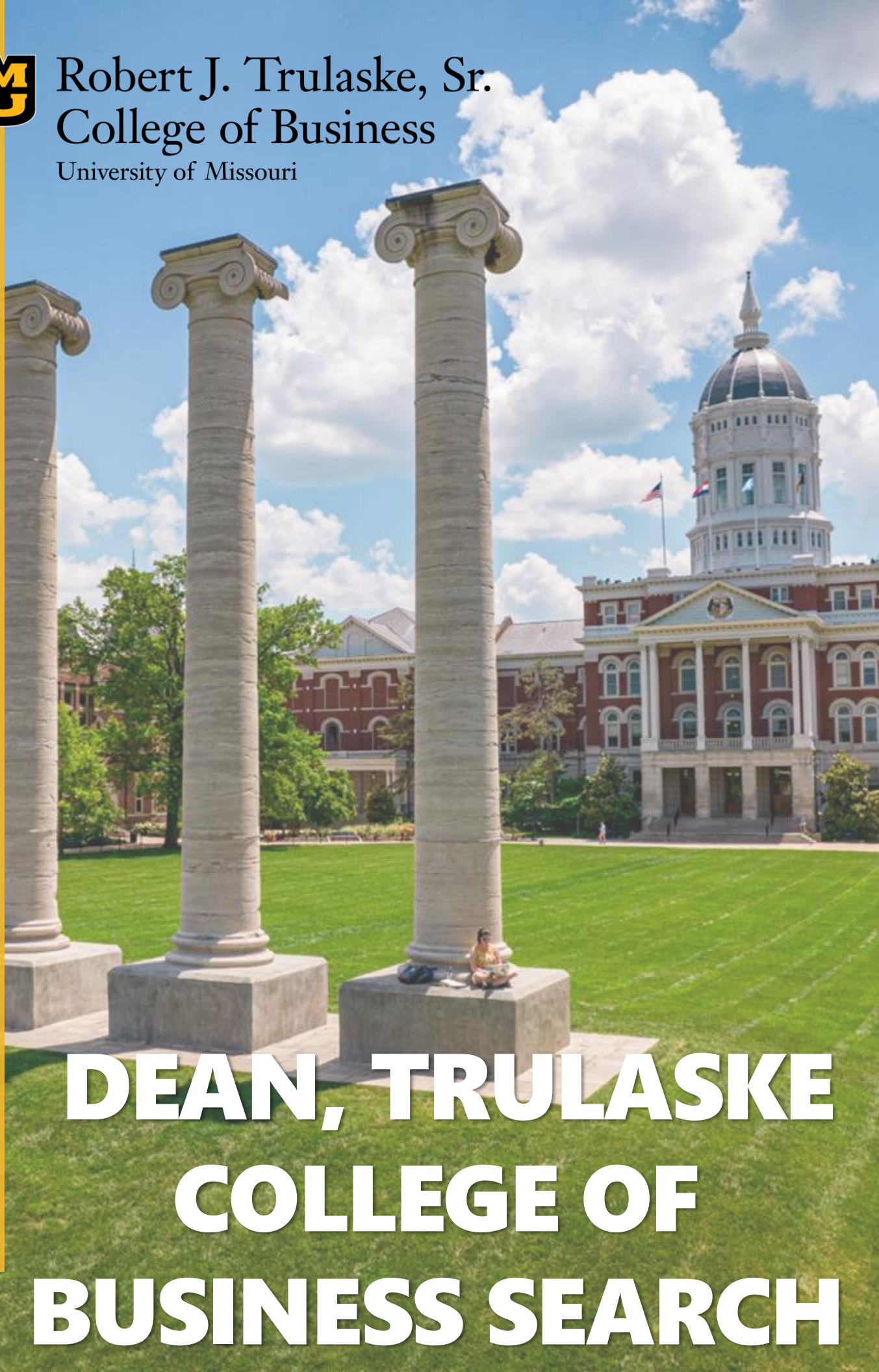
Robert J. Trulaske, Sr.
College of Business
University of Missouri

2026



DEAN, TRULASKE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS SEARCH

THE SEARCH

Robert J. Trulaske, Sr. College of Business
University of Missouri

The University of Missouri (Mizzou), Missouri's flagship public research university and a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), seeks an accomplished, visionary, and collaborative leader to serve as the next Dean of the Robert J. Trulaske, Sr. College of Business (Trulaske). This is a unique opportunity to guide a business school that has achieved significant growth in enrollment, academic quality, student outcomes, and national visibility, while helping to define its next chapter of success.

