



Dean of Humanities
Arizona State University, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Tempe, Arizona

THE SEARCH

Arizona State University (ASU) seeks an innovative, collaborative, and highly visible leader to serve as the next Dean of Humanities.

The Dean will lead a [nationally-recognized and growing humanities enterprise](#) during a time in higher education when universities are being challenged to communicate the role that a liberal arts education and the humanities play in educating future leaders and students. The division touches all parts of campus, as over 90 percent of students take a humanities course during their time at ASU. ASU Humanities continues to reach new milestones as the division is home to over 4,800 undergraduate majors and graduate students as of fall 2026. Faculty in the division have contributed to over \$34 million in external research funding over the past decade and provide leadership in over 15 internationally recognized research centers and institutes. Reporting to the Executive Vice President and Provost for the University as well as the Senior Vice Provost and Dean for The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Dean will build on this momentum by engaging students, faculty, staff, and the broader ASU community in a bold and forward-looking vision for the humanities. Operating in a highly complex and fast-paced environment, the Dean will support the broader mission of ASU and position the humanities division as a leader in inclusive excellence, social embeddedness and impact, and interdisciplinarity.

A leading public university based in the metropolitan Phoenix area, ASU is realizing a bold reinvention of higher education as the New American University. Under the leadership of President Michael Crow, ASU has developed numerous programs and units that bridge and transcend disciplinary boundaries to enable the exploration and discovery of new knowledge while developing solutions to serve Arizona and the world at large. The university has strong and simultaneous commitments to educational attainment, innovation, and sustainable outcomes, and assumes significant responsibility for the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its surrounding communities. This strategy is built around intellectual fusion, use-inspired research, and scholarship that addresses today's largest and most essential societal problems.

In order to be successful, the incoming Dean of Humanities must address the following opportunities and challenges:

- Set a compelling vision that further strengthens ASU's position as a national leader in the humanities and elevates the Division's influence across the University and beyond;
- Lead the nation in expanding access to a humanities education that equips students to read closely, reason clearly, and understand people across languages, cultures, and centuries;
- Build and sustain a world-class community of scholars, educators, and alumni whose work advances human knowledge;
- Leverage ASU's unparalleled intellectual ecosystem to demonstrate how the humanities can enrich lives, strengthen communities, and help solve global challenges;
- Mobilize resources, partnerships, and philanthropy at scale to fuel innovation and growth.

ABOUT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Arizona State University has thrived on an unprecedented combination of academic excellence, entrepreneurial energy, and broad access, and the University's Charter, adopted in 2014, reflects that vision: *ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.*

This New American University is one university across four distinctive campuses throughout metropolitan Phoenix, as well as locations around the state, country, and world. Its research is inspired by real-world applications, blurring the boundaries that traditionally separate academic disciplines.

Since 2004, ASU has become a global leader in sustainability efforts—creating the Global Institute of Sustainability, launching the first School of Sustainability in the country, deploying the largest solar energy portfolio of any university in the U.S., and establishing a pan-university [Global Futures Lab](#) in 2019. In 2023, ASU joined the prestigious Association of American Universities, highlighting its position as one of the nation's preeminent research universities.

ASU enrolls more than 200,000 undergraduate and graduate students annually, demonstrating the university's commitment to educational access and providing world-class education at scale. In fall 2026, over 73,400 are enrolled on one of ASU's campuses and locations, and more than 86,000 are enrolled online. Of the 34,000 new undergraduate students enrolled at ASU in fall 2026, more than 13,900 hail from Arizona, proving ASU to be the top university of choice for Arizona residents. ASU's reach extends well beyond Arizona. In fall 2026, ASU is home to 11,500 international students, hailing from 174+ countries. Demonstrating its commitment to accessibility and social mobility, 40% of ASU undergraduates are first-generation college students, and more than 65,000 students accessed Federal Pell Grants during the last academic year. To learn more about ASU, see Appendix I and www.asu.edu.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Known as the academic heart of ASU, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences educates the next generation through first-of-their-kind degree programs, world-class research, and innovative learning experiences. The College is committed to improving communities on a local, national, and global scale while supporting a highly diverse student population at ASU. The College has a presence in 45 buildings on the Tempe campus and additional buildings on other campuses.

Students in The College have access to a variety of programs and centers within the three divisions: Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences. This interdisciplinary approach transforms students into socially aware, critical thinkers who have the tools to adapt and succeed in their career and life. With over 100 undergraduate programs and 150 graduate programs to explore, students of all ages and backgrounds graduate as socially and globally aware citizens with critical writing and thinking skills that enable them to succeed.

