

Leadership Profile



DEAN | GEORGE L. ARGYROS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

This leadership profile is intended to provide information and assist qualified individuals in assessing their interest in Chapman University and the position of dean at the George L. Argyros College of Business & Economics.



Dean

GEORGE L. ARGYROS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS, CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Chapman University seeks an innovative, collaborative, and strategic leader to serve as the next dean of the George L. Argyros College of Business and Economics. The dean will join a thriving university community in Orange County, CA, one of the nation's most dynamic and increasingly influential business communities. Argyros College experienced tremendous growth over the past two decades, substantially increasing enrollment, expanding its academic offerings, and adapting to meet the needs of the Southern California market. Since the early 2000s, Argyros has risen in the rankings by offering a highly personalized student experience that emphasizes experiential learning and outstanding career outcomes. The new dean will build on the college's momentum, while leveraging its Southern California setting to connect students with businesses and business leaders throughout the region.

Joining a dynamic new president and provost and working with key stakeholders across campus, the next dean will design and implement a vision for the college's future, preparing graduates for success in a rapidly changing business ecosystem. They will maintain a robust external presence, promoting the college's accomplishments to donors and business leaders, increasing and diversifying resources while creating employment pipelines and experiential learning opportunities for Argyros students.

Internally, the dean will be a strong advocate and champion for Argyros' faculty and staff, ensuring the college's strong operation and creating a culture of trust and transparency. By championing cross-campus partnerships, the dean can further position Argyros College as a leader in developing unique educational experiences that leverage Chapman's broad academic strengths.

The dean will be expected to address the following opportunities and challenges:

- Craft and execute a focused vision for Argyros College, rooted in institutional strengths
- Leverage Argyros College's distinctive location to cultivate and grow industry partnerships, preparing graduates for success
- Recruit, develop, and retain exceptional faculty and staff committed to professional excellence by fostering a culture of communication, collaboration, and transparency
- Lead resource generation initiatives and broadcast Argyros students' stories for greater visibility and fundraising success
- Ensure Argyros College's portfolio of programs continues to align with market demands





About Chapman University

Chapman University, located in the heart of Orange County, California, is an exciting and ever-evolving hub of science, technology, business, and the arts. The university embraces an interdisciplinary approach to teaching, learning, performance, scholarship, and research in its undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.

Founded in 1861, Chapman serves nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students, with a 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio. Students can choose from over 100 areas of study within 11 overarching schools and colleges for a personalized education. Chapman is categorized by the Carnegie Classification as an R2 “high research activity” institution. Students at Chapman learn directly from distinguished world-class faculty including Nobel Prize winners, MacArthur fellows, published authors and Academy Award winners. The university has produced a Rhodes Scholar, been named a top producer of Fulbright Scholars, and hosts a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honor society. Supported by an endowment exceeding \$900 million, one of the fastest-growing in the country, Chapman continues to fulfill its mission of providing personalized education of distinction that prepares students for inquiring, ethical, and productive lives as global citizens.

To learn more, visit:
chapman.edu/about



Leadership



Matt Parlow has served as Chapman University's 14th president since September 2, 2025, and holds the Donald Bren Presidential Chair in Law. Over his 12 years at Chapman, Parlow has played a pivotal role in propelling the institution toward national prominence as both an administrator and a scholar. As Executive Vice President, Chief Advancement Officer (EVP/CAO), and Parker S. Kennedy Chair in Law, he drove transformational growth while leading the historic fundraising initiative *Inspire: The Campaign for Chapman*

University. This campaign seeks to raise \$500 million by 2028 and grow the university's endowment to \$2 billion by 2037. Under his leadership, Chapman surpassed \$400 million—well ahead of schedule—providing resources that strengthen academic excellence, support student success, and deepen community engagement.

An innovative leader with a strong sense of community, Parlow brings an ambitious vision for Chapman's future. Under his direction, the university is poised to reach new academic heights by fostering expansive interdisciplinary collaborations that push the boundaries of knowledge and innovation, while preparing students for success in a rapidly evolving workforce.

Deeply committed to the student experience, he will promote robust engagement between students, faculty, and the broader community, ensuring Chapman continues to provide the distinctive, hands-on learning opportunities that set the university apart. As the need for civil discourse grows

nationwide, Parlow is also dedicated to making Chapman a place where challenging conversations are embraced and free expression is protected. This commitment to free speech, academic excellence, and community is emblematic of Parlow's strong belief in the power of education as a force for good.

