Search for the Founding Dean, School of Medicine
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island

THE SEARCH

The University of Rhode Island (URI or University), the state's flagship R1 land- and sea-grant institution, seeks a visionary, entrepreneurial, and politically astute leader to serve as the Founding Dean of its new School of Medicine. This leader will have the rare opportunity to design, launch, and lead the state's first public medical school, an initiative born from a broad coalition of state leaders, healthcare providers, legislators, and community stakeholders seeking a long-term solution to Rhode Island's physician workforce challenges.

Like much of the country, Rhode Island faces a growing shortage of physicians, particularly in primary care and underserved communities, at a time when demand for healthcare services continues to increase. In response, URI is creating a community-focused medical school that will educate future physicians, expand the state's healthcare workforce pipeline, strengthen clinical and research partnerships, and improve access to care for Rhode Islanders. Currently scheduled to enroll its inaugural class of 50 students in 2029, the School will emphasize primary care, service to underserved populations, interdisciplinary education, and innovation in healthcare delivery.

As Rhode Island's only public research university and a Carnegie R1 institution, URI provides an exceptionally strong foundation for this endeavor. The School of Medicine will build upon the University's established strengths in the health sciences, including nationally recognized Colleges in Health Sciences, Nursing, Pharmacy, and other disciplines including Engineering and Biomedical Engineering. The Founding Dean will have the opportunity to leverage these existing assets while fostering new collaborations across the University and with clinical partners throughout the state, creating a highly interdisciplinary environment for education, research, and patient care. For more information on URI, please visit the *Appendix*.

The Founding Dean will join the University at a formative moment. Working closely with University leadership, healthcare partners, policymakers, faculty, and community leaders, the Dean will shape every aspect of the School's development, from accreditation, faculty recruitment, curriculum design, and clinical partnerships to research strategy, culture, and long-term growth. Reporting directly to the Provost and partnering closely with the President, the Founding Dean will play a central role in shaping the vision, strategy, and successful launch of the School of Medicine. Few leadership opportunities in academic medicine offer a comparable chance to build an institution within a thriving university from the ground

up while creating lasting impact on healthcare, medical education, and physician workforce development across an entire state.

Candidates should possess a distinguished record of achievement in academic medicine and will hold an MD or MD/PhD with qualifications for appointment as a tenured full professor. The successful candidate will bring substantial leadership experience within an LCME-accredited medical school or academic health system, along with demonstrated success advancing medical education, building academic-clinical partnerships, recruiting and developing faculty, and leading large-scale institutional initiatives, including generating philanthropic support. Experience with new program development, accreditation processes, physician workforce initiatives, community engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration will be particularly valuable as URI launches this transformative enterprise.

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

The Case for a Public Medical School in Rhode Island

Rhode Island faces a growing physician workforce crisis, driven by an aging physician population, increasing demand for healthcare services, and one of the lowest physician-to-population ratios in New England. The state is projected to need more than 300 additional primary care physicians in the coming years, yet many Rhode Island students who pursue medical education leave the state for training and do not return to practice. As a result, access to care continues to be strained, particularly in primary care, behavioral health, and underserved communities.

Rhode Island is home to more than 1.1 million residents, with one in four aged 60 or older as of 2023. The state also has the highest percentage of residents aged 85 and older in New England and the third highest in the nation. In addition, 44 percent of Rhode Island's physician workforce is nearing retirement age. Together the dynamics of an aging demographic, expanded insurance coverage, a retiring physician workforce, and higher disability rates are creating unprecedented pressures on Rhode Island's healthcare system.

The concept for an allopathic School of Medicine (SOM or School) grew out of extensive statewide discussion and planning, including a legislative commission and broad engagement with healthcare, community, and university leaders who recognized the need for a stronger physician workforce pipeline in Rhode Island. This community-driven vision, coupled with overwhelming support from state policymakers and healthcare partners, has positioned the University of Rhode Island to launch a medical school specifically designed to address the state's healthcare needs.

