UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

LEADERSHIP PROFILE



Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

ILLINOIS



The Search

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Illinois) seeks a collaborative, innovative, and strategic leader to serve as its inaugural Vice Provost for Enrollment Management (VPEM). This is a rare opportunity to shape the future of enrollment management at one of the nation's leading public research universities. With strong support from the Chancellor, Provost, Board of Trustees, and campus leadership, the VPEM will help define how Illinois attracts, enrolls, supports, and graduates future generations of students while advancing the University's ambitious goals for excellence, access, and student success.

Reporting directly to the Provost and partnering closely with the Chancellor, deans, and senior leaders across campus, the VPEM will serve as the University's chief enrollment strategist. This leader will develop and advance a comprehensive enrollment vision that aligns institutional enrollment goals with Illinois' land-grant mission, academic priorities, student success agenda, and long-term strategic objectives. The VPEM will provide executive oversight for admissions, financial aid, the registrar, enrollment communications, scholarship administration, and enrollment systems, bringing together recruitment, access, affordability, retention, and graduation efforts within a cohesive institutional framework.

The VPEM will join the University at a time of significant opportunity. Building on Illinois' exceptional reputation, strong enrollment demand, and forward-looking vision, this leader will strengthen alignment across a highly collaborative and decentralized institution, leverage data and emerging technologies to inform strategy, and foster a culture of innovation and continuous improvement. As the University advances its ambitious new strategic plan, Illinois Leads, the VPEM will play a critical role in supporting institutional priorities related to access, excellence, student success, and global impact through a comprehensive and future-focused enrollment strategy. The successful candidate will play a central role in positioning Illinois as a national leader in enrollment management and ensuring the University remains agile and competitive in a rapidly evolving higher education landscape.

A complete list of desired qualifications and leadership characteristics may be found at the conclusion of this document, which was developed in partnership with Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. All confidential applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the parties listed at the end of this document.

Leadership

Chancellor Charles L. Isbell, Jr.

Charles L. Isbell, Jr. became the 11th Chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in July 2025. A computationalist, researcher, educator, and advocate, Chancellor Isbell believes deeply in higher education's capacity to create opportunity, drive progress, and broaden our understanding of the world. His research has focused on artificial intelligence and machine learning, with a particular emphasis on how these technologies interact with humans in responsible and inclusive ways. He is a fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence and the Association for Computing Machinery and an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Chancellor Isbell has also served on numerous advisory boards for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and the National Academies. Prior to joining Illinois, he served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and previously as Dean of the College of Computing and Executive Director of the Constellations Center for Equity in Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Provost John Coleman

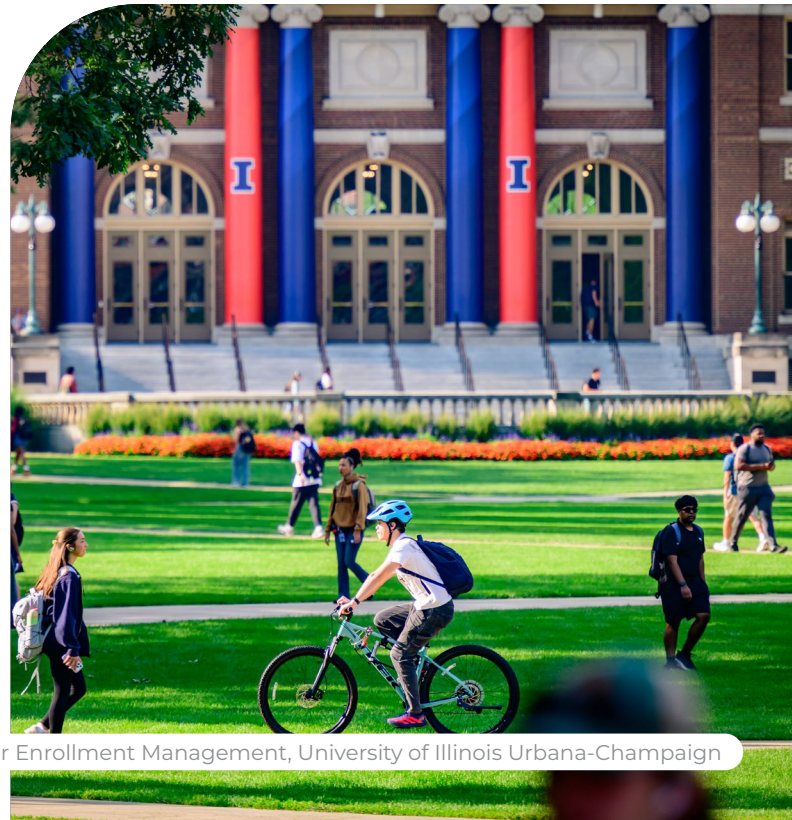
John Coleman joined the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as Provost in July 2023. As Provost, he provides leadership for the campus's academic enterprise, overseeing academic programs, policies, and priorities that support student success, advance faculty excellence, and strengthen the University's distinctive culture of teaching, learning, and research. He also oversees the university budget of over $3 billion. Prior to being named Provost, Coleman served for nine years as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. He was the chair of the Political Science Department, a Lyons Family Faculty Fellow, and the Glenn B. and Cleone Orr Hawkins Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was on the faculty for over 20 years and received the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. He also held a faculty position at the University of Texas at Austin and was a research associate and instructor at Harvard Business School.

The Office of Enrollment Management

The Office of Enrollment Management at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is responsible for the recruitment, enrollment, retention, and graduation of undergraduate students. Through data-informed strategy, collaborative partnerships, and student-centered service, Enrollment Management works to ensure that Illinois attracts, enrolls, and supports talented students from Illinois, across the nation, and around the world. The division is committed to expanding access, enhancing affordability, improving operational effectiveness, and creating seamless experiences for students throughout their educational journey.

