

# SEARCH PROFILE:

VICE PRESIDENT FOR EQUITY & INCLUSION  
AND CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER



**CSUN**®

CALIFORNIA  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
NORTHRIDGE

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**California State University, Northridge (CSUN) seeks a leader to serve as the next Vice President for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer in the thriving and diverse environment of greater Los Angeles.**

## CSUN'S COMMITMENT TO YOU

CSUN is committed to achieving excellence through teaching, scholarship, learning, and inclusion. Our values include a respect for all people, building partnerships with the community, and encouraging innovation, experimentation, and creativity. CSUN strives to cultivate a community in which a diverse population can learn

and work in an atmosphere of civility and respect. CSUN actively seeks candidates who make contributions to equity and inclusion in the pursuit of excellence for all members of the university community.

## THE UNIVERSITY

One of the largest universities in the country, California State University, Northridge (CSUN) is an urban, comprehensive university that delivers award-winning undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 36,000 students annually and counts more than 400,000 alumni who fuel the region's economy. Since its founding in 1958, CSUN has made a significant and long-term economic impact on California, generating nearly \$1.9 billion in economic impact and nearly 12,000 jobs each year. CSUN is a designated Minority-Serving and

Hispanic-Serving Institution, ranking amongst the top twenty in the nation in graduating Latinx students. More than 70 percent of CSUN students are first-generation college students, and 60 percent come from historically underrepresented groups. *Money* magazine consistently ranks CSUN among the nation's "most transformative" colleges for putting diverse students on the path to higher career earnings.



# CSUN SELECT RECOGNITIONS AND DISTINCTIONS

- *Excelencia* in Education awarded CSUN the prestigious Seal of *Excelencia*, a national certification that recognizes institutions that authentically and intentionally serve Latinx/a/o students, to the benefit of all students.
- The *Wall Street Journal/College Pulse* 2024 Best Colleges in the U.S. ranked CSUN: #12 Best Public University nationally, #2 Best Public University in California, #20 Best for Student Experience nationally, and #5 Best for Social Mobility nationally.
- CSUN has been recognized as a top performer in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) 2023 Sustainable Campus Index, moving into 4th place among master's institutions.
- *U.S. News & World Report* named CSUN the 25th Best Regional University in the West, and No. 11 best public school among regional universities in the West.
- *Washington Monthly* ranked CSUN fourth in the West among America's Best Bang for the Buck Colleges.
- CSUN has the largest enrollment of students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing among mainstream universities in the nation.
- Hillel has named CSUN as one of the "Top 60 Public Universities by Jewish Population" and ranked the university #1 in California and #13 nationally among public schools with the largest Jewish populations.
- CSUN has awarded the third-most bachelor's degrees to Latinx/a/o/Hispanic students in the nation, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.
- A *New York Times* interactive database of college rankings shows CSUN's transformational impact. According to the database, CSUN is #1 out of 293 public colleges nationwide for the economic diversity of its students. Among 883 public and private colleges nationwide, CSUN is #2 for economic diversity, 18th for economic mobility, and 21st for its low net price.
- The National Science Foundation ranked CSUN in the top 15 nationally among similar institutions (Carnegie Master's Colleges and Universities) for graduates who go on to earn research doctorates.
- CSUN is ranked #15 in the nation on CollegeNET's 2022 "Social Mobility Index," which measures the success rates of economically disadvantaged students graduating into well-paid jobs.
- CSUN scored 4.5 out of 5 stars on the Campus Pride Index.
- For the third straight year, in 2023 CSUN was designated a Fulbright HSI Leader from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) for its noteworthy engagement with the Fulbright Program.
- The Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) honored CSUN as a Movement Maker for demonstrating an enduring commitment to the success of all students. The award was presented to the CSU — highlighting CSUN and Cal State LA — at ACUE's inaugural National Higher Education Conference in June 2023.
- The Arbor Day Foundation recognizes CSUN as an official Tree Campus USA for its commitment to effective urban forest management, a title the university has held for nine years.
- A team of 39 CSUN mechanical engineering students won multiple top-3 awards in a NASA program that asked schools with high populations of traditionally underrepresented students to design technology for a future mission to the moon.
- CSUN alumni have won Grammys, Oscars, Golden Globes and Emmys, and they work at all levels of the music and media industries. Seven CSUN alumni journalists are winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the highest journalism honor in the country.
- The long-running Assistive Technology Conference, sponsored by CSUN's Center on Disabilities, is recognized as the premier event in the field of technology for persons with disabilities.





