



CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

Crean College of
Health and Behavioral Sciences

Leadership Profile



DEAN | CREAN COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

This leadership profile is intended to provide information and assist qualified individuals in assessing their interest in Chapman University and the position of dean for the Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences.



The Search

CREAN COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Chapman University seeks an accomplished, collaborative, and strategic leader to serve as the next dean of the Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences. The dean will join the university at an exciting moment and lead a college that has experienced significant growth, expanded its academic portfolio, and established itself as a vital contributor to Chapman's mission and future aspirations. Building on a strong foundation of academic excellence, student success, interdisciplinary collaboration, and professional program distinction, the next dean will lead a thriving college with significant opportunities to deepen partnerships across Chapman University's schools and colleges and advance the institution's broader aspirations for teaching, research, innovation, and community impact.

Spanning Chapman's Orange Campus and the Harry and Diane Rinker Health Science Campus in Irvine, Crean encompasses a diverse portfolio of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. This breadth gives the college a distinctive position within the university and presents a uniquely multifaceted leadership opportunity. Working across campuses, disciplines, and degree levels, the dean will strengthen collaboration, elevate Crean's academic reputation, and extend its impact across Orange County, Southern California, and the nation.

Working closely with the provost, department chairs, faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, and community partners, the dean will articulate and implement a vision for the college's future, ensuring alignment with Chapman's broader strategic priorities. The dean will serve as a visible ambassador for Crean, advancing research and scholarship, cultivating philanthropic and external support, strengthening healthcare and community partnerships, and keeping the college's programs responsive to evolving workforce needs. Equally important, the dean will champion a culture of collaboration, transparency, and excellence while supporting the success and development of faculty, staff, and students.





The Search

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

- Craft and execute a vision for Crean College's next chapter, building on its foundation of excellence
- Advance research excellence and expand opportunities for extramural funding and resource development
- Align Crean's portfolio of programs with evolving market and workforce needs
- Recruit, develop, and retain exceptional faculty and staff while fostering a culture of collaboration and accountability
- Strengthen strategic partnerships and elevate student success across the health and behavioral sciences

The successful dean will be an accomplished academic leader who understands the evolving landscape of higher education and healthcare, has strong financial and organizational acumen, and is committed to fostering an environment where faculty, staff, and students can thrive. This leader will position Crean to respond proactively to emerging trends in education, research, clinical practice, and the professions its graduates are prepared to enter.



About Chapman

Founded in 1861, Chapman University is an exciting and evolving institution that combines the resources of a growing research university with the scale and personalized experience of a mid-sized, student-centered campus. Located in the heart of Orange County, Calif., Chapman enrolls nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and maintains a 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio. Students can choose from more than 100 areas of study offered through 11 schools and colleges, spanning the arts, business, education, health sciences, humanities, and professional disciplines. The university's picturesque Orange Campus is steps from restaurants, coffee shops, and boutiques, just 15 miles from the beach, 30 miles from the business and cultural centers of Los Angeles, and about 80 miles to scenic and bustling San Diego. The Rinker Health Science Campus in nearby Irvine is home to Chapman's health science graduate programs. It is strategically situated within a major hub of the pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

Classified by the Carnegie Foundation as an R2 institution with high research activity, Chapman embraces an interdisciplinary and highly personalized approach to teaching, learning, scholarship, and research. The university emphasizes experiential learning, providing students with opportunities to work directly with distinguished faculty, including Nobel Prize winners, MacArthur Fellows, published authors, National Medal of Science recipients, and Academy Award winners. Chapman has produced a Rhodes Scholar, been recognized as a top producer of Fulbright Scholars, and hosts a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society.

Supported by an endowment exceeding \$1 billion, one of the fastest-growing in the nation with approximately two-thirds dedicated to student scholarships, Chapman continues to fulfill its mission of providing an education of distinction that prepares students for inquiring, ethical, and productive lives as global citizens. Backed by a global alumni network of over 80,000 graduates, the university has experienced significant momentum in recent years, reflected in its strongest-ever *U.S. News & World Report* ranking, among the fastest-rising national institutions in the country. For more information, visit [**chapman.edu/about**](https://chapman.edu/about).