Enrollment Management includes the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Office of Student Financial Aid, Office of the Registrar, Office of Communications for Enrollment Management, Data Analysis and Systems Services, and the Principal's Scholars Program. Together, these units advance the University's enrollment goals while supporting student success and institutional excellence.

The Office of Enrollment Management comprises a dedicated team of 155 full-time staff, 70 part-time employees, and 110 student workers. With an operating budget of $11,550,143, it also oversees a comprehensive financial aid program that distributes more than $1.2 billion annually in federal, state, institutional, and private funding.



Role of the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

The Vice Provost for Enrollment Management will serve as the University's chief enrollment strategist and a key member of the Provost's leadership team. Reporting to the Provost and partnering closely with the Chancellor, the Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, academic deans, and other senior leaders, this individual will provide vision and oversight for a comprehensive enrollment enterprise, including admissions, financial aid, registrar services, enrollment communications, data and systems, and scholarship programs.

At a pivotal time for higher education, the Vice Provost will lead the development and execution of institution-wide enrollment strategies that advance student success, support financial sustainability, and strengthen Illinois' competitive position. Leveraging data analytics, market intelligence, and predictive modeling, this leader will align enrollment goals with financial aid, academic capacity, and student support resources while fostering collaboration across colleges and administrative units.

As a trusted advisor to University leadership, the Vice Provost will champion innovative approaches to recruitment, retention, and student success; expand access and opportunity for a broad range of students, including Illinois residents, transfer students, and first-generation students; and advance the University's land-grant mission while sustaining its academic excellence and global reputation.

Key Opportunities and Challenges for the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

The Vice Provost will have the opportunity to establish a cohesive enrollment vision, strengthen alignment across the University, and position Illinois for continued success in a rapidly evolving higher education environment.

Key opportunities and priorities include:

Develop and Implement a Comprehensive and Unified Enrollment Strategy

As the University's inaugural Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, this leader will have a unique opportunity to build and lead a comprehensive, institution-wide enrollment strategy that aligns student success initiatives with Illinois' land-grant mission, academic priorities, and long-term strategic goals. Building on the University's enrollment momentum and national reputation, the Vice Provost will develop a clear vision that integrates recruitment, financial aid, retention, student success, and enrollment planning around shared institutional objectives.

The Vice Provost will create a coordinated approach to enrollment planning that balances goals with academic capacity, financial sustainability, and operational considerations. This leader will also advance a holistic view of enrollment management by strengthening partnerships across key areas of the student experience, including housing, advising, financial aid, course availability, career services, and student support. By aligning growth with the resources and infrastructure necessary for student success, the Vice Provost will help ensure students are supported throughout their educational journey.

Lead Strategic Enrollment Growth Aligned with Illinois' Land-Grant Mission

As the public flagship university of Illinois, U. of I. is uniquely positioned to advance excellence, access, and opportunity at scale. The Vice Provost will provide strategic leadership for enrollment strategies that support the University's land-grant mission while sustaining its growth, academic distinction, and national and international prominence. This leader will help shape an enrollment vision that expands opportunity, strengthens pathways for Illinois students, and keeps access and affordability central to institutional success.



Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The Vice Provost will advise senior leadership on the balance of in-state, out-of-state, transfer, graduate, and international enrollment, ensuring enrollment decisions align with both institutional priorities and the University's responsibility to serve the people of Illinois. Working closely with campus partners, the Vice Provost will also evaluate and align financial aid strategies, scholarship investments, and enrollment goals to maximize student access and institutional impact. A strong understanding of student decision-making, market dynamics, and financial aid strategy will be essential to advancing enrollment outcomes and long-term university objectives.

Leverage Data, Analytics, and Technology to Advance Enrollment Strategy

The Vice Provost will advance a more integrated, data-informed approach to enrollment management by strengthening the systems, processes, and infrastructure that support institutional decision-making. As the University continues to evolve, this leader will enhance the use of data, analytics, and market intelligence throughout the enrollment lifecycle, ensuring leaders have timely, actionable information to guide planning and resource allocation.

The University is also entering a period of significant technological transformation, including a planned enhancement of the Slate CRM platform beginning next summer. The Vice Provost will help guide the institution's implementation and utilization of these enhancements to support a more coordinated, student-centered approach to recruitment, communications, enrollment planning, and engagement.

Working at the intersection of strategy, technology, and analytics, the Vice Provost will position Illinois to respond proactively to demographic shifts, evolving student expectations, increased competition, and changing domestic and international recruitment markets. Through the effective use of predictive analytics, emerging technologies, and market intelligence, this leader will identify growth opportunities and support evidence-based decisions on enrollment strategy, financial aid investment, and long-term institutional planning.

Maintain a High-Performing Enrollment Enterprise

The Vice Provost will have a unique opportunity to shape an enrollment organization designed to meet the University's future needs. Building on a strong foundation across enrollment-related functions, the Vice Provost will assess existing structures, processes, and resources and develop an organizational model that supports a more coordinated, strategic, and data-informed approach to enrollment management.

The Vice Provost will establish the vision, culture, and operating framework for the enrollment enterprise, ensuring it is positioned to advance the University's goals for growth, access, student success, and institutional excellence. This leader will strengthen alignment across enrollment functions, enhance organizational effectiveness, and foster a culture of accountability, collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement.

This leader must be able to unite teams around a shared vision, lead through change, and build strong partnerships across a complex, decentralized institution. Through thoughtful leadership and organizational development, the Vice Provost will establish a high-performing enrollment enterprise capable of supporting Illinois' long-term aspirations and national leadership in strategic enrollment management.

