



Provost
Rocky Vista University
Parker, Colorado

THE SEARCH

Rocky Vista University (RVU or University) seeks a transformational and entrepreneurial academic leader with strong business acumen to serve as its next Provost to unite the institution around a bold, growth-focused vision. The incoming leader will work with the newly appointed President at a significant time of forward momentum, including the opening of Montana's first veterinary college. The Provost will have the opportunity to collaborate with a highly innovative and committed university community while leveraging the many assets of a multi-campus health sciences university with campuses that span Colorado, Utah, and Montana.

Established in 2006, [RVU](#) is the nation's first private, for-profit health sciences university to offer a professional medical degree since 1910. RVU is independent and privately funded with a Board of Trustees that oversees its operations, administration, education, and policy. RVU's financial status is stable due to its diverse funding sources, including impressive enrollment growth. Spanning three states, RVU was founded in Colorado with a mission to address healthcare workforce needs in medically underserved communities. The university has since expanded that mission through the establishment of a campus in Utah focused on strengthening the state's primary care pipeline and launching Montana's first four-year medical school, extending its impact on healthcare access and physician training throughout the region. Most recently, RVU received Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approval to establish a College of Veterinary Medicine at its Montana campus, further broadening its role in addressing regional workforce needs across both human and animal health.

Enrolling approximately 2,450 students across [five-degree](#) programs, three campuses, and multiple graduating years, supported by 122 full-time faculty, and with annual [research expenditures](#) of approximately \$1 million, the Provost will have the opportunity to help define RVU's next stage of growth. RVU provides a close-knit and supportive community of students, staff, and faculty who have an entrepreneurial mindset to achieve new heights in medical education and realize RVU's mission and values. The next Provost will provide academic enterprise leadership in the building and strengthening of programs, managing of accreditation, the improvement of academic and student outcomes, developing

strong leaders, and developing and implementing the University's strategic plan. The Provost will drive strategy execution and accomplishment designed to sustain and drive academic prominence. The Provost will help define the University's next era of academic distinction to ensure RVU continues to prepare healthcare professionals whose knowledge, compassion, and leadership improve the lives of patients and communities across the nation.

The successful candidate will be highly collaborative, innovative, and results-oriented, with a deep commitment to improving the health of communities locally, nationally, and globally. The Provost will also champion forward-thinking approaches to teaching and learning, including the strategic and responsible integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance educational delivery, student success, operational effectiveness, and academic innovation across the University.

Candidates must hold a doctoral degree from an accredited institution and demonstrate scholarly distinction consistent with appointment as a full professor at RVU. The ideal candidate will possess substantial leadership experience in medical, health sciences, or related scientific education, with a proven ability to lead complex academic organizations through growth and innovation. Experience overseeing financial, operational, and administrative functions is expected, along with a strong understanding of accreditation requirements and a commitment to faculty recruitment, development, advancement, and success.

Rocky Vista University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. Please direct all applications, nominations, and inquiries to Isaacson, Miller, as indicated later in this document.

ABOUT ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY

Since opening its first campus in Parker, Colorado, Rocky Vista University has evolved into one of the country's leading health sciences universities, educating physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and other healthcare professionals across [campuses](#) in Colorado, Utah, and Montana. The institution recently completed their [accreditation](#) renewal by the Higher Learning Commission.

RVU chose osteopathic medicine as its first program because of its emphasis on primary care and its mind-body-spirit approach to medicine. Through sustained enrollment growth, exceptional student outcomes, outstanding accreditation reports, and strong relationships with clinical partners, RVU has established a reputation for graduating highly skilled, compassionate professionals prepared to serve communities throughout the United States.

The [Colorado](#) campus is housed in 145,000 square feet, technologically advanced building in Parker, 20 miles southeast of Denver and surrounded by both rural and urban communities. The Colorado campus with approximately 1,132 students across four programs and multiple graduating classes, also houses the Institute of Medical and Surgical Simulation, which is accredited by the American College of Surgeons. RVU is the only osteopathic medical school to hold such a designation. While the University does not rely

on state funding, it does contribute significantly to the economic development of the town of Parker, Douglas County, and the State of Colorado, with an estimated economic impact of more than \$75 million.