The creation of Rhode Island's first public school of medicine is designed to expand the physician pipeline, strengthen graduate medical education, and improve physician retention across Rhode Island. The proposed school will employ a community-based medical education model focused on primary care,

population health, artificial intelligence, interprofessional education, and service to underserved populations. Through partnerships with hospitals, community health centers, and healthcare organizations throughout the state, the school aims to train physicians in the communities where they are most needed and increase the likelihood that graduates remain in Rhode Island to practice.

The focus of the school will be to create a physician pipeline that begins with Rhode Island students, extends through expanded residency training opportunities, and culminates in long-term practice across the state. By coupling graduate medical education expansion with physician retention strategies, the URI School of Medicine will be a key lever for the state to address healthcare workforce shortages, improve access to care, reduce health disparities, and create a sustainable physician workforce.

Potential Clinical Partners

Care New England provides a broad continuum of clinical care, education, research, and community services. Founded in 1996, Care New England brings together a network of respected organizations working together to better serve patients and the community. The system includes Butler Hospital, Kent Hospital, Women & Infants Hospital, Care New England Medical Group, VNA Home Health and Hospice, The Providence Center, and Integra, a certified accountable care organization (ACO). Care New England includes 749 licensed beds and 102 infant bassinets. Care New England is proud of its strong commitment to education and research, and through Butler, Kent, and Women & Infants Hospitals, maintains a teaching and research affiliation with The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Kent Hospital is also a teaching affiliate of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

These health systems, along with Rhode Island's network of community hospitals, federally qualified health centers, behavioral health providers, and physician practices, create an exceptional platform for clinical education. A cornerstone of URI's vision is the development of deep, mission-aligned partnerships with organizations such as Care New England, Kent Hospital, and Thundermist Health Center, enabling an innovative educational model that links medical education, residency training, workforce development, and community impact. Through these relationships, learners will gain experience across the continuum of care while addressing some of Rhode Island's most pressing healthcare needs. These partnerships will also be essential to expanding residency and fellowship opportunities and strengthening physician retention across Rhode Island.

Medical Education

The School of Medicine will welcome its first 50 medical students into a mission-driven, community-based curriculum emphasizing primary care and service to underserved populations with unmet primary care needs in Rhode Island. Beyond the inaugural class, URI anticipates the phased expansion of enrollment, research, and residency programs through the 2030’s.

A future comprehensive Graduate Medical Education (GME) expansion strategy will include partnerships with hospitals and community providers to develop primary care residency positions and create fellowship opportunities in primary care. The goal is to create a physician workforce pipeline from medical school

through residency and into practice within Rhode Island to strengthen healthcare delivery, support underserved communities, and generate economic benefits for institutions.

Rhode Island's hospitals, VA medical center, FQHCs, and other health providers offer a strong foundation for statewide clerkship and residency partnerships. The School can build on this infrastructure by expanding training sites and GME capacity in high-need areas such as primary care, geriatrics, and behavioral health.

Proposed Curriculum Overview

A central feature of the School will be a technology-driven approach to primary care, preparing future physicians to lead in a rapidly evolving healthcare environment. Students will be trained in telemedicine, the application of artificial intelligence, assisted diagnostics, and wearable health technologies, equipping them to deliver efficient, patient-centered care in both traditional and virtual settings. The curriculum will integrate predictive analytics and population health tools, enabling learners to leverage big data to identify disease trends, assess patient risk, and design targeted community interventions. Additionally, hands-on training in remote patient monitoring and home-based care will ensure graduates are skilled in using digital health platforms to deliver proactive, preventative treatment. By integrating these innovations into the medical education model, the SOM will cultivate a physician workforce capable of meeting the healthcare needs of Rhode Islanders while establishing a new standard for modern, technology-enabled primary care.

URI's proposed curriculum is envisioned in three integrated phases that reflect both the best national practices and Rhode Island's pressing workforce needs.

- Phase I, spanning the first 15–18 months, would utilize case-driven, systems-based learning blocks that incorporate health equity, epidemiology, and interprofessional training within URI's Nursing, Pharmacy, and Health Sciences programs. From the outset, students would work in teams on simulations of chronic disease management, behavioral health integration, and medication safety.