Leadership



Matt Parlow has served as Chapman University's 14th president since September 2, 2025, and holds the Donald Bren Presidential Chair in Law. Over his 13 years at Chapman, Parlow has played a pivotal role in propelling the institution toward national prominence as both an administrator and a scholar. As Executive Vice President Chief Advancement Officer (EVP/CAO), and Parker S. Kennedy Chair in Law, he drove transformational growth while leading the historic fundraising initiative "*Inspire: The Campaign for Chapman*

University." This campaign seeks to raise \$500 million by 2028 and grow the university's endowment to \$2 billion by 2038. Under his leadership, Chapman surpassed \$400 million in 2025—well ahead of schedule—providing resources that strengthen academic excellence, support student success, and deepen community engagement.

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

Deeply committed to the student experience, he works to foster robust engagement among students, faculty, and the broader community, ensuring that Chapman continues to provide the distinctive, hands-on learning opportunities that set the university apart.

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

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

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

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



Leadership



Michael Ibba, Ph.D.,

was appointed Executive Vice President, Provost, and Chief Academic Officer of Chapman University in October 2025. He earned his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Imperial College London and completed his doctorate in microbial biochemistry at the University of Manchester. Following postdoctoral appointments at Novartis, ETH Zürich, and Yale University, Dr. Ibba established his own research group at the University of Copenhagen before joining The Ohio State University in 2001. Over 19 years at Ohio State, he held several academic leadership positions, including chair of microbiology, associate director of the Infectious Disease Institute, and co-director of an NIH-funded graduate training program. In 2020, he joined Chapman as Dean of the Schmid College of Science and Technology.

An internationally recognized scholar, Dr. Ibba has published more than 200 research articles, secured over \$15 million in extramural funding, and has been elected a fellow of both the American Academy of Microbiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. As provost, he provides leadership for Chapman's academic mission with a focus on research growth, innovation, interdisciplinary scholarship, and student success.



Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences

Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences is a dynamic and growing academic unit at Chapman University, recognized for advancing health and well-being through education, research, clinical practice, and community engagement. Using an interdisciplinary approach to understanding health across the lifespan, Crean brings together faculty, students, and staff from a range of disciplines to address complex challenges facing individuals, families, and communities. Through rigorous academics, applied scholarship, and experiential learning, Crean prepares graduates to become clinicians, researchers, educators, and leaders equipped to make meaningful contributions in their professions and communities.

The college offers undergraduate programs in health sciences and psychology, as well as graduate and professional programs in communication sciences and disorders, marriage and family therapy, physical therapy, and physician assistant studies. Together, these programs reflect Crean's commitment to integrating scientific inquiry, evidence-based practice, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Students benefit from close engagement with faculty mentors and opportunities to connect classroom learning with clinical practice, research, and community-based experiences.

With operations on both Chapman's Orange Campus and the Rinker Campus in Irvine, Crean occupies a distinctive position within the university. The Rinker Campus serves as a hub for graduate health sciences education and research, bringing together students and faculty from diverse disciplines in an environment designed to foster interprofessional learning and collaboration. This unique structure enables the college to bridge undergraduate, graduate, and professional education and to create opportunities for innovation across a diverse portfolio of academic programs.

RINKER CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

- Active Learning Center
- Communication Sciences and Disorders Adult Learning Lab
- Doctor of Physical Therapy Motion Analysis Lab
- Doctor of Physical Therapy Gait Rehabilitation Lab
- Physician Assistant Patient Evaluation Suite
- Pharmacy Learning Labs
- Pharmaceutical Sciences Analytical Core Laboratories





Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences

Excellence in teaching, personalized education, research, and scholarship are central to the college's mission. Faculty pursue collaborative inquiry across human health, behavioral health, rehabilitation sciences, communication disorders, and related fields, often in partnership with colleagues across Chapman and external organizations. By connecting research and practice, Crean advances knowledge, addresses real-world challenges, and improves outcomes for the communities it serves. Research centers, clinical partnerships, and community-engaged initiatives further extend the college's scholarly impact and visibility.

Located in the heart of Orange County, Crean benefits from proximity to leading healthcare systems, community organizations, and industry partners. These relationships support clinical education, workforce development, research collaboration, and experiential learning opportunities across the college's programs. They also position Crean to respond to evolving healthcare needs while preparing graduates to thrive in a rapidly changing professional landscape.

