



Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost

Leadership Profile

July 2025



THE SEARCH

The City University of New York (CUNY), the largest urban public university in the United States and a transformative engine of social mobility, seeks its next Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost (EVC/UP). Directly reporting to and partnering closely with the Chancellor, the EVC/UP will bring critical system-level academic leadership to drive the implementation of the University's strategic priorities. The EVC/UP will manage a large team in the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs, overseeing such areas as Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Career and Industry Partnerships, and Research, and will identify opportunities to implement impactful initiatives across its system of 26 campuses. The EVC/UP will also work closely with campus leaders, including engaging with the Council of Presidents and convening the Council of Provosts, with an appreciation for the unique context of each campus.

The successful candidate will bring a significant track record of successful leadership and management in a large and complex academic environment; demonstrated experience in collaboration and building relationships with a wide range of stakeholders; a relentless commitment to the mission of CUNY and supporting its students; and the financial, communication, operational, and political acumen needed to execute and assess system-wide initiatives of significant scale.

CUNY is supported in this search by Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. All inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence to the firm as described at the end of this profile.

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Founded in 1847, CUNY today consists of 26 unique campuses, including 11 senior colleges, an undergraduate honors college, seven community colleges, and seven graduate and professional schools. CUNY serves 240,000 degree-seeking students of all ages and awards approximately 50,000 degrees each year. An additional 200,000 students are enrolled in continuing education classes. More than 80% of the University's graduates stay in New York, contributing to and strengthening every sector of the city's workforce.

CUNY's founding motto is a proud expression of its aspirational mission: "The education of free people is the hope of humanity." Those words resonate to this day, driving CUNY's historical mission to provide a first-rate public education to all students, regardless of means or background.

Colleges and Schools

CUNY's senior colleges offer bachelor's and master's degree programs and enriching campus experiences. The senior colleges are [Baruch College](#), [Brooklyn College](#), [College of Staten Island](#), [Hunter College](#), [John Jay College of Criminal Justice](#), [Lehman College](#), [Medgar Evers College](#), [New York City College of](#)

[Technology \(City Tech\)](#), [Queens College](#), [The City College of New York](#), [York College](#), and the [Macaulay Honors College](#), a prestigious honors program designed for high-achieving undergraduate students.

CUNY's community colleges offer two-year associate degree programs, career training, and transfer pathways to four-year colleges, especially CUNY's senior colleges. The community colleges are [Borough of Manhattan Community College](#), [Bronx Community College](#), [Guttman Community College](#), [Hostos Community College](#), [Kingsborough Community College](#), [LaGuardia Community College](#), and [Queensborough Community College](#).

The University's seven graduate and professional schools offer varying degree formats, including master's and doctoral degrees. The graduate and professional schools include [Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism](#), [CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy](#), [CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies](#), [CUNY School of Law](#), [CUNY School of Professional Studies](#), [CUNY School of Medicine](#), and the [CUNY Graduate Center](#). The Graduate Center is a consortia model offering over 40 doctoral and master's degree programs by faculty drawn from the graduate schools and the senior colleges.



Research, Centers, and Institutes

CUNY is home to more than 100 research centers, institutes, and consortia that provide research opportunities for faculty and students, employment, internships, and special events. These centers focus their efforts on a wide range of areas, including aging, applied sciences, corporate integrity, transportation systems, ethnic studies, performing arts, sustainable energy, and urban studies, among many others.

Many of these institutions reflect CUNY's support of state-of-the-art education and research, such as the interdisciplinary [CUNY Advanced Science Research Center](#). Others exemplify the University's commitment to service and historic preservation, including the [Institute for Criminal Justice Ethics](#) at John Jay College and the [Gotham Center for New York City History](#), founded by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Mike Wallace.

CUNY's research and sponsored projects expenditures have increased steadily during the past decade, contributing to the New York economy through innovation and technology transfer. Several CUNY campuses are recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as top-tier research colleges. Federal dollars for research and sponsored programs have increased substantially during the past 10 years. Likewise, private sector sponsored research continues to trend upward.



Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni

Faculty

CUNY's approximately 7,000 full-time faculty include internationally recognized experts in nearly every academic field. Many faculty members combine outstanding academic credentials with significant real-world experiences and are regularly recognized with fellowships, grants and awards. In addition, the University employs over 11,000 part-time faculty. Faculty members are committed to student success and excellence in research, with over \$700 million of research and sponsored projects activity in FY24.

Students

CUNY students reflect remarkably diverse backgrounds, with family heritage linked to over 200 countries. More than 40% of undergraduates were born outside the United States; 44% are first-generation Americans; and about 60% are the first in their families to attend college.

As of Fall 2024, total enrollment at CUNY — including full and part-time, degree and non-degree students— reached 237,671, marking a 2% increase over the previous year. Concurrently, enrollment at CUNY’s community colleges — now serving 76,432 students — grew by 2.4% over the same period. Also this year, a 4% increase in new students brought CUNY’s graduate and professional schools’ enrollment to 28,473. In addition to serving degree-seeking students, the University’s growing role as a national leader in access and opportunity includes nearly 224,000 New Yorkers engaged in adult, continuing, and professional education. Over 60% of NYC public school graduates who enroll in post-secondary education attend a CUNY college, while two-thirds of CUNY first-year students are NYC public school graduates.

Student life has become an increasingly important part of the CUNY experience. The University is proud to have over 1,400 student clubs and organizations across its 26 campuses. Students enjoy a wide array of extracurricular activities, including performing arts, clubs, study-abroad programs, and community service opportunities. Student engagement in these activities is an integral component of a successful CUNY education and is more important than ever as employers and graduate schools value the skills and competencies learned from participating in co-curricular activities. In addition, students use the knowledge and experience they gain to improve their local communities.

Students can participate in an array of intercollegiate and intramural sports. Among the offerings are basketball, cross country, fencing, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, baseball, and softball. Four-year college varsity teams compete with schools in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, while community college teams participate in the National Junior College Athletic Association. In addition, CUNY has a nationally recognized inclusive and adaptive sports program, part of the University’s growing commitment to [serving students with disabilities](#).

While supporting the needs of a large commuting population, CUNY also has been expanding on-campus housing options for students at Baruch, Brooklyn, City, Hunter, Queens, College of Staten Island, and the Graduate Center, as well as through partnerships with Educational Housing Services and FOUND Study. To help ensure the success of all students, CUNY also provides flexible schedules and course modalities, financial aid and scholarships, childcare, and other support services and programs.



Staff

The total non-teaching staff at CUNY is approximately 22,000. In addition, there are 1,600 graduate assistants and 4,500 work-study students. CUNY staff are essential to every aspect of the University's operations, the student experience, and institutional success. As outlined in the [2023-2030 strategic roadmap](#), the University is committed to supporting professional growth for staff through expanded leadership training and skill development. Moving forward, the University will further efforts to enhance recognition of staff excellence, reward outstanding performance, and clearly communicate opportunities for career advancement.

Alumni

CUNY counts 13 Nobel Prize recipients and 26 MacArthur ("Genius") grant winners among its many distinguished alumni. Each year, the University produces future changemakers, leaders, and innovators whose diverse talents and achievements reflect CUNY's vibrant community and who are driving the University's legacy. In recent years, the University has developed an alumni network and a ["CUNY Alumni 50 Under 50" annual recognition](#) program.

Finances

For FY26, CUNY's operating budget is \$4.9 billion, funded by a combination of state and city appropriations and tuition and fee revenue. State appropriations account for 63% of CUNY senior college budgets, with

tuition and fees contributing 36% and the remainder funded by New York City. City appropriations, meanwhile, make up 50% of community college budgets, with state funding contributing 19% and tuition and fee revenue 31%.



Leadership and Governance

Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez

As the eighth chancellor of CUNY, Dr. Félix V. Matos Rodríguez has focused on advancing systemwide career opportunities through industry partnerships, eliminating barriers in the transfer process and reducing costs to improve retention and graduation rates for students. These priorities feature prominently in the University's strategic roadmap, "[CUNY Lifting New York](#)," adopted in 2023 and summarized below. For more about Chancellor Matos Rodríguez, visit <https://www.cuny.edu/about/chancellor/>.