Located in Columbia, Missouri, Mizzou combines the strength and impact of a major land-grant institution with those of a comprehensive research intensive university. Under the leadership of UM System President and Mizzou Chancellor Mun Y. Choi and Provost Matthew Martens, the university is advancing an ambitious vision through MizzouForward, a transformative investment initiative that is expanding faculty excellence, research activity, innovation, and societal impact across the institution, as well as a comprehensive, $2B Capital Campaign, *Power the Roar*.

Serving almost 6,000 students, Trulaske is one of the largest academic units on Mizzou's campus and has emerged as one of the nation's most dynamic public business schools. Guided by a mission to prepare leaders who change the world for the better, the College has built a distinctive identity around transformative technologies, experience-centered learning, and entrepreneurship and innovation. In recent years, the College has experienced record enrollment and increased recognition for educational quality and career outcomes. Ranked among the top 25 public undergraduate business programs and among the top 10 nationally for career outcomes by *Poets and Quants*, and with a nationally recognized School of Accountancy, Trulaske places more than 96 percent of graduates in business-related employment or graduate study within six months of graduation.

A hallmark of the Trulaske experience is its commitment to an experiential education. Through a wide range of experiential learning initiatives and programs, students engage directly with businesses and organizations while developing practical skills and professional networks. Strong partnerships with employers, alumni, and the Dean's Advisory Board further enhance student opportunities and help ensure that academic programs remain responsive to the evolving needs of industry. These strengths provide an exceptional platform from which the College can continue to enhance its reputation, expand its reach, and deepen its impact.

The next Dean will join Trulaske at a pivotal and promising moment. With a strong foundation and considering momentum, the Dean will develop and articulate a compelling vision for the College's future; advance its academic research priorities; attract and support outstanding faculty and staff; and strengthen the College's position among the most respected public business schools in the country. As the College's chief ambassador, the Dean will lead philanthropic efforts in conjunction with college and university advancement leaders by cultivating relationships with alumni, corporate partners, donors, and community leaders, while fostering a collaborative culture that supports innovation, excellence, and student success. This leader will have the opportunity to shape the future trajectory of a thriving college within one of America's premier public research universities.

The University of Missouri has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this important search. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications may be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

As one of the few universities in the country with both an AAU and land-grant mission, the University of Missouri offers more than 300 degree programs – both on campus and online – across 13 colleges and schools: the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, the College of Arts and Science, Trulaske College of Business, the College of Education and Human Development, the College of Engineering, the Graduate School, the College of Health Sciences, the Honors College, the Missouri School of Journalism, the School of Law, the School of Medicine, the Sinclair School of Nursing, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Mizzou is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as a top-50 national public university and top 100 overall, representing a rise of 44 spots since 2020. It is also one of only six public universities in the country with medicine, veterinary medicine, law, engineering, and agriculture all on one campus. Mizzou provides the state of Missouri with an educated workforce for in-demand professions. As a result, 95 percent of all MU students are successful in launching into careers, graduate school, military service, or volunteer programs within six months of graduation.

Mizzou Tigers are lifelong learners with a desire to make an impact. Faculty researchers produce more than 100 new inventions each year, spawning commercialization of life-changing innovations. Mizzou students gain firsthand experience right from the start of their college journey through the *Missouri Method*, Mizzou's philosophy of learning-by-doing. All Mizzou undergraduates have the chance to participate in research and scholarship in a variety of settings, and Mizzou graduate students go on to become leading scientists, scholars, educators, and professionals in their fields.

MizzouForward

Launched in 2021, MizzouForward is the University of Missouri's long-term strategic investment initiative designed to elevate the institution's standing as a leading public research university. The initiative focuses on recruiting world-class faculty, expanding interdisciplinary research, strengthening innovation, improving student experience, and addressing complex societal challenges through collaboration across academic disciplines. Since its launch, Mizzou Forward has supported significant faculty hiring and research growth across the University, increased research capacity, fostered external partnerships, and enhanced learning and discovery opportunities for students. The initiative has become a cornerstone of Mizzou's strategy to advance academic excellence, drive economic and societal impact, and position the university for sustained national and global prominence.