The College fosters educational excellence, intellectual inquiry, discovery, and unmatched access through 21 interdisciplinary schools and departments and over 50 research centers and institutes. As one of ASU's largest colleges, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences educates and supports over 30,600 students and touches all parts of campus, as over 90 percent of all ASU undergraduates take at least one course in the college. Over 1,300 world-renowned faculty members represent the College, including 15 National Academy of Sciences members, 3 Pulitzer Prize winners, and 2 Nobel Prize winners.

To learn more about The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, see <https://thecollege.asu.edu/>.

ABOUT HUMANITIES

The Humanities division at ASU continues to be one of the nation's top growing units for humanities majors and enrollments, positioning it at the forefront of humanities education, research, and innovation. Humanities comprises three academic divisions – [the Department of English](#); [the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies](#); and [the School of International Letters and Cultures](#) – each exploring the ideas, ethics, and experiences that shape the human experience and equipping students with the ability to think critically, communicate meaningfully, and understand people in a rapidly changing world.

The Humanities division enrolls over 3,700 humanities undergraduate majors, with roughly 75 percent of students online, and over 1,100 graduate students. Students have access to 34 undergraduate degrees, 44 minors and certificates, and 35 graduate programs across the three academic units. Across each of its programs, Humanities has been a pioneer in providing students with access to diverse studies that will enhance their careers. This includes first-of-their-kind degrees, like the MA in World War II studies, built in partnership with the National World War II Museum, and the BA in Culture, Technology, and Environment. Also housed in the division are over 10 undergraduate degrees in languages and cultures, including pioneering programs in Romanian and Indonesian.

The Humanities division is composed of 350 faculty and 80 staff. Faculty in the Humanities are highly accomplished and include internationally recognized scholars and creative artists, including Pulitzer Prize winners and MacArthur Fellows. Faculty and scholars in the division are committed to research that solves the real-world challenges of today and tomorrow. This is demonstrated across more than 15 research centers and institutes, which explore a variety of issues such as applied ethics, the Southwest desert, Muslim experience in the U.S., and Latinx voices.

To learn more about ASU Humanities, see <https://humanities.asu.edu/>.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

The Dean oversees 350 faculty and 80 staff and works towards the student success of over 3,700 undergraduate majors and over 1,100 graduate students. The Dean is charged with redefining humanities education across disciplines in service to ASU's mission of access and inclusive excellence; participating in the university senior management team; advancing teaching, research and community engagement; fostering faculty, staff and student achievement; building relationships across ASU and beyond; managing the directors across the interdisciplinary schools, centers, and institutes; launching new majors, minors and programs; overseeing promotion, evaluation, and tenure for faculty across tenure, tenure-track, and career-track; cultivating transformative-level foundation and philanthropic investment.

As a member of the Provost's Deans Council, the Dean plays a key role in positioning the humanities across ASU, ensuring its continued strengths and evolution in partnership with the Executive Vice President and Provost, the Provost Executive Team, and a distinguished team of deans leading ASU's 19 colleges.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

Set a compelling vision that further strengthens ASU's position as a national leader in the humanities and elevates the Division's influence across the University and beyond.

Over the past decade, ASU Humanities has achieved remarkable growth and reinvigoration that positions the institution at the forefront of humanities across the country. The Dean will build on this success and set a clear vision for the future that accelerates the division's standing in academic excellence, scholarship, and impact. The Dean will collaborate with University Leadership and leadership in The College, including the Senior Vice Provost and Dean, Dean of Natural Sciences, and Dean of Social Sciences, to develop a bold vision, advocate for the humanities both within and outside of ASU, and defend the value of the humanities in a rapidly changing environment. The Dean will not only need to understand the role of the humanities and how it fits into today's society, but they must also consider the future of the field to be able to champion a vision that inspires faculty, staff, and students to solve society's most complex issues.

Lead the nation in expanding access to a humanities education that equips students with the tools to read closely, reason clearly, and understand people across languages, cultures, and centuries.

Given that the majority of students at ASU will encounter the humanities at some point in their education, the Dean will embrace a culture that aligns with the university's charter where access and success are priorities. By focusing on student success and outcomes, the Dean will be able to shape how current and incoming students view the value of a degree and the importance of the humanities in preparing them for a rapidly changing job market. This will require the Dean to stay abreast of current market challenges and anticipate students' future needs in order to adapt to the current landscape, which may involve new programs, degrees, and experiences. Given the strong online presence, the Dean will expand online programs, build strong engagement models for online students, and leverage online education to sustain and grow humanities enrollment. The Dean will also support faculty and students in engaging artificial intelligence innovatively and thoughtfully, in research, in teaching, and as a subject of humanistic inquiry. The Dean will embrace a culture of innovation that moves beyond the status quo and builds on the culture ASU promotes.