- Phase II would replace the outdated "rotation carousel" with longitudinal integrated clerkships based in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and community hospitals throughout the state. Each student would follow a patient panel across family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, women's health, behavioral health, and surgery for 9–12 months, supplemented by short, high-intensity clinical "bursts" in tertiary care.

- Phase III would emphasize advanced clinical responsibility alongside quality improvement, health equity, and population health projects linked to Rhode Island's Health Equity Zones and statewide primary care stabilization priorities. Capstone scholarly work would connect students to clinical and translational research platforms. This proposed curriculum not only educates excellent physicians but also prepares them to practice where Rhode Island needs them most, namely, in community-based, primary care-driven environments.

Research

Building upon URI's status as an R1 research university and its existing strengths across health sciences, engineering, pharmacy, nursing, neuroscience, data science, and public health, the School of Medicine will foster interdisciplinary and translational research that addresses Rhode Island's most pressing healthcare challenges. Leveraging existing expertise in biomedical sciences, artificial intelligence, neuroscience, biomedical technologies, and population health, the School will advance innovative research in areas such as precision medicine, digital health, AI-enabled diagnostics, disease prevention, and patient-centered healthcare. Through strategic collaborations across URI's colleges, and with clinical, community, and industry partners, the School will strengthen opportunities for competitive research funding, accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into clinical practice, and promote healthcare innovation and community-engaged scholarship that improve health outcomes and expand access to care across Rhode Island.

Space Planning

The proposed capital facilities development timeline for the School of Medicine follows a phased approach that aligns facility growth with enrollment expansion while minimizing upfront capital costs.

The timeline begins with the matriculation of the inaugural class of 50 medical students in Fall 2029 who will begin their education in renovated and repurposed space on the Kingston Campus.

Planning and development activities for a dedicated medical school building are anticipated to begin during the three planning years with input from the Founding Dean. This planning period allows sufficient time for design, fundraising, and regulatory approvals. The new dedicated medical school facility is expected to open in fiscal year 2036, coinciding with the planned expansion of the entering class size to 100 students. By aligning facility development with enrollment growth, URI can manage capital expenditures strategically while ensuring that students, faculty, and clinical partners have access to modern educational, simulation, and collaborative learning environments necessary to support a high-quality medical education program.

Accreditation

URI is undertaking a carefully sequenced implementation process that aligns institutional decision-making, leadership recruitment, facility development, curriculum design, faculty hiring, and clinical partnership development with Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation milestones.

Program development and preparation for Preliminary Accreditation is expected to continue through 2028, with current plans for student recruitment and admissions activities to start in 2028 – 2029. With successful Preliminary Accreditation, URI could matriculate its inaugural class in Fall 2029, followed by Provisional Accreditation reviews and eventual Full Accreditation in Spring 2033, as the first class nears graduation.

Finances

A funding plan is in development to achieve the resources needed to launch the SOM that meets LCME requirements. A robust fundraising strategy that includes a realistic, diversified mix of state support, philanthropy, private investment, hospital partnerships, endowment growth, tuition revenue, research funding, and clinical practice revenues is being developed and will be further refined and spearheaded by the Founding Dean.

The SOM will be financially viable when an initial investment of $92.5 million in private and state funds is secured. The State of Rhode Island has committed an initial $20 million in startup funding over the three planning years. The proforma is built on a phased strategy that requires three years of philanthropic support totaling $72.5 million.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

Serving as the chief executive and leader of the School of Medicine, the Founding Dean will be responsible for establishing the School's culture, recruiting faculty and senior leaders, implementing curriculum and assessment, securing accreditation milestones, building clinical partnerships, and serving as the School's primary spokesperson. Additionally, the Dean will build and ensure excellence in medical education, research, and clinical practice. The Dean will be a crucial player in managing the School's relationships with key clinical partners and will partner closely with University leadership and advancement colleagues to lead fundraising and development efforts to secure the philanthropic resources necessary to support the School's growth, priorities, and long-term success. Reporting to the Provost, the Dean will be responsible for all components of the School in line with applicable requirements of the LCME and other accrediting bodies. The Founding Dean will have five direct reports who lead the core functional areas that collectively support the School: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Associate Dean for Research, Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, and Chief Business Officer.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