Board of Trustees

CUNY is governed by a 17-member [Board of Trustees](#). Ten members are appointed by the Governor and five by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the New York State Senate. The chairpersons of the faculty and student senates serve as ex officio members.

CUNY Lifting New York: 2023-2030 Strategic Roadmap

In the summer of 2021, CUNY, under the leadership of Chancellor Matos Rodríguez, began preparing for a bigger, better, bolder future.

The University's objective was clear: to transform CUNY into the nation's foremost student-centered urban university system by 2030. The strategic roadmap laid out detailed plans for expanding access, accelerating student success, strengthening academic quality and scholarly excellence, focusing on outcomes beyond graduation, engaging with communities, and modernizing across the system. These strategies will amplify CUNY's impact as the nation's greatest higher education engine of equity and upward mobility and advance the well-being of all residents of the city and state of New York. CUNY leadership, including the next EVC/UP, will play critical roles in driving and catalyzing efforts toward the strategic plan's six key thematic focal points:

- Creating a student-centered, equity-driven university
- Catalyzing upward mobility and prosperity
- Nurturing and renewing the academic core
- Designing a convergent research and innovation ecosystem
- Reimagining University finance and infrastructure
- Promoting college differentiation and University integration



ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR AND UNIVERSITY PROVOST

Reporting to and working in close partnership with Chancellor Matos Rodríguez, the executive vice chancellor and university provost (EVC/UP) serves as the University's second-ranking officer and plays a critical role in advancing the University's strategic priorities and mission. As the chief academic officer of CUNY, the EVC/UP is responsible for promoting the University's commitment to academic excellence and student success.

The EVC/UP leads the Office of Academic Affairs, with teams dedicated to the development and implementation of system-wide initiatives related to academic programs, research, instructional technology, global engagement, student development, and enrollment management. The EVC/UP leads over 700 full-time employees and 2,000 part-time staff, including interns, in the Offices of Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, Student Affairs, and Research.

The EVC/UP convenes the Council of Provosts, works closely with the Council of Presidents, and is a key member of the Chancellor's cabinet. The incumbent brings a system-wide perspective and understanding of the University as a whole, while also appreciating the unique identity and context of each campus.

Working closely with the Chancellor and the executive vice chancellor and chief operating officer, the EVC/UP is also heavily involved in developing University-wide operating and capital budgets that align with the University's strategic priorities. The EVC/UP directly oversees a budget of \$400 million that supports tax-levy and sponsored programs.

Direct reports to the Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost include:

- Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
- Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management
- Vice Chancellor for Career Engagement and Industry Partnerships
- Vice Chancellor for Academic and Faculty Affairs
- Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
- Senior University Dean for Applied Research, Evaluation, and Data Analytics
- Senior University Dean of Academic Effectiveness and Innovation and Chief Academic Technology Officer
- Senior University Dean for Budget and Administration
- Executive Senior Advisor for Strategic Academic Initiatives
- Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost
- Executive Associate to the Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost

Indirect reporting relationships include:

- Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
- Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Inclusion Initiatives

- Senior University Dean for Enrollment Management
- Senior University Dean for Graduate and Undergraduate Programming
- University Dean for K-16 Initiatives
- University Dean for Admissions and Recruitment
- University Dean for Student Success Initiatives
- University Dean of Libraries and Information Resources
- University Dean for Education
- University Dean for Health and Human Services
- University Dean of Special Programs
- University Dean for Academic Programming
- University Dean for Faculty Affairs
- University Dean for Records and Executive Registrar
- University Dean for Technology and Computer and Information Sciences
- Assistant Dean for Policy Research
- Chief Academic AI Officer



KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

As a close partner to the Chancellor, the next EVC/UP will advance the University's strategic priorities and will make an impact in the following areas:

Infuse operational excellence into the Office of Academic Affairs and its work across the University

A skilled administrator, the EVC/UP will identify opportunities to improve processes, break down silos, and infuse effective data use and technology into the work of the Office of Academic Affairs and the CUNY system. The EVC/UP will bring an innovative yet pragmatic lens to the role, empowering teams to focus on critical strategic priorities and strengthening the infrastructure and foundation that will enable teams to effectively execute high-impact initiatives aligned with the University's goal, utilizing educational technologies, including online education and artificial intelligence.

