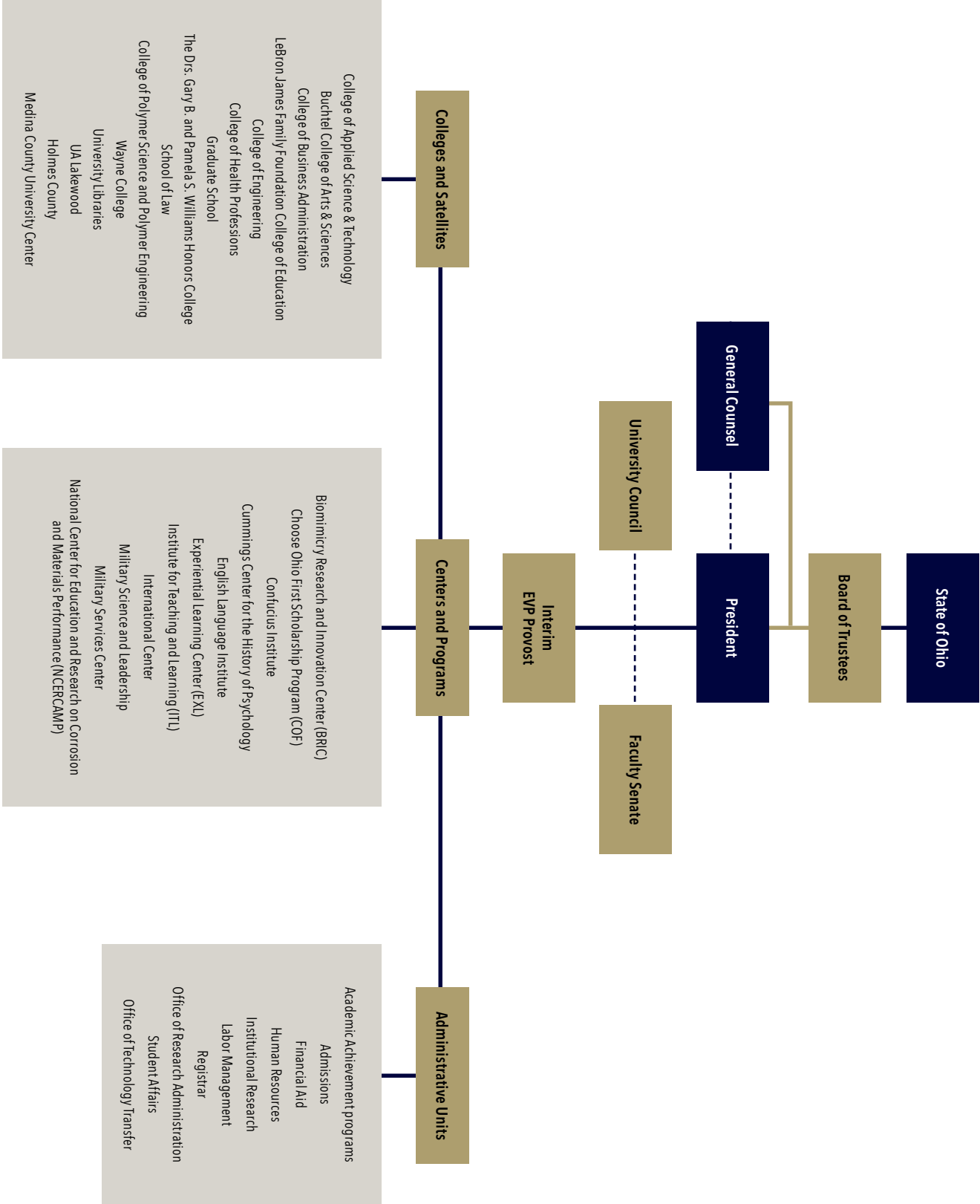
The University's annual General Fund budget is approximately \$340 million. Beyond the General Fund, the University receives about \$34 million annually in donations and about \$35 million annually in externally funded research and other sponsored programs.



# The University of Akron Organizational Chart



# The University of Akron Office of Academic Affairs Organizational Chart







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## Mission Statement

The University of Akron, a publicly assisted metropolitan institution, strives to develop enlightened members of society. It offers comprehensive programs of

instruction from associate through doctoral levels; pursues a vigorous agenda of research in the arts, sciences and professions; and provides service to the community.

The University pursues excellence in undergraduate education and distinction in selected areas of graduate instruction, inquiry and creative activity.





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## City of Akron

With a population of about 200,000, Akron is the **fifth-largest city in Ohio**. It is located just south of Cleveland, and is only a short drive from Columbus, Detroit and Pittsburgh, and a short flight from Washington D.C., Chicago and New York.

The **vigorous and growing cultural environment** of the city and region includes the Akron Art Museum, the Ballet Theatre of Ohio, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Playhouse Square, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Akron Symphony, Blossom Music Center, the Pro Football Hall of Fame,

and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. The nearby Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Summit County Metro Parks offer extensive opportunities for outdoor activities and sports, as well as ski resorts and miles of nature trails and wilderness habitats.





Memorial Clock Tower