Before serving as EVP/CAO, Parlow was the Dean and Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law at the Dale E. Fowler School of Law. As the school's second longest-serving dean, he achieved financial stability, welcomed some of the strongest incoming classes in its history, and oversaw three consecutive years of record graduate employment. His leadership elevated the school's *U.S. News & World Report* ranking by more than 20 spots, while his fundraising established new professorships and expanded key curricular areas that foster innovation and student achievement.

Parlow's career in higher education also includes serving as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School, where he taught Property, Land Use, and Professional Sports Law (with Major League Baseball Commissioner Emeritus Bud Selig). He also taught in Chapman's Fowler School of Law from 2005 to 2008 and has twice been recognized as Professor of the Year, at Chapman and at Marquette.

Prior to his academic career, Parlow was an associate with the Los Angeles firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Pamela Ann Rymer of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Parlow holds a J.D. from Yale Law School and a B.A., magna cum laude, in History from Loyola Marymount University.



Leadership



Michael Ibba was appointed executive vice president, provost, and chief academic officer of Chapman University in October 2025. He earned his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Imperial College London and completed his doctorate in microbial biochemistry at the University of Manchester. Following postdoctoral work in Switzerland at Novartis and ETH Zürich, and in the United States at Yale University, Dr. Ibba established his own research group at the University of Copenhagen before joining The Ohio State University in 2001. Over 19

years at Ohio State, he held key leadership roles including chair of the department of microbiology, associate director of the Infectious Disease Institute, and co-director of an NIH-funded graduate training program.

In 2020, he came to Chapman University as dean of the Schmid College of Science and Technology, a position he held until 2025. An internationally recognized scholar, Dr. Ibba has published more than 200 research articles, secured over \$15 million in extramural funding, and served as editor for leading scientific journals. His honors include the Distinguished Scholar Award at Ohio State and election as a fellow of both the American Academy of Microbiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has also chaired the National Science Foundation's Federal Advisory Committee for Biological Sciences and currently leads the American Society for Microbiology Committee on Graduate and Postdoctoral Education. As provost, Dr. Ibba brings a distinguished record of research, teaching, and leadership, guiding Chapman's academic mission with a focus on interdisciplinary excellence, innovation, and student success.



Argyros College of Business & Economics

The Argyros College of Business & Economics is Chapman's largest college and home to approximately 120 faculty, a committed staff, and approximately 2,000 students across its impressive mix of undergraduate and graduate programs. Argyros College is guided by a 37-member advisory board, the Board of Counselors, that supports its mission, connects the college to the business community, and helps to shape its academic programs and ensure that its curriculum prepares students to meet industry needs.

The Argyros College has a history that is as impressive as its faculty, offerings and expertise, and results. The School of Business and Economics was established in 1976 and then officially renamed the George L. Argyros School of Business and Economics in 1999, in honor of Argyros' long-standing support. Over the past two decades, the school experienced tremendous growth, expanding its academic offerings and increasing the size of its student body. The faculty expanded, with the number of full-time faculty members quadrupling over that period. The school achieved accreditation by AACSB, the global standard of excellence for business schools,



in 2000. Fewer than 6% of business schools worldwide enjoy this distinction, and Argyros' programs have consistently improved in the national rankings since earning accreditation.

In 2023, the Argyros School was elevated to the George L. Argyros College of Business and Economics, thanks to a transformative \$10 million gift from the Argyros family. That same year, the college launched the Argyros Lecture Series, bringing influential business leaders and executives to campus to share their stories and inspire students by exposing them to the perspectives of prominent professionals across a variety of industries. To this day, the college continues to expand its reputation and reach.





Academics & Research

Argyros College of Business and Economics offers undergraduate degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, and Economics. Students pursuing the Business Administration track can choose an emphasis in one of the following areas: Business Economics, Entrepreneurship, Finance, International Business, Management, Marketing, or Real Estate. The college is currently in the process of changing tracks of emphasis within the Business Administration program to stand as individual majors. Integrated 4+1 programs are offered in Accounting, Behavioral and Computational Economics, and Business Administration, allowing students to earn a master's degree with one additional year of coursework.

Argyros College offers a broad portfolio of graduate programs, including a variety of Master of Business Administration programs (full-time, flexible, executive) and Master of Science programs in Accounting, Business Analytics, Finance, and Real Estate.

Argyros is home to three distinct schools that together shape the next generation of business leaders. Each school offers a specialized academic focus, industry-connected faculty, and experiential opportunities that prepare students to make an immediate impact in their fields.



Academics & Research

The **Alexander E. Hayden School of Real Estate** is rooted in innovation and industry insight, and equips students with the analytical, financial, and ethical foundation to shape the built environment. Through hands-on learning and close connections with Southern California's real estate community, students gain the tools to excel in development, investment, and property management.