Build and sustain a world-class community of scholars, educators, and alumni whose work advances human knowledge.

At the heart of the division's accelerated impact are the efforts of its faculty and staff. In order to maintain the strength of the division, the Dean will prioritize the recruitment and retention of a world-class faculty across all faculty tracks and ensure they have the resources they need to succeed. This will include supporting faculty in navigating policies and personnel actions relevant to their appointment, including tenure, promotion, appointment renewal, and annual evaluation. The Dean will also maintain the importance of the academic units by investing in staff to support all faculty members in pursuit of scholarship, teaching, and service, while also providing professional development opportunities for staff. The Dean will maintain productive relationships with alumni and the broader community of scholars and researchers whose work elevates the field and contributes to the growth of ASU Humanities. In order to be successful, the Dean will embrace the complex structure of the division through the recognition of staff and faculty and the contributions they make to elevate the humanities across ASU and globally.

Leverage ASU's unparalleled intellectual ecosystem to demonstrate how the humanities can enrich lives, strengthen communities, and help solve global challenges.

As the academic heart of ASU, The College reaches across disciplines to create collaborations that help solve some of the world's most complex problems. The humanities are central to this endeavor, as the depth and breadth of the scholarship are fundamental to the broader goals of ASU. The Dean will create partnerships across The College and the University to advance transdisciplinary learning by advancing faculty research, shaping new degrees, and revamping courses to engage the entire ASU campus in the humanities. The Dean will partner closely with the Senior Vice Provost and Dean, the Dean of Natural Sciences and the Dean of Social Sciences in a unified approach to support the broader goals of The College and promote interdisciplinary research, teaching, and learning.

Mobilize resources, partnerships, and philanthropy at scale to fuel innovation and growth.

The Dean will partner with the SVP/Dean and the Provost at ASU to identify and advocate for appropriate resources and a sustainable budget model that supports the continued success of the division within The College. The Dean will bring a combination of solid financial management, entrepreneurship, advocacy, and stewardship in order to drive investment and support for The College. This will look like skillful, creative budgeting, appropriate investment to support enrollment and research growth, proactive fundraising from philanthropic sources, familiarity with various funding sources, and the support and expansion of programs that generate additional revenue. The Dean will look beyond traditional sources of financial support and sharpen the division's footprint in areas such as the learning enterprise to drive additional resources that will allow the division to invest in the future of the humanities.

ASU has strong ties to industry, and these relationships help to further innovation and shepherd resources. The Dean will embrace an ecosystem of enterprise partnerships, including local community-based organizations and industry, to advance research, shape degree programs, and support internship and job opportunities for students. This will require an entrepreneurial leader who will share the vision of humanities broadly and engage external stakeholders to see the value in the humanities and the role it plays in society.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

A successful candidate will exhibit leadership and strategic vision and bring to the position most of the following desired qualifications:

- A record of innovative leadership in an academic environment
- An excellent record of research, scholarship, and teaching appropriate for an appointment as Professor with tenure in Humanities at ASU
- Demonstrated commitment to promoting inclusive excellence
- Demonstrated experience managing financial planning and budgetary processes
- Significant experience leading a large and complex academic unit
- Demonstrated commitment to promoting excellence in research, scholarship, and increasing externally funded research across the humanities
- Demonstrated understanding of the research, instructional, and service needs of an academic division within a larger college
- Experience with fundraising, grant development, and/or cultivation of external professional partnerships
- Experience managing student enrollments
- Demonstrated commitment to promoting inter/transdisciplinary approaches to research and learning
- Experience working day-to-day in a team-oriented environment
- Experience managing a significant number of high-level staff
- Commitment to the ideals of ASU's mission and charter: <https://www.asu.edu/about/charter-mission>

LOCATION

The position is located in Tempe, Arizona, in the Phoenix metropolitan area, which is one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing urban areas. Phoenix and the broader Arizona economy offer a compelling platform for innovation and growth. The state has emerged as a hub for entrepreneurship, technology, and advanced industry, attracting startups and established companies alike with its skilled workforce and pro-innovation environment. This dynamic landscape creates meaningful opportunities for experiential learning, research, and partnership.