Strengthen Enrollment Alignment, Communication, and Collaboration Across the University

The Vice Provost will serve as a highly visible and engaged campus leader, building strong relationships with deans, faculty, academic leaders, student affairs professionals, recruitment teams, and administrative partners across the University. Through active listening, collaboration, and strategic engagement, this leader will strengthen alignment among the many stakeholders who contribute to enrollment, retention, and student success. The Vice Provost will enhance communication and information sharing across the enrollment enterprise, ensuring enrollment decisions are data-informed, clearly communicated, and aligned with institutional priorities. This leader will foster greater transparency around enrollment planning, goals, and key initiatives while helping build a shared understanding of opportunities, challenges, and strategic objectives.

Through visible leadership, open communication, and a commitment to partnership, the Vice Provost will cultivate a culture of trust, accountability, and shared ownership that advances the University's enrollment goals and long-term success.

Enrollment Management Reporting Units

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions leads the University's efforts to recruit, admit, and enroll a highly talented and diverse student body. Through strategic recruitment initiatives, application review, outreach programs, and personalized engagement with prospective students and families, the office advances the University's commitment to access, academic excellence, and student success.

The Office of Student Financial Aid

The Office of Student Financial Aid is dedicated to ensuring that a University of Illinois education remains accessible and affordable. The office administers more than $1.2 billion in financial aid annually through federal, state, institutional, and private funding sources. Through counseling, scholarship administration, grants, loans, work-study programs, and outreach initiatives, the office helps students and families navigate the financial aid process and secure the resources needed to achieve their educational goals.

The Office of the Registrar

The Office of the Registrar serves as the steward of the University's official academic records and supports the institution's educational mission through the administration of registration services, course scheduling, degree audits, tuition assessment, transcript services, enrollment verification, and graduation processes. In partnership with academic and administrative units across campus, the office ensures the integrity, accuracy, and security of student records while implementing and upholding academic policy.

The Office of Communications for Enrollment Management

The Office of Communications for Enrollment Management develops and implements communication strategies that support recruitment, enrollment, and student success goals. The office works collaboratively across Enrollment Management to create coordinated messaging, outreach campaigns, publications, digital communications, and engagement strategies that connect prospective and current students with the University.

Data Analysis and Systems Services

Data Analysis and Systems Services provides the analytics, reporting, forecasting, systems management, and operational support necessary to inform strategic enrollment decisions. The unit plays a critical role in leveraging institutional data to support enrollment planning, improve services, and drive evidence-based decision-making across the enrollment enterprise.

Principal's Scholars Program

The Principal's Scholars Program supports the University's commitment to expanding educational opportunity and student achievement. Through targeted recruitment, outreach, support, and engagement efforts, the program helps attract and support academically talented students from historically underserved backgrounds, contributing to student success and the University's broader access goals.



Qualifications and Characteristics

The following qualifications represent the experiences, skills, and personal attributes deemed important for success as the next Vice Provost for Enrollment Management. The required qualifications describe the background and credentials necessary for consideration, while the preferred qualifications reflect additional experiences and characteristics that would strengthen a candidate's potential for success in the role. While no candidate is expected to embody every preferred qualification, the most competitive candidates will bring many of the following professional qualifications and attributes.

Required Qualifications

- Master's degree in a relevant field.
- Ten years of progressively responsible leadership experience in enrollment management, higher education administration, student affairs, academic administration, or a closely related field.
- Demonstrated success developing and implementing comprehensive enrollment strategies that integrate recruitment, financial aid, retention, and student success objectives and align with institutional priorities, capacity, and long-term sustainability.
- Demonstrated ability to leverage enrollment analytics, forecasting, market research, and financial modeling to inform institutional decision-making and enrollment planning.
- Demonstrated ability to build collaborative relationships and influence decision-making across a complex institution.

Preferred Qualifications

- Earned doctorate.
- Experience serving in a senior enrollment leadership role at a large public research university or similarly complex institution.
- Demonstrated success overseeing multiple enrollment management functions, including admissions, financial aid, registrar services, enrollment communications, enrollment systems, and scholarship programs.
- Experience developing enrollment targets, tuition revenue projections, financial aid leveraging strategies, and enrollment-related scenario analyses that support institutional planning and financial sustainability.
- Experience working effectively with senior academic leaders, faculty governance bodies, and administrative partners to advance institution-wide strategic initiatives.

Appointment & Salary Information

This is a 100% full-time Academic Professional position appointed on a 12-month basis. The expected start date is as soon as possible following the conclusion of the search. Sponsorship for work authorization is not available for this position.

Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience, while also considering internal equity. The University strives to provide a competitive salary, considering factors such as available market data, internal equity, candidate experience and qualifications, collective bargaining agreements, and budget constraints. The final salary offer will be determined through a thorough assessment of these elements.



Applications, Inquiries and Nominations

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. For full consideration, materials should be provided by November 18, 2026; however, materials will be considered until the position is filled. Electronic submission of materials is required. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and applications, including a curriculum vitae and cover letter, should be submitted through the Isaacson, Miller website for the search.

