



**Announcing a national search for the  
Associate Provost and  
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs**



**In historic Savannah, Georgia**



**Savannah State University**, a unit of the University System of Georgia, seeks an experienced academic leader to serve as **Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs**. The appointment will be effective July 1, 2018. Applications and nominations are invited.

### The Opportunity

The oldest public historically black university in Georgia, Savannah State University has been providing students with high-quality and relevant academic programs while serving its community with distinction for the past 128 years. With an increasingly diverse student population today, the University provides a comprehensive higher education experience for the

academic, personal, social, and cultural growth of its students.

Michael J. Laney, Ph.D. is the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (Provost) at Savannah State University. Committed to a supportive and inclusive learning and working community, Dr. Laney fosters shared governance, faculty development, and best practices in higher education.

### Mission Statement

Savannah State University, the oldest public historically black university in the State of Georgia, develops productive members of a global society through high quality instruction, scholarship, research, service, and community involvement. The University fosters engaged learning and personal growth in a student-centered environment that celebrates the African American legacy while nurturing a diverse student body. Savannah State University offers graduate and undergraduate studies including nationally accredited programs in the liberal arts, the sciences, and the professions.

He seeks a well-experienced, detail-oriented academic leader to serve as the Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs (Associate Provost). This is an excellent opportunity to serve in a meaningful leadership role at an institution committed to student success by embracing faculty success. The Associate Provost assists the Provost in the supervision of all aspects of the University's academic programs, budgeting, institutional research reports, and oversight of the Registrar.

## Quick Facts about Savannah State University

Established: 1890

Enrollment: 4,125, with 60 percent living on campus

Degrees: 30 baccalaureate majors and degrees;  
6 graduate programs

Number of Faculty: 145

Student/Faculty Ratio: 19:1

Colleges and Schools:

- College of Business Administration
- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- College of Sciences and Technology
- School of Teacher Education

Athletics: National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I AA



Reporting to the Provost, the Associate Provost is responsible for planning, leading, managing, and directing the academic areas of student success; student learning outcomes; and general education. Other areas of responsibility include faculty development, new faculty and adjunct orientation, ongoing development programming for faculty across the career spectrum, and community engagement. This senior administrator also advises the

Provost on matters of educational policy and development of the University's teaching, research, and community service programs.

As a member of the academic leadership, the Associate Provost works closely with the Academic Deans on student grievances and appeals, strategic planning, accreditation, institutional effectiveness, academic assessments, and enrollment.

## Principal Accountabilities

- Assist with the development and implementation of educational policies.
- Work collaboratively with Academic Deans on academic program development, academic policies, faculty, and staff development.
- Assist the Provost with strategic planning, accreditation, institutional effectiveness, academic assessments, and enrollment.
- Assist the Provost in the supervision of all aspects of the University's academic programs, budgeting, and institutional research reports.
- Assist the Provost with the oversight of the Registrar.
- Work with the Provost to assure quality academic programming.
- Under the direction of the Provost, support the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research in compliance with regional accreditation (SACSCOC) and institutional effectiveness

## Michael J. Laney, Ph.D.

### Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs



Michael J. Laney, Ph.D. joined Savannah State University as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in January 2018. Previously, he served five years at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, as Dean and Professor of the College of Arts and Sciences. During his career in higher education, he also has held academic and administrative positions at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, from 1995 to 2012 and Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya in 2006-2007 (on sabbatical).

Prior to his distinguished career in higher education, he served 20 years active duty in the United States Army, where he held command and deputy command responsibilities. He retired at the rank of major in 1995.

Dr. Laney earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with honors at the University of Massachusetts, North Dartmouth (formerly Southeastern Massachusetts University), he attended Michigan State University, where he earned his Master of

Arts degree in Telecommunications and completed the Army Reserve Officer Training Program. He was awarded his Ph.D. in Communications Broadcasting from the University of Tennessee in 1998.



process across university constituencies.

