

UC Irvine

Dean, Henry Samueli School of Engineering
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, California

The University of California, Irvine (“UC Irvine” or “UCI”) seeks an accomplished scholar and inspirational leader as the Dean of the Henry Samueli School of Engineering (HSSoE). HSSoE is at an enviable inflection point. The School has experienced strong momentum in recent years, marked by the launch of its ambitious [2030 strategic plan](#), positioning HSSoE at the forefront of engineering education and interdisciplinary innovation.

The Henry Samueli School of Engineering is composed of more than 150 faculty members across six departments. Renowned faculty members are scholars and leaders in their disciplines, committed to pioneering research and dedicated teaching. This commitment is reflected in the School’s emphasis on integrating research opportunities into the student experience. More than two-thirds of HSSoE’s over 4,400 undergraduate students actively participate in faculty-led projects. Student enrollment and research activity have grown meaningfully, with annual extramural research- funding rising to \$85 million in 2025. A recent \$50 million gift from Henry and Susan Samueli – the largest in the School’s history – has catalyzed the creation of three interdisciplinary institutes focused on addressing complex global challenges at the intersection of engineering and human health, public policy, and environmental resilience.

UCI is home to over 37,000 students, 1,500 ladder-rank faculty, and over 23,000 campus and medical center staff members. Since its founding in 1965, UC Irvine has quickly become one of the nation’s top-ranked public universities and among the most dynamic campuses in the world-renowned University of California System. For 60 years, UC Irvine has advanced its mission as a public research university to catalyze the community and enhance lives through rigorous academics, cutting-edge research, and dedicated public service.

To ensure the continued success of the School, the Dean will lead HSSoE in addressing the following opportunities and challenges, outlined in greater detail on page five of this document:

- Advance a clear and compelling strategic vision that builds upon and propels the School’s existing momentum to even greater impact;
- Promote pioneering research to further elevate the School’s national and global reputation;
- Attract, retain, and support a world-class faculty and staff;

- Nurture a dynamic, supportive learning environment that centers on student success;
- Leverage the assets of the entire UCI ecosystem to further the success of the School and UC Irvine as a whole;
- Lead an ambitious and diversified fundraising strategy, strengthening philanthropic, alumni, and industry engagement; and
- Align resources with key strategic priorities to achieve the School's many ambitions.

The full list of desired qualifications and characteristics of the Dean, described below, was prepared by the search committee with the assistance of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed to the search firm team listed at the conclusion of this document.

ABOUT UC IRVINE

UC Irvine has experienced an unparalleled combination of rapid growth in enrollment and an equally impressive increase in the size, quality, and influence of its research programs, performing arts, and professional schools since its founding in 1965. UCI is home to over 37,000 undergraduate and graduate students, 1,500 ladder-rank faculty, and 23,400 staff members. As a top-rated public university in California, UC Irvine remains committed to excellence and strives to enroll academically talented students who are representative of the state.

UCI comprises 15 academic schools: [Claire Trevor School of the Arts](#); [Charlie Dunlop School of Biological Sciences](#); [Paul Merage School of Business](#); [School of Education](#); [Henry Samueli School of Engineering](#); [School of Humanities](#); [Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences](#); [School of Law](#); [School of Medicine](#); [Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing](#); [School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences](#); [School of Physical Sciences](#); [Joe C. Wen School of Population and Public Health](#); [School of Social Ecology](#); and the [School of Social Sciences](#).

As Orange County's only R1 university, UC Irvine generates the highest and most intensive level of research activity in the region. In its relatively brief history, UCI has become one of the world's leading research universities, home to many highly distinguished scholars, scientists, and artists. Supported by federal and state agencies, major foundations, and innovative industry partners, research funding at UCI has more than doubled over the past ten years, reaching more than \$600 million in grants and contracts in each of the last three years. In addition to engineering, the university is known for its research in health/medicine (cancer, neuroscience), physical sciences (earth systems science, chemistry), and information and computer sciences.

