



Search for the  
Executive Director  
Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, Louisiana

## THE SEARCH

Tulane University, one of the nation's most prestigious research institutions, invites nominations and applications for the next Executive Director (ED) of the Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies (Stone Center). As one of the preeminent centers for Latin American Studies in the country, the Stone Center is home to a comprehensive program with faculty in almost every region and discipline essential to understanding Latin America. The Stone Center's principal purpose is to promote, sustain, and encourage research and teaching about Latin America, primarily at Tulane University. The Stone Center and Tulane seek an Executive Director who will build upon a century of Latin American research and involvement at Tulane University to create a vision and a way forward for the Stone Center that maintains its core mission while keeping pace with the needs of an evolving field and student body.

Since its founding in 1834, Tulane University pursued a mission of advancing research in Latin America. The Center for Latin American Studies, established in 1966, comprises a diverse group of scholars representing many disciplines and points of view drawn together by a common interest in Latin America. Today, the Stone Center coordinates the research and teaching activities of over 100 core and affiliated faculty and adjuncts in schools and departments across several Tulane campuses. The Stone Center also administers interdisciplinary BA, MA, and PhD programs; hosts a wide range of conferences, symposia, film series, and other activities; advances knowledge and understanding of the peoples, languages, histories, arts, and traditions of Latin America locally and nationally; and coordinates the university's many research and study programs in Latin America. The Stone Center employs about a dozen dedicated staff, has an annual budget of about \$4 million, and holds various healthy endowments.

The next Executive Director will be an active and visible presence in the Tulane community who will envision and lead the Stone Center into the next 100 years of Latin American Studies at Tulane. Reporting to the Provost, the next leader will be a skilled researcher and scholar of Latin America with an interest in the broad spectrum of interdisciplinary research by the Stone Center faculty and students. As the leader of the Stone Center, the Executive Director will honor the Center's history and prestige while also setting

a vision that keeps pace with a changing student body and the evolution of the field of Latin American Studies. The ED will embrace and enhance the Stone Center's strengths of rigorous research; collaboration among faculty, staff, and students; and promote opportunities that continue the great interdisciplinary work of the Center. An adept manager, the Executive Director will effectively lead, manage, and support a strong senior leadership team and professional staff. This leader will manage and grow the Stone Center's financial resources and have a track record of administrative leadership. In line with Tulane's deep commitment to community engagement, this leader will embrace and support the Stone Center's commitment to outreach and engagement at Tulane, around New Orleans, and nationally.

Tulane has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in the recruitment of the Executive Director of the Stone Center for Latin American Studies. All inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence as noted at the end of this document.

### **ROGER THAYER STONE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

The Stone Center has an annual budget of about \$4 million and a team of about a dozen dedicated and skilled employees. Revenue comes from multiple streams, including longstanding endowments, student tuition, federal Title VI grants, foundation grants, and private donations. Over the last 25 years, the Stone Center has received gifts totaling \$58 million.

The Stone Center coordinates various interdisciplinary academic programs. The research, training, and teaching of Latin American Studies emboldens a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate Tulane students to incorporate different perspectives into their coursework. Specifically, the Stone Center provides programming and degree plans to a broad range of educational constituencies. Current degree plans are a Bachelor of Arts major and minor in Latin American Studies, a Master of Arts degree in Latin American Studies, a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Latin American Studies, a joint Doctor of Philosophy degree in Latin American Studies and Art History, two joint professional degree programs with the Law and Business schools, and a certificate in Latin American Studies and Public Health. Tulane is a top producer of graduate degrees that focus on Latin America. Since the mid-1960s, over 300 students have graduated with an interdisciplinary MA degree in Latin American Studies and have gone on to positions in the public and private sectors and for additional training in the disciplines and professions. Almost 40 students have graduated with an interdisciplinary PhD in Latin American Studies, and virtually every one of these graduates is working or has worked in the field. Currently, 44 undergraduate students, six master's students, and 26 doctoral students are pursuing a degree or certificate offered by the Stone Center.

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The faculty of the Stone Center represents one of the largest interdisciplinary groups of faculty associated with a department at Tulane. Latin Americanist faculty today includes 62 core Latin Americanists, 15 associates, 50 affiliates, 23 emeritus, and seven post-doctoral fellows. Latin Americanists occupy 12 endowed chairs at the university, and Latin Americanist tenured and tenure-track faculty represent 42 percent of the total faculty in critical departments of Anthropology, Art History, Communication, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Economics, History, Political Science, Public Health, Sociology, and Spanish and Portuguese. Additionally, the Stone Center partially funds the salaries of seven faculty across three departments in the School of Liberal Arts. Stone Center faculty are active both within and beyond Tulane. Faculty are [thought leaders in public conversations](#) on topics regarding Latin America itself and U.S. policy regarding Latin America, such as issues of dictatorship and democracy, public health, business, and more.

