



Dean

New York University Steinhardt School of Culture,
Education, and Human Development
New York, NY

THE SEARCH

The [NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development](#) is unique in its breadth and depth. NYU is searching for a Dean to lead the school into the next decade, a leader who is strategic, student-centered, interdisciplinary, bold, collaborative, and committed to academic excellence. We seek a leader to leverage Steinhardt's innovative character, its rich legacy of scholarly and community impact, and its potential to deepen its connections across NYU and the global network.

NYU Steinhardt is committed to a holistic understanding of people and human development across the lifespan. It represents a one-of-a-kind integration of education, health, media, social science, arts, and music with eleven departments, seven research centers and institutes, nearly 300 full-time faculty, and over six thousand students. Reflective of its excellence, NYU Steinhardt faculty include Grammy, Guggenheim, Fulbright, Pulitzer, Tony, and MacArthur recipients, as well as fellows of the American Educational Research Association, and members of the National Academy of Education, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

In recent years, NYU Steinhardt has achieved record totals for funded research and evolved its program offerings, launching new majors, minors, and master's programs across fields such as AI and learning sciences, educational policy, and health and wellness. NYU Steinhardt has also expanded its global academic footprint, launching a new dual-degree program with the [London School of Economics](#). The School's momentum is supported by upgraded facilities, including the [John A. Paulson Center](#), which opened in 2023, and provides Steinhardt students with state-of-the-art audio labs, rehearsal spaces, and the Iris Cantor Theatre—NYU's newest professional proscenium venue.

NYU Steinhardt has also strengthened its impact by forging distinctive partnerships. These include the launch of the [Sony Audio Institute](#), a first-of-its-kind collaboration with Sony's Personal Entertainment Business Unit that combines research, scholarships, and hands-on learning at the intersection of technology, music, and business to prepare the next generation of creators for the rapidly evolving music

industry. In addition, Steinhardt [co-founded the Jameel Arts & Health Lab](#) in 2023 with the World Health Organization and other global partners, a groundbreaking initiative to measurably improve health and well-being through the arts. The School has also established its first-ever [Dean's Alumni Advisory Board](#), a group of 16 esteemed alumni, including CEOs and entrepreneurs, to provide strategic input and further strengthen connections to Steinhardt's global alumni network. The next Dean will have the opportunity to further advance the School's trajectory of innovation, impact, and excellence.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

In 1831, NYU's founders set out to create a new kind of university —one that matched New York City's growing demands and demographics—a university that was different by design and open to all. NYU has soared since then — in reputation, academic breadth and depth, accessibility, and cosmopolitanism. No other university engages the world like NYU does, with its own campuses and communities generating knowledge and discoveries in intellectual hubs around the globe. NYU is a leader in global education.

Today, that trailblazing spirit makes NYU one of the most prominent and respected research universities in the world. Anchored in New York City, NYU is adventurous and ambitious. It rewards entrepreneurship, inspires philanthropy, and is determined to continue its remarkable upward trajectory. The research enterprise at NYU has achieved new heights, more than tripling in the past decade to \$1.5 billion in annual R&D expenditures in FY 2024, making NYU the fastest-growing research university among its peers. Per the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) report, NYU's research expenditures rank it as the top research university in New York City, the seventh among private universities nationally, and among the top 20 institutions in the U.S. NYU is a top producer of patents and revenue from licensing among US universities.

As the largest private research university in the US, NYU provides a rigorous education to over 60,000 students. For 16 straight years, NYU has been a "dream school," according to *Princeton Review*. It received over 120,000 undergraduate student applications this year and had a 8.97% acceptance rate at the undergraduate level in 2026. At the same time, NYU is dedicated to increasing access across socioeconomic status. In October 2023, President Mills announced the NYU Promise: starting in fall 2024, all undergraduates who start as full-time first-year students in New York do not pay tuition if they have a family income under \$100,000. NYU students come from nearly every state and 133 countries, and the University draws upon the varied backgrounds of its faculty, researchers, and students, ensuring its scholarship and teaching benefit from a wide range of perspectives.

LEADERSHIP

[Linda G. Mills](#) became the 17th president of New York University on July 1, 2023. President Mills assumed the role after serving as NYU's Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life for 11 years. President Mills has been a strategic, innovative, and globally minded leader at NYU since she joined the University in 1999. She is also the Lisa Ellen Goldberg Professor of Social Work, Public Policy,

and Law and Founder of the NYU Center on Violence and Recovery. President Mills has served as a key institutional leader since 2002, when she was named Vice Provost (and in 2006, Senior Vice Provost) for Undergraduate Education and University Life.

[Georgina Dopico](#) was appointed as NYU's Provost in June 2024 after serving as Interim Provost since August 2022. A Professor of Renaissance history and literature, she joined the NYU faculty in 2000. Provost Dopico has also served as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and for the Humanities, where she worked closely with senior leadership on University-wide initiatives, graduate and undergraduate curricula, research priorities, and academic policy, both in New York and across NYU's global network. Over the course of her career at NYU, Dr. Dopico has held numerous leadership roles in Arts and Science, including Dean for Humanities, Director of Global Curriculum, Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and Director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

NYU'S STRATEGIC PATHWAYS

As NYU approaches its bicentennial in 2031, NYU's leadership team has established a set of [strategic pathways](#) to align the work of its global community.