Beyond its professional advantages, the region offers an exceptional quality of life. Greater Phoenix combines the amenities of a major metropolitan area with a comparatively affordable cost of living. Residents enjoy a vibrant arts and culture scene, major professional sports, and unparalleled access to outdoor recreation, from desert preserves and mountain trails to nearby lakes and iconic destinations such as the Grand Canyon and Sedona. With more than 300 days of sunshine each year, Phoenix provides an environment that supports both professional ambition and personal well-being.

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/arizona-state-university-college-liberal-arts-and-sciences/Dean-humanities>.

David Bellshaw, Luciano Zuniga, and Kendra Moleé
Isaacson, Miller

Arizona State University is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. For more information, please visit: <https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html> and <https://www.asu.edu/titleIX/>.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Arizona State University, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. 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 Arizona State University, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences would supersede any conflicting information in this document.

APPENDIX I: ABOUT ASU

ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural, and overall health of the communities it serves.

- [Business, W. P. Carey School of](#)
- [Design and the Arts, Herberger Institute for](#)
- [Engineering, Ira A. Fulton Schools of](#)
- [Global Futures, Rob Walton College of](#)
- [Global Management, Thunderbird School of](#)
- [Graduate College](#)
- [Health Solutions, College of](#)
- [Honors: Barrett, The Honors College at ASU](#)
- [Integrative Sciences and Arts, College of](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, New College of](#)
- [Journalism and Mass Communication, Walter Cronkite School of](#)
- [Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College of](#)
- [Liberal Arts and Sciences, The College of](#)
- [Medicine and Medical Engineering, John Shufeldt School of](#)
- [Nursing and Health Innovation, Edson College of](#)
- [Public Service and Community Solutions, Watts College of](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Innovation, Mary Lou Fulton College for](#)
- [Technology for Public Health, School of](#)
- [University College](#)

About President Michael Crow

Michael M. Crow is an educator, knowledge enterprise architect, science and technology policy scholar and higher education leader. He became the sixteenth president of Arizona State University in 2002 and has led ASU's rapid and groundbreaking transformation into one of the world's best public metropolitan research universities. As a model "New American University," ASU simultaneously demonstrates comprehensive excellence, inclusivity representative of the ethnic and socioeconomic spectrum of the United States, and consequential societal impact.

Lauded as the "No.1 most innovative school" in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for eleven consecutive years, and garnering top accolades for its global impact and student employability, ASU is a student-centric, technology-enabled public enterprise focused on global challenges that grew its research expenditures more than eight-fold since 2003 and earned AAU membership in 2023. Under Crow's leadership, it has established more than thirty new transdisciplinary schools, including the School of Earth and Space Exploration, the School for the Future of Innovation in Society and the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and launched pioneering multidisciplinary initiatives including the Biodesign Institute, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, the nation's first School of Sustainability, and significant initiatives in the humanities and social sciences.

ASU has concurrently achieved record-breaking levels of traditional, online and international student enrollment, first-year student quality and retention, and ethnic and socioeconomic inclusion.

ASU's meteoric ascent in quality, growth and modernization has earned it separate rankings as one of the top 100 most prestigious universities in the world by Times Higher Education, and a top 100 position in Shanghai Jiao Tong's 2018 Academic Ranking of World Universities.

The recipient of the 2025 Edison Achievement Award, the inaugural American Council on Education Award for Institutional Transformation, and one of TIME magazine's "10 Best College Presidents," Crow previously served as executive vice provost and professor of science and technology policy at Columbia University. He has advised the U.S. Departments of State, Commerce, and Energy, as well as defense and intelligence agencies, and serves as Chairman of In-Q-Tel. He is a two-term member of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and has advised several nation-states on matters of knowledge enterprise development. An elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAA&S), and the American Philosophical Society (APS), Crow is the author of books and articles analyzing knowledge enterprises, science and technology policy, and the design of higher education institutions and systems. He coauthored *Designing the New American University* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015), outlining the imperative for new and creative public university models that advance both academic excellence and broad accessibility, and also, *The Fifth Wave: The Evolution of the American Research University* (2020), which urges the comprehensive redesign of higher education to educate large numbers of qualified students while leveraging discovery and accessibility. A former

member of the U.S. Council on Competitiveness and the Council on Foreign Relations, Crow has also served on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council.

Crow earned his PhD in Public Administration (Science and Technology Policy) from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.