UC Irvine is entering an exciting and challenging new era. With ambitious plans to strengthen contributions in research, education, and service; accelerate the university's ascendancy among globally preeminent research universities; and marshal passions, skills, and ingenuity to further improve people's lives, there is great momentum and ambition across the campus. Developed in 2016 and updated in 2023, UCI's [strategic plan](#), Bright Past, Brilliant Future, is based on four guiding pillars:

- Growth that Makes a Difference: Expanding Our Capacity to Improve Lives
- First in Class: Elevating the Student Experience to Prepare Future Leaders
- Great Partners: Making Regional and Global Connections that Enhance Our Mission and Serve the People
- New Paths for Our Brilliant Future: Forging Best Practices to Power the Coming Century

[UC Irvine recently completed a major fundraising campaign, surpassing its \\$2 billion fundraising goal](#) ahead of schedule and engaging 93,000+ alumni. The campaign represents the largest philanthropic and alumni engagement initiative in the university's history, as well as in Orange County. As of the 2025 fiscal year, the UC Irvine Foundation's endowment exceeds \$1 billion, further strengthening the university's long-term financial sustainability.

UCI is located in a welcoming and economically vibrant community. Orange County is the sixth most populous county in the US, with over 3.2 million inhabitants. Just 15 minutes from the beach and an hour from metropolitan Los Angeles and scenic mountain environments, the campus enjoys a prime Southern California location. UC Irvine is Orange County's second-largest employer, contributing \$7 billion annually to the local economy and \$8 billion statewide. Together with the community, UC Irvine is transforming healthcare and wellness, advancing the American dream through student success, accelerating world-changing research, and illuminating the human experience.

LEADERSHIP AT UC IRVINE

[Howard Gillman](#), Ph.D., was appointed the sixth chancellor of the University of California, Irvine, in September 2014, having previously served as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor since June 2013 and interim chancellor since July 1, 2014. Before coming to UC Irvine, he served for more than two decades as a professor of political science, history, and law at the University of Southern California, including five years as dean of the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. He has received many awards for his scholarship, teaching excellence, and dedication to students. He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in Political Science from UCLA.

[Hal Stern](#), Ph.D., is the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of UC Irvine. He previously served as founding chair of the Department of Statistics, Dean of the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, and Vice Provost for Academic Planning. Prior to joining the faculty at UC Irvine, he held faculty positions at Iowa State University and Harvard University. Under the direction of the Chancellor, the Provost assumes primary responsibility for the academic and organizational functioning of the campus and the advancement of the University's missions in research, teaching, and service. He earned a bachelor's in Mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in Statistics from Stanford University.

ABOUT THE HENRY SAMUELI SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Founded in 1965 as one of the original schools at UC Irvine, the Henry Samueli School of Engineering educates more than 5,455 students (4,426 undergraduates and 1,029 graduates) with an integrative approach that blends fundamentals, research, and hands-on experience. The School's aim is to unleash innovation, create opportunities, and inspire ingenuity. The Samueli School's faculty members are leaders in their disciplines who have achieved worldwide recognition for their research and dedicated teaching.

The School includes six academic departments: [Biomedical Engineering](#); [Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering](#); [Civil and Environmental Engineering](#); [Electrical Engineering and Computer Science](#); [Materials Science and Engineering](#); and [Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering](#). Under the leadership of interim Dean Faryar Jabbari, the School pursues research that is timely, socially responsible, and cutting-edge, and works in partnership with industry and state and federal agencies to promote the transfer of research to applications that benefit society.

The Samueli School boasts a robust alumni community that helps secure philanthropic support to advance its goals of unleashing innovation, creating opportunities, and inspiring ingenuity. The School's growing alumni ranks make significant contributions to society in the fields of technology, business, academia, and government. There is an active UCI Engineering Alumni Society, and the [Dean's Circle](#) provides an additional conduit to alumni and friends. Further, the School has fostered collaborative relationships with hundreds of industry partners in Orange County and beyond. To learn more about the Henry Samueli School of Engineering, visit engineering.uci.edu.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

Reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, the Dean serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the Samueli School of Engineering. The Dean will oversee a budget of over \$150 million, 154 faculty, 142 staff, and a leadership team including six department chairs, four associate deans, and an assistant dean/chief of staff.