Develop a distinctive profile in science and technology that makes NYU the world's premier institution for discovery, innovation, and entrepreneurship with a global perspective: NYU will leverage its significant strengths in science, technology, design, entrepreneurship, and global convening to create a distinctive world-class ecosystem that draws in talent and makes NYU a preferred partner for academic institutions, industry, and government on large-scale research efforts. Drawing upon deep assets across the University, including those in the arts and humanities, social sciences, and policy, will multiply NYU's real-world impact and help make NYU a champion of progress on key global challenges.

Lead the world in interdisciplinary collaboration and impact: Distinguished by its combination of scale, breadth, and global network, NYU has a significant opportunity to lead the world in interdisciplinary collaboration in the form of multi-school and multi-location research and educational programs that generate high-impact practices and offer novel opportunities for students.

Lead the world in global education and research: NYU will be the world's leader in global education and research, featuring a vibrant network of academic locations around the world; strong support for globally oriented research and creative work; a large and thriving population of international students, faculty, and staff; and global study experiences and program offerings that distinguish an NYU undergraduate education and give students a unique edge relative to their peers.

Build and sustain a welcoming and supportive community in which students, faculty, and staff can flourish, and timely graduation is a top priority: NYU will be a vibrant, diverse, welcoming, and accessible global community where all feel supported, connected, and inspired to do their best work. Diligent and persistent attention will be paid to reducing and eliminating barriers to success, improving on-time graduation rates for students, efficiently and effectively providing research and teaching support for faculty, and providing robust opportunities for professional development and growth for staff.

NYU STEINHARDT SCHOOL OF CULTURE, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

NYU Steinhardt is committed to a holistic understanding of human development across the lifespan and addresses the full range of the human experience. The School is forward-looking in its mission to advance knowledge, creativity, and innovation in service to society. This inventive spirit is demonstrated through its wide-ranging impact. The School's eleven [academic departments](#) provide a strong platform for addressing societal challenges:

- [Administration, Leadership, and Technology](#)
- [Applied Psychology](#)
- [Applied Statistics, Social Science, and Humanities](#)
- [Art and Art Professions](#)
- [Communicative Sciences and Disorders](#)
- [Media, Culture, and Communication](#)
- [Music and Performing Arts Professions](#)
- [Nutrition and Food Studies](#)
- [Occupational Therapy](#)
- [Physical Therapy](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)

Spanning departments and disciplines, NYU Steinhardt's [research centers and institutes](#) influence scholarship and policies around the globe. These communities address many of the world's most pressing social problems and create opportunities for groundbreaking scholarship, discoveries, and interventions.

NYU Steinhardt serves as a dynamic center for global research, harnessing deep academic interdisciplinary strengths to advance knowledge across the breadth of the school. NYU Steinhardt's impact continues to rise across multiple measures. It is consistently ranked among the nation's top graduate schools of education and currently stands at #6 in the U.S. News and World Report rankings. It is also among the top 5 schools of education in research expenditures. Between 2020 and 2025, the School's research portfolio grew from \$36.4 million to \$40.0 million, marking an increase of more than 10 percent. This growth is supported by a diverse funding base spanning federal, state, and city agencies, as well as domestic and international foundations and industry partners. For more than 130 years, NYU Steinhardt has built community partnerships with schools, families, community agencies, arts organizations, cultural institutions, and healthcare facilities. It is a major partner with NYC Public Schools through a range of programs and research initiatives, and it reaches out across the city through programs spanning arts, music, adolescent health and nutrition, and mental health, among many other engagement efforts.

The School's nearly 100,000 dedicated and active alumni work in diverse fields to impact the human condition at all stages of life. They educate, lead nonprofits and media agencies, research critical policies, publish books, oversee clinical practices, pursue entrepreneurial ventures, and create groundbreaking work in music and the arts.

THE ROLE OF THE DEAN

The Dean serves as the chief academic and administrative officer for the School, reporting to the President and the Provost. They oversee academic programs and the School's approximately \$320M budget, leading the School in setting shared strategy, vision, and goals. The next Dean must bring strong academic credentials, financial acumen, discipline, and creativity to resource School priorities. The Dean facilitates collaborative relationships within and beyond NYU Steinhardt, including working with Steinhardt's faculty, administrative staff, and student governance structures, and seizing opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations across all NYU schools and global locations. The Dean is responsible for supporting faculty in building the scholarly excellence and academic distinction of NYU Steinhardt. In addition, the Dean will be a senior member of the University's leadership team, collaborating with peer deans and working closely with central administration colleagues on University-wide initiatives, including leveraging the strategic pathways.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEAN

VISION: Shape and implement a compelling strategy and plan

The School seeks a Dean who can engage faculty, students, researchers, administrators, and staff to develop a bold, unifying, and future-oriented vision for academic excellence and impact. The next Dean will build on a history of innovation and adaptation so that the School is positioned to continue generating ground-breaking knowledge and to navigate the transformative forces impacting higher education from technological disruption (including the rapid evolution of AI), to enrollment shifts, to the dynamic funding environment.