The [Utah](#) campus is located on 104,000 square feet in Ivins, approximately 15 minutes from downtown St. George. Known for gorgeous year-round weather and breathtaking views of the Red Mountain, the campus is surrounded by some of the country's most famed national parks: Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Grand Canyon. There are approximately 699 students on the Utah campus across two programs and multiple graduating classes. Likewise, it does not rely on state or local tax support, but instead, provides significant contributions to the area: in terms of paying taxes, providing jobs to the community, and keeping Utahans in their home state to pursue their medical education.

The [Montana](#) campus, hosting approximately 614 students across two programs and multiple graduating classes, is in Billings, sitting along the Yellowstone River and the famous Rimrocks, is known as Montana's Trailhead because it serves as the border between western Montana's mountains and Eastern Montana's plains and badlands. Billings is the medical hub for two thirds of Montana and portions of bordering states. Although Billings is the largest city in Montana, it boasts small-town hospitality.

RVU is part of [Medforth Global Healthcare Education](#), an organization dedicated to addressing the growing global need for high-quality medical and healthcare professional training, particularly in medically underserved communities. It is supported by [Carlyle](#), a private equity organization.

University Leadership

RVU is led by [Lori Werth, PhD, MS](#), who became the seventh president of Rocky Vista University in July 2026. Prior to coming to RVU, President Werth served as executive vice president and chief strategy officer at the University of Pikeville. During her ten years at the University of Pikeville, Werth played a pivotal role in advancing institutional strategy, growth and student success. She has led the launch of undergraduate and graduate academic programs and expanded athletic and co-curricular offerings to strengthen student engagement. Her leadership and partnerships helped establish the College of Dental Medicine and she was also an instrumental figure in spearheading the University of Pikeville's \$50 million capital campaign, engaging both private donors and foundations to advance transformational philanthropic investment. Werth holds a Doctor of Philosophy in educational leadership from the University of Idaho, a Master of Science in counseling from Oregon State University, and a Bachelor of Science in biology and chemistry from the College of Idaho. Werth is also a recipient of a Fulbright Scholar award.

Strategic Plan

RVU's previous [strategic planning](#) has been guided by its mission to provide quality healthcare education while inspiring students to serve with compassion, integrity, and excellence. Each strategic plan has been

organized around three foundational pillars: academics, leadership, and growth, which guide the achievement of the university's mission and vision.

RVU's vision of achieving new heights in medical education is advanced through strategic priorities that promote academic excellence, leadership, innovation, institutional growth, and community engagement. These priorities are rooted in the university's core values of collegiality, compassion, diversity, equity, excellence, inclusivity, innovation, integrity, and service. Together, these values inform decision-making, cultivate an inclusive learning environment, and prepare graduates to become ethical, collaborative, and highly competent healthcare professionals equipped to meet the evolving needs of diverse communities. Upon arrival, the new Provost will guide a new five-year strategic plan for RVU in close collaboration with the President.

Faculty and Students

RVU's talented academic community includes 122 faculty members, 39 staff with faculty rank, and 87 adjunct faculty members.

In Fall 2026, approximately 775 incoming students enrolled across three campuses – Colorado, Utah, and Montana, and five programs. approximately 589 students are in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program, 22 in the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program, 42 in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program, 91 in the Master of Science in biomedical sciences program, and 27 in the Master of Medical Sciences program. The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program expects to admit an estimated 125 students as its first cohort in 2027.

Academic Programs

RVU currently offers five [degree programs](#) with a sixth program under development.

The [College of Osteopathic Medicine](#) consists of four years of full-time academic and clinical programs committed to excellence in patient care, with an emphasis on Osteopathic philosophy and heritage. RVU's three Doctor of Osteopathic (DO) Medicine programs vary in campus location and slightly in curriculum, yet each specialize in the comprehensive training of Osteopathic physicians who will go on to provide expert, compassionate, and patient-centered care. RVU's DO programs strive to create outstanding Osteopathic physicians who serve the Mountain West region in the rural and urban underserved communities where this care can make the most impact. With the combination of their DO programs, RVU has one of the largest programs in the country.

The [Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice](#) (DNAP) program at RVU's Colorado campus offers a rigorous and supportive educational experience grounded in community, collaboration, and excellence.

The [Master of Physician Assistant Studies](#) (MPAS) program is taught on the Colorado campus and utilizes the competency-based medical education model.

The [Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences](#) (MSBS) program specializes in establishing a powerful academic foundation in biomedical science and is a direct pathway to RVU's College of Osteopathic Medicine in Colorado or Utah.

The [Master of Medical Sciences](#) (MMS) program is a direct pathway to RVU's Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine.