Power the Roar

Mizzou is in the midst of its most ambitious fundraising campaign in its 180-year old history, Power the Roar: Fueling Impact. Inspiring Change. Uniting alumni, friends and partners, Mizzou seeks to amplify its impact through this campaign where global challenges are tackled head on, and opportunities to improve the lives of Missourians and beyond are created. Since its inception in 1839 as the first university west of the Mississippi, Mizzou has been built on philanthropy—from the founding families to the alumni and friends who continue to fuel its rise as a world-class research institution. The next dean will have the opportunity to facilitate major contributions to this campaign that will improve all aspects of the Trulaske experience.

LEADERSHIP

In March 2017, Dr. Mun Y. Choi assumed his role as the 24th President of the University of Missouri System. In July 2020, President Choi was appointed Chancellor of the University of Missouri after the Board of Curators voted unanimously to merge the UM System President and MU Chancellor positions. He serves as the chief executive and academic officer for four universities, as well as MU Health Care and a statewide extension mission. President Choi previously served as Provost and Executive Vice President at the University of Connecticut. Since arriving on campus, President Choi has worked to advance opportunities for success and well-being in Missouri, the nation, and the world through transformative teaching, research, innovation, and engagement. President Choi oversees all academic, public, business, and financial affairs for the system under the policies and general supervision of the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

Matthew Martens serves as Mizzou's Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, a role he assumed on June 1, 2024, after serving as interim provost and previously as senior vice provost and associate provost for academic programs. As the University's chief academic officer, he oversees academic affairs, faculty recruitment and advancement, strategic planning, and institutional accreditation efforts. During his tenure in the Provost's Office, he has played a key leadership role in advancing MizzouForward, helping recruit more than 75 distinguished faculty members and researchers to the university. A nationally recognized scholar in health psychology, Martens has authored more than 125 peer-reviewed publications and is currently chair of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Provosts Group, reflecting his influence both within Mizzou and across higher education nationally.

The University of Missouri System is governed by a Board of Curators made up of nine members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Curators serve six-year terms, with three positions expiring every two years. The Board is constitutionally comprised and carefully balanced in partisan terms. At most, five Curators can be from the same political party, with at least one but at most two from each of Missouri's eight congressional districts. The Curators are also advised by a student representative from one of the four University of Missouri System campuses.

For more information on the University of Missouri, please visit: https://missouri.edu/.

THE COLLEGE

Named after the esteemed alumnus and veteran, the Robert J. Trulaske, Sr. College of Business is one of the nation's leading public business schools. As of Fall 2025, total enrollment reached 5,839 students, the highest level in more than a decade, a robust portfolio of master's and doctoral programs, and a record-high incoming freshman class of 1,618 students. Accredited by AACSB in both business and accounting, Trulaske combines nationally recognized research, industry-engaged learning, and outstanding career outcomes to prepare the next generation of business leaders.

Trulaske is home to faculty who are nationally recognized for combining rigorous research with experiential teaching, providing students with personalized learning opportunities, industry engagement, and mentorship that contribute to the College's outstanding student outcomes and national reputation. Their efforts are amplified by an exceptional professional staff whose leadership in administration, student success, career services, fundraising, and corporate relations help advance the College's strategic priorities and mission.

Trulaske's vision to "Inspire minds, shape futures, transform lives" reflects its commitment to developing globally minded business leaders, advancing impactful research, and building partnerships that drive economic development and societal well-being. The College offers a comprehensive array of undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs through its School of Accountancy and Departments of Finance, Marketing, and Management. Graduate offerings include the Vogel Master of Accountancy (MAcc), the Master of Science in Finance, the Crosby MBA, including an Accelerated Bachelor's-to-MBA pathway, a JD/MBA dual-degree program offered jointly through the School of Law, and a newly developed STEM-designated MBA in Analytics. In addition to its undergraduate and master's offerings, Trulaske educates doctoral students through PhD programs in Accounting and Business Administration.