The Dean of the Henry Samueli School of Engineering serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the School, providing strategic vision, leadership, and oversight for its four departments and affiliated research centers. The Dean is responsible for advancing excellence in teaching, research, and service; supporting faculty recruitment, retention, and development; and ensuring a dynamic and inclusive learning environment for students. In collaboration with campus leadership, the Dean will foster interdisciplinary partnerships, champion inclusive excellence, and strengthen connections with industry, alumni, and philanthropic partners. The Dean also oversees budgetary and operational management, guiding the School toward sustainable growth and national leadership in discovery and innovation.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

Advance a clear and compelling strategic vision that builds upon and propels the School's existing momentum to even greater impact

The Henry Samueli School of Engineering is progressing in its visibility, reach, and impact. With a collaborative culture, world-class faculty, and a trajectory of growth in research, enrollment, and cross-disciplinary engagement, HSSoE is poised to exploit vast new opportunities. The [2030 Strategic Plan](#) has articulated a forward-looking framework centered on “Engineering+,” emphasizing interdisciplinary research, experiential education, and meaningful partnerships as drivers of impact. The next Dean will have the opportunity to build on this foundation – they will leverage an existing, community-supported vision to sustain and accelerate HSSoE’s upward trajectory.

In doing so, the Dean will bring a sophisticated understanding of the evolving engineering landscape and the role that public research universities play within it. They will be instrumental in continuing to advance the strategic plan while shaping the School’s future to reflect both emerging areas of innovation and HSSoE’s distinctive strengths.

Promote pioneering research to further elevate the School's national and global reputation

The Samueli School of Engineering is home to distinguished and productive faculty whose research is advancing knowledge and creating impact across a range of critical and emerging fields. With growing sponsored research activity and a strong foundation in interdisciplinary collaboration, the School is well-positioned to further enhance its impact and visibility.

The new Dean will leverage the strength of UCI’s faculty to further elevate the Samueli School’s academic standing, encouraging intellectual leadership on the national and international stage. In close collaboration with faculty, the Dean will oversee strategic investment in the growth of research centers and interdisciplinary endeavors. The Dean will allocate resources and space appropriately, leading a community of top scholars with an eye towards continuous advancement across multiple metrics of visibility and impact, including its national rankings.

Attract, retain, and support a world-class faculty and staff

The Samueli School of Engineering’s faculty and staff are central to its mission and are widely recognized for excellence in research, teaching, and service. The School has successfully recruited outstanding new faculty in recent years; the next Dean will build on this progress while placing particular emphasis on retaining top talent in an increasingly competitive national landscape. The ability to support, develop, and retain high-performing faculty will be critical to sustaining the School’s standing and advancing its reputation.

The Dean will foster an environment in which faculty and staff can thrive. They will demonstrate strong interpersonal and managerial acumen, serving as an accessible, visible, and engaged leader across the

School and campus. Equally committed to staff development and organizational effectiveness, the Dean will cultivate a culture that empowers individuals, supports professional growth, inspires loyalty in the School's mission, and reinforces HSSoE's strengths as a collegial and impact-oriented academic community.

Nurture a dynamic, supportive learning environment that centers on student success

UCI's HSSoE places student success at the core of its mission, supported by strong investment in student services and a deeply engaged academic environment. As a [Hispanic-Serving Institution](#) and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution, UCI and HSSoE serve a diverse and highly motivated student body, many of whom are actively involved in research, hands-on projects, and interdisciplinary learning. This creates both an opportunity and an imperative to deliver an inclusive, rigorous, and outcomes-oriented student experience that prepares graduates to lead in a rapidly evolving engineering landscape.