FUNDRAISING AND RESOURCE GENERATION: Expand philanthropy and ensure financial strength

In the face of shifting enrollment patterns and changes to graduate student funding sources, the Dean must lead NYU Steinhardt to be entrepreneurial and pursue new opportunities to expand its resource base. The Dean is the lead fundraiser for the School and will continue the trend of growing philanthropy with individuals, foundations, and corporate partners.

RESEARCH: Advance transformative research and scholarship

NYU Steinhardt's scholarly contributions are broad, community-focused, and impactful in understanding and enhancing many facets of human life and development as well as advancing societal wellbeing. The next Dean will nurture continued growth of the research portfolio, supporting faculty from a variety of disciplines who represent various research methodologies and outputs, with a focus on positioning NYU Steinhardt at the forefront of excellence in scholarship and research. This will include being attentive to reducing structural barriers to research and leveraging the strengths of the NYU Steinhardt Centers and Institutes as hubs for academic interdisciplinary collaboration, funding, impact, and visibility. The Dean

should also consider opportunities for the School's many practice-based disciplines to integrate research and practice for greater impact.

EDUCATION: Promote academic and educational excellence with a forward-looking mindset

Since its founding, NYU Steinhardt has been a global leader in pedagogy and commitment to access. It can continue to advance its leadership role at NYU and more broadly by embracing the current period of change to innovate new approaches to experiential learning, holistic student development, and interdisciplinary programs. The next Dean will collaborate with faculty and staff to ensure that students have the tools to excel and make an impact as professionals in a rapidly evolving world.

INTERDISCIPLINARY: Leverage the School's broad intellectual talent and pursue interdisciplinary opportunities

The next Dean will harness the breadth and depth of NYU Steinhardt by facilitating and incentivizing collaboration across units within the School and building bridges to other schools at NYU as well as with other universities and institutions. The Dean will ensure that NYU Steinhardt and its many strengths are visible across NYU so it can play a larger, more meaningful role in cross-school scholarly and educational initiatives.

ADMINISTRATION: Manage a complex enterprise and steward a healthy school culture

NYU Steinhardt's size and complexity require a Dean who can promote clarity, minimize redundancy, and lead an efficient organizational structure in service to the School and its community. The Dean will ensure a high-functioning office, build and mentor an outstanding team, and promote strong leadership and professional development for faculty and administrative leaders. They will also establish transparent and consistent communication practices, set clear priorities, and foster a culture in which all groups—faculty, students, administrators, researchers, and staff—feel valued, respected, and included in the School's future. The Dean and their team will promote a culture centered around student success and flourishing.

LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Dean of NYU Steinhardt must demonstrate considerable accomplishments as a successful academic leader in a complex research university to navigate the scale and scope of NYU. The ideal candidate would bring many of the following professional experiences and personal qualities:

- An earned doctorate with scholarly and academic credentials, either already a full professor at Steinhardt or suitable for tenure at the rank of Professor in a department within the School.
- Significant administrative experience at a leadership level.
- Strong financial and analytics skills.
- A demonstrated record of fundraising success, including the ability to craft a compelling narrative for prospective donors.

- A record of innovation and academic entrepreneurship.
- A student-centered approach and deep commitment to holistic education.
- An appreciation for the complexity of Steinhardt and a track record of interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Evidence of strategic change management and decision-making.
- Ability to recruit, retain, and support exceptional faculty, staff, administrators, researchers, and students, and commitment to maintaining a culture in which all community members can flourish.
- An understanding of technology and its potential in higher education for supporting innovation, increasing access, and empowering success across all academic mission areas.
- A global view of higher education, and the ability to take advantage of NYU's global network.
- Exceptional listening and communication skills, as well as empathy, reflectiveness, and emotional intelligence.
- Ability to represent the School and partner effectively internally and externally with community, public-sector, and corporate partners.
- Energy, integrity, and the ability to inspire trust and confidence.

COMPENSATION

Compensation will be commensurate with experience, with an anticipated salary range of approximately \$500,000 - \$570,000.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Complete applications (CVs and cover letters) are requested by E.O.D. on Tuesday, April 14, and should be submitted via the Isaacson, Miller website:

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/new-york-university-steinhardt-school-culture-education-and-human-development/dean>

John Muckle, Partner
Liz Braun, Managing Associate
Ethan Thomas, Managing Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

NYU is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to a policy of equal treatment and opportunity in every aspect of its recruitment and hiring process without regard to age, alienage, caregiver status, childbirth, citizenship status, color, creed, disability, domestic violence victim status, ethnicity, familial status, gender and/or gender identity or expression, marital status, military status, national origin, parental status, partnership status, predisposing genetic characteristics, pregnancy, race, religion, reproductive health decision making, sex, sexual orientation, unemployment status, veteran status, or any other legally protected basis. All interested persons are encouraged to apply for vacant positions at all levels.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by New York University. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by New York University would supersede any conflicting information in this document.