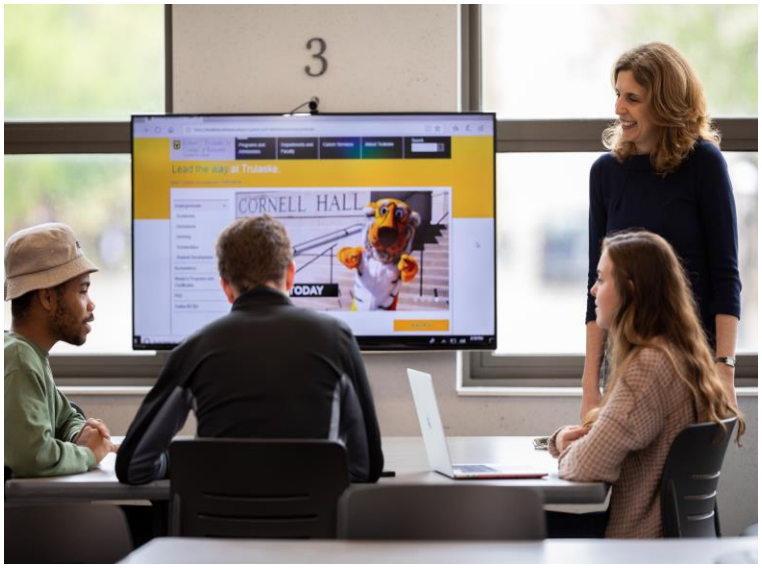
A distinguishing feature of the College is its emphasis on experiential and career-focused learning. The Trulaske Edge program is a signature professional development initiative designed to ensure that every student graduates with both strong academic preparation and the skills, experiences, and professional connections sought by today's employers. Through a combination of required coursework, networking events, mentorship opportunities, career fairs, professional development workshops, internships, and industry engagement, the program helps students build leadership, communication, and career-readiness competencies. Every Trulaske student participates in the program, reflecting the College's commitment to experience-centered learning and its focus on preparing graduates for exceptional career outcomes. The Cornell Leadership Program (CLP) is another of Trulaske's signature student development programs, providing high-achieving students with intensive leadership training, mentorship, and experiential learning opportunities that prepare them for leadership roles in business and society.

MORE ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Additional student-focused initiatives include the launch of Career Pathway Programs in consumer-packaged goods, investment banking, and consulting; the new Societal Impact in Action program that pairs students with regional businesses; the Bloomberg Lab with 12 terminals; expanded study abroad opportunities; and the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. In the past two years, approximately 37 percent of Trulaske students had a study abroad experience.

Trulaske's current strategic plan is centered on three pillars: Transformative Technologies for Business and Society, Experience-Centered Learning, and Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Together, these pillars provide a roadmap for the College's continued impact. The plan emphasizes preparing students for a rapidly evolving business environment by integrating emerging technologies into the curriculum, expanding hands-on and career-focused learning opportunities, and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset that encourages creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. Through its emphasis on transformative technology, Trulaske seeks to engage in artificial intelligence and explore its integration throughout the College's programming and curriculum. The strategic plan prioritizes strengthening the College's research profile, deepening engagement with industry and alumni partners, and further positioning Trulaske as a nationally recognized public business school that creates value for business and society.

Trulaske's strong connections to industry are reinforced by an extensive network of advisory boards, including the Trulaske Dean's Advisory Board, which comprises accomplished corporate executives, entrepreneurs, investors, and alumni who provide strategic counsel, strengthen external partnerships, support fundraising efforts, and help ensure that the College remains aligned with evolving business and workforce needs.



Trulaske has an annual operating budget of over $40 million, which includes recent campus strategic investments. . Annually, the college has a target goal of raising at least $15 million in philanthropic revenue each that is facilitated by an engaged alumni and donor community whose support helps fuel the College's growth, innovation, and long-term strategic aspirations. Coupled with the enrollment strengths of the college and the tremendous momentum seen at Mizzou and in Trulaske, the college possesses a strong financial foundation for the next dean to realize an ambitious vision of the future.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

Reporting to the Provost, the Dean of the Trulaske College of Business provides academic, administrative, and strategic leadership for the College and serves as a collaborative institutional leader within the University of Missouri. The Dean is responsible for advancing the academic programs; supporting faculty recruitment, development, and research excellence; maintaining academic quality and AACSB accreditation; strengthening experiential learning, career readiness, and student success; and aligning financial and operational resources with strategic priorities.

The Dean also leads efforts to elevate the College's visibility and national distinction, generate new revenue through philanthropy and corporate partnerships, deepen engagement with alumni and the Trulaske Dean's Advisory Board, and foster a transparent, accountable, and collaborative culture among faculty and staff. As the College's principal ambassador, the Dean will articulate a compelling vision for Trulaske's future, advocate for its priorities across the University, and build relationships with business and community partners that expand opportunities for students, faculty, and the broader institution.

