Search for the Vice President, Information Technology and Chief Information Officer
Creighton University
Omaha, Nebraska

Creighton University, a private, Jesuit Catholic university, seeks an experienced, strategic operational and organizational leader and strong communicator for the role of Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (VPIT). Reporting to the Executive Vice President, the VPIT will provide compelling leadership and vision for information technology services across the Creighton University enterprise while serving as a key member of the dedicated and highly collaborative President's Cabinet and Council.

As one of 27 Jesuit universities in the U.S., Creighton consistently ranks as one of the top National Universities and number one in the Midwest. Creighton is also recognized for undergraduate teaching, innovation, and as a best-value institution. The university enrolls more than 4,400 undergraduate and 4,300 graduate and professional students across nine schools and colleges with its main campus in Omaha, Nebraska, and a Phoenix health sciences campus that opened in 2021. Guided by its Jesuit Catholic identity of academic excellence and service to others, it is one of the most complex institutions of its size. Through its commitment to the intellectual, ethical, and spiritual formation of its students, the University offers students the opportunity for critical thought and reflection on the many challenges that confront contemporary society.

The VPIT leads the Division of Information Technology and will bring a strong collaborative orientation and strategic vision for the successful deployment of the academic mission and collegial community that characterizes Creighton. The VPIT will oversee the delivery of information technology services and maintain a secure, integrated infrastructure to meet users' needs, ensure a high level of satisfaction, create and capitalize on operational efficiencies, and collaboratively support innovation in scholarship, teaching, and learning. Working in collaboration with academic leadership, faculty, staff, and students, the VPIT will address the following key opportunities and challenges:

- Refresh the technology vision and strategy in alignment with Creighton's strategic plan and supported by campus leaders
- Evolve the collaborative governance structure to optimize planning of portfolio projects while allowing for flexibility in supporting emerging IT priorities
- Bolster and modernize the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the IT enterprise and infrastructure, using data to inform recommended priorities
- Collaborate with academic leaders to assess and implement technologies for teaching, learning, and research
- Empower, support, and develop the talented professionals within the IT organization
- Lead by example to inform a culture of collaboration, innovation, and proactivity

A list of the desired qualifications and characteristics of the VPIT can be found at the conclusion of this document, which was prepared with the assistance of Isaacson, Miller, a national retained executive search firm. All confidential applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the parties at the conclusion of this document.

ABOUT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

As a Jesuit university rooted in Catholic tradition, Creighton is enriched and guided by its mission and identity. Creighton approaches education with a passion for learning and a zeal for making a difference in the world. In the Catholic tradition, Creighton celebrates diversity, encourages learning through dialogue, and pursues the truth in all its forms. As a Jesuit institution, Creighton continually brings the richness of a 450-year-old educational tradition to bear on the most contemporary issues of our world. This Jesuit vision commits Creighton to form individuals of competence, conscience, and compassion, who learn by reflecting upon their experiences of being for and with others. Creighton does this in service of a faith that does justice.

Creighton has a Carnegie classification as "R2: Doctoral Universities – High research activity" and the university's nine schools and colleges provide undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs known for their quality and wide range of academic disciplines. Colleges and Schools include the College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate School, Heider College of Business, School of Dentistry, School of Law, School of Medicine, College of Nursing, and the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. In addition to its ranking among the top national universities, per *U.S. News & World Report*, Creighton also earned No. 46 in Most Innovative Schools and No. 62 in Best Undergraduate Teaching. In addition, Creighton ranks among the top schools in several online degree categories, including No. 25 in Best Online Master's in Education Programs. In 2017, the University received a reaffirmation of its accreditation status until 2027, with no interim visits or reports required.