RVU proposed a [Doctor of Veterinary Medicine](#) (DVM) program, received approval from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for a College of Veterinary Medicine at the Montana campus, and is seeking a Letter of Reasonable Assurance from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education, which allows the college to recruit and admit its first class.

Graduate Medical Education & Continuing Medical Education

In support of the College of Medicine's mission to educate and inspire students to become highly competent osteopathic physicians and lifelong learners prepared to meet the diverse healthcare needs of tomorrow through compassionate service, relevant research, and innovative education, RVU provides comprehensive graduate medical education (GME) to support physicians transitioning from medical school to independent practice. They sponsor several Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited [residency and fellowship programs](#) in partnership with major health systems.

RVU offers targeted [Continuing Medical Education](#) (CME) and training resources. While they maintain clinical career advising, their current public CME programming features online training like the Educational Program on Osteopathic Medicine, designed to help employees and clinicians learn about osteopathic manipulative treatment.

Accreditation

RVU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). At its meeting on July 15, 2024, the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) of the Higher Learning Commission voted to continue the [accreditation](#) of RVU with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2033-34.

The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program offered at RVU's Colorado, Utah, and Montana campuses have been granted Accreditation – Continued status by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). RVU College of Medicine Colorado and Utah campuses were granted continued accreditation in 2019 for seven years. RVU Montana College of Medicine was granted permission to recruit and enroll students on July 20, 2022, and was granted full

accreditation status. Accreditation for all three campuses will be reevaluated with a comprehensive site visit in the academic year 2025-2026.

The Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) program has been granted full seven-year initial accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA) effective January 2025.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the RVU Physician Assistant Program. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be March 2033.

Rocky Vista University Surgical Simulation Center, RVU has the distinction of being recognized as a Comprehensive Accredited Education Institute (AEI) by the American College of Surgeons and is the only osteopathic medical school to receive this prestigious accreditation. RVU was awarded comprehensive accreditation for five years, extending through June 30, 2027.

Simulation

The [Office of Simulation in Medicine and Surgery](#) (SIMS) became a university-wide office in 2019, renovating and re-opening the Colorado RVU Healthcare Simulation Center in the Fall of 2020. Over 16,000 square feet of space in Colorado campus, 10,000 square feet in the Utah campus, and 23,000 square feet of space in the Montana campus are dedicated to hands-on and tele-simulation learning opportunities for all members of the healthcare team.

Research

Student research and scholarly activity is a vital part of the hands-on, real-world medical education experience that RVU emphasizes in its culture and curriculums. RVU students across all programs have opportunities to get involved in grant-winning research and scholarly activity that can influence lasting changes in the advancement of medicine. The [Office of Research and Scholarly Activity](#) supports all areas of research including basic biological, translational, educational, epidemiological, inclusion-related, clinical, and osteopathic practice studies.

ROLE OF THE PROVOST

Reporting to and collaborating closely with [Lori Werth, PhD](#), the President at RVU, the Provost oversees and drives key areas including academic strategic planning, accreditation, curriculum innovation, admissions, budgeting and resource allocation, educational quality and outcomes assessment, development of new academic programs, institutional policy, student success initiatives, regulatory compliance, and the recruitment, retention, development, and advancement of faculty and academic personnel. The Provost maintains the University's commitments to academic freedom, diversity, integrity, and ethics, as well as its commitment to excellence and support of the integration of osteopathic

philosophy in all University functions. The Provost provides visionary leadership in advancing the University's academic mission, strategic priorities, and institutional goals, serving as a catalyst for securing and stewarding the resources necessary to achieve excellence across all RVU academic programs.

The Provost oversees the academic enterprise consisting of nine direct reports including Vice Provost of Research and Scholarly Activity, Acting Dean of the Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine, Acting Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine in Colorado and Utah, Acting Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Director of the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice Program, Director of the Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program, Director of the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Program, and Director of the Master of Medical Sciences Program. The Provost is a member of the President's leadership team and serves ex officio on the Board of Trustees.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE PROVOST

Substantial opportunities await the new Provost that go beyond a traditional Provost role. These include:

Shape the next chapter of academic excellence and operational impact.

With the appointment of a new President, and as RVU continues to grow in size, scope, and influence, the Provost will have the opportunity to articulate and advance a bold academic vision that unites the University's colleges, programs, and campuses around a shared commitment to excellence, innovation, and student success. The Provost will ensure RVU is nimble to meet the changing needs of students while ensuring academic excellence and national prominence.