Launch URI's vision for a mission-driven, community-based education model

The Dean will differentiate the School of Medicine by aligning its mission with Rhode Island's most pressing workforce needs, such as primary care, community health, and equitable access. Capitalizing on a strong foundation of careful planning and broad support, the Dean will bring the University's bold plans for the School of Medicine to fruition by successfully enrolling the School's first cohort of 50 students in Fall 2029. To accomplish this goal, the Dean must work closely with University leadership to set strategic and actionable priorities for the School, develop key partnerships, help meet fundraising milestones, build a student-centric environment, and successfully work with current URI leaders to guide the School through the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation process, with preliminary accreditation expected to continue through 2028.

Design an innovative curriculum that reflects the future of healthcare

The Dean will build an educational model that leverages URI's strengths in health disciplines, connects classroom learning with clinical training, research, and community engagement, and incorporates emerging technologies and team-based care. The Dean must ensure that the program satisfies LCME standards while positioning URI as a national model for community-based medical education.

Deepen clinical partnerships and strategically lead additional network development

The Dean will forge strategic partnerships with Rhode Island's hospitals, health systems, and community providers to secure clinical rotations, expand residency opportunities, and create shared faculty models that support high-quality teaching and clinical supervision. This distributed network will place learners across urban, suburban, and rural settings and strengthen the pathway from medical school through residency and into practice in Rhode Island.

Establish and strengthen collaborations with robust health programs already present across URI

URI is positioned to be a leader and model for interprofessional education, and the School of Medicine will work in collaboration with other health professions to ensure training reflects the modern healthcare team. The existing strengths of URI's College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing, and College of Health Sciences, as well as other health-related programs, serve as critical anchors, ensuring the success of the School of Medicine and providing a strong foundation for interprofessional training as well as collaborative research and discovery. Many of the School's faculty will hold joint appointments with colleges across campus; reflecting shared research and education activities. The Dean must have the administrative skills and a collaborative mindset to navigate deftly within this structure and ensure that the School of Medicine is positioned for success.

Secure robust, diversified, and sustainable funding

The success of the School of Medicine will depend not only on securing public funding but also on an ambitious fundraising campaign to build the philanthropic foundation necessary for long-term success. The President, Provost, and Board of Trustees have already made the School of Medicine a strategic institutional priority and are actively engaging prospective philanthropic and community partners to support its development. The Founding Dean will play an integral role in advancing these conversations, helping articulate the School's vision, cultivating relationships with donors and stakeholders, and ultimately securing the resources necessary to bring the School to fruition.

Additionally, the Dean will develop a diversified funding strategy that extends beyond current resources to ensure long-term sustainability, leveraging philanthropy, research funding, clinical affiliations, and public-private partnerships. As a visible leader within the state, the region, and the profession, the Dean will engage policymakers, healthcare leaders, community organizations, and philanthropic partners.

Recruit exceptional faculty, staff, and students who will define the School of Medicine's future

The Founding Dean will be responsible for attracting and retaining the inaugural cohorts of faculty and students who will establish the School's culture, reputation, and trajectory for decades to come. In a competitive environment, the Dean must articulate a compelling vision that attracts mission-driven educators, researchers, clinicians, and learners eager to help build Rhode Island's first public medical school.

The Dean will lead efforts to recruit a diverse and highly talented faculty and staff committed to excellence in education, scholarship, clinical care, and community engagement. Equally important will be attracting students who are drawn to the School's mission-centered approach to primary care, community health, innovation, and service. Through strategic partnerships across Rhode Island, innovative admissions and recruitment strategies, and a strong emphasis on learner success, the Dean will help create a vibrant academic community that reflects the populations and communities the School seeks to serve.