Creighton opened a campus in Phoenix to help address the shortage of healthcare providers in the Southwest. Creighton's connections in the region provide students with diverse opportunities for hands-on experiences. The program is part of the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance with

close relationships to Dignity St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Valleywise Health and District Medical Group, Inc. Creighton's new, modern health sciences campus is home to nearly 1,000 health sciences students across multiple professions bringing interprofessional collaborative practice and education to improve and innovate patient care. Creighton's Health Sciences Campus has students enrolled in the School of Medicine (MD and Physician Assistant), School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy), and College of Nursing.

Creighton contributes to Nebraska's "brain gain" with 77 percent of first-year students coming from outside of Nebraska and 42 percent of first-years coming from 400+ miles away, including students from 21 countries and 13 states in the United States. Many graduates work in and around Omaha and 43.1% of students who completed an undergraduate degree in 2021-22 reported being employed in Omaha or the surrounding areas. A significant portion of physicians, dentists, pharmacists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, lawyers, and other professionals in Omaha are Creighton graduates. Creighton University has an enormous economic impact on the Omaha region, contributing to more than $847 million in annual economic impact and placing among the top 20 largest employers in Omaha and the top 100 private employers in Nebraska.

Leadership and Strategic Priorities

The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, is the 25th president of Creighton University. As a former student, faculty member, and trustee of Creighton, Fr. Hendrickson is guided by a deep passion for the Creighton mission to form leaders who will go on to build a more just world. Fr. Hendrickson's priorities for Creighton include bolstering the role of interdisciplinary higher education between the sciences and humanities; advancing a pedagogy of engaged learning and global experiences; and broadening the reach of Creighton's health sciences programs.

Fr. Hendrickson led the Creighton community in creating the Creighton 150 Strategic Plan: Lighting the Way, which outlines a bold, dynamic, and inspiring path to advance the university's strategic mission and vision, charted through 2028. Guided by the themes of "*Achieving Academic Excellence*," "*Thriving in Our Mission*," and "*Engaging the World*," this strategic vision is continuing to be animated the Creighton community of faculty, staff, and students. After the COVID-19 pandemic altered the trajectory of Creighton's strategic plan implementation, a Strategic Implementation Core Team was formed to ensure work would continue under the strategic plan with a renewed sense of focus and collaboration. This team identified four pillars to operationalize how, moving forward, Creighton will achieve a bold vision for its future while remaining aligned with its original three themes:
1. Embracing Our Purpose
2. Advancing Our Mission
3. Supporting Our Success
4. Celebrating Our Preeminence in the Health Sciences

Under Fr. Hendrickson's leadership, the University has experienced record-breaking enrollments; an expansion of academic program offerings and undergraduate research opportunities; and national recognition as one of only 25 higher education institutions named to the Carnegie Foundation's Leadership for Public Purpose elective designation. Additionally, an increase in student support efforts has helped Creighton achieve historic retention rates that far surpass the national average and a 99% outcome rate for graduates.

Fr. Hendrickson has also overseen significant expansion and enhancements to the University's physical footprint. This includes more than half a billion dollars in investments to the urban core of Omaha through infrastructural improvements as well as building the campus in Phoenix in 2021 for interprofessional health sciences education, including a second four-year school of medicine. Moreover, Creighton strengthened its philanthropic support during Fr. Hendrickson's leadership. More than $650 million has been raised in support of campus improvements; mission-driven services and programs; and scholarships, including an impressive $208 million as scholarship dollars, providing financial assistance to more than 6,700 students.

Role of the Vice President and Chief Information Officer

The VPIT is the senior-most technology role at the university, tasked with enhancing the experiences of students, faculty, staff, and alumni through innovative systems, efficiency, reliability, and data insights. The VPIT leads the Division of Information Technology in support of the university's strategic goals and operational needs. IT service delivery is primarily centralized – the VPIT will be local to the Omaha campus, with occasional travel to Phoenix, Arizona. The VPIT is responsible for a total budget of over $15 million and over 100 full- and part-time staff.