The Provost will lead with agility, transparency, and sound judgment, balancing entrepreneurial thinking with disciplined execution. By building trust across the institution, communicating a compelling vision, and fostering collaboration among faculty and staff, the Provost will inspire innovation while strengthening academic rigor and operational effectiveness. This leader will ensure that continued growth is matched by consistent academic quality, effective governance, and a collaborative culture that values continuous improvement while remaining grounded in RVU's mission and values. This leader will balance compassion with accountability, ensuring that people-centered leadership is paired with a steadfast commitment to institutional policies, accreditation standards, and regulatory compliance.

As enrollment expands and the University evolves, the Provost will ensure that academic and student support infrastructure keeps pace with institutional growth. This includes strengthening student success initiatives, modernizing learning environments and facilities, and advancing technology and digital infrastructure that enables data-informed decision-making, enhances teaching and learning, and improves student outcomes across all campuses. The Provost will assess institutional priorities, leverage the assets of all three campuses, strategically allocate resources, and make a compelling, evidence-based case for investments that advance the University's long-term goals. They will work closely with the President and Medforth to ensure alignment around key priorities and the necessary financial resources for success.

Working in close partnership with the President and the broader university community, the Provost will evaluate and refine the University's organizational structure to support continued growth, operational excellence, and academic distinction. This leader will also cultivate a cohesive academic culture that upholds shared standards of excellence while recognizing and leveraging the unique strengths, regional partnerships, and community needs of each campus. As the higher education landscape continues to shift, the Provost will collaborate with faculty to ensure the academic enterprise evolves to meet students' changing needs and interests while preserving RVU's culture.

Implement a refreshed strategic plan and advance intentional enrollment growth.

RVU's current institutional strategic plan is scheduled to conclude in 2027. In close partnership with the President, administrative leadership, faculty leaders, and Medforth, the Provost will play a central role in shaping, coordinating, and implementing the next strategic plan and advancing the President's vision. The Provost will serve as the President's primary thought partner in translating institutional priorities into an executable academic strategy, providing independent leadership while ensuring strong alignment with presidential goals.

A key priority for the next Provost will be leading a disciplined approach to strategic enrollment growth driven by workforce needs, market demand, and RVU's mission rather than growth for its own sake. The Provost will regularly assess the competitive landscape and evaluate opportunities for new and existing academic programs, ensuring that the University's portfolio remains relevant, differentiated, and responsive to evolving healthcare needs. Working collaboratively across the institution, the Provost will strengthen enrollment through thoughtful program development, expansion of clinical education partnerships, and the cultivation of academic pathways that create intentional pipelines into advanced and professional degree programs. Throughout these efforts, the Provost must balance growth ambitions with academic quality, student success, licensure pass rates, clinical placement capacity, and the long-term sustainability and viability of each program.

Position RVU as a national leader in health professions education, student success, and innovation.

RVU offers an exceptional opportunity for a visionary and collaborative academic leader to build upon a strong foundation of student success, innovation, and institutional growth. The next Provost will join a close-knit university community where students, faculty, and staff are deeply invested in one another's success. This supportive, mission-driven culture has contributed to strong student and faculty retention, reflecting a community where individuals are engaged, valued, and committed to the University's continued growth and excellence.

As healthcare education continues to evolve, the Provost will have the opportunity to position RVU as a national leader in health professions education, student success, and academic innovation. Building on the University's entrepreneurial culture, the Provost will advance evidence-based teaching practices, expand the use of simulation, digital learning, artificial intelligence, telehealth, and competency-based

education, and strengthen interprofessional learning experiences across programs. This will include continuing to raise the national profile of the largest DO program in the country.

The successful candidate will play a pivotal role in ensuring that RVU graduates are exceptionally prepared for the rapidly changing healthcare landscape. By fostering curricular innovation, academic excellence, and meaningful partnerships, the Provost will help prepare graduates with the knowledge, clinical skills, adaptability, and leadership capabilities needed to excel in emerging fields and meet the evolving needs of patients, communities, and the healthcare workforce. This is an opportunity to elevate RVU's national reputation while preserving the personalized, student-centered experience and collaborative academic culture that distinguish RVU.

Successfully open, enroll, and grow the new College of Veterinary Medicine.