- Work with the faculty to maintain the integrity and quality of the general education curriculum.
- Ensure the implementation of an effective faculty development program for full-time and adjunct faculty, consistent with the University's mission and vision statements and retention goals of the University.
- Collaborate with the Provost in leading the academic team in the planning, development, implementation, and continuous improvement of the university catalogs, class schedules, and facilities use.
- Participate in the development and implementation of academic policies.
- Promote innovative curriculum development, instructional design, and revitalization processes.
- Supervise all areas of student support, including grievances, and service-learning.
- Interpret all academic standards and policies of the University to students, faculty, staff, and University constituents and ensure they are current and

posted accordingly in the faculty and student handbooks.

- Serve as a member of the academic leadership team and promote cohesiveness and coordination among team members.
- Represent the Provost as the chief academic officer as requested.
- As directed by the Provost, represent the University on various university-wide councils and committees.
- Effectively represent the University in the community.

### Qualifications

Candidates must have an earned doctorate from an accredited institution of higher learning and a minimum of eight years of experience in higher education, with significant administrative experience at the level of department chair or equivalent. A proven record of teaching and scholarship sufficient to qualify for appointment at the rank of associate professor in one of the departments of the University is required.

Additional requirements include:

- Ability to work collaboratively

and effectively across disciplines and with personnel at every level of the organization

- Ability to work with diverse student populations and stakeholders
- Experience with online degree programs
- Experience with international programs and curriculum development with a global focus
- Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously, with attention to details and deadlines, and to make decisions
- Exceptional interpersonal and analytical skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills,
- Demonstrated commitment to the principles of higher education
- Ability to understand, support, and articulate, both internally and externally, the centrality of the academic enterprise and Savannah State's role and mission

### Savannah State University

Founded in 1890, Savannah State University holds the distinction as the oldest public historically black university in Georgia.



The 201-acre campus is one of the most picturesque in the state of Georgia. The moss-laden sweeping oak trees, expansive marsh, and historic architecture create a resplendent yet tranquil atmosphere.

## Savannah, Georgia

The University is located in Savannah, Georgia, a historic city with a revered past, a vibrant present, and an exciting future. Known as one of the “World’s 30 Friendliest Cities” by *Condé Nast Traveler* readers, this coastal town has a world-class reputation for hospitality and grace.

The University’s mission and educational goals are realized through comprehensive program offerings in the College of Business Administration, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the College of Sciences and Technology, and the School of Teacher Education. The University has several new programs in the high-need professional fields, such as the STEM disciplines (sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

The University aggressively seeks funds from federal sources, including NIH and NSF research and program development grants. Presently, the university has approximately \$43.7 million approved external funding for multiple years (2015-2020). These grants support curriculum enhancement, faculty and student research, student scholarships, presentations at conferences and other scholarly activity.

Savannah State provides a supportive yet challenging learning environment with opportunities to establish close student-faculty relationships and relevant social/professional networks. In addition to its academic support programs

and extracurricular activities, the University has exhibits, performances, sports teams, concerts, and community volunteer service projects geared to improving relationships with neighborhoods in the greater Savannah area.

With nearly 300,000 area residents, Savannah has maintained steady growth, with the economy based mainly on ports, manufacturing, tourism, and the military. The city offers a high quality of life and a family-friendly lifestyle.

## Applications & Nominations

Confidential inquiries are welcomed; nominations are invited.

### 1. Application packet must include:

- a) Cover letter
- b) Curriculum vitae
- c) At least three references with full contact and e-mail information (references will not be contacted without applicant’s consent)

### 2. Submit application packet to [SSU-AssocProvost@myersmcræ.com](mailto:SSU-AssocProvost@myersmcræ.com) by **April 18, 2018**, for best consideration.

Submit nominations to [SSU-AssocProvost-Nominate@myersmcræ.com](mailto:SSU-AssocProvost-Nominate@myersmcræ.com) with full contact and e-mail information of the nominated individual.

**Emily Parker Myers**, Chief Executive Officer, and **Jennifer Barfield**, Senior Vice President, of **Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting** are assisting Savannah State University with this search.



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