The VPIT will provide leadership for centralized information technology services across the university enterprise. This includes enterprise infrastructure strategy, information security and training, user and workplace support, productivity and collaboration applications, application management, enterprise web hosting, information management and business analytics, application development, voice services, data center and cloud storage, classroom technology, learning management systems, intellectual resource management, network services and technology installation, and campus-wide user support services. Academic technology strategy is collaboratively developed and stewarded with key leaders and committees across the Creighton enterprise. The VPIT will also work closely with the Information Security Officer and security services team to implement and advance Creighton's Information Security Program.

The VPIT will provide leadership in resource management for the IT enterprise, including development of the appropriate staffing model (in-house and contractors) and optimizing the application portfolio to enhance the faculty, staff, and student experience while eliminating the duplication of resources. In addition, the VPIT will be responsible for annual and long-range IT operating and capital expense financial planning and management. The VPIT will collaborate with campus leaders to estimate the total cost of

ownership for new technology investments to ensure adequate funding is allocated for implementation and ongoing maintenance.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE VPIT AND CIO

The VPIT will be a dynamic leader who will work collaboratively to effectively align and leverage Creighton's resources to enhance user experience, comprehensively drive consistent technology strategy, and facilitate the advancement of the institution's many ambitions. To achieve these goals, the VPIT will address the following key opportunities and challenges:

Refresh the technology vision and strategy in alignment with Creighton's strategic plan and supported by campus leaders

- Assess the strengths, gaps, and needs in the university's information technology infrastructure.
- Refresh the technology vision and strategy to incorporate findings from the needs assessment, in alignment with university's mission and goals as outlined in the "Lighting the Way" strategic plan.
- Ensure campus leaders understand and support the IT strategy and develop ongoing communications to reinforce understanding and maintain transparency.
- Serve as the top advisor to the president, executive vice president, and provost on technology-related initiatives, providing forward-looking counsel on emerging trends.
- Deliver a sophisticated security and privacy approach in all aspects of information technology infrastructure throughout the Creighton enterprise, ensuring robust data security measures and compliance with regulatory requirements including FERPA, HIPAA, PCI, GLBA, and others.
- Ensure appropriate planning and investment in technology initiatives and infrastructure that fits budgets while maintaining high levels of service, including ongoing assessment of IT operations for increased efficiency and resource reallocation opportunities.

Evolve the collaborative governance structure to optimize planning of portfolio projects while allowing for flexibility in supporting emerging IT priorities

- Coalesce a comprehensive governance structure for information technology driven by the values of transparency, collaboration, and consistency.
- Partner with senior leadership to mature the university's technology investment and operating model and formalize the process for managing the technology lifecycle for critical systems.
- Develop and enforce IT policies and procedures to safeguard information assets and manage risk effectively.
- Position IT as a strategic enabler of innovation, leveraging emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), augmented/virtual reality (AR/VR) technologies, and healthcare technologies to enhance learning and research capabilities and maintain a competitive edge.

Bolster and modernize the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the IT enterprise and infrastructure, using data to inform recommended priorities

- Oversee IT infrastructure management to ensure system availability, reliability, and scalability, while modernizing and addressing an aging infrastructure.
- Work in collaboration with stakeholders across campus to ensure relevant, scalable, and trusted data integration and reporting across and between systems.
- Provide leadership in collaboration with Academic and Faculty Affairs and research divisions, to ensure legal compliance with assistive technology as faculty fulfill their roles as teacher-scholars.
- Enhance remote education infrastructure and ensure seamless access to resources for an ever-growing population of distance and hybrid learners.
- Optimize vendor and partner relationships and the university's application portfolio.

Collaborate with academic leaders to assess and implement technologies for teaching, learning, and research

- Collaborate with key stakeholders to assess and successfully implement new technologies for teaching, learning, and research.
- Effectively support the academic, clinical and research enterprises.
- Drive the deployment of consistent data management, compliance, cybersecurity infrastructure, and high-performance computing.

