



LAGRANGE
COLLEGE



INVITING APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS FOR THE

**VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

LAGRANGE, GEORGIA

VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS SEARCH *at LaGrange College*



LaGrange College, a private, liberal arts college located an hour southwest of Atlanta, announces a nationwide search for the position of **Vice President for Academic Affairs**. Serving as chief academic officer, the successful candidate will report directly to the President and will serve as a member of the College Cabinet. Responsible for providing academic leadership and operational supervision, the VPAA will nurture growth of the students, faculty, staff, and academic programs of the college. Ideally, the new vice president will begin work in January of 2017.

THE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

For 185 years, the LaGrange College mission has challenged the minds, inspired the souls, and transformed the lives of students. Founded in 1831, LaGrange is the oldest private college in Georgia. Throughout its history, the college has retained close ties with the United Methodist Church (UMC). Today, LaGrange enjoys a distinguished reputation within the 120-member National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church (NASCUMC). The college is committed to the uninhibited pursuit of truth and freedom of expression for faculty, students, and all members of the LaGrange community.

Programs – With degree programs firmly grounded in the liberal arts, LaGrange College offers a variety of pre-professional and professional opportunities through day, online,

evening, and hybrid delivery, all of which are fully accessible to traditional-aged and adult student learners. The Bachelor of Arts degree with 18 majors, the Bachelor of Science degree in five areas, the Bachelor of Music, and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, including a new online RN-to-BSN program, compose the undergraduate programs.

Six graduate programs are offered. Clinical mental health counseling, philanthropy and development, and strength and conditioning are master's-level degrees. In addition to the Master of Education (MEd) degree, the college has a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree. An Education Specialist (EdS)

degree in teacher leadership also is available.

During its most recent regional re-accreditation (2013), LaGrange College committed itself through its Quality Enhancement Program to “global engagement,” one aspect of which is a voucher system providing financial support for students to study abroad. The college calendar includes a “Jan Term” and “May Away,” both of which offer students opportunities to travel, typically with college faculty.

The college is also committed, through its Office of Career Development, to creating internship opportunities for all students. Undergraduate research is supported throughout the college, with financial resources, faculty leadership, annual celebrations, and publications.

Within this framework, focused initiatives help to illustrate some of the distinctive qualities of the LaGrange academic experience:

- A widely respected offering in the arts encourages students in music, theatre, musical theatre, band, and art and design to expand their creativity through classroom study, in the studio, and on the stage. Superior facilities, including



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MISSION OF LAGRANGE COLLEGE

*LaGrange College challenges the minds and inspires the souls of its students. Founded in 1831 and committed to its relationship with the United Methodist Church and its Wesleyan and liberal arts traditions, the college supports students in their search for truth. An ethical and caring community valuing civility, diversity, service, and excellence, **LaGrange College prepares students to become successful, responsible citizens who aspire to lives of integrity and moral courage.***

Lamar Dodd Art Center, Callaway Auditorium and Price Theatre, help to showcase this renowned portion of the college program. The recently renovated West Side facility houses a new film post-production program and an animation program.

- A comprehensive reinforcement of leadership through service, found in both curricular and co-curricular initiatives, has a profound influence on the character of the LaGrange educational experience. Servant-leadership, conceived as an “inward journey with self to equip an outward journey of service to the world,” enables students, faculty, and staff to actively nurture the LaGrange mission of challenging the mind and inspiring the soul. The Servant Scholars Program, a residential learning community for select students committed to scholarship supporting social change and research, is a regionally respected program connecting students with major non-profit organizations in Troup County and beyond.

In assessing the learning environment and the engagement of students, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) has scored LaGrange higher than the baccalaureate division averages and

the national averages on all five NSSE benchmarks. Data consistently indicate a much greater-than-average degree of student-faculty interaction and campus-wide support as well as participation in high-impact practices.