Champion the School's early successes and clearly articulate its role in the region

As the School's founding leader, the Dean must have the uncanny ability to articulate and champion the School to a range of audiences, effectively broadcasting the successes and innovations emerging during the School's early years. As a healthcare leader in the state, the Dean will be looked to as a thought leader on pressing issues by executive and legislative leadership, as well as other key stakeholders in the state, region, and nation. In this capacity, the Dean will be a critical advocate for the School and its interests, as well as for the well-being of the population it serves.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

As an inaugural role within a large university and complex healthcare landscape, this position requires a leader with experience in primary care, a demonstrated record of entrepreneurship, comfort with ambiguity, and progressively increasing administrative responsibility. The successful candidate will have experience leading in environments that value vision, collaboration, strategic planning, effective delegation, and clear measures of accountability. The preferred candidate must demonstrate the following:

- A terminal degree (MD or MD/PhD) with an exceptional academic profile in academic medicine and a significant administrative leadership track record of integrity, service, and achievement commensurate with the rank of tenured, full professor is required;
- A strong academic background in the field of medicine with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, and medical education;
- Demonstrated track record of securing philanthropic support through successful fundraising and development efforts with individuals, private investors including but not limited to corporate partners and foundations, and government (federal, state, and local) sponsors to develop and grow medical school programs and research.

The successful candidate should demonstrate many, if not all, of the following:

- A history of effective leadership in academic, administrative, or healthcare settings, including prior experience as a dean, senior associate dean, associate dean, department chair, program or institute director, or other equivalent administrative roles;
- Successful experience in administrative leadership, including strategic planning, sound fiscal management, and personnel management;
- Demonstrated commitment to advancing primary care medicine and improving access to high-quality, patient-centered care;
- Knowledge and previous active participation in the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation process;
- Significant clinical experience, including a distinguished record of clinical practice, research, or teaching within the medical field;
- Considerable experience in medical education and innovative curriculum development with a demonstrated commitment to and accountability for student success, student learning, continuous quality improvement, and willingness to leverage new learning modalities and tools to enhance student learning outcomes;
- Demonstrated interest in and familiarity with artificial intelligence and its evolving applications in medical education and healthcare delivery, with the ability to thoughtfully explore and incorporate AI-enabled tools and approaches into the School of Medicine's educational programs;
- Demonstrated commitment to research as evidenced by strong research and scholarly accomplishments and the ability to promote and support faculty growth, research activities, research infrastructure, and the translation or facilitation of research findings into clinical practice;
- A collaborative, personable, and multi-faceted leader who possesses strong interpersonal and listening skills that allow for open, honest, and genuine communication with a variety of constituents and stakeholders, as well as the ability to effectively communicate and articulate the vision for the School of Medicine;
- Demonstrated ability to build interdisciplinary research programs, establish partnerships across disciplines, secure competitive federal research funding, and advance the translation of scientific discoveries into clinical applications;
- Demonstrated commitment to incorporating interprofessional education into the medical school curriculum while promoting interprofessional relationships across the University for students, staff, and faculty;
- Demonstrated experience generating public and private philanthropic support for academic health centers and medical education programs, including strategic cultivation and solicitation of major donors, foundations, and government funding sources, with documented success in securing gifts and building sustainable revenue streams for institutional priorities;
- Demonstrated ability and commitment to social embeddedness and engagement with community members and other constituents;

- Dedication to improving the health outcomes of Rhode Islanders through enthusiastic partnership with URI leadership, faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as patients, community members, community partners, business leaders, donors, and elected officials;
- Demonstrated interest and aptitude at integrating medicine with public health and community health;
- Demonstrated evidence in advancing innovation and entrepreneurship within medicine; and,
- Demonstrated commitment to inclusive leadership and cultivating a sense of belonging.

Compensation and Location

The anticipated compensation range for this position is $650,000 to $750,000 annually, commensurate with the candidate's qualifications, experience, academic rank, clinical specialty, and other relevant factors.

The University of Rhode Island is located in beautiful Washington County in southern Rhode Island. URI's main campus is in the historic village of Kingston, Rhode Island. Recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, the location is an idyllic place for students to thrive, located close to the ocean, 30 miles south of Providence, 75 miles from Boston, 160 miles from New York City, and Newport just across the bay. The Narragansett Bay Campus provides additional opportunities for academic exploration and houses the Graduate School of Oceanography. Additional details about Rhode Island can be found here.