The **Burra School of Accounting and Finance** provides a rigorous education in financial analysis, reporting, and strategy. With faculty who bridge academic expertise and professional practice, students learn to make informed, data-driven decisions and uphold the highest standards of integrity in the global marketplace.

The **Doy B. Henley School of Management** was founded in 2024 and prepares students to lead organizations with vision, agility, and purpose. Coursework emphasizes leadership development, strategic thinking, and entrepreneurial innovation—empowering graduates to drive meaningful results in a rapidly evolving business landscape.

The college also houses the **Janes Financial Center**, which was established in 2012 and is designed to cater to the diverse interests of business students. The center is equipped with 12 Bloomberg Terminals that provide students with access to financial data, enabling in-depth

market analysis, research projects, and skill development in areas such as portfolio management and financial modeling. The center offers a residency program, designed to challenge the brightest and most ambitious business students and give them the opportunity to actively manage a portfolio with diverse asset classes while engaging in consulting projects for esteemed Orange County investment firms.

Additionally, Argyros College is home to a number of research centers, institutes, and initiatives, including the renowned **Economic Science Institute (ESI)** led by Nobel Laureate Vernon Smith and the A. Gary Anderson Center for Economic Research, which produces the nationally renowned **Economic Forecast**. Faculty produce trail-blazing research, and students are afforded the chance to take advantage of classes, seminars, and scholarly opportunities within the centers and institutes.

The Argyros College of Business and Economics has 120+ faculty members from around the world. Focused on teaching and delivering engaging classroom experiences, faculty members provide personal attention to students with the goal of producing future leaders in the business community.



Role of the Dean

Reporting to the executive vice president, provost, and chief academic officer, the dean will serve as the lead academic and executive officer of Argyros College of Business and Economics, overseeing all areas of its operation.

Grounded in the institution's mission and strategic priorities, the dean provides direction to ensure the Argyros College's teaching, research, and service activities are cohesive, forward-looking, and responsive to institutional goals. The role includes leading the creation, execution, and evaluation of the college's strategic agenda, turning long-term vision into clear goals, policies, and initiatives. The dean also stewards academic program growth through shared governance, encourages innovation in pedagogy and scholarship, and advances interdisciplinary collaboration and external partnerships that enhance the college's influence, relevance, and standing.

The dean sits on the academic leadership team of the university, supporting university initiatives and ensuring that Argyros College is integrated into the academic and administrative priorities of the larger institution.

The dean provides strategic direction, manages resources, and supports the success of faculty, staff and students. The dean works closely with the EVP for Advancement to support the development and fundraising needs for the college. The Dean also works with the Board of Counselors, the advisory board for the college.

REPORTING TO THE DEAN:

- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Associate Dean for Faculty Development & Research
- Assistant Dean for Graduate Business Programs
- Assistant Dean of Operations
- Assistant Dean for Placement & Career Services
- Additional faculty and staff leadership



Strategic Priorities

CRAFT AND EXECUTE A FOCUSED VISION FOR ARGYROS COLLEGE, ROOTED IN INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHS

Working with their leadership team, faculty, staff, students, and key stakeholders, the dean will design, articulate, and execute a vision for Argyros College, focusing on academic and research excellence in service locally, nationally, and internationally. As technology changes rapidly, impacting both business and education, the dean will be innovative and forward-thinking, positioning Argyros to be recognized as a leader in business education. A well-executed vision will be rooted in the college's existing strengths and will identify unmet needs that the college is uniquely qualified to address, particularly in the Southern California region. The dean will also be expected to champion collaboration with other schools and colleges at Chapman, seeking opportunities to develop interdisciplinary programs and initiatives that further distinguish Argyros in the market.

LEVERAGE ARGYROS COLLEGE'S DISTINCTIVE LOCATION TO CULTIVATE AND GROW INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS, PREPARING GRADUATES FOR SUCCESS

Situated in the heart of Orange County's vibrant business ecosystem, Argyros College is uniquely positioned to connect students with a diverse range of employers and industry leaders. The next dean will work closely with campus partners to develop strategies that broaden graduate and alumni experiences, ensuring students and graduates benefit from meaningful engagement with the region's business community. By strengthening existing relationships and forging new partnerships, the dean will collaborate with businesses and organizations to create innovative job opportunity pipelines and expand placement initiatives. The college's location and university context provide a unique platform to connect business education with strengths in the arts, sciences, technology, and health, creating distinctive programs and experiential opportunities for students.