Micah Pierce,
Partner

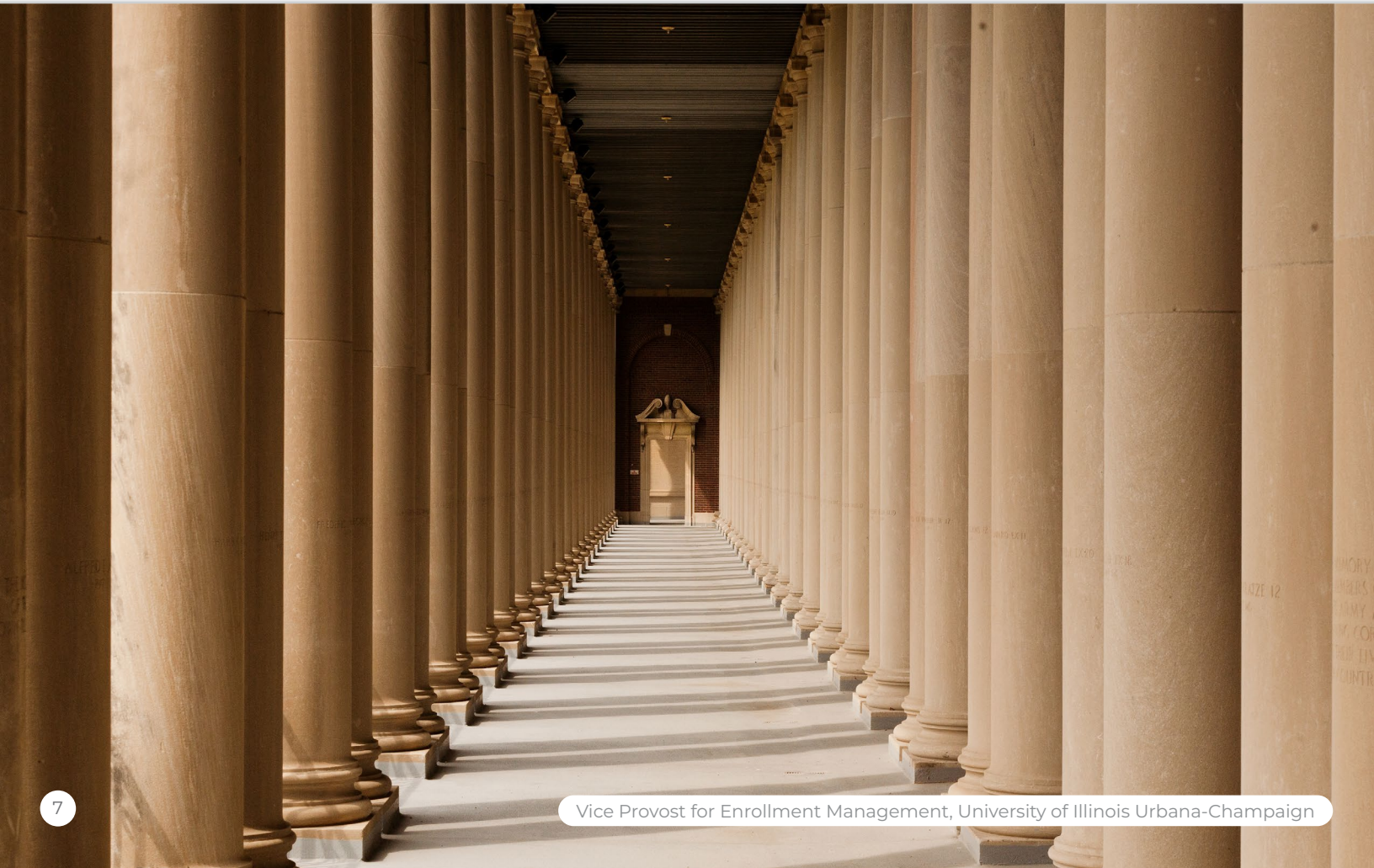
Lehman Robinson,
Senior Associate

Marlyn Desire,
Senior Search Coordinator

Isaacson, Miller
https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-illinois-urbana-champaign/vice-provost-enrollment-management

The University of Illinois System is an equal opportunity employer, including but not limited to disability and/or veteran status, and complies with all applicable state and federal employment mandates. Please visit Required Employment Notices and Posters to view our non-discrimination statement and find additional information about required background checks, sexual harassment/misconduct disclosures, and employment eligibility review through E-Verify.

Applicants with disabilities are encouraged to apply and may request a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008) to complete the application and/or interview process. Requests may be submitted through the reasonable accommodations portal, or by contacting the Accessibility & Accommodations Division of the Office for Access and Equity at 217-333-0885, or by emailing accessibility@illinois.edu.



Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

An Overview

Founded in 1867, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has a stellar reputation as a world-class leader in research, teaching and public engagement. From the development of the modern web browser to the visible LED to the fundamental discovery of Archaea (the third kingdom of life), Illinois has a long-standing history of creating life-changing innovations that impact the world. Researchers at Illinois continually make foundational discoveries that transform the way we tackle global problems, develop technology and expand the human experience.