The Dean's leadership team is currently comprised of the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs; Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Research; Associate Dean for Partnerships and Engagement; the Chairs of the Departments of Marketing, Finance, and Management; the Director of the School of Accountancy; Director of Global Initiatives; Director of Business Career Services; Director of the Cornell Leadership Program; and Director of Study Abroad and International Internships. The Dean is further supported by a talented professional staff, including leaders in advancement, human resources, finance, student services, and communications, as well as a dedicated executive assistant who helps coordinate the work of the Dean's office and leadership team.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

SUSTAIN TRULASKE'S MOMENTUM AND DEFINE ITS NEXT CHAPTER

The next Dean will join the College at a time of significant strength. Enrollment, student qualifications, career outcomes, and national visibility are all at record highs, providing an excellent foundation for continued advancement. The Dean will be expected to preserve this momentum while articulating a vision for Trulaske's next phase of distinction. This will require determining how Trulaske can further differentiate itself nationally, setting measurable aspirations, and translating the College's strengths into a clear and persuasive institutional story. As undergraduate enrollment continues to grow, the next Dean will lead the College in thoughtfully scaling its academic, administrative, and student-support infrastructure to ensure a high-quality, sustainable student experience. The Dean will also guide Trulaske through its upcoming AACSB accreditation review, leveraging the process to assess progress, celebrate strengths, and position Trulaske for continued excellence.

STRENGTHEN AND REVITALIZE GRADUATE EDUCATION

The next Dean will have an important opportunity to assess the College's graduate portfolio and articulate a clear, long-term strategy for its future. The College has made changes to its MBA and other master's programs over the past several years, so the Dean will need to evaluate the effectiveness, sustainability, and market relevance of its existing offerings while identifying opportunities for growth, innovation, and differentiation. This work will include collaborating with faculty and staff to strengthen the graduate student experience and ensure that programs align with employer demand and institutional strengths. At the same time, the Dean can build upon areas of momentum, including the highly successful Master of Accountancy program and strong PhD program, to develop an integrated graduate education strategy that enhances student outcomes, supports enrollment objectives, and reestablishes Trulaske's competitive position among leading business schools.

TRULASKE'S PHILANTHROPIC ASPIRATIONS

Fundraising will be one of the Dean's most important priorities. Trulaske benefits from a loyal alumni base, strong institutional infrastructure, and an active Dean's Advisory Board, and the College is well-positioned to build on its philanthropic success by deepening donor engagement and cultivating new supporters. The next Dean must be an enthusiastic and credible ambassador who can articulate a compelling vision for the College, build authentic relationships, and translate strategic priorities into meaningful investment opportunities. Rebuilding confidence where needed, broadening the donor base, securing transformational gifts, and connecting philanthropy directly to student experiences, faculty research, academic innovation, and capital priorities will be critical to the College's continued advancement. The Dean will need to align donor interests with Trulaske's strategic initiatives while also working collaboratively with advancement leadership at the campus level to support university-wide priorities. Building on its strong reputation within the business community, Trulaske has an opportunity to deepen existing relationships, cultivate new partnerships, and further establish itself as a trusted partner to industry and a premier source of business talent.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

INVEST STRATEGICALLY IN FACULTY RECRUITMENT AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE.

Trulaske's continued success will depend on its ability to recruit, retain, and support outstanding faculty. Faculty hiring strategies should advance the College's strategic priorities and the University's mission, strengthen high-demand disciplines, enhance research productivity, and ensure instructional excellence as enrollment and academic programs continue to evolve. The Dean will also champion the success of current faculty, foster collaboration across departments and with partners throughout the University, and thoughtfully balance investments in research, teaching, and student engagement.

The next Dean will cultivate an environment in which scholarly excellence can thrive. By providing the resources, support, and incentives necessary for ambitious research agendas, the Dean will help faculty expand their impact, strengthen Trulaske's research profile, and advance knowledge that informs business practice and society. At the same time, the Dean will ensure that the College's commitment to research excellence remains deeply connected to student learning, innovation, and real-world impact.

DIRECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF A LARGE AND COMPLEX ACADEMIC UNIT WHILE ENSURING A MISSION-DRIVEN CULTURE OF IMPACT IS ACHIEVED.