Empower, support, and develop the talented professionals within the IT organization

- Serve as an advocate for all the IT organization staff, empowering and cultivating them in their roles.
- Strengthen a sense of shared purpose, cohesion, and direction, crafting a supportive working environment and culture of transparency, proactive collaboration, and trust in decision making.
- Inspire and influence the IT organization staff and campus community members with mutual trust, respect, and credibility.
- Support the recruitment and retention of diverse and talented staff, including supporting professional development, mentorship, and other means of clarifying career development opportunities.

Lead by example to inform a culture of collaboration, innovation, and proactivity

- Cultivate an organizational culture that is committed to service and supportive of change and innovation.
- Proactively leverage the technology expertise at Creighton that is situated beyond the DoIT.
- Closely monitor trends in higher education and the world at large; participate in meaningful exchange of ideas and information with other institutions in order to improve and expand the use of information technology and information security at Creighton.

- Invest time to cultivate the highest level of leadership skills as well as continually seeking to improve technical knowledge, communication, and management skills.
- Represent the university at national professional conferences and technology demonstrations, meet with industry technology representatives, and dialogue with other higher education institutions in an ongoing effort to provide the university with the most effective solutions and resources.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

A Bachelor's degree in information technology or a related field is required; a Master's degree or higher in a relevant field is preferred. A minimum of 15 years of progressively responsible professional leadership experience in senior information technology roles in a large, complex organization is required. Previous experience as a Chief Information Officer is preferred, as is familiarity with higher education environments. To best serve Creighton, the ideal candidate will have many of the following professional qualifications and personal characteristics:

- Understanding of and commitment to the mission and values of Creighton University;
- Demonstrated commitment to leading a collaborative, service driven organization;
- Excellent communication skills; ability to effectively communicate information in a clear and understandable manner, both verbally and in writing;
- Ability to initiate, establish, and foster communication and teamwork by maintaining a positive, cooperative, productive work atmosphere in and outside the University with the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships within a diverse population and with those from various cultural backgrounds;
- Ability to use tact and diplomacy to effectively handle a broad range of high level and sensitive interpersonal situations with diverse personalities, and to respond appropriately to conflicts and problems;
- Expert knowledge of current issues and opportunities associated with information technology and cyber security as it relates to large, complex organizations;
- Working knowledge of successful project management approaches for large technology initiatives and demonstrated experience with the full implementation of large-scale technology projects;
- Skilled at managing a complex information technology organization and building and leading strong teams;
- Working knowledge of cloud technologies and applications for academic services;
- Understanding of financial operations for evaluating and deploying cloud-based technologies;
- Familiarity with policies and laws related to education (FERPA, ADA, etc.);
- Highest ethical standards for personal and professional excellence and unquestionable integrity.

LOCATION

Creighton is located near downtown Omaha, Nebraska, one of the 40 largest cities in the United States and home to over 450,000 people who welcome visitors with open arms and authentic Midwestern hospitality known as the "Gateway to the West." Nestled along the banks of the mighty Missouri River, Omaha stands as a vibrant metropolis with a warm, welcoming atmosphere; a city that has been recognized as a Top 100 Place to Live in America. The city's skyline is complemented by the renowned Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, consistently ranked among the best in the world, and a bustling downtown area, where modern skyscrapers stand alongside historic brick buildings. With numerous parks, trails, and green spaces, including the Fontelle Forest and Heartland of America Park, Omaha provides ample opportunity for recreation and relaxation. Omaha also boasts a thriving arts scene, with venues like the Joslyn Art Museum and the Holland Performing Arts Center. The city also has a great sports scene being home to the NCAA Men's College World Series, the Omaha Storm Chasers (Triple-A affiliate of the Kansas City Royals), and the women's professional volleyball team the Supernovas. Omaha hosts a diverse dining scene and a historic Old Market district offering an array of eateries in a charming and historic brick building. The Omaha Airport is conveniently located only 10 minutes from campus.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. For best consideration, please apply by **May 4, 2025**. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and résumés with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/creighton-university/vice-president-information-technology-and-chief-information. Electronic submission of materials is required.

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