

# Young Harris

COLLEGE



EST. 1886



*The Rollins Campus Center*

## Announcing an Executive Search

for the

# Vice President for Advancement



# Vice President for Advancement

**Young Harris College**, a selective liberal arts college located in North Georgia, seeks an experienced administrator and fundraiser to serve as Vice President for Advancement. The cabinet-level post reports directly to the College President and is responsible for all institutional advancement activities, including fundraising, planned giving, alumni services, marketing and communications, and advancement services.



## The Opportunity

Young Harris College is a thriving, private, residential, four-year college affiliated with The United Methodist Church. Located in the majestic southern Appalachian Mountains in north Georgia, the college is a progressive model of a liberal arts education with innovative academic programs that encourage students to seek their fullest potential.

Young Harris has experienced significant enrollment and campus growth since receiving accreditation in 2008 from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) to offer baccalaureate degrees. The strategic plan outlines the addition of more majors each year, so substantial growth is expected to continue.

The resources developed under the direction of the Vice President of

Advancement, along side the President and other senior administrators, will have a transforming impact on the future of Young Harris. The college currently is completing its \$55-million *Investing in the Future* capital campaign, which to date has raised more than \$70 million.

The Vice President for Advancement is responsible for directing an effective and cohesive unit that includes development, alumni relations, marketing and communications, and advancement services. The Vice President works with all of the College's constituencies and college advisory boards. This senior administrator ensures a coordinated approach to development among the departments, supporting the college's top strategic priorities.

The Vice President sets ambitious, clear, and achievable goals, and inspires the staff to meet and exceed expectations. Active in the college and surrounding community, this senior officer personally



*Young Harris College is known for its close-knit community, with students developing lifelong friendships and becoming active alumni.*

participates in the identification, solicitation and stewardship of major gifts.

## Requirements

Candidates must have a bachelor's degree, with an advanced degree preferred. Other qualified candidates with successful backgrounds will be considered and are encouraged to explore this exceptional leadership opportunity.

The Vice President also must have:

- An enthusiasm for higher education to effectively articulate the mission, goals, and values of the college to all constituencies
- Significant experience managing staffs and multiple responsibilities and projects through a collegial, team-building approach



*LaBelle Lance (center) is presented with a resolution honoring her late husband and trustee Bert Lance.*

## Young Harris College Mission Statement

*Young Harris College educates, inspires, and empowers students through a comprehensive liberal arts experience that integrates mind, body, and spirit.*



YHC President Cathy Cox (center) and students sign the final steel beam of the new \$41million Rollins Campus Center during the topping out ceremony in 2013.

- A thorough understanding of best practices in advancement services and fundraising, with demonstrated success with annual funds, major gifts, alumni relations, estate and planned gifts, corporate and foundation fundraising, and the management of volunteers
- A proven record of significant and progressive experience in successful fundraising activities, encompassing setting goals, planning and executing capital campaigns, identifying foundations, preparing grants and presentations, and soliciting gifts
- An understanding of budgets and financial records associated with a comprehensive advancement program
- Demonstrated ability to develop and cultivate relationships with established and prospective donors, including the solicitation of seven-figure gifts
- Proven experience in managing a higher education marketing and communications staff and related strategies, ensuring timely and effective completion of assignments, projects, and publications
- A self-starter attitude with a strong work ethic that includes the necessary energy, intellect and judgment to be successful and to represent the college and the President
- Effective experience with college marketing, including, but not limited to, admissions and brand management
- The ability and confidence to interface successfully with people of means and influence, including trustees, major donors, foundations, corporate and business leaders, friends and alumni, to promote the President's priorities and initiatives to advance the institution
- Exceptional and persuasive communication skills, both oral and written, in addressing internal and external audiences
- Expertise to prepare, implement and monitor complex budgets and financial recordkeeping for campaigns and gifts
- Commitment to work collaboratively with administrative leadership as well as faculty, staff, and others across the college and the community
- Enthusiasm for living in a small town and being recognized as an integral member of the local community
- The willingness and ability to travel, as needed

## Young Harris College

Founded in 1886, Young Harris College educates, inspires, and empowers students through the highest quality liberal arts education. The college is committed to fostering relationships and strong bonds that endure beyond graduation.

More than 1,200 students are enrolled across the college's five divisions: Fine Arts, Humanities, Mathematics and Science, Education, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. The student-to-faculty ratio is 13:1.



## Vice President for Advancement

The college offers 20 baccalaureate degree programs, 20 minors, and five pre-professional programs. The faculty has doubled in size during the past seven years. The strategic plan outlines the addition of more majors each year, so substantial growth is expected to continue.

The historic campus in Young Harris, Georgia, continues to undergo major campus improvements to accommodate the college's rapid growth. Recent LEED-certified campus improvements include the opening of the 121,000-square-foot Rollins Campus Center, a 226-bed residence hall for freshmen, a 57,000-square-foot recreation and fitness center, and a 248-bed apartment-style residential village.

In 2014, the college was granted active membership in NCAA Division II and has become a fierce competitor in the prestigious Peach Belt Conference.

The college has a strong endowment and a significant alumni and donor base.

### Young Harris, Georgia

The town of Young Harris is ideally situated between the Chattahoochee, Cherokee, and Nantahala National Forests. The college-friendly community offers reasonable housing and a wide range of outdoor activities, including gaining fame as a golf, fishing, and resort destination.

Young Harris is within an easy drive of large-city amenities, including professional sports, aquariums, major shopping and entertainment venues, and nationally noted dining. The town is two hours north of Atlanta and two hours south of Asheville, North Carolina, and Chattanooga, Tennessee.



*YHC President Cathy Cox (center) presents trustee Richard McGinnis and his wife, Shirley, with the Young Harris College Medallion during the 2014 Commencement ceremony, while speaker Trisha Yearwood, a Young Harris graduate, looks on.*

### Nomination and Application Process

Confidential inquiries are welcomed. Nominations are invited and should include the name, current position, e-mail address, and telephone number of the individual being nominated.

Application materials should include a cover letter addressing how the candidate's experience matches the position requirements, a resume, and full contact information for at least four references.

Nominations and application materials must be submitted to:

**[YHC-VP@myersmcrac.com](mailto:YHC-VP@myersmcrac.com)**

Initial screening of applications begins immediately and will continue until an appointment is made. For best consideration, materials should be submitted by March 15, 2015.

**Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting** is assisting Young Harris College with this search. The lead consultant is:

**Emily Parker Myers**  
*President and CEO*



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Applicants who would enrich the diversity of the campus community are strongly encouraged to apply. EOE M/F/D/V