The Dean plays a critical role in stewarding the College's financial resources and ensuring its long-term fiscal sustainability. The Dean is responsible for aligning resources with strategic priorities, managing a complex budget, and identifying opportunities to generate new revenue through enrollment growth, philanthropy, corporate partnerships, and innovative academic programs. The Dean will also advocate effectively for the College's priorities to Mizzou’s senior leadership, making a compelling case for investments that advance Trulaske's mission and strategic goals.

This leadership transition also presents an opportunity to evaluate and strengthen the College's organizational structure, operational effectiveness, and overall culture. The next Dean will clarify roles and responsibilities, enhance accountability, and ensure that the leadership team is aligned around shared priorities and a common vision for the future. Success will require a collaborative and transparent leadership style that builds trust across constituencies and empowers innovative and mission-driven impacts through every team, department and experience. The next Dean must be an attentive and accessible leader who values shared governance, respects staff expertise, supports faculty excellence, and fosters a culture in which faculty and staff alike feel invested in the College's success.

STRENGTHEN TRULASKE’S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COMMUNITY.

Trulaske has a wealth of opportunities for academic engagement, research, and innovation across the University's colleges and schools. The next Dean will pursue collaborative initiatives that advance interdisciplinary scholarship, expand educational opportunities for students, and strengthen alignment with institutional priorities. The Dean will also serve as an effective bridge between Trulaske and the broader University, helping to ensure that the College's strengths and aspirations are well understood while advancing shared campus goals. The successful candidate will advocate firmly for Trulaske while operating as an engaged institutional leader who promotes a culture of collaboration, institutional citizenship, and mutual support across the University. By fostering strong partnerships across campus, the Dean will help position Trulaske as a valued contributor to the University's research, educational, and economic development mission.

QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will bring a record of achievement that supports a faculty appointment within the Trulaske College of Business. While a Ph.D. and a strong record of scholarship are preferred, candidates with an MBA or comparable advanced degree and significant executive, entrepreneurial, or industry leadership experience may also be considered if their accomplishments merit faculty appointment.

Additionally, the successful candidate will possess many of the following qualifications and characteristics:

- A dynamic external ambassador capable of enhancing the visibility, reputation, and impact of the College while distinguishing Trulaske as a leading public business school in an increasingly competitive higher education landscape;
- A demonstrated commitment to attracting, developing, and retaining outstanding faculty and staff while fostering an environment that supports their academic, professional, and personal success;
- A record of generating new sources of revenue through fundraising and corporate partnerships;
- Experience advancing high-quality undergraduate education, with a focus on experiential learning, career readiness, emerging technologies, global engagement, and student success;
- Experience overseeing graduate business education, including professional master's and MBA programs, with an understanding of evolving delivery models and the needs of high-achieving graduate students;
- An understanding of AACSB accreditation standards and a commitment to maintaining and enhancing academic quality and institutional excellence;
- An energetic, innovative, and collaborative leadership style that inspires faculty, staff, students, alumni, and external partners while building pride in and commitment to the Trulaske College of Business and the University of Missouri;
- A compassionate and emotionally intelligent leader who promotes transparency, collegiality, trust, and open communication, creating an environment where individuals can thrive and contribute their best work.

ABOUT COLUMBIA

Columbia, Missouri, is consistently recognized as one of the nation's most livable communities, offering an appealing blend of small-town charm and metropolitan amenities. Home to more than 128,000 residents, Columbia combines an affordable cost of living, excellent public schools, and a vibrant cultural and economic environment. Ideally situated between St. Louis and Kansas City, the city provides convenient access to two major metropolitan areas while maintaining a strong sense of community. It is served by a rapidly growing regional airport, providing convenient connections throughout the region and beyond.

Mizzou's campus is seamlessly integrated with downtown Columbia, placing students, faculty, and staff within walking distance of locally owned restaurants, shops, entertainment venues, and community gathering spaces. This close connection between the University and the surrounding community contributes to Columbia's distinctive character as a quintessential college town.

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/resumes with cover letters should be submitted via the Isaacson, Miller website:

APPLY HERE

Application Deadline

The priority application deadline is November 20, 2026.

Micah Pierce, Pam Pezzoli, Kristen Andersen, and Marlyn Desire *Isaacson, Miller Team*

Tim McIntosh, Anna Cramer, and Mackenzie Lynch

University of Missouri Team

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