University of Rhode Island Land Acknowledgment

The University of Rhode Island occupies the traditional stomping ground of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People. URI honors and respects the enduring and continuing relationship between the Indigenous people and the land by teaching and learning more about their history and present-day communities, and by becoming stewards of the land.

Mission

The University of Rhode Island is the state's flagship land and sea grant research institution, with a commitment to urban initiatives.

A student-centered research institution, URI actively partners with other organizations globally and locally to advance knowledge and to develop informed residents and leaders. URI is committed to high-quality education, community engagement, and solving the world's most important challenges. Situated on the traditional land and territories of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People, URI strives to create a diverse and inclusive environment for researchers, teachers, learners, and community members.

Vision

The University of Rhode Island will be a leading global research university that drives positive social, cultural, economic, and environmental change by contributing and instilling new knowledge to address the world's greatest challenges.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-rhode-island-school-medicine/founding-dean

Natalie Leonhard, Partner
Jamie Sands, Partner
Alice Holland, Senior Associate
Lily Sethares, Senior Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

URI is unwavering in its commitment to equal opportunity, community, equity, and diversity. In furtherance of its mission to serve and support all learners as the state's public flagship university, URI continues to expand efforts to recruit and retain a broadly representative workforce as well as to regularly evaluate the effectiveness of those efforts.

All employment decisions, including hiring, are made without regard to protected status. Qualified individuals with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting the URI benefits office at 401-874-2416. For TTY assistance, contact R.I. Relay Services at 711.

Appendix:

University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. Founded in 1888, URI has grown and evolved throughout its approximate 150-year history, always seeking to serve the needs of the state and the students that it serves. Originally called Rhode Island College, the Rhode Island state legislature renamed the institution the University of Rhode Island in 1951. URI is committed to the mission of high-quality education, community engagement, and solving the world's most important challenges.

Today, URI is the only public institution in Rhode Island that offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional students the distinctive educational opportunities of a major research university. The University has a committed and supportive faculty, with 86 percent of full-time faculty holding terminal degrees and with an overall student-to-faculty ratio of 16:1.

URI had four locations: the historic 1,200 acre main campus in Kingston; the 153-acre Narragansett Bay Campus which houses the oceanographic research center, two locations in Providence – the Feinstein Providence Campus and the Nursing Education Center; and the 2,300 acre W. Alton Jones location in the western section of Rhode Island, which offers an ideal setting for important research projects and field work for classes in environmental sciences.

The University of Rhode Island currently enrolls nearly 18,000 students, including over 14,000 undergraduates, 2,700 graduate students, and 1,200 certificate or non-degree-seeking students. The University employs over 3,200 employees, including full and part-time faculty across eight colleges and a graduate school:

- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Business
- Feinstein College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of the Environment and Life Sciences
- College of Health Sciences
- College of Nursing
- College of Pharmacy
- Graduate School of Oceanography

URI has a strong tradition of faculty engagement through collective bargaining and shared governance. The URI Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) serves as the exclusive bargaining representative for 700 full-time faculty.

Situated on the traditional land and territories of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People, URI is dedicated to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment for researchers, teachers, learners, and community members. The University is committed to high-quality education, meaningful community engagement, and addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Spotlight on URI's Health Sciences Colleges:

College of Health Sciences

The College of Health Sciences is a multidisciplinary community dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of individuals, families, and populations through excellence in education, research, and outreach. With approximately 2,460 undergraduate and 264 graduate students, the College encompasses programs spanning communicative disorders, human development and family science, kinesiology, nutrition, physical therapy, psychology, public health, and neuroscience. Its faculty and students engage in research and experiential learning that address complex health challenges across the lifespan, while its interdisciplinary approach encourages collaboration across academic disciplines and with community, state, and national partners. The College is committed to preparing graduates to translate evidence into practice and to improving health and quality of life throughout Rhode Island and beyond.