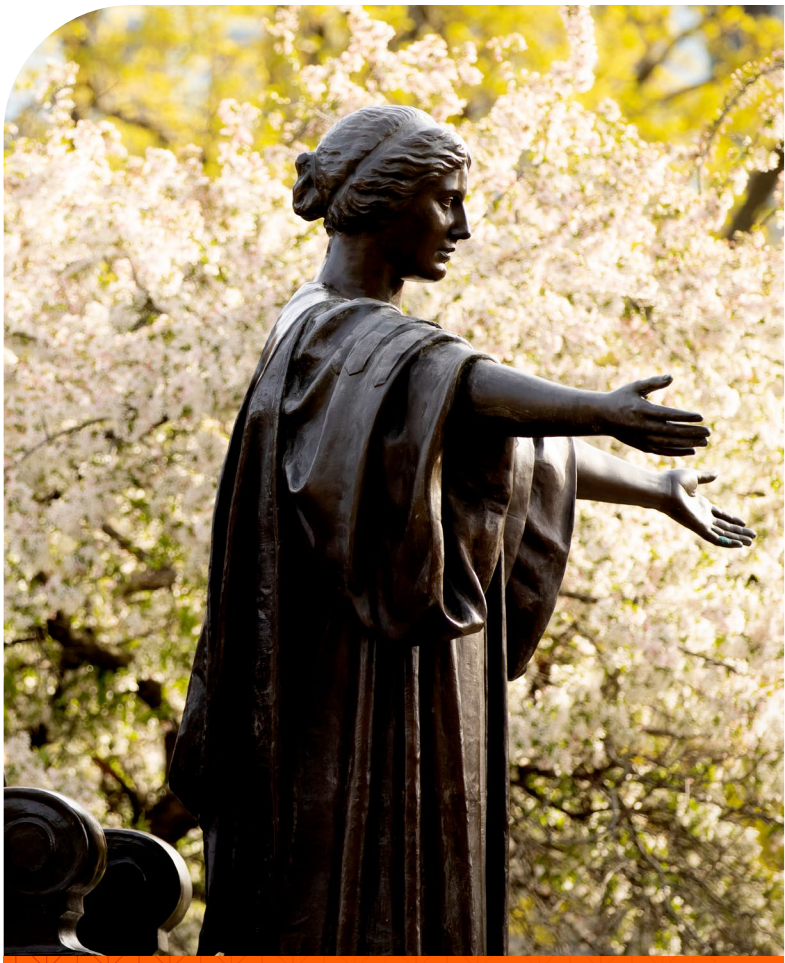
The University of Illinois System has campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The flagship campus in Urbana-Champaign is the largest of the three, situated on 1,783 acres. The metro population is more than 230,000, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

Mission

The campus is led by Chancellor Charles L. Isbell, Jr., who is the chief executive officer for the Urbana-Champaign campus and is responsible for all financial programs, campus policies and priorities, with the mission of ensuring a transformative educational experience for the world's next generation of leaders.

Illinois remains true to the land-grant mission — to enhance the lives of all citizens in Illinois, across the nation and around the world through leadership in learning, discovery, engagement and economic development. This includes launching the Illinois Commitment, which provides free tuition and fees to qualified in-state undergraduates. The university provides strong undergraduate and graduate education programs; undertakes basic, translational and applied research; and supports outreach, extension, continuing education, initiatives and programs, as well as other public engagement activities to multiple communities.

Collaboration and innovation are hallmarks of the Illinois research enterprise —researchers are accustomed to working across disciplines, institutions and international boundaries. The university's powerful reputation attracts extensive international partnerships that create opportunities for Illinois students and faculty to work with colleagues around the world.



The campus community includes:

~39,393
undergraduate students

~21,667
graduate and professional students

~3,360
tenure system and specialized faculty members

~3,700
academic professionals

~6,100
civil service staff members



Noteworthy projects include:

- The Illinois Quantum & Microelectronics Park, a first-of-its-kind campus in Chicago built for quantum technology and microelectronics innovation and scale-up.
- The iBiofoundry, a next-generation manufacturing facility poised to transform agriculture, pharma, energy and industrial manufacturing. The newly launched iBioFoundry at Illinois will serve the nation's scientific community by expanding the use of automated systems, machine learning and artificial intelligence to promote and optimize advances in synthetic biology, biotechnology and genomics.
- CABBI, a $260M+ Department of Energy project focused on developing efficient ways to grow bioenergy crops, transform biomass into valuable chemicals and market the resulting biofuels and other bioproducts
- The iFAB Tech Hub, a $51M project uniting 30+ higher ed, industry, local governments, venture capital and labor organizations. The consortium is led by the university and builds on central Illinois leadership in biomanufacturing.
- Three of the nation's artificial intelligence institutes, the Molecule Maker Lab, AIFARMS and the INVITE Institute, are pushing the boundaries of AI innovation in molecule discovery, agriculture and education.
- The Realizing Increased Photosynthesis Efficiency program, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is working to develop "ultra photosynthesis" to radically enhance production of food crops and transform agricultural-based economies around the globe.
- The first Illinois-led NASA scientific mission, the $75 million Carruthers Geocorona Observatory. The instrumentation will survey the geocorona, the outermost layer of Earth's atmosphere, and provide key information about how this layer interacts with complex space system at large.
- The Center for Wounded Veterans, a national leader in research, services and supports for veterans with disabilities.
- DeltaAI, funded by the National Science Foundation to provide leading-edge artificial intelligence resources to U.S. researchers. Scientists from across the country, who work at both large universities and smaller colleges, can access DeltaAI to advance the nation's AI capabilities and train students for tech-focused jobs.
- The Speech Accessibility Project. Today's speech recognition systems, such as voice assistants and translation tools, don't always recognize people with a diversity of speech patterns often associated with disabilities. The project has unprecedented, cross-industry support from Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta and Microsoft, as well as nonprofit organizations whose communities will benefit from this accessibility initiative to make speech recognition more inclusive of diverse speech patterns.
- The Bill and Julie Kellner Center for Neurogenomics, Behavior and Society, which brings together genomic biology, neuroscience, the social sciences and social work to create the first named center of its kind in the U.S.
- Two cancer-focused ARPA-H grants: Margin Diagnostics combines multi-modal label-free optical screening technologies with AI screening tools to ensure that tumor tissue and cells are completely removed during surgery. The Manufacturing Agile and Scalable Organoid Tumor models is focused on developing a radically new platform to manufacture tumor models and dramatically expand their availability for both medical research and personalized medicine.

Financial Overview

Current campus expenditures are around $3 billion per year. Of this total, sponsored research project awards account for nearly $850 million. Illinois has a remarkably balanced sponsored research portfolio, with significant funding from the NSF, NIH and DOD.

National and Global Impact

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is a member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Association of American Universities, as well as the Big Ten Academic Alliance, which is governed by the provosts of the member universities.