Over the past decade, Crean has expanded its academic offerings, strengthened its reputation, and increased its contributions to Chapman's educational and research missions. Today, its accomplished faculty and staff, broad academic portfolio, and commitment to teaching, scholarship, and service provide a strong foundation for the college's next chapter.





Role of the Dean

Reporting to the executive vice president, provost, and chief academic officer, the dean serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences and is responsible for advancing the college's educational, research, clinical, and service missions.

As a member of the university's academic leadership team, the dean will provide strategic vision and direction for a diverse portfolio of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs spanning the health and behavioral sciences across Chapman's Orange and Irvine campuses. The dean will oversee academic affairs, faculty and staff development, budgeting and resource allocation, research advancement, and organizational effectiveness while ensuring alignment with the university's broader strategic priorities, including enrollment and student success.

The dean will also serve as a visible advocate for Crean within Chapman and across the broader healthcare, behavioral health, and professional communities. Through collaborative and transparent leadership, the dean will build alignment around the college's priorities, represent its distinctive strengths, and secure the relationships and resources needed to advance its mission.

Key Opportunities & Challenges for the Dean

CRAFT AND EXECUTE A VISION FOR CREAN COLLEGE'S NEXT CHAPTER, BUILDING ON ITS FOUNDATION OF EXCELLENCE

Crean College stands at a pivotal moment in its evolution. Having experienced remarkable growth under its founding dean, the college is poised to enter a new phase of maturity and impact. The next dean will have the opportunity to build on a strong foundation of academic excellence, student success, interdisciplinary collaboration, and professional program distinction, while articulating a compelling vision for the future. The college seeks a leader who can honor past accomplishments while positioning Crean to thrive in an increasingly dynamic higher education and healthcare environment.

The next dean will be responsible for leveraging the college's unique two-campus structure to strengthen connections among undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs within Crean, and expand partnerships across Chapman University's schools and colleges to advance research, teaching, innovation, and student outcomes. Success will require bringing together a diverse set of academic units around a shared vision while preserving the strengths and cultures that have contributed to their success.

The next dean must be both a strategic thinker and an effective operator, capable of managing a complex administrative portfolio while advancing ambitious academic goals. The dean will provide leadership across a broad range of disciplines and programs and build alignment among a diverse group of stakeholders; strengthen Crean's role in advancing Chapman University's strategic priorities;

and ensure the college remains responsive to evolving workforce needs, emerging healthcare challenges, technological advances, and new models of education, research, and healthcare delivery. The successful leader will foster a culture of innovation that prepares students and faculty to thrive in a rapidly changing environment.

ADVANCE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRAMURAL FUNDING AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Crean's commitment to integrated education, research, clinical practice, and community engagement creates significant opportunities to elevate the college's scholarly profile and impact. The next dean will support research growth, strengthen collaboration, and foster an environment where faculty pursue innovative scholarship that bridges discovery, practice, and community needs. Building on a culture that emphasizes integrating research and real-world application, the dean will help identify areas of distinction that further elevate the college's reputation. The dean will foster an environment that supports the full range of scholarly activity, from fundamental scientific discovery to applied, translational, and community-engaged research.

The next dean will secure the resources needed to advance the college's ambitions. Working closely with faculty, university leadership, advancement partners, alumni, and external partners, the dean will expand opportunities for sponsored research, philanthropic investment, and strategic partnerships. Success will require effectively communicating the value and impact of Crean's programs and scholarship and creating the conditions for sustained growth in research activity and external support.





Key Opportunities & Challenges for the Dean

ENSURE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND ALIGN CREAN'S PORTFOLIO OF PROGRAMS WITH EVOLVING MARKET AND WORKFORCE NEEDS

As a steward of tuition resources, Chapman must balance academic excellence and enrollment strength. Several Crean programs play an important role in the university's enrollment profile and strategic direction, creating an opportunity for the next dean to steward resources thoughtfully while advancing academic priorities. Success in the role will require financial acumen and an understanding of the rapidly evolving need of healthcare and behavioral health professions.

The dean will lead the evaluation of existing programs, identify opportunities for innovation and growth, and ensure that Crean's academic offerings remain responsive to workforce demands, employer expectations, and community needs. The successful dean will possess the foresight to anticipate emerging trends (including advances in technology and evolving healthcare delivery models), position the college to meet future market needs, and preserve the quality, distinctiveness, and student-centered culture that define the Crean experience.