In addition to offering a variety of interdisciplinary academic programs, the Stone Center houses one of the major educational outreach programs in Latin American Studies in the nation, the [Latin American Resource Center](#) (LARC). LARC regularly serves and partners with educators, community members, consulates, non-profits, and businesses through its varied programs and initiatives that expand knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean. Some of LARC's programming partners include the New Orleans Public Library, the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and the Audubon Institute.

Last but not least, the Stone Center coordinates several of the university's many research and study programs in Latin America. Notably, the Stone Center works closely with five affiliated institutes and programs, all of which contribute to the richness of Latin American Studies at Tulane. Their common mission is to ensure that students gain comprehensive knowledge about Latin America through a mixture of academic study, specialized training, and research abroad through programs that embrace linguistic fluency, fieldwork, and direct engagement with the region.

- The [Middle America Research Institute](#) (MARI), founded in 1924, stewards an extensive collection of textiles, artifacts, and an archive of letters, field notes, maps, and photographs from the scores of field projects it has sponsored and continues to sponsor. MARI strives to make these accessible to researchers and the general public through a variety of exhibitions, workshops, and symposia. Furthermore, MARI continues to support anthropological, archaeological, ethnohistorical, linguistic, and ethnographic research projects throughout Mexico and Central America.
- The [Latin American Library](#) (LAL) is among the world's foremost collections of research materials from and about Latin America and the Caribbean. The collection consists of more than 800,000 volumes, over 810 current periodical subscriptions, and a growing number of digital resources. The Library's rare and unique collections include over 15,000 rare printed works, 6,250 linear feet of manuscripts, 128,000 graphic, and 6,000 cartographic items.

- The [Center for Inter-American Policy and Research](#) (CIPR) is devoted to inter-hemispheric exchanges that will advance the production and dissemination of knowledge about critical policy issues facing the Americas, as well as the deepening of academic research in these areas. Its aim is to stimulate contact between scholars and decision-makers working on the region at different locations and in different languages, enriching their production by enabling the confluence of multiple perspectives.
- The [Cuban & Caribbean Studies Institute](#) (CCSI) evolved out of several years of sustained effort in developing relations with Cuban counterpart organizations for the purposes of academic collaboration and exchange, curricular development, cultural exchange, and international development and dialogue. This organizational unit is responsible for the organization of lectures, performances, courses, symposia, etc., aimed at promoting a true academic and cultural exchange between Cuba and the United States.
- The [Center for Health Equity in Latin America](#) (CHELA) engages Tulane University faculty, students, and global partners to lead innovative research initiatives that examine health equity in Latin America and the Caribbean, provide visibility for the region's under-recognized health inequities, and inform policies to address the needs of the region's underserved populations. Existing partner institutions are based in Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and the United States

Nationally, few institutions compare to Tulane University in the number of faculty, graduate students, undergraduate majors, library holdings, and support for research dedicated to the support of Latin American studies across the university. More about Tulane University can be found in the Appendix at the end of this document.

### *History of the Stone Center*

Tulane has a long-standing special strength in the study of Central America and Mexico. This concentration originated in a turn-of-the-century gift of a large Mesoamerican library, which became the foundation for the Latin American Library's holdings of resource materials on Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Mexico, which are internationally distinguished.

In the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, one of Tulane's first internationally prestigious programs was the Middle American Research Institute, which was founded to conduct "advanced research into the archaeology, history, tropical botany, and natural resources and products of countries facing New Orleans across the waters of the south." Tulane's identity and destiny were to become one with this early exemplar of its institutional leaders' commitments to create knowledge and provide service to a region whose boundaries transcended the geopolitical frontiers of the United States. Archaeology, anthropology, history, political science, literature, biology, and earth sciences formed the core disciplines in the College

of Liberal Arts and Sciences, while the Schools of Law, Business, Engineering, Medicine, and Public Health developed truly Pan-American programs in the early twentieth century.

To commemorate 100 years of the study of Latin America and the circum-Caribbean region at Tulane, the Stone Center produced [The LAST 100](#). This centennial celebration reflects on the evolution, growth, and vibrancy of Latin American Studies at Tulane, which entailed hiring faculty across the disciplines, forging an interdisciplinary curriculum and full range of degree programs, developing a distinguished Latin American library collection, creating community outreach and K-12 educational programming, and establishing collaborations across the Americas.