LaGrange College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) to award associate, bachelor's, master's, and specialist degrees. Teacher education programs are accredited by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, the nursing program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), and the undergraduate programs in business administration and accountancy by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

An Engaged Faculty – LaGrange College faculty members are committed

to enhancing the learning environment of the college through their work as teachers, advisors, and mentors. In an extension of the classroom, faculty are involved with individual students on independent research projects, artistic interpretation, social service and civic projects, internships, and learning opportunities abroad. Faculty are proud of their impact on students' learning outcomes and the changes students experience through their intellectual growth and personal development during their time at LaGrange.

In small classes, faculty create an engaging educational experience for students. Of the 85 full-time faculty, approximately 81 percent hold the highest academic degree offered in their respective field and 49 percent have tenure.

Student-centered Programming – About 1,000 students are enrolled

VISION STATEMENT

LaGrange College will be distinguished as a college that transforms the lives of its students and its communities.

Vision 2020: From Promise to Prominence is the college's 10-year strategic plan. Review the Strategic Plan at <http://home.lagrangecollege.edu/qep/vision2020.pdf>.

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In response to the growing need for graduates in STEM fields, the college began construction in February 2016 on a 43,000-square-foot laboratory science building. The \$21-million project, which includes renovations to the current structure, is expected to be completed in January 2017.

In 2009, the Frank and Laura Lewis Library, a LEED-certified building, opened. The new library not only expanded library services, but represented the college's

commitment to efficient use of resources.

From a physical standpoint, the campus facilitates what is most important in the LaGrange College ethos. Within this setting, the sense of "ethical and caring community" is palpable. Identified by the Templeton Foundation as a college that develops character, the campus community fosters relationships built on our core values of civility, diversity, service, and excellence all of which are expressed among and between all constituent groups.

Working with the mayors of the county's three cities, LaGrange College is a founding and funding partner of the Troup County Racial Trust Building initiative. Providing leadership and a physical home for the project, the college has helped bring together 150 people from diverse backgrounds to participate in training sessions. The initiative has created groundbreaking networks of inter-racial communication within the community.

A discussion about the LaGrange community is not complete without including the historic city of LaGrange (pop. 30,000). The college has

at LaGrange, representing 16 states and 9 countries, with more than half from the state of Georgia. A rich diversity distinguishes the student body in which 27 percent are from under-represented groups (22 percent African-American). Fifty-eight percent are women. Average high school GPA is 3.5 and SAT scores range from 950 to 1140 in the mid-fifty percentile range. Ninety percent of all students receive some form of financial assistance, and more than \$13 million in institutional aid is awarded annually.

While enrollments have remained strong, the recruitment and retention of students in an increasingly competitive market is a significant concern and responsibility shared by all in the college community, including the academic areas.

Educating the "whole student" is vital to the overall objective of the college's program. As a result, a robust co-curriculum and a comprehensive student-life program are integral to the LaGrange academic experience.

LaGrange students' significant recognition of personal integrity was underscored in 1999 by the

establishment of an Honor Code. This code has become the responsibility of every student, faculty, and staff member at LaGrange, and it is widely supported. Like the Honor Code, the Social Code is the responsibility of all constituencies as it attempts to instill a sense of moral and community responsibility across the campus.

Student organizations on campus also are diverse, with groups including the Gay Straight Alliance, Black Student Union, Japanese Culture Club, and Anti-Apathetics.

A Distinctive Place – The sense of "place" for LaGrange, identified by its definition as a value-centered community, deserves a multi-faceted interpretation. The beautiful 125-acre campus is situated on the highest geographical point in the city of LaGrange.

The college works in partnership with the city and county. While designed to create a caring and engaged community for the students, faculty, and staff, the campus encourages interaction with the surrounding area through programs, initiatives, and activities.

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intentionally extended, through word and action, its expression of concern throughout the larger community. In return, it has been embraced by the people, activity, and resources of the region.

