



Search for the Dean
Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Phoenix, Arizona

Arizona State University seeks applications and nominations for the next Dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law (ASU Law).

The Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law has emerged as one of the most dynamic and forward-looking public law schools in the United States. Building on a foundation of innovation, interdisciplinary engagement, and public impact, ASU Law has expanded its academic offerings, strengthened student outcomes, and increased its visibility across the legal academy and profession. Recent years have brought growth in graduate and non-JD offerings and deepened collaboration across the University in areas such as technology, health, and sustainability. The College just welcomed its inaugural cohort of students in its first-of-its-kind online JD program in January 2026. These developments and innovations have positioned ASU Law as a leader in rethinking how legal education is delivered and applied.

The next Dean will join at a pivotal point in the College's trajectory. With a broad portfolio of initiatives now in place, the work ahead centers on sharpening institutional focus and guiding the next phase of development with clarity and discipline. This includes aligning innovation with a coherent academic identity, sustaining excellence through growth, and ensuring that its expanding array of programs and partnerships reinforce, rather than diffuse, its distinctive strengths. The Dean will build on this foundation to continue translating its achievements into national influence and reputation.

This role offers a significant leadership opportunity at one of the nation's most innovative public universities. The Dean will work closely with University leadership and an engaged community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni to advance ASU Law's mission in the spirit of the ASU Charter. As the only law school in Phoenix and a central contributor to the state's legal, civic, and policy landscape, ASU Law occupies a uniquely influential position in Arizona and the region. The Dean will shape how legal education, scholarship, and public engagement intersect with the state's evolving needs. This will include bolstering the pipeline of legal talent, supporting access to justice, and engaging with courts, policymakers, and communities across Arizona and the country. In doing so, the Dean will help define the next phase of the College's evolution while contributing in meaningful ways to the broader legal and civic fabric of the state, positioning ASU Law as both a national leader and the essential public institution of Arizona. This work will involve addressing the following key opportunities and challenges:

- Define a clear vision for ASU Law’s next phase of growth, identity, and impact;
- Work effectively within a large, dynamic university to advance the College’s priorities and strengthen collaboration across ASU;
- Strengthen the scholarly enterprise and steward the evolution of the faculty;
- Advance student success in a shifting legal education and employment landscape;
- Preserve ASU Law’s collegial culture while building a more integrated and resilient organization; and
- Elevate ASU Law’s national influence, reputation, and external partnerships.

Arizona State University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. A list of the qualifications and characteristics desired, as well as instructions for submitting applications and inquiries, can be found at the conclusion of this document.

About Arizona State University

Arizona State University is a preeminent public university ranked #1 for innovation by U.S. News and World Report seven years in a row and is leading a bold reinvention of higher education as the New American University. ASU has thrived on an unprecedented combination of academic excellence, entrepreneurial energy and broad access, and the [University’s Charter](#), adopted in 2014, reflects that vision: “ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural, and overall health of the communities it serves.” The University was named a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education in 2022, a major milestone in its enterprise-wide commitment to fulfill the University’s charter.

This New American University is a single, unified institution comprising four differentiated campuses positively impacting the economic, social, cultural, and environmental health of the communities it serves. Its research is inspired by real-world applications, blurring the boundaries that traditionally separate academic disciplines. Located in metropolitan Phoenix, Arizona, the nation’s fifth-largest city, ASU serves more than 190,000 students both on campus and online. ASU champions intellectual and cultural diversity and welcomes students from all fifty states and more than one hundred nations across the globe.

To learn more about ASU, see the Appendix and www.asu.edu.

About the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law

Founded in 1967, the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law was created with a focus on serving the community and innovating teaching and research. Following the [Arizona State University Charter](#), ASU Law is an inclusive institution that strives to make a positive impact on the communities it serves. ASU Law has created some of the most important and innovative clinics in the country and has developed a rich curriculum that gives students practical yet rigorous training in lawyering skills. Each new administration has strengthened and built upon these foundations. In 2006, the law school was renamed

to honor Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States. Justice O'Connor was a frequent visitor to ASU Law, where she shared her knowledge and expertise with the next generation of lawyers and others interested in the legal profession.