RECRUIT, DEVELOP, AND RETAIN EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY AND STAFF WHILE FOSTERING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Crean's success is rooted in the talent, dedication, and expertise of its faculty and staff. The next dean will have the opportunity to further strengthen a culture that supports excellence in teaching, personalized student learning, scholarship, clinical education, and service, recognizing the central role that instructional and clinical faculty play in delivering the distinctive Crean and Chapman student experience. Working closely with department leaders and faculty colleagues, the dean will recruit, develop, and retain outstanding talent while fostering an environment in which faculty and staff feel supported, valued, and empowered to succeed.

As the college continues to grow and evolve, the dean must bring together various programs and constituencies around shared goals while promoting transparency, accountability, and organizational effectiveness. The successful candidate will be a visible and accessible leader who encourages open communication, supports professional growth and leadership development, and cultivates a culture of trust, collaboration, and continuous improvement.



Key Opportunities & Challenges for the Dean



STRENGTHEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ELEVATE STUDENT SUCCESS ACROSS THE HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Located in a dynamic, thriving region and supported by Chapman's entrepreneurial culture, Crean is well-positioned to deepen relationships with healthcare providers, community organizations, and industry partners. The next dean will have the opportunity to expand these partnerships to enhance educational programs, support research and scholarship, strengthen workforce pipelines, and increase the college's impact throughout Southern California and the nation.

Crean has established a strong reputation for student success, experiential learning, and professional preparation. Maintaining that momentum will be a central priority for the next dean. Working collaboratively with university and external partners, the dean will expand opportunities for clinical training, community engagement, research participation, and career development, ensuring graduates are exceptionally well positioned to meet the evolving needs of the professions and the communities they serve. The dean will also help ensure that students are equipped to lead in a rapidly evolving professional environment shaped by technological innovation, interdisciplinary teamwork, and new approaches to patient care, behavioral health, and community well-being. Through these efforts, the dean will further distinguish Crean as a destination for innovative, career-connected education in the health and behavioral sciences.



Qualifications & Characteristics

The ideal candidate will possess many of the following experiences, skills, and abilities, or, as appropriate, the demonstrated ability to grow and develop these traits:

- Significant administrative leadership experience, including evidence of vision-setting, strategic planning, budget management, and organizational leadership within a complex academic environment;
- Academic credentials, scholarly accomplishments, and leadership experience sufficient to earn the confidence of faculty and support appointment as a tenured faculty member;
- Experience leading multifaceted academic enterprises encompassing multiple disciplines, programs, degree levels, and stakeholder groups;
- An understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing health sciences, behavioral sciences, healthcare professions education, and higher education, including evolving workforce needs, demographic shifts, and changing student expectations;
- A record of advancing research and scholarship, including supporting faculty success in securing external funding and fostering collaboration across disciplines and institutional boundaries;
- Strong financial and operational acumen, including experience with budgeting, resource allocation, enrollment strategy, and long-range planning;
- Demonstrated success evaluating, strengthening, and growing academic programs in alignment with institutional priorities, market opportunities, and workforce demand;
- A commitment to recruiting, developing, and retaining outstanding faculty and staff and fostering a culture of accountability, transparency, collaboration, and professional growth;
- Experience building meaningful partnerships with healthcare organizations, community partners, professional associations, industry leaders, and other external constituents;
- An interest in and aptitude for advancement, fundraising, and external engagement, coupled with the ability to effectively communicate the value and impact of the college's mission;
- Demonstrated curiosity about and engagement with emerging technologies and their implications for education, research, clinical practice, and workforce development;
- A demonstrated commitment to student success and an appreciation for the role of experiential learning, clinical education, research, and mentorship in preparing graduates for meaningful careers and lives of service;
- Exceptional communication, relationship-building, and consensus-building skills, coupled with a leadership style grounded in integrity, inclusiveness, transparency, and collaboration.





Compensation, Applications, Inquiries, & Nominations

Isaacson, Miller, the national executive search firm, is supporting Chapman University in this recruitment. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed to the firm.

Compensation will be commensurate with experience, with an anticipated salary range of approximately \$375,000–\$425,000.

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/chapman-university/crean-college-health-and-behavioral-sciences-dean>.

JOE KRALICK, JASMINE MILLER, AND GABI NAYAR
ISAACSON, MILLER

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

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