About Executive Vice President and University Provost Nancy Gonzales

Nancy Gonzales is the executive vice president and university provost of Arizona State University, serving as ASU's chief academic officer. She oversees the university's academic mission across its 19 interdisciplinary colleges and schools, positioning ASU as one of the largest and most innovative Research I institutions in the country.

Since becoming provost in 2021, Dr. Gonzales has helped lead ASU to several historic milestones. These include, among others, the university's induction into the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU); new Carnegie Foundation classifications recognizing ASU as a university with "High Access, High Graduate Earnings" and "Leadership for Public Purpose"; and designation by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic-Serving Institution. Also during her tenure, ASU has maintained top national rankings as the No. 1 university for innovation (U.S. News & World Report, 2015–26) and global impact (Times Higher Education, 2020–25), and the No. 2 public university in the U.S. for graduate employability (Global Employability University Ranking and Survey, 2025).

Under her academic leadership, ASU has experienced significant growth and transformation, including the launching of 3 new colleges and 12 interdisciplinary schools, and expansion of ASU's academic leadership to 24 deans, 16 of which Gonzales hired since becoming Provost. Dr. Gonzales and her leadership team grew annual enrollment to more than 203,000 students, a 27% increase over the course of her tenure, and opened new ASU locations in Los Angeles, California, St. George's, Bermuda, and London, England. Dr. Gonzales also accelerated ASU's commitment to global engagement, enrolling over 20,000 international students from over 170 countries in 2026, maintaining ASU's reputation as a top U.S. public university for hosting international students. Her office also helped to launch and support educational partnerships with 34 institutions across 30 countries through the ASU-Cintana Alliance, providing more than 350,000 students access to ASU courses and degrees.

Before serving as provost, Dr. Gonzales was Dean of Natural Sciences in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. During her tenure, she advanced new educational programs, significantly increased enrollment, and supported groundbreaking fundamental science and research on major global challenges—spanning human health, energy, sustainability, materials science, and space exploration.

An accomplished psychologist, Dr. Gonzales is a Foundation Professor of Psychology and a nationally recognized scholar. Her NIH-funded research has focused on culturally informed models of human development and public health strategies to reduce disparities in underserved communities. She served

as director of ASU's REACH Institute, an interdisciplinary center focused on implementing evidence-based interventions in schools, courts, health care, and community mental health settings.

Dr. Gonzales is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and has received numerous honors for her contributions to science and leadership. Her awards include distinguished career honors from the American Psychological Association, the Society for Research on Adolescence, the Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, and the Society for Prevention Research. She has been named an Arizona Latina Trailblazer, received ASU's Founder's Day Award for Research, and was recognized among the Most Influential Women in Arizona in 2021 and one of the top 10 women business leaders in Arizona in 2026.

About Senior Vice Provost, Dean and Professor, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Kenro Kusumi

Kenro Kusumi is senior vice provost and dean of The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (The College) and professor of life sciences at Arizona State University. He received his AB from Harvard College in Biochemical Sciences and his PhD in Biology from MIT. He carried out postdoctoral training as a Hitchings-Elion Fellow of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund at the National Institute for Medical Research in London. Kusumi was previously faculty at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where he served as director of pediatric orthopaedic research. At ASU, he has served in a number of roles including as director of the School of Life Sciences and associate dean and dean of natural sciences in The College. Kusumi helped to launch the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix in partnership with ASU in 2006, and he is adjunct faculty at the Translational Genomics Research Institute. Kusumi is committed to promoting access to higher education and advancing innovative research. As senior vice provost and dean, he has worked to increase student retention through redesign of first-year gateway courses, supported experiential learning opportunity for campus immersion and online students, helped launch innovative undergraduate programs to train the next generation of biotech entrepreneurs, promoted principled innovation to tap the potential of artificial intelligence, and expanded faculty strength in key areas of research and scholarship.

Kusumi's research uses the power of genome biology to help conserve and study the functional adaptations of reptiles. Among the reptiles, more than half of the living turtle species are threatened with extinction, and Kusumi has sequenced the genomes of the threatened Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Sonoran desert tortoise (*G. morafkai*) and Texas tortoise (*G. berlandieri*) as tools for conservation efforts. The anole lizards have been described as the "Darwin's finches" of reptiles, and Kusumi has led genome-scale analyses of accelerated evolution associated with their functional adaptations. His group has also uncovered sets of genes that are critical in the ability of anole lizards to adapt and regenerate parts of their bodies. He co-leads the NIH T32 training grant, RESTEP in AZ: Regenerative Engineering, Science, and Technology Education Program in Arizona, a collaboration between the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering and The College. He is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).