In recent years, ASU Law has solidified its position as one of the nation's most dynamic and innovative public law schools. The College has expanded its national visibility, advanced a broad portfolio of academic programs, and strengthened its reputation at the intersection of legal education, technology, and public impact. Under Dean Stacy Leeds's leadership, ASU Law has grown enrollment and launched a highly visible and cutting-edge online JD program, deepened interdisciplinary partnerships across the University, and continued to elevate the quality and impact of its faculty and students. The College's global reputation is also increasing, including a Top 20 global ranking in law in the Shanghai Ranking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects. The College enters its next chapter with strong momentum, a clear national and global profile, and a platform well-positioned for continued growth and influence.

Innovation and access define ASU Law's mission. As one of the nation's highest-ranked law schools offering numerous degrees fully online, the College integrates technology and AI to make legal education more inclusive and future graduates practice-ready. Notably, ASU Law was the first in the U.S. to allow generative AI in student applications and embed AI training across all degree programs. Students develop skills in data analysis, digital ethics, and automation that align with the evolving needs of courts, firms, and clients. Through AI-integrated education, ASU Law equips professionals to advance innovation and access to justice.

Faculty and Staff

ASU Law's world-class faculty provide students with unparalleled opportunities to gain the insights and practical skills needed to address legal challenges locally, nationally, and globally. ASU Law's faculty has grown in both size and national impact, with successful recruitment of talented scholars, increased visibility across leading journals, interdisciplinary collaborations, and policy-relevant scholarship. This includes growing international recognition for research impact. The College is committed to building an ever more cohesive faculty that leverages the complementary strengths of tenure-track and clinical faculty to collectively advance the ASU Charter, ensuring that scholarly excellence, teaching, and public impact are mutually reinforcing. Faculty have played an integral role in ASU Law establishing itself as one of the highest-ranked public law schools in the nation, a leading center of scholarly exchange with a tradition of exceptional bar-passage and quality job-placement rates. ASU Law's faculty comprises a diverse and highly engaged group of scholars, teachers, and practitioners across multiple appointment categories. For Fall 2026, the College currently includes 38 tenured and tenure-track faculty and 19 continuing status/CS-track Clinical Professors of Law, reflecting distinct but complementary contributions to the academic enterprise. The College is further supported by 21 career-track faculty (including Professors of Practice, Teaching Professors, Instructors, and Research Professors), over 200 Faculty Associates, and 8 academic professionals (including Law Librarians and visiting faculty) who play essential roles in program delivery, student success, and the overall academic enterprise. Additionally, ASU Law is

home to 114 full-time staff members who support the effective operation of the College, are committed to students' success, and work tirelessly to support them throughout their educational experience.

Academic Programs

Today, the College enrolls over 2,000 students across its JD and Masters programs, inclusive of more than 20 emphases. Prospective lawyers have several options to earn their degree at ASU Law, including the [Juris Doctor \(JD\)](#) program, the [JD Advanced Standing \(JDAS\)](#) program, for students with a degree from a law school outside of the United States, and the [Master of Laws \(LLM\)](#) program, for people who want to expand their legal knowledge or specialize in a legal field. The College recently announced a part-time [JD Online program](#), which welcomed its inaugural cohort of students in January 2026 and represents a major step in expanding access to legal education. The JD Online program is an innovative option aimed at addressing the legal desert crisis and expanding access to justice nationwide. This groundbreaking initiative equips future lawyers to serve in public interest roles, government advocacy, public service, or private and public law practices within rural communities. Drawing students from Arizona and beyond—including those working abroad—the inaugural class brings together an extraordinary mix of professionals with unique life experiences and varied aspirations. Spanning a wide age range and representing communities across the country, the cohort reflects ASU Law's commitment to meeting students where they are, both geographically and professionally.