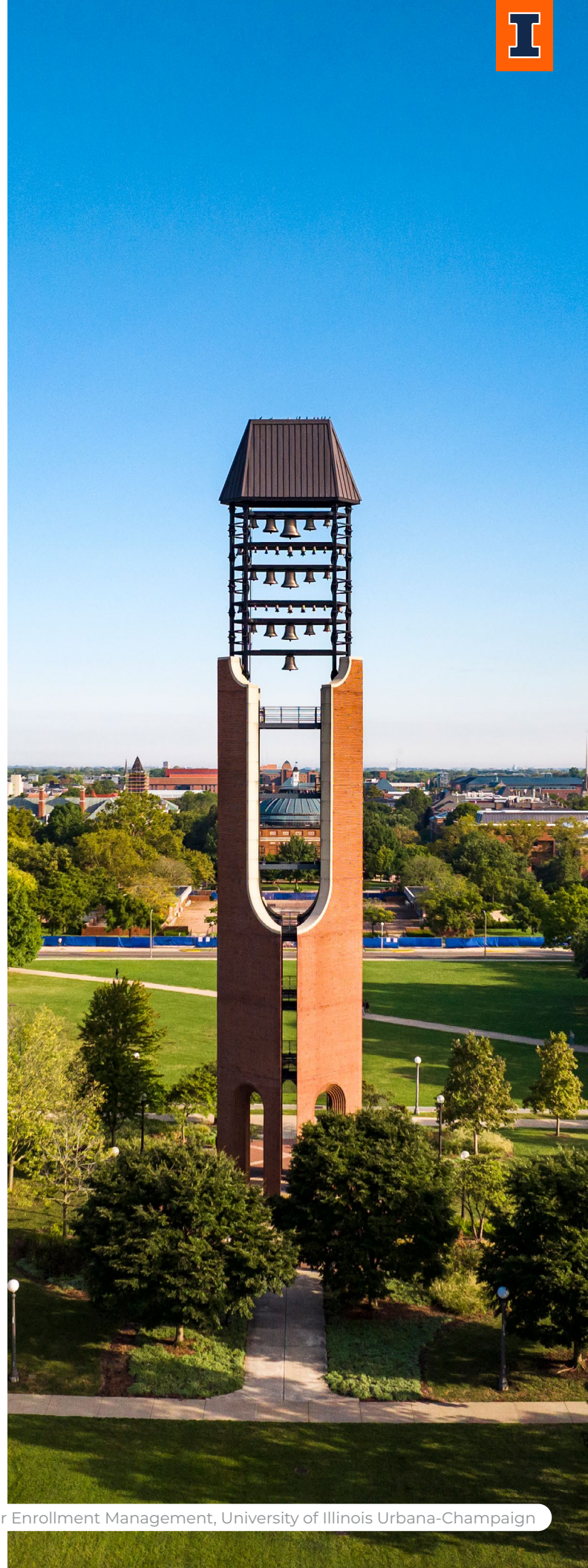
Illinois is a recognized leader in national and international education. With an international student enrollment of over 12,000 in 2024-25, Illinois ranks second in the nation among public colleges and universities and includes students from over 120 countries. More than 1,600 students studied abroad in 2024-25, and around 300 programs are offered each year in 50 countries around the globe.

World-Class Faculty, Distinguished Students and Alumni

Among the campus's most significant resources are its talented faculty and students. Many faculty members are recognized for their exceptional scholarship, with memberships in the American Philosophical Society, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Inventors, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Academy of Education and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Faculty members at the university have won and received Nobel Prizes, Wolf Awards, Pulitzer Prizes, MacArthur Fellowships, Guggenheim Fellowships, Fulbright Awards, the Crafoord Prize in Biosciences, Blavatnik Awards, the Japan Prize, the National Book Award, the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Technology and Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, as well as awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Academy of Education and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Each year, Illinois students receive some of the world's most prestigious scholarships, including Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, Gates, Goldwater, Churchill, and Luce and Fulbright Scholarships. Illinois has been named a top producer of Fulbright Students and Scholars, often ranking in the top 10 among public universities and top 25 among all universities. Another prime indicator of the university's excellence is the success of its alumni — boasting one of the world's largest, most diverse alumni communities in the U.S. and around the world. The Illinois alumni base includes 11 Nobel laureates, 26 winners of the Pulitzer Prize and 212 Guggenheim Fellows.



Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

World-Class Library

Holding the largest collection among North America's academic research libraries, the University Library counts over 15 million volumes and more than 24 million items. More than 1 million patrons from around the world access the online catalog each week. Its world-renowned holdings include not only one of the greatest rare book and special collections (Gutenberg Bible, Shakespeare folios, Spanish Golden Age, emblem books, Audubon elephant folio and Sousa manuscripts are only a few examples) but also leading collections of Slavic and Latin American materials; music recordings and scores; legal history; agricultural, physical and engineering sciences; and unique archival materials. The library is home to the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, the mission of which is to strengthen international ties among libraries and librarians worldwide. More than 1,300 librarians from more than 90 countries have participated in its professional development program, the only one of its kind in the world. The University Library is the only major research library of this scope and magnitude to stress public service and global access.

Arts and Culture

A major center for the arts, Illinois attracts dozens of nationally and internationally renowned artists each year to its widely acclaimed Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Designed by alumnus Max Abramovitz, an architect of New York City's Lincoln Center, the facility has four indoor theaters and an outdoor amphitheater. In the more than 50 years since its opening, the center has welcomed hundreds of thousands of patrons for more than 350 performances each year.

The university also supports two major museums: Krannert Art Museum and Spurlock Museum. Second in size only to the Art Institute of Chicago among Illinois general fine-art museums, Krannert Art Museum has over 10,000 works of art in its permanent collection. Spurlock Museum, a museum of world history and culture, holds approximately 50,000 artifacts from diverse cultures and varied historical time periods.