### **KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Reporting to the Provost, the Executive Director will serve as the leader for one of the foremost centers for Latin American Studies in the country. The Executive Director leads a staff of 11 while simultaneously providing a vision and strategy for the Center's work across Tulane and beyond. With a firm foundation and building upon the successful 25-year tenure of the outgoing executive director, [Thomas Reese](#), the incoming executive director will address the following key opportunities and challenges:

#### **Set a vision for the Stone Center that honors its history and prestige while keeping pace with a changing student body and the evolution of Latin American Studies**

The Stone Center for Latin American Studies is well known as one of the preeminent programs for Latin American Studies in the country due to the strength of its faculty, the research by its students, and the success of its alumni. Maintaining and enhancing the scholarly prominence of the program is a top priority for all involved with the Stone Center.

As the landscape of higher education evolves, including the composition of the student body, the Stone Center must evolve, too. While enrollment in Latin American Studies courses has decreased, interest in Latin American Studies has not. In setting a vision for the future of the Stone Center, the next ED will take a nuanced approach to enrollment and course offerings. The ED, with the input of stakeholders, will consider ways to offer courses that are aligned with the interests of today's increasingly diverse students, who are interested in both ethnic and area studies, and the faculty research that spans a wide range of disciplines within the Stone Center.

#### **Embrace and promote the Stone Center's strengths of interdisciplinarity and collaboration**

The Stone Center fosters interdisciplinary research among its faculty and students by creating space and opportunities for those interested in Latin America to come together. The ability to collaborate and learn from scholars in a wide range of fields is a strength that draws faculty to Tulane and the Stone Center. The incoming ED will continue to bring people and academic units together and create opportunities for collaboration.

To further collaboration, especially with schools that are not physically located near the Stone Center's office on the Uptown campus, the next Executive Director will need to build relationships with the deans, who are eager to collaborate. Academic leaders and faculty look to the Executive Director of the Stone Center as someone who weaves the different units together, from offering programs to securing grants and organizing conferences. This leader will need to be a nimble navigator of relationships, maintaining a balance between creating collaborative opportunities and respecting individual domains.

### **Effectively lead, manage, and support a strong senior leadership team and professional staff**

The Stone Center's staff are trusted leaders and executors of the work. The staff oversees the administrative and academic affairs activities for the Center, allowing for the ED to focus on strategy, research, fundraising, and additional external activities. Staff will be an invaluable resource for an incoming ED, and this person will be a skillful manager as well as a transparent and empowering leader, appropriately leveraging the expertise and institutional knowledge of the Stone Center's team. Additionally, they will thoughtfully approach professional development for staff across the Center in order to retain talented individuals in support of the Stone Center's mission.

### **Effectively manage and grow the Stone Center's financial resources**

Throughout the tenure of the outgoing Executive Director, the Stone Center has received generous grants and donations from a variety of private and public resources. Funding for other programs focused on Latin America at Tulane, such as the Middle America Research Institute and the Latin American Library, is often donated through the Stone Center. The incoming ED will work collaboratively with leaders of academic units across campus to maintain fundraising success while also thinking strategically about new funding opportunities that capitalize on the Stone Center's interdisciplinary strengths. Given the various funding streams for the Stone Center, the ED will have to be a skilled and agile financial manager.

### **Maintain the Stone Center's commitment to community engagement and outreach both locally, at Tulane and around New Orleans, nationally, and internationally**

Community engagement is ingrained in Tulane's culture, and the Stone Center is a prime example of that value. The Stone Center's work on campus goes beyond being a valuable research center – it is also a builder of community. Latin Americanists and Latinx faculty, staff, and students appreciate the Stone Center's outreach and events as it creates a community on campus. Additionally, the Stone Center engages with the Latinx community in New Orleans through work with local high schools, curriculum for K-12 teachers, participating in and sponsoring events in the Latinx community around the city, and executing programming with local universities, including HBCUs. The dedicated staff of the Stone Center cultivates and executes most of this work. Additionally, the Stone Center is committed to advancing knowledge and understanding of Latin America around the country and the world through the dissemination of its research. The next Executive Director must maintain this commitment and ensure that the Stone Center's academic and community commitments thrive.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Tulane University and the Stone Center for Latin American Studies seek candidates who bring many of the following skills and experiences:

- An earned doctorate or other terminal degree and a strong record of research and scholarship in a relevant academic discipline.
- The ability and enthusiasm to collaborate with a broad array of internal and external partners to craft a vision for the Stone Center that promotes and leverages its diverse scholarly and programmatic strengths.
- The capacity to identify and think strategically about opportunities for creative collaboration across schools, departments, and disciplines.
- An interest in the broad spectrum of interdisciplinary research by the Stone Center faculty and students.
- Experience with Title VI grants and broad fundraising experience.
- A demonstrated ability to engage faculty and students to foster a sense of community.
- Experience in research administration, including managing grants and contracts, managing resources, and supporting faculty.
- Proven skills as a senior manager and supervisor in a complex environment, with demonstrated ability to mentor and support staff.
- A track record of responsible fiscal and other resource allocation.
- Strong oral and written communication skills; fluency in Spanish is strongly preferred, fluency in Portuguese is a plus.