The College also offers a [Master of Legal Studies \(MLS\) program](#), which has both on-campus and online degrees, a [Master of Human Resources and Employment Law \(MHREL\)](#), a non-Juris Doctor graduate degree program that specifically caters to both entry-level and established human resources, recruitment, and operations professionals, and the Allan "Bud" Selig [Master of Sports Law and Business \(MSLB\)](#) program for people who want to understand legal principles and apply them to their industry, but do not intend to practice law. This program is also offered as a dual JD/MSLB option. Other joint degree programs are offered in conjunction with the [W.P. Carey School of Business](#), the [Master in Social Work](#) program, and the [Justice Studies PhD](#) program.

ASU Law offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes more than 250 unique courses offered each year so students can tailor their education to their interests. To support its mission, the College complements its diverse portfolio of degree programs with [experiential learning](#) opportunities that balance the preparation of lawyers and legal professionals with the advancement of scholarship. These efforts are sustained by the expertise and commitment of faculty and staff who play central roles in delivering programs and supporting student success.

ASU Law additionally offers the unique opportunity for law students to study and work for up to one full year in Washington, D.C. The ASU Law D.C. programs were launched to connect students to the breadth of externship and networking opportunities unique to Washington, D.C. Following a nearly fifteen-year presence in Washington, D.C., in 2018, ASU opened the [Ambassador Barbara Barrett and Justice O'Connor Washington Center](#), enriching students' opportunities for legal learning. As an ABA-approved location of ASU Law, the Barrett & O'Connor Center serves as home base for ASU Law students, faculty, and staff,

and enables students to study in D.C. The central location, a block from the World Bank and near the White House, puts students at the heart of influence and political activity.

Noteworthy programs and centers reflect the breadth and impact of ASU Law's work across a wide range of legal fields. Flagship initiatives include the [Indian Legal Program \(ILP\)](#), which was established more than 30 years ago and has grown to become one of the most respected Indian law programs in the nation, and the [Advance Program](#), which brings together a cohort of students from diverse backgrounds for leadership skills and networking opportunities. ASU Law is also home to the [Academy for Justice](#), which bridges the gap between academia and on-the-ground criminal justice reform efforts by acting as a conduit between scholarly research and ideas with criminal justice policymakers, stakeholders, journalists, and the public. The College is also home to a robust portfolio of centers and institutes spanning areas including law, technology, and innovation (through the [Center for Law, Science, and Innovation](#), the [McCarthy Institute](#), the [Wolin Family Center for Intellectual Property](#), and the [AI and Legal Tech Studio](#)), public health and sustainability (through the [Center for Public Health Law and Policy](#) and [Law and Sustainability](#) program), global and constitutional law (through the [Center for Law and Global Affairs](#) and the [Center for Constitutional Design](#)), and conflict resolution (through the [Lodestar Dispute Resolution Center](#)). Together, these efforts underscore ASU Law's commitment to interdisciplinary engagement, applied research, and public impact at scale.

Students and Alumni

ASU Law enrolls a diverse student body and offers a rich and vibrant student life to its 2,100 students across all degree programs. A substantial majority of ASU Law students participate in public service through externships, clinics, and pro bono activities. The College promotes the personal and professional success of all students, and students themselves are passionate and talented. ASU Law continues to attract a highly qualified and increasingly diverse student body, with strong academic credentials and a growing national reach. The College has built a reputation for enrolling students who are both academically accomplished and deeply engaged in public service, professional development, and interdisciplinary learning. These strengths are reflected in national recognition for student outcomes, including ranking among the Top 10 law schools for return on investment by ABA Journal.

The JD Class of 2028 exemplifies academic excellence, with an all-time high median GPA of 3.91, a median LSAT of 165, representation from 35 states and four countries, ages 19 to 43, nearly 16% first-generation college graduates, and more than three-quarters first-generation law students. The class includes military veterans, Tribal citizens, business founders, and community leaders. Master programs further expand this breadth, welcoming students from 17 countries and 13 Tribal nations, including professionals from business, health care, science, and media.