As engineering education continues to evolve, the next Dean will also help lead the thoughtful integration of AI tools into the curriculum and broader learning environment, ensuring that students are prepared to use these technologies effectively, ethically, and creatively. The Dean will also support strengthening and expanding industry education partnerships, including cooperative education programs, internships, and the integration of industry-informed experiences within the classroom.

The next Dean will support HSSoE's efforts to further elevate and integrate student success across the School, serving over 4,400 undergraduate and 1,000 graduate students, ensuring that academic, research, and experiential learning opportunities are aligned to support every student's growth and achievement. The Dean will meaningfully amplify student voices and position HSSoE as a destination where students feel both challenged and supported and take pride in their educational experience. They will be a visible, inspirational, and accessible leader who empowers faculty and staff, strengthens cohesion across the School, and sustains a culture in which student success is a shared responsibility.

Leverage the assets of the entire UCI ecosystem to further the success of the School and UC Irvine as a whole

The Henry Samueli School of Engineering is part of a highly collaborative research university committed to academic rigor and educational excellence. The School has demonstrated a strong orientation toward cross-disciplinary partnership. For example, HSSoE recently partnered with the UC Irvine School of Medicine to develop the Physician Innovator Training Program, an LCME-accredited joint program aiming to prepare physician-engineers to translate engineering advances into medical solutions. The School also partners with the Merage School of Business in the [Master of Science in Biotechnology Management \(MSBTM\)](#). In addition, the School shares an [undergraduate major](#) and [graduate program](#) with the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences.

Building on that momentum, the next Dean will further integrate HSSoE within the broader UC Irvine ecosystem and its surrounding, resource-rich and technology-driven environment. The Dean will foster

interdisciplinary connections, strengthen research collaborations, and encourage innovative scholarship across boundaries. By supporting new labs, academic programs, partnerships, and convenings, the Dean will deepen engagement among faculty and external partners while amplifying the School's impact. These efforts will expand HSSoE's reach, elevate its contributions to UC Irvine and the region, and reinforce its standing as a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaborative discovery.

Lead an ambitious and diversified fundraising strategy, strengthening philanthropic, alumni, and industry engagement

HSSoE's continued ascent will require resources beyond those provided by the state and tuition to realize its ambitions, and the School is well-positioned to capitalize on its recent progress. In recent years, philanthropic support has surpassed \$80 million, including a landmark \$50 million gift from Henry and Susan Samuelli. Situated in the heart of Southern California, UC Irvine benefits from proximity to a vibrant ecosystem of technology, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing firms, as well as a rapidly expanding and engaged alumni base. The Dean will have the opportunity to build on this strong foundation by broadening and diversifying the School's development efforts.

The Dean will serve as the School's chief ambassador, leading proactive and sustained engagement with donors, alumni, and industry partners to secure new and enduring sources of support. This includes cultivating a more expansive philanthropic pipeline and strengthening corporate partnerships that advance both research and experiential learning. Within the university, the Dean will advocate with senior leadership for ongoing support and resources. Through a compelling articulation of HSSoE's vision and impact, the Dean will inspire confidence and investment in the School's future, ensuring long-term financial strength and continued growth.

Align resources with key strategic priorities to achieve the School's many ambitions

In FY25, UC Irvine transitioned to a [mission-based budget model](#) that is formula-driven for allocating core resources to schools. The model determines resource distribution of core funds, including state appropriation, tuition, non-resident supplemental tuition, professional degree supplemental tuition, summer session, student services fees, and various other sources. The metrics that are defined for the model link funding more directly to the university's core priorities—teaching, research, and public service.