As the next Provost will have the opportunity to pioneer the first-ever veterinary school in Montana at an institution known for its impressive enrollment growth and successfully responding to regional needs. The Provost will join RVU around the same time as their first accreditation visit in January 2027 and will lead the College on a path of growth and financial stewardship. The Provost will leverage RVU's cutting-edge urban campus for small animals, a dedicated range for large animals, and RVU's established infrastructure to achieve operational and academic excellence. As agriculture is Montana's largest industry, the Provost will be creative and nimble to ensure the College provides the appropriate programming and facilities to meet the state's workforce needs.

Advance faculty excellence and leadership development.

As RVU continues to expand, attracting, developing, and retaining exceptional educators, scholars, and academic leaders will become increasingly important. The Provost will strengthen faculty development, mentorship, succession planning, and leadership pathways while fostering a culture that values teaching excellence, scholarship, service, and innovation. With multiple dean vacancies, the Provost will have the opportunity to build a team by attracting and cultivating talent who can continue RVU's impressive trajectory of enrollment growth and academic prominence. The successful candidate will provide compassionate, values-driven leadership that inspires trust, collaboration, and excellence.

Lead forward-facing community engagement and strengthen regional impact.

RVU's success has been built upon strong relationships with clinical affiliates, healthcare organizations, and community partners. As competition for clinical placements and healthcare talent intensifies, the Provost will help strengthen existing partnerships while cultivating new collaborations that expand educational opportunities, research initiatives, workforce development, and community engagement.

This role offers a unique opportunity to expand RVU's impact by growing the healthcare workforce, enhancing access to care in underserved communities, and fostering collaborations with regional hospitals, clinics, and professional organizations. By cultivating strong relationships both within and outside the campuses, the Provost can reinforce a culture of collaboration and support, elevate RVU's

regional and national reputation, and continue to position RVU as a first-choice institution for healthcare education, research, and community health across the Mountain West and beyond.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will possess many, if not all, of the following qualifications and characteristics:

- Earned doctoral degree from an accredited institution;
- Credentials required for appointment as a full professor within the University;
- At least ten years of successful experience overseeing a complex organization within medical education, including management of financial, operational, and administrative elements., e.g. as a Vice Provost, Dean or Senior Associate Dean, or Program Director or Chair of a large department;
- A record of innovation and entrepreneurial leadership and management in the oversight of high-quality academic programming, accreditation, improving academic and student outcomes, developing faculty and academic leaders, and/or external collaborations;
- The ability to balance entrepreneurial thinking with disciplined execution;
- Experience contributing to or overseeing organizational growth in clinical, academic, and business operations, including exposure to budgetary and regulatory responsibilities;
- Interest in working within a private equity-backed organization;
- A record of attracting, developing, mentoring, motivating, and retaining high-quality talent and building high-performing teams;
- Significant experience with integrated curricula and active, adult learning models that promote an innovative professional, learner-centered environment;
- The ability and willingness to travel regularly to build strong partnerships, foster collaboration, and support institutional growth across locations;
- Demonstrated interest in pursuing the strategic use and integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance teaching, learning, innovation, student success, and institutional effectiveness.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Professional involvement and positions of national leadership in relevant associations and organizations;
- Experience with evidence-based medicine, publishing, scientific research, writing, evaluation, and management of grants;
- Experience leading within complex, multi-campus organization.

LOCATION & COMPENSATION

This position is located in Parker, Colorado with regular visits to the Utah and Montana campuses. The town of Parker offers the best mix of active, social, and cultural activities—with its proximity to Denver and to the Rocky Mountains, there is no shortage of choices for how to spend your well-deserved respites.

Additional information on national and state parks, shopping, golf courses, and museums can be found at: [RVU Colorado Campus | Leading Medical Education | 18+ yrs.](#) For more information on Parker, Colorado please visit: [Town of Parker - Official Website | Official Website](#)

The anticipated hiring salary is \$400,000 plus a comprehensive benefits package. The salary of the hire selected will be set based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to skill, knowledge, experience, education, and credentials.

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/rocky-vista-university/provost>.

Lindsay Gold, Jay Torio, Alice Holland, Julia Hochner
Isaacson, Miller

It is the policy of Rocky Vista University and all of its affiliated colleges and organizations not to engage in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion or creed, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, pregnancy, national or ethnic origin, non-disqualifying disability, age, ancestry, marital status, parental status, genetic information, sexual orientation, veteran status, political beliefs or affiliations, and to act in conformity with all applicable federal and state laws, orders and regulations, including the Civil Rights Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy on nondiscrimination applies to admissions, enrollment, scholarships, loan programs, participation in University activities, employment, and access to, participation in, and treatment in all University centers, programs, and activities.

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