ASU Law prides itself on its network of engaged alumni. Alumni of ASU Law have played a significant role in building the College's culture and reputation. In addition, they have been successful in making immediate and meaningful contributions to the legal community after graduation. Many ASU Law alumni have secured prominent federal and state clerkships. Graduates of ASU Law consistently achieve strong

bar passage and employment outcomes. Recent data from the American Bar Association places ASU Law among the top law schools nationally in bar performance, with the most recent first-time bar passage rate of 91.94 percent and a double-digit margin above statewide averages. This places ASU Law among the top 10 law schools in the country on this measure. Alumni secure positions across private practice, government, public interest, and corporate sectors, including competitive roles in major legal markets. These outcomes reflect sustained investment in academic support, bar preparation, and career services, designed to ensure students are well-positioned for success from matriculation through licensure and beyond. The College's commitment to student success continues forever through the Law for Life program, which offers graduates free career guidance and support from the Office of Career and Employment Services, as well as free or low-cost preferred tuition rates on continued education.

To learn more about the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, see <https://law.asu.edu/>.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

The Dean is the chief executive officer of the College of Law, responsible to the President and Provost for the conduct, coordination, and quality of all the College's academic and research programs. The Dean is a member of the Provost's Deans Council and reports to the Provost of the University. Deans play a vitally important role at ASU and are expected to work with the faculty and University leadership to identify, develop, and implement a vision for the future direction of the educational, research, and outreach programs of their units and, together, for the University.

The Dean has overall responsibility for defining ASU Law's strategic priorities, developed in collaboration with the College's faculty; maintaining a faculty of international excellence and academic programs of the highest quality, while attracting outstanding students from all backgrounds; forging academic connections with other schools and units within the University; attracting and managing the financial resources needed to implement the College's strategic vision; and maintaining productive relationships with alumni and the local, national, and global communities of law scholars, researchers, and practitioners.

Direct reports to the Dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law include: the Vice Dean; Associate Deans for Academic Affairs, Research and Faculty Development, Experiential Learning, and Inclusive Excellence; Senior Assistant Dean for Administration and Graduate Programs; the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Dean for Business; the Chief Strategy Officer; Assistant Deans for Institutional Advancement and Public Engagement, Law Students, Admissions and Financial Aid, Legal Services, Alumni, the Law Library, Graduate Programs and New Education Initiatives, Student Career Success and Employer Relations, Student Services, and for the Sport Law and Business Program; the Senior Director for Development; and the Executive Director for Marketing and Strategic Communications. The Dean oversees an operating budget of approximately \$60 million (inclusive of scholarship costs), and leads a complex academic enterprise that includes 38 tenured and tenure-track faculty, 19 continuing status/CS-track Clinical Professors of Law, 21 career-track faculty, more than 200 Faculty Associates, 8 academic professionals, and 114 full-time staff who collectively support the College's teaching, research, and public service missions.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

Define a clear vision for ASU Law's next phase of growth, identity, and impact

ASU Law has built a national reputation as a leader in legal education innovation, particularly in online learning, interdisciplinary programming, and non-JD offerings. As the College looks ahead, the next Dean will be tasked with not simply maintaining momentum, but refining and articulating a cohesive vision that brings these strengths into sharper focus. The Dean will be charged with aligning innovation with a clearly defined academic identity that integrates scholarly excellence, professional formation, and a deep commitment to public impact in the spirit of the ASU Charter. This includes clarifying how the College's portfolio of programs, centers, and initiatives fits together to advance a distinctive and compelling model for a modern public law school.

At the same time, the Dean will guide the next phase of institutional growth with discipline and intentionality. Decisions related to matters of scale, portfolio mix, and resource allocation will require careful judgment to ensure that expansion of online and graduate programming strengthens, rather than dilutes, the College's academic quality and student outcomes. This will require thoughtful prioritization, clear strategic framing, and continued evolution of a sustainable financial model supported by entrepreneurial program development in partnership with the faculty, expanded philanthropic engagement, and a broader approach to external funding.

Work effectively within a large, dynamic university to advance the College's priorities and strengthen collaboration across ASU

ASU Law operates within one of the largest and most dynamic public universities in the country, and success in this role will depend on the ability to lead effectively within that context. The Dean must navigate ASU's scale, pace, and decentralized environment with political acuity and strategic vision. This includes building strong partnerships with the President, Provost, and peers across the University, while effectively advocating for the College's priorities.