College of Nursing

The College of Nursing is a dynamic, growing academic community dedicated to improving health and transforming healthcare through excellence in education, research, knowledge development, and professional practice. With approximately 850 undergraduate and 150 graduate students, the College offers traditional and RN-to-BS pathways as well as master's, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Ph.D., and post-graduate advanced practice programs. Based in Kingston and Providence, the College provides students with extensive clinical and experiential learning opportunities and fosters interdisciplinary collaboration with fields including engineering, psychology, business, and nutrition. Its faculty bring expertise in primary care, community service, workforce development, and nursing research, while academic-practice partnerships help connect education with the evolving needs of patients, communities, and the healthcare workforce.

College of Pharmacy

The College of Pharmacy is a student-centered research community serving approximately 690 undergraduate and professional students and 53 graduate students, preparing the next generation of healthcare leaders through education and scholarship in biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences, pharmacy practice, and clinical research. The College offers a Doctor of Pharmacy program and two Bachelor of Science programs, as well as master's and Ph.D. programs in Pharmaceutical Sciences with specializations in Health Outcomes, Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, Pharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics, and Pharmacology and Toxicology. The College combines rigorous academic preparation with hands-on learning, experiential education, interdisciplinary collaboration, and opportunities for students to engage directly in research and patient care. Its research enterprise spans areas including drug discovery, infectious diseases, immunology, and other critical health challenges, and the College maintains numerous experiential learning and employment partnerships. With a strong

commitment to innovation, service, and public health, the College prepares graduates for diverse careers in direct patient care, pharmaceutical innovation, drug discovery, research, and healthcare leadership.

Research

The University's research profile continues to grow. In 2024, URI reported $137 million in research expenditures with more than $111.5 million fueled by federal funding.

The University of Rhode Island has ascended to the highest level of research universities in the United States by earning R1 designation in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education in 2025. As a major research university defined by innovation and big thinking, URI offers its undergraduate, graduate, and professional students distinctive educational opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow.

Foundational Values

Since its inception, URI has remained a learner-centric institution, and the University works to provide students with a distinctive educational experience designed to meet the challenges of an increasingly connected global community. The University's core values include:

- Freedom to learn, teach, create, and conduct research with integrity in the pursuit and dissemination of new knowledge aimed at contributing to the public good.
- An inclusive, accessible, equitable and diverse community whereby we respect the rights and dignity of all.
- Intellectual curiosity, lifelong learning, leadership, and scholarship in creating a thriving URI community in service to Rhode Island and the world.
- Sustainability and care of our environment conducive to the physical and mental health of our community.
- Self- and institutional reflection of our values in our work, scholarship and interactions, holding ourselves, each other, and the institution accountable to uphold them to a high standard.

Strategic Plan

URI's current ten-year strategic plan, *Focus URI*, was created in 2023 and articulated a set of four strategic priorities:

- Broaden URI's Impact
- Enhance Student Achievement
- Foster an Inclusive Culture
- Power the University of the Future

Leadership

Marc B. Parlange became URI's 12th president in August 2021. Over the course of his professional higher education career spanning more than 30 years, he has held academic leadership, research, and faculty positions at Monash University, Australia's largest university; the University of British Columbia; the prestigious Swiss public research institute École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne; and stateside, at Johns Hopkins University and the University of California, Davis.

A recognized expert and researcher in environmental fluid mechanics, Parlange has published more than 200 peer reviewed journal articles. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Meteorological Society, and the American Geophysical Union. He received several prestigious academic awards including an early career James B. Macelwane Medal from the American Geophysical Union and the John Dalton Medal of the European Geosciences Union. He was awarded the 2020 American Meteorological Society's Hydrologic Sciences Medal.

Barbara E. Wolfe became Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs in January 2023. Wolfe, an internationally recognized expert on psychiatric and mental health nursing and eating disorders, had previously served as dean of the URI College of Nursing since 2016. Before coming to URI, she served as associate dean for research and professor at Boston College's William F. Connell School of Nursing. In addition to her work at Boston College, she served as a psychiatry lecturer at Harvard Medical School and president of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by University of Rhode Island. 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 University of Rhode Island would supersede any conflicting information in this document.