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Tulane University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist the Stone Center for Latin American Studies Executive Director search committee in its identification and review of candidates. Please direct all inquiries, nominations, referrals, and applications in strict confidence to the following:

Kate Barry, Partner  
Janette Martinez, Senior Associate  
Isaacson, Miller

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/tulane-university-stone-center/executive-director>

*Tulane University is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action (EEO/AA) employer committed to maintaining a non-discriminatory, diverse work and learning environment. Tulane does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, military status, veteran status (or any other classification protected by applicable law) in any of its programs, activities, or employment. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and training.*



## APPENDIX: ABOUT TULANE UNIVERSITY

Tulane traces its origins to 1834, when it was founded as the Medical College of Louisiana. It was renamed the University of Louisiana in 1847, and the legislature subsequently transferred it to the Board of Administrators of the Tulane Education Fund in 1884. With that transfer, Tulane University was established as a private, nonsectarian university and named in honor of benefactor Paul Tulane, a wealthy merchant who donated more than \$1 million in land, cash, and securities “for the promotion and encouragement of intellectual, moral and industrial education.” Tulane began its formal study of Latin America and the circum-Caribbean region in 1924, becoming a university-wide curricular initiative in 1938.

Today, the University has an operating budget of just over \$1 billion and an endowment of \$2 billion. The Tulane faculty totals over 1,200 full-time members with a staff of approximately 2,900. The University is organized into ten academic divisions: Newcomb-Tulane College, A.B. Freeman School of Business, School of Architecture, School of Professional Advancement, School of Law, School of Liberal Arts, School of Medicine, Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, School of Science and Engineering, and the School of Social Work. The mix of schools is an asset that is rich with opportunities for cross-school collaboration in research and education. Enrolled in these diverse programs are approximately 8,600 undergraduate and 5,900 graduate and professional students from every state in the U.S. and more than 85 nations worldwide. The Tulane faculty totals over 1,200 full-time members with a staff of approximately 2,900.

Tulane University is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching ranks Tulane as a university with “very high research activity.” As such, it is committed to the highest level of research. Tulane attracts an outstanding student body that is both intellectually curious and driven by community engagement. The University’s 8:1 undergraduate student-faculty ratio allows Tulane undergraduates to receive the personalized attention of a smaller liberal arts college with the resources of a major research institution. In 2006, Tulane became the first major research institution to require public service as a graduation requirement for undergraduates, which led to the Carnegie Foundation recognizing Tulane with its Community Engagement Classification. Tulane is also the most national university in the country, with its undergraduates traveling further to attend college, on average, than those of any other university. As such, it plays a valuable role in recruiting talent to New Orleans, as only 15% of Tulane’s students are from New Orleans, and about 20% of all Tulane graduates stay in Louisiana after graduation.

## LEADERSHIP

Michael Fitts is the [15th president of Tulane University](#). He arrived at Tulane in July 2014, bringing with him a strong emphasis on heightening cross-disciplinary education and research. Since joining Tulane, President Fitts has repositioned the university by capitalizing on its distinctive strengths: a unique history and location, an ideal size and academic structure, and an innovative and relational culture. Under his leadership, by leveraging these attributes, Tulane has become a world-class academic environment that

fosters path-breaking interdisciplinary research, innovative teaching, a welcoming and inclusive campus culture, and a holistic student experience.

Dr. Robin Forman was appointed Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost in September 2016. He previously served as Dean of the Emory College of Arts and Sciences and the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Mathematics at Emory University. He has held faculty and administrative appointments at Rice University and has served as an instructor at MIT and as a visiting professor at the University of Burgundy, Harvard University, and the Mathematical Research Institute. Dr. Forman received a bachelor of arts and a master of arts in mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctoral degree in mathematics from Harvard University. The Executive Director of the Stone Center reports directly to the Provost.

For more information about Tulane University, please visit the Tulane website: <https://tulane.edu/>.