This is a highly relational and externally facing leadership role within the broader institution, requiring a Dean who can align the law school with University initiatives while ensuring that ASU Law's distinct mission, needs, and opportunities are well understood and supported. The ability to negotiate, build coalitions, and operate with credibility and diplomacy across a complex system will be essential.

Strengthen the scholarly enterprise and steward the evolution of the faculty

The College has made significant strides in building a talented and productive faculty, and the next Dean will play a critical role in advancing ASU Law's scholarly profile and national academic reputation. This includes continuing to recruit and retain high-performing faculty while supporting a vibrant intellectual community that elevates research, collaboration, and visibility.

The Dean will need to steward this continued evolution of the faculty with great care and intention. As the College grows, decisions about faculty composition across different categories will require thoughtful leadership to ensure alignment with institutional priorities. Careful attention to hiring direction, support structures, and pathways for engagement across faculty roles will be important to maintaining a prudent balance between rigorous scholarship and the practical, public-facing strengths that distinguish ASU Law. Sustaining that balance, while reinforcing a cohesive and collaborative academic community, will be central to the College's continued success.

Advance student success in a shifting legal education and employment landscape

The legal profession is evolving rapidly, and ASU Law is well-positioned to lead in preparing students for that future. The next Dean will build on strong outcomes in bar passage, employment, and experiential learning while continuing to innovate in how the College supports student success.

Key priorities include strengthening pathways into highly competitive legal markets, expanding access to experiential opportunities, and ensuring students are prepared for a profession increasingly shaped by technology, including artificial intelligence. These efforts extend across a diverse portfolio of programs, including JD and other graduate degrees, delivered through both ground and online modalities. The Dean must also ensure that programs and support structures are responsive to a diverse and growing student population across degree types and instructional formats. This work will require sustained attention to academic support, career services, and curricular innovation, in addition to continued investment in the systems and people that support students from matriculation through licensure and beyond.

Preserve ASU Law's collegial culture while building a more integrated and resilient organization

A defining strength of ASU Law is its collaborative, collegial, and mission-driven culture, consistently cited by faculty, staff, and students as a distinguishing feature of the College. The next Dean will be expected to preserve and build on this culture while also addressing the organizational realities that accompany growth.

As programs have expanded, so too have demands on staff, systems, and coordination across the College. Ensuring that roles are aligned, communication is clear, and collaboration is supported across all faculty and staff will be essential to maintaining the organization's effectiveness and cohesion. Attention to staffing capacity, integration across program areas, and shared understanding of priorities will be important as the College continues to evolve. Maintaining trust, transparency, and a strong sense of community across all parts of ASU Law will remain central to its ability to operate at the highest level.

Elevate ASU Law's national influence, reputation, and external partnerships

ASU Law's trajectory has positioned it as a rising force among public law schools, with strong outcomes and growing visibility across the legal academy and profession. Building on this momentum will require a deliberate approach to how the College presents itself externally and engages with key constituencies. This will include strengthening the visibility of the College's scholarly contributions, deepening

engagement with alumni and the broader legal community, and further leveraging its presence in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles as platforms for national connections and influence. These efforts will reinforce ASU Law's standing in the legal academy and among employers, peers, and partners.

The Dean will also play a critical role in advancing philanthropic support, identifying new donor constituencies, and aligning external engagement with institutional priorities. Careful navigation of rankings and reputation metrics will remain important, balanced with a sustained focus on mission-driven outcomes and long-term institutional strength.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal candidate will be required to bring a JD with scholarly and professional achievements appropriate for an appointment at the rank of Professor of Law at Arizona State University, in addition to the following desired qualifications and characteristics:

- A commitment to public service and the ASU Charter;
- A commitment to scholarly and instructional excellence;
- Skills in strategic planning and vision setting with a diverse set of constituents;
- A leadership style that is accountable, communicative, and fosters genuine collaboration;
- Innovative and entrepreneurial spirit;
- Capacity to navigate a large public university system and to build and maintain cross-school partnerships;
- Proven success in building relationships with alumni and external stakeholders such as employers and bar, business, and community leaders;
- Ability to attract resources and develop a strong record of fundraising success; and
- A history of strong financial management.