As a result of the college's effort to take a leadership role in local social, economic, recreational, and cultural issues, few city-college relationships are as healthy as those that exist at LaGrange.

More information is available at www.lagrange.edu.

THE POSITION

The Vice President for Academic Affairs works collegially and collaboratively with peers in order to connect curricular and co-curricular learning experiences, to improve student services, and to support student success. Responsible for advancing the strategic direction and mission of the college, the VPAA guides faculty in their review and

development of academic programs from a larger context.

Experience with strategic planning, budgeting, instructional resource allocation, assessment, and accreditation is essential. Excellent written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills and a commitment to and appreciation of civility and diversity as well as civic and community involvement are required.

Minimum qualifications include an earned doctorate; a distinguished record of teaching, service, and scholarship; and demonstrated effective leadership in an academic administrative position at the level of department chair or higher.

Candidates should possess these qualities:

- A commitment to the college's mission and academic programs, which center on challenging the mind, inspiring the soul, and fostering positive involvement in

community and society leading to responsible citizenship

- An understanding of and commitment to engaged learning, and experience with or commitment to fostering pedagogical practices that lead to engaged learning, such as service learning, interdisciplinary studies, intensive writing, problem-based learning, collaborative learning, study abroad, and undergraduate research
- Experience in developing, assessing, and enhancing the effectiveness of academic curricula, instructional practices, and administrative policies and processes
- Demonstrated ability to facilitate partnerships between all academic areas and programs and the other aspects of the institution, including enrollment, student engagement, etc.
- Experience leading and/or commitment to the development, delivery, and assessment of effective, developmental, and interdisciplinary general education curriculum
- Ability to advocate the leadership of the Cabinet to the faculty
- Commitment to the support and ongoing development of members of the faculty and staff in order to create an innovative, engaging, and effective academic and intellectual environment for student learning
- Commitment to academic integrity and effective honor code processes
- Understanding of contemporary students and of educational technologies
- Understanding of non-traditional student programs



In February 2016, the college announced construction of a \$21-million science building devoted entirely to laboratories.

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- Strong ability to foster cooperation and manage conflicts
- Strong, articulate voice for the academic enterprise, the members of the academic community and the liberal arts college model
- Understanding of and ability to work with pre-professional and professional programs within a liberal arts environment
- Ability to foster and lead creative and entrepreneurial responses to the developing educational needs of the community and the region

LAGRANGE, GEORGIA

LaGrange, Georgia, is a great place to live and work. Recognized for its affordable and vibrant quality of life, the city has been named one of The 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise Alliance for three consecutive years.

The city's thriving arts and music scene offers stage performances, art exhibits, and live music and concerts in the 2,000-seat Sweetland Amphitheatre in downtown LaGrange. The area has exceptional recreational opportunities, such as the 26,000-acre West Point Lake, Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain, and Callaway Gardens. Located in the Southern Research Triangle, LaGrange and Troup County are home to Fortune 500 companies, international manufacturers, distribution and service-based centers.

Atlanta's international airport is less than 60 miles away. Atlanta features a wealth of cultural and recreational opportunities, including professional sports, concert and performing arts venues, and family entertainment. Gulf Coast beaches and the Smoky Mountains are only a few hours away.



APPLICATIONS & NOMINATIONS

Confidential inquiries are welcomed and nominations are invited.

1. Applications must include:

- a) A letter of interest
- b) Current curriculum vitae
- c) Five professional references with full contact information
- d) Your answers to the questions available at:
www.myersmcrae.com/skins/userfiles/file/MMQuestions.pdf

2. Submit application materials to: **LaGrange@myersmcrae.com**

Nominations should include contact information for the individual being nominated. We will contact the person and provide information on the search. Submit nominations to **LaGrange-Nominate@myersmcrae.com**.

For best consideration, submit application materials by **September 26, 2016**.

Emily Parker Myers, CEO, and **Kenny Daugherty**, Executive Vice President, of **Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting**, are assisting LaGrange College with this search.



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