Inspire transparent communication and effective collaboration to build trust and integration across the CUNY system

The EVC/UP will enhance collaboration between campuses and central administration, with an appreciation for the balance of system-wide vision with sensitivity to campus autonomy. They will effectively navigate the complexity of a decentralized system of 26 unique campuses, while identifying opportunities to scale successful initiatives system-wide. A skilled relationship-builder and strong communicator, the EVC/UP will build bridges across CUNY, strategically consulting with faculty and other stakeholders to identify opportunities and inform decisions, and then clearly articulate those opportunities and decisions across the system. Adept at working with a wide range of stakeholders, the EVC/UP will build productive relationships and effectively communicate with campus leadership, central administration colleagues, the Board of Trustees, community leaders, and city and state government.

Prioritize student success to catalyze upward mobility and prosperity for all CUNY students

The EVC/UP will bring a relentless commitment to CUNY's mission to provide a first-rate public education to all students, regardless of means or background. They will appreciate that CUNY serves a large and diverse student population, sometimes with very complex needs for support. This leader will build upon efforts to drive student success, with a particular focus on improving retention and graduation rates, transfer processes, and career and workforce outcomes.

Lead, develop, and support the Office of Academic Affairs team in its efforts toward the University's commitment to academic excellence and student success

The EVC/UP will lead a talented cohort of team members within the Office of Academic Affairs. With a demonstrated track record of leading and empowering large teams, the EVC/UP will identify opportunities to break down silos across teams and eliminate barriers within the Office of Academic Affairs through

more frequent communication and collaboration. The EVC/UP will advocate for the office and its academic mission, celebrate the successes of team members, and provide clear direction and prioritization in a busy and complex environment.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

While no one individual will embody them all, the successful candidate will bring many of the following professional qualifications, skills, experience, and personal qualities to bear in this role:

- **A proven executive leader and manager.** A record of strategic and collaborative leadership in a complex environment; evidence of success implementing initiatives that inspire the community and resonate with the core mission of the University; experience managing in a complex and dynamic environment, working effectively through both direct and indirect reports.
- **A collaborator and relationship-builder.** Deep understanding of and appreciation for the political realities, the collective bargaining processes, and the shared governance structures that impact an institution such as CUNY; exceptional ability to build and maintain trust, engagement, and consensus among highly diverse groups of stakeholders that characterize CUNY; ability to foster collaboration among disparate groups.
- **A strong commitment to the mission of CUNY.** A passion for the role of public higher education in a dynamic urban environment as a vehicle of social mobility; a strong commitment to the full range, breadth, and contributions of all CUNY campuses.
- **A commitment to academic excellence.** A strong appreciation of the higher education sector, its scholarly values, and distinctive professional culture; the ability to earn the respect of faculty; strong commitment to the power of ideas, critical thinking, and academic freedom; the capacity to support excellence in and grow leading-edge, interdisciplinary, high-impact research.
- **Demonstrable financial acumen.** Strong planning and financial proficiencies; experience managing significant budgets; experience in setting strategic financial and programmatic priorities that balance near-term and long-term objectives.
- **Laudable communication skills.** Superb oral and written communications competencies; ability to learn from others, translate thoughts for broader consideration, and build unity around difficult issues.
- **Education.** Ph.D. or terminal degree required.

COMPENSATION

The salary range for this position will be \$350,000 to \$490,000, commensurate with experience.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Confidential screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. For full consideration, submission of applications is encouraged by **September 15, 2025**. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website:

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/cuny/provost>

Keight Tucker Kennedy and Kelly McLaughlin

Isaacson, Miller

CUNY encourages people with disabilities, minorities, veterans and women to apply. At CUNY, Italian Americans are also included among our protected groups. Applicants and employees will not be discriminated against on the basis of any legally protected category including sexual orientation or gender identity. EEO/AA/Vet/Disability Employer.