LOCATION

ASU Law is anchored in the [Beus Center for Law and Society](#) in the heart of downtown Phoenix, which is one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing metropolitan areas. This setting affords exceptional proximity to the institutions and industries that define contemporary legal practice. As the only law school within 100 miles, ASU Law is uniquely positioned at the center of the region's legal, business, and civic ecosystems, with immediate access to leading law firms, corporate headquarters, courts, and government agencies, supporting strong employment outcomes for graduates across Arizona and in major national markets.

Phoenix and the broader Arizona economy offer a compelling platform for innovation and growth. The state has emerged as a hub for entrepreneurship, technology, and advanced industry, attracting startups and established companies alike with its skilled workforce and pro-innovation environment. This dynamic landscape creates meaningful opportunities for experiential learning, research, and partnership,

extending ASU Law's reach and impact. The College further amplifies this connectivity through programs in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, linking students and faculty to national and global networks.

Beyond its professional advantages, the region offers an exceptional quality of life. Greater Phoenix combines the amenities of a major metropolitan area with a comparatively affordable cost of living. Residents enjoy a vibrant arts and culture scene, major professional sports, and unparalleled access to outdoor recreation, from desert preserves and mountain trails to nearby lakes and iconic destinations such as the Grand Canyon and Sedona. With more than 300 days of sunshine each year, Phoenix provides an environment that supports both professional ambition and personal well-being.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/arizona-state-university-sandra-day-oconnor-college-law/dean>. **For best consideration, please submit materials no later than August 31, 2026.**

David Bellshaw, Jaime Morgen, Evan Layne, and Kendra Moleé
ISAACSON, MILLER

A background check is required for employment. Arizona State University is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. For more information, please visit:
<https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html> and <https://www.asu.edu/titleIX/>

In compliance with federal law, ASU prepares an annual report on campus security and fire safety programs and resources. ASU's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is available online at <https://www.asu.edu/police/PDFs/ASU-Clery-Report.pdf>. You may request a hard copy of the report by contacting the ASU Police Department at 480-965-3456.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. 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 Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law would supersede any conflicting information in this document.

APPENDIX – ABOUT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural, and overall health of the communities it serves.

- [Business, W. P. Carey School of](#)
- [Design and the Arts, Herberger Institute for](#)
- [Engineering, Ira A. Fulton Schools of](#)
- [Global Futures, Rob Walton College of](#)
- [Global Management, Thunderbird School of](#)
- [Graduate College](#)
- [Health Solutions, College of](#)
- [Honors: Barrett, The Honors College at ASU](#)
- [Integrative Sciences and Arts, College of](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, New College of](#)
- [Journalism and Mass Communication, Walter Cronkite School of](#)
- [Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College of](#)
- [Liberal Arts and Sciences, The College of](#)
- [Medicine and Medical Engineering, John Shufeldt School of](#)
- [Nursing and Health Innovation, Edson College of](#)
- [Public Service and Community Solutions, Watts College of](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Innovation, Mary Lou Fulton College for](#)
- [Technology for Public Health, School of](#)
- [University College](#)

About President Michael Crow

Michael M. Crow is an educator, knowledge enterprise architect, science and technology policy scholar and higher education leader. He became the sixteenth president of Arizona State University in 2002 and has led ASU's rapid and groundbreaking transformation into one of the world's best public metropolitan research universities. As a model "New American University," ASU simultaneously demonstrates comprehensive excellence, inclusivity representative of the ethnic and socioeconomic spectrum of the United States, and consequential societal impact.

Lauded as the "No.1 most innovative school" in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for eleven consecutive years, and garnering top accolades for its global impact and student employability, ASU is a student-centric, technology-enabled public enterprise focused on global challenges that grew its research expenditures more than eight-fold since 2003 and earned AAU membership in 2023. Under Crow's leadership, it has established more than thirty new transdisciplinary schools, including the School of Earth and Space Exploration, the School for the Future of Innovation in Society and the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and launched pioneering multidisciplinary initiatives including the Biodesign Institute, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, the nation's first School of Sustainability, and significant initiatives in the humanities and social sciences.