A central priority for the dean will be to champion the creation of robust, sustainable pathways to employment—making job opportunities and successful placement a hallmark of the Argyros experience. This includes working proactively with employers to anticipate workforce needs, integrating career readiness throughout the curriculum, and ensuring that every Argyros student has access to high-impact internships, experiential learning, and direct connections to hiring organizations. Through these efforts, the dean will further elevate the college's reputation for outstanding career outcomes and lifelong professional success.

RECRUIT, DEVELOP, AND RETAIN EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY AND STAFF COMMITTED TO PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE BY FOSTERING A CULTURE OF COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, AND TRANSPARENCY

The dean will work with Chapman leadership to recruit and retain a world-class faculty and staff. They will leverage the expertise of faculty and staff, encourage new ideas, and engage in thoughtful conversations on an ongoing basis to ensure that all community members feel valued, respected, and supported. The dean will be an exceptional communicator, regularly engaging with and advocating for faculty and staff while promoting an authentic spirit of collegiality. The dean's leadership style should be visible, accessible, and cooperative, while maintaining a culture of trust, transparency, and inclusivity. The dean will model and promote open and transparent communication by seeking meaningful input from a broad range of constituencies.

With a faculty that includes a Nobel Laureate and other prominent leaders in business education, the college has a strong foundation of scholarly achievement. The dean will continue to invest in research and teaching excellence, supporting faculty while nurturing a culture that attracts and retains top academic talent.





Strategic Priorities

LEAD RESOURCE GENERATION INITIATIVES AND BROADCAST ARGYROS STUDENTS' STORIES FOR GREATER VISIBILITY AND FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Sophisticated business and financial acumen—including expertise in fiscal management, budgeting, and resource allocation—are essential for advancing the college's mission. Success in this role depends on cultivating relationships with alumni, donors, and corporate partners, and pursuing new opportunities to increase philanthropic and financial support in a competitive funding landscape. Working in close partnership with the university's advancement team and engaging actively with the Orange County business community, the dean serves as the public face of the college, enthusiastically sharing its story and impact. Articulating the uniqueness and value of an Argyros College of Business & Economics education, this leader will drive resource generation and elevate the college's visibility, ensuring continued growth and fundraising success.

ENSURE ARGYROS COLLEGE'S PORTFOLIO OF PROGRAMS CONTINUES TO ALIGN WITH MARKET DEMANDS

The college has added several Master of Science (MS) programs in recent years to serve the business education needs of working professionals in Orange County and Southern California. By partnering with colleagues across our campuses, the dean can help design innovative joint degrees and cross-disciplinary experiences that respond to evolving industry needs and set Chapman graduates apart in the marketplace. The dean will work collaboratively with faculty and the provost to understand market demands and the nuances of individual programs, leveraging the strengths of current offerings and conducting a thorough assessment to determine the appropriate portfolio of programs. The college has historically offered in-person programs, and the next dean will assess the enrollment impact of offering programs in multiple modalities. They will work to identify opportunities for growth and new program development in the graduate and undergraduate marketplaces alike.





Qualifications and Characteristics

The search committee seeks a forward-thinking leader with the management, fundraising, and intellectual abilities necessary to succeed as the dean. While no single candidate will possess all the ideal qualifications, the successful candidate will bring many of the following experiences, knowledge, and abilities important to the role:

- Significant administrative experience, including evidence of vision-setting and effective strategic planning;
- A history of creative revenue generation and a keen sense of budget management and financial modeling;
- Insight into the global opportunities and challenges currently facing the field of business and business education, with an understanding of the trends and opportunities for the future;
- Understanding and experience interfacing with a variety of industry partners, ranging from large corporations to small local businesses;
- Experience working with a range of faculty and staff, including supporting and managing their professional development;
- A demonstrated commitment to advancing student success, well-being, and achievement, with a track record of advocating for students' needs and supporting their growth;
- An appetite for fundraising paired with experience and ability to lead development efforts and other extramural funding activities;
- A proven ability to cultivate interdisciplinary collaboration across academic departments, programs, and research initiatives within a business school environment;
- Knowledge of standards for and experience with AACSB accreditation processes; and
- A leadership style based on integrity, transparency, and inclusiveness.





Nominations & Applications

Chapman University has retained Isaacson, Miller, the national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Compensation will be commensurate with experience, with an anticipated salary range of approximately \$450,000 to \$500,000.

Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed to the firm via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/chapman-university-argyros-college-business-economics/dean>.

ISAACSON, MILLER

- Julie Filizetti
- Evan Layne
- Gabi Nayar

Chapman University is an equal opportunity employer that provides equal employment opportunities to all individuals, regardless of their protected characteristics. All qualified applicants and employees are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, military and veteran status, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law.

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