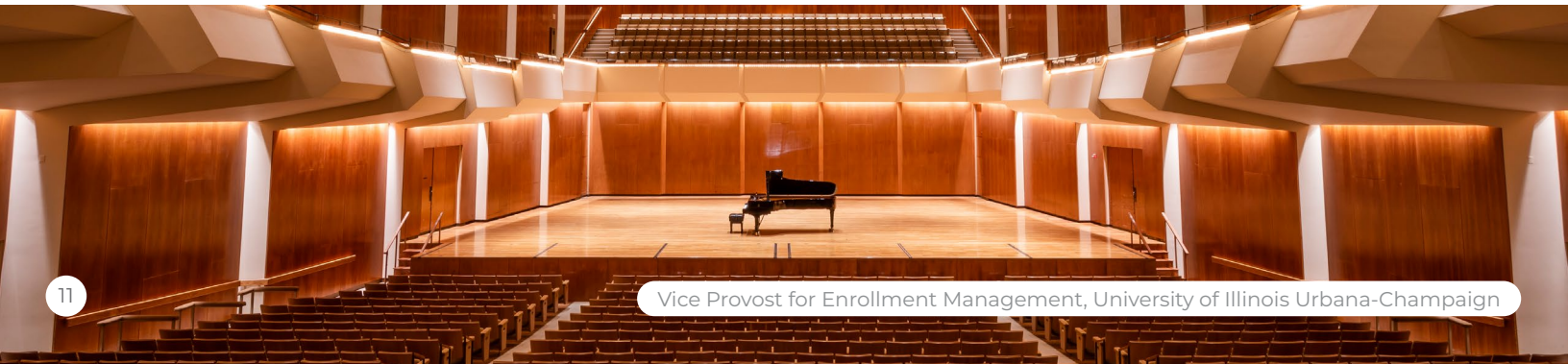
In addition to visual and performing arts, Illinois promotes cultural education through resources offered to the entire campus community. The Asian American Cultural Center, International Education, Japan House, La Casa Cultural Latina, Native American House, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, Salaam Middle East and North African Cultural Center, Women's Resources Center, Diversity and Social Justice Education and Gender and Sexuality Resource Center provide opportunities to learn and experience the rich historic traditions and modern living cultures that shape our world

Sustainable Values and Culture

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is a leader in higher education and research, with a proven commitment to sustainable practices and innovation. Since 2013, the university has earned gold-level honors in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, the nation's most comprehensive sustainability rating program. In 2015, the U. of I. was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Green Power Partner and ranks among the nation's top 20 institutions for on-site renewable energy generation. The campus also holds designations as a "Bicycle Friendly University," a "Tree Campus Higher Education," and a "Bee Campus USA." Illinois also received the 2024 International District Energy Association's System of the Year award, distinguishing its wholly owned and utilities enterprise and the dedicated team members who support it. The system combines cogeneration, digital controls and distribution of multiple energy streams to proactively manage and decrease demand, thereby reducing emissions and maximizing cost-efficiency.

Research Park

The University of Illinois Research Park provides an on-campus community for corporate innovation centers, startups and university research centers to locate together. The highly skilled tech workforce, student employees and research pre-eminence create innovation and new technologies. The Research Park includes 120+ companies, 18 buildings and 2,100 employees. Examples of innovation centers, which employ some of the 800+ students working in the Research Park, include BP, Caterpillar, Capital One, Mondelez, GDM, Rivian, ADM and other Fortune 500 companies. EnterpriseWorks, the Research Park's 43,000-square-foot business incubator for early-stage tech firms, is operated by the university to help launch successful startup companies. The EnterpriseWorks tech incubator has incubated more than 330 science/tech companies that raised $1.4 billion in venture capital and more than $200 million in Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer funding since 2004. EnterpriseWorks operates the statewide FAST Center, which helps innovative startups across Illinois access federal grant funding for small businesses (SBIR/STTR). In three years, it has helped clients access $67.2 million in awards; 60% of the clients are from underserved populations.



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Comprehensive Academics

More than 39,000 undergraduate students are enrolled in 11 undergraduate colleges and divisions, which together offer courses in more than 150 fields of study. The campus enrolls approximately 21,000 graduate and professional students in more than 200 programs and is among the top universities in the number of earned doctorates awarded annually in the U.S.

Colleges and Divisions Enrolling Undergraduates and Graduate Students Include:

- College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
- College of Applied Health Sciences
- Gies College of Business
- College of Education
- The Grainger College of Engineering
- College of Fine and Applied Arts
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- College of Media
- School of Information Sciences
- School of Social Work
- Division of Exploratory Studies

The Following Units Offer Programs Leading to Graduate or Professional Degrees:

- Carle Illinois College of Medicine
- College of Law
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- School of Labor and Employment Relations

The campus is highly regarded in accountancy, biochemistry, chemistry, engineering, information science, education, microbiology and computer science. Additionally, it is nationally recognized for its strengths in the arts and humanities, collaborative and interdisciplinary research culture, highly ranked professional schools and one of the world's great libraries.

U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges (2026-27) rated the Urbana-Champaign campus as 8th among public universities and 34th among all national universities. In all of Illinois' current graduate and undergraduate rankings, there are 37 programs in the top five, 67 among the top 10 and 97 in the top 20. Illinois is delivering excellence on a massive scale.