ASU has concurrently achieved record-breaking levels of traditional, online and international student enrollment, first-year student quality and retention, and ethnic and socioeconomic inclusion.

ASU's meteoric ascent in quality, growth and modernization has earned it separate rankings as one of the top 100 most prestigious universities in the world by Times Higher Education, and a top 100 position in Shanghai Jiao Tong's 2018 Academic Ranking of World Universities.

The recipient of the 2025 Edison Achievement Award, the inaugural American Council on Education Award for Institutional Transformation, and one of TIME magazine's "10 Best College Presidents," Crow previously served as executive vice provost and professor of science and technology policy at Columbia University. He has advised the U.S. Departments of State, Commerce, and Energy, as well as defense and intelligence agencies, and serves as Chairman of In-Q-Tel. He is a two-term member of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and has advised several nation-states on matters of knowledge enterprise development. An elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAA&S), and the American Philosophical Society (APS), Crow is the author of books and articles analyzing knowledge enterprises, science and technology policy, and the design of higher education institutions and systems. He coauthored *Designing the New American University* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015), outlining the imperative for new and creative public university models that advance both academic excellence and broad accessibility, and also, *The Fifth Wave: The Evolution of the American Research University* (2020), which urges the comprehensive redesign of higher education to educate large numbers of qualified students while leveraging discovery and accessibility. A former

member of the U.S. Council on Competitiveness and the Council on Foreign Relations, Crow has also served on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council.

Crow earned his PhD in Public Administration (Science and Technology Policy) from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.

About Executive Vice President and University Provost Nancy Gonzales

Nancy Gonzales is the executive vice president and university provost of Arizona State University, serving as ASU's chief academic officer. She oversees the university's academic mission across its 19 interdisciplinary colleges and schools, positioning ASU as one of the largest and most innovative Research I institutions in the country.

Since becoming provost in 2021, Dr. Gonzales has helped lead ASU to several historic milestones. These include, among others, the university's induction into the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU); new Carnegie Foundation classifications recognizing ASU as a university with "High Access, High Graduate Earnings" and "Leadership for Public Purpose"; and designation by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

Under her academic leadership, ASU has experienced significant growth and transformation:

- Launching 3 new colleges and 12 new interdisciplinary schools.
- Expanded the academic leadership team to 24 deans, 15 of which Gonzales hired since becoming Provost.
- Grew annual enrollment to more than 194,000 students, a 21% increase over the course of her tenure.
- Opened new ASU locations in Los Angeles, California, St. George's, Bermuda, and London, England.
- Established international educational partnerships with 32 institutions across 29 countries through the ASU-Cintana Alliance, providing more than 340,000 students access to ASU courses and degrees
- Became and persisted as the top U.S. public university for hosting international students, with more than 17,900 enrolled from over 166 countries.
- Maintained top national rankings as the No. 1 university for innovation (U.S. News & World Report, 2015–26) and global impact (Times Higher Education, 2020–25), and the No. 2 public university in the U.S. for graduate employability (Global Employability University Ranking and Survey, 2025)

Before serving as provost, Dr. Gonzales was Dean of Natural Sciences in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. During her tenure, she advanced new educational programs, significantly increased enrollment, and supported groundbreaking fundamental science and research on major global challenges—spanning human health, energy, sustainability, materials science, and space exploration.

An accomplished psychologist, Dr. Gonzales is a Foundation Professor of Psychology and a nationally recognized scholar. Her NIH-funded research has focused on culturally informed models of human development and public health strategies to reduce disparities in underserved communities. She served as director of ASU's REACH Institute, an interdisciplinary center focused on implementing evidence-based interventions in schools, courts, health care, and community mental health settings.

Dr. Gonzales is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and has received numerous honors for her contributions to science and leadership. Her awards include distinguished career honors from the American Psychological Association, the Society for Research on Adolescence, the Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, and the Society for Prevention Research. She has been named an Arizona Latina Trailblazer, received ASU's Founder's Day Award for Research, and was recognized among the Most Influential Women in Arizona in 2021.