The incoming Dean will bring strong financial acumen and a nuanced understanding of complex academic budgeting environments, enabling them to effectively operate within UCI's mission-based model. They will serve as a careful and strategic steward of HSSoE's resources, aligning investments with institutional priorities, communicating transparently with faculty and staff, and making informed decisions that sustain HSSoE's long-term financial health while advancing its strategic goals.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate must have an excellent history of academic accomplishment and administrative experience. They will possess a clear vision for the future of engineering research and education, a proven

record of achieving community and philanthropic support, an understanding and appreciation of shared governance, a demonstrated commitment to inclusive excellence and student success, and the ability to work effectively with various industry and other external stakeholders associated with the School. While no candidate will possess all the ideal qualifications, the successful candidate will bring many of the following experiences, knowledge, and abilities important to the role:

- A PhD (or international equivalent) and hold the rank of associate or full professor, or equivalent rank in industry;
- A record of and commitment to advancing world-class research;
- A desire to support a culture of excellence and integrity;
- The ability to identify and cultivate critical relationships and external resources;
- A commitment to creating an inclusive environment for the student body, faculty, and staff;
- A proven, demonstrated commitment to shared governance, and an openness to collaborative relationships with campus units;
- Excellent financial strategy and financial management skills, and demonstrated experience working with complex budgeting models;
- An ability to think and build frameworks in an interdisciplinary way and experience facilitating collaboration across disciplines;
- The ability to communicate effectively with staff, faculty, students, and others, and to build cohesiveness and community among constituents; a commitment to transparent communication that builds trust across the school;
- Support of entrepreneurship and close relationships with industry;
- An articulate vision for the future of engineering schools;
- Demonstrated ability to understand and react to current complexities, including the political, financial, technological, and global challenges that public universities face today;
- An ability to inspire.

COMPENSATION

UC Irvine is required to provide a reasonable estimate of the compensation range for this role. This range takes into account the wide variety of factors that are considered in making compensation decisions, including, but not limited to, experience, skills, knowledge, abilities, education, licensure and certifications, and other business and organizational needs. The full annual salary range for the Dean of the Henry Samueli School of Engineering is \$450,000 to \$550,000. It is not typical for an individual to be offered a salary at or near the top of the range for a position. Salary offers will be commensurate with a final candidate's qualifications and experience.

LOCATION

Irvine, California is located in the heart of Orange County with quick access to major freeways, rail service, and the John Wayne Airport. The coastal communities of Laguna Beach and Newport Beach are only a short distance away, and the city of Irvine is less than an hour from the Los Angeles International Airport

and downtown Los Angeles. The city, incorporated in 1971, is among the nation's largest planned urban communities, encompassing more than 65 square miles. UCI enjoys the best of what Southern California has to offer: beaches, mountains, deserts, and a broad variety of cultural, entertainment, and intellectual activities. To learn more about Irvine, visit www.destinationirvine.com.

INQUIRY, NOMINATION, AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Isaacson, Miller search team is David Bellshaw, Rafa Escobedo, and Salem Adisu. This team is supporting the recruiting efforts of the Search Advisory Committee and the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor.

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, suggestions, and referrals can be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website:

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-california-irvine-henry-samueli-school-engineering/dean>

All applications must be submitted through <https://recruit.ap.uci.edu/JPF10145> and should include, as separate documents, a CV and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this position profile. For best consideration, apply by August 1, 2026. Electronic submission of materials is required.

The University of California, Irvine is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected categories covered by the [UC anti-discrimination policy](#).

As a condition of employment, the finalist will be required to disclose if they are subject to any final administrative or judicial decisions within the last seven years determining that they committed any misconduct.

- “Misconduct” means any violation of the policies or laws governing conduct at the applicant’s previous place of employment, including, but not limited to, violations of policies or laws prohibiting sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other forms of harassment or discrimination, as defined by the employer.
- [UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy](#)
- [UC Anti-Discrimination Policy for Employees, Students and Third Parties](#)
- [APM - 035: Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination in Employment](#).

As a University employee, you will be required to comply with all applicable University policies and/or collective bargaining agreements, as may be amended from time to time. Federal, state, or local government directives may impose additional requirements.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the University of California, Irvine. 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 the University of California, Irvine would supersede any conflicting information in this document.