Selected Highlights Include:

- 17 Top-10 ranked undergraduate degrees and specialties and 17 Top-10 ranked graduate degrees and specialties in the Grainger College of Engineering (per U.S. News & World Report).
  - Civil Engineering is ranked first in graduate and third in undergraduate programs nationally.
  - The Grainger College of Engineering is ranked 6th in undergraduate and 6th in graduate programs nationally.
  - Materials Science and Engineering ranks sixth in undergraduate and third in graduate programs.
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering ranks fifth in both undergraduate and graduate programs.
- The School of Information Sciences is ranked first in the nation.
- Illinois has been designated a First Scholars Institution by the Center for First-generation Student Success for its commitment to first-gen students.
- The Department of Accountancy is ranked first in undergraduate programs and sixth in graduate programs in the nation.
- Chemistry ranks ninth in graduate programs.
- Psychology ranks eighth in graduate programs.
- The Gies College of Business is ranked twelfth in undergraduate programs nationally.
- Gies College of Business is home to the biggest business school innovation of the decade according to Poets&Quants.
- Illinois has been regularly named a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers.
- Open Doors ranks Illinois second among public universities in the number of international students.
- The Social & Behavioral Science Institute is the newest interdisciplinary institute on the University of Illinois Campus.



Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Champaign-Urbana

A Micro-Urban Community

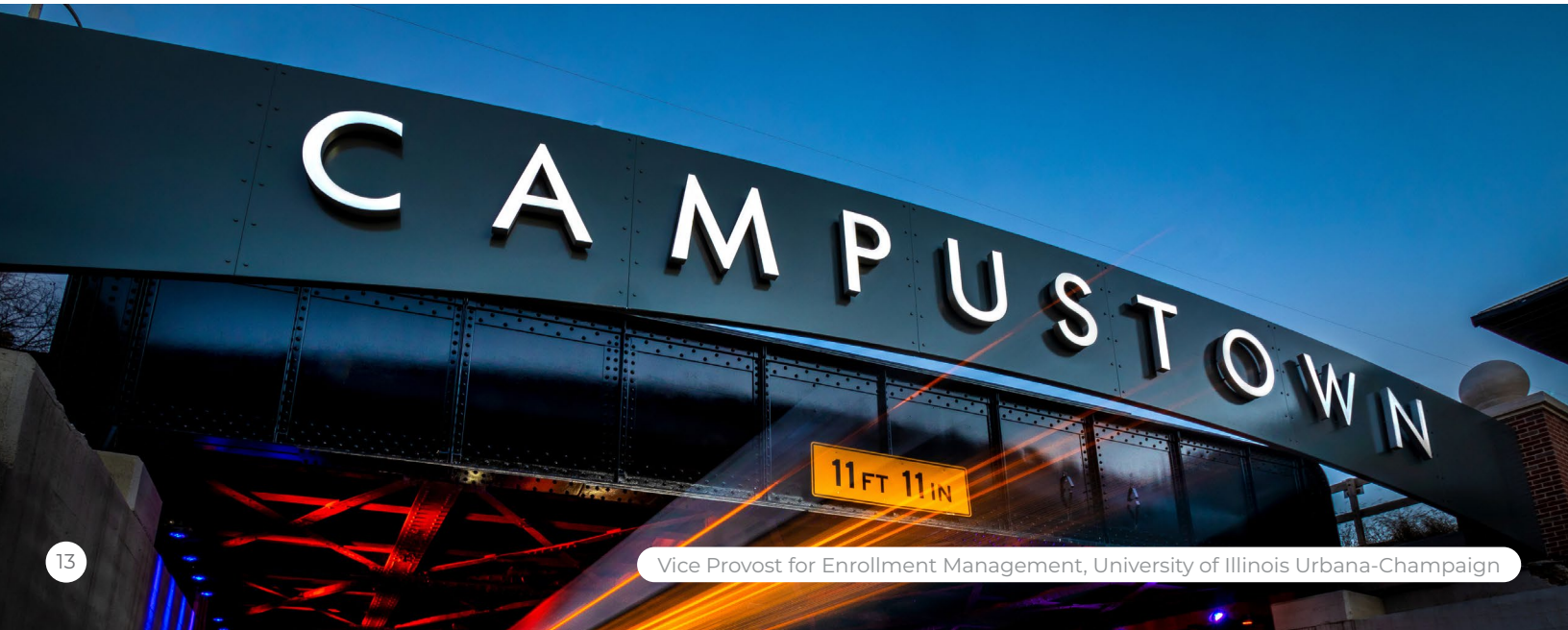
While Champaign-Urbana is home to one of the world's great public research universities, a vibrant arts and culture scene, internationally diverse population, strong technology base and commitment to societal issues make the area a destination for professionals of all kinds. The twin cities feature highly desirable attributes — top-notch restaurants, concert arenas and parks and recreation facilities — commonly found in larger cities.

Champaign-Urbana is consistently ranked as a great place to live and work, with an average commute time of just eight minutes. Combining natural Midwestern beauty with cultural resources typically found in larger metropolitan areas, the twin cities retain the charm, friendliness, safety and affordability of smaller communities. Housing, entertainment and living expenses are comparatively low. Easy commutes, a designated bike-friendly community and an award-winning mass transit system (free with campus ID) make it quick and simple to get from here to there.

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy 12,000 acres of community parks throughout the area and a wide variety of outdoor sports and activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, camping, biking and cross-country skiing at one of the major forest preserves in Champaign County. Golfers enjoy a number of public golf courses within 15 miles of Champaign and three private clubs. The annual Illinois Marathon is a national event that brings together thousands of athletes, spectators and volunteers for a weekend of races and activities.

Within a three-hour car ride to Chicago, St. Louis or Indianapolis, individuals in the community can enjoy sporting events, world-class museums or dinner at renowned restaurants. Amtrak and American Airlines offer daily transportation from Champaign, allowing ready access to almost anywhere in world. As a community that makes it easy to balance work with family and leisure, it doesn't take long for newcomers to realize that this community is a wonderful place to call home.

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