## CSUN STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS (FALL 2023)

- **36,368 STUDENTS**
- **STUDENT POPULATION BY ETHNICITY:**
  - 55.8% Latinx/o/a
  - 19.7% White
  - 8.9% Asian American/Pacific Islander
  - 5.0% African American
- 3.1% Multi-ethnic
- Student population by gender:
  - 125 Nonbinary
  - 19,523 Women
  - 16,720 Men

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

CSUN's nine colleges offer 60 baccalaureate degrees, 41 master's degrees, 28 credentials in the field of education, and various opportunities in extended learning and other special programs. For more information about the units in Academic Affairs, click the links below.

- [Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication](#)
- [David Nazarian College of Business and Economics](#)
- [Michael D. Eisner College of Education](#)
- [College of Engineering & Computer Science](#)
- [College of Health and Human Development](#)
- [College of Science & Mathematics](#)
- [College of Social & Behavioral Sciences](#)
- [Tseng College of Graduate, International, and Midcareer Education](#)
- [University Library](#)





## THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR EQUITY & INCLUSION AND CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

The inaugural Vice President for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer (VPEI) reports to the President and serves as the University's executive-level innovator and strategist responsible for guiding efforts and creating opportunities to embed and ensure the centrality of CSUN's core values of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility and belonging (i.e. core equity values) across all aspects of the University. As an integrating partner and collaborator, the VPEI proactively leads, develops and implements plans, programs, and activities that advance and operationalize the University's mission and values as well as the strategic directions, priorities and core equity values outlined in CSUN's Road Ahead. As the first administrator to occupy this position, the VPEI will help further define the equity infrastructure needed to establish CSUN as a university that leads and lives up to its commitments to provide a campus culture where all students and employees from historically marginalized, underserved or underrepresented communities can thrive. The VPEI develops strong relationships with the Office of Equity & Compliance and makes referrals to address discrimination, harassment and civil rights violations.

The VPEI employs a data informed approach to enact or change practices and structures to guide the University in becoming a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive campus. The VPEI supports the highest quality learning environment in support of student success and equitable educational opportunities.

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Leadership & Management

- Develops, leads and champions efforts that operationalizes CSUN's vision and commitment to inclusive excellence and an equitable educational and working environment.
- Working collaboratively with University Cabinet, drives the integration of core equity values into planning and goal setting processes, including core equity values into our operational infrastructure to inform decision-making, academic and student programs, administrative operations, resource allocations, fundraising priorities, campus communications and other structures that impact campus culture and the experiences of students and employees.
- Provides innovative, visionary leadership for the development or revision of University policies, structures, practices and procedures that promote an inclusive culture and are in alignment with campus values to enable members of the community to achieve their full potential and function effectively in a diverse, inclusive environment.
- Leads efforts to establish and promote accountability for learning and action on justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility and belonging from a place of compassion, respect and care.

# THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR EQUITY & INCLUSION AND CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER (CONT.)

- Provides leadership and management of an expanding team of professionals in the Office of Equity & Inclusion in order to support and operationalize the University's equity infrastructure in alignment with CSUN's [Road Ahead](#) goals and core equity values while also empowering and catalyzing efforts of colleagues across campus engaged in justice, equity, diversity and inclusion work.
- Serves as the leader of the CSUN's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion and oversees efforts to engage the Commission in an advisory capacity to the President to support and amplify the impact and effectiveness of a wide range of diversity and inclusion programs and activities relating to students, faculty, and staff.
- Advances CSUN's inclusive excellence through engagement with alumni and other community partners; supports inclusive philanthropy and community engagement in order to cultivate external relationships and resources in support of initiatives that advance the University's core equity values.
- Manages the Office of Equity & Inclusion, including budgeting and monitoring expenditures, and ensuring that human and financial resources are properly administered to maximize impact of programs and initiatives. Develops and effectively articulates funding needs and strategies to support the implementation and sustainability of initiatives.
- As a member of the University Cabinet, the VPEI will contribute to and drive a culture that fosters the professional and personal well-being of the community, exemplifying the attributes of the campus [Leadership Principles](#).
- As a leader within the CSU, the VPEI collaborates with system-wide colleagues, including Chief Diversity Officers, to advance the mission and recognition of the transformative impact of the CSU across the state and nation. Works in alignment with and as a partner on the initiatives, goals and systemwide policies in accomplishing shared equity goals.

## Thought Leadership & Data Stewardship

- Advises senior leadership about strategic equity and inclusion planning and implementation efforts that maximize institutional strengths and respond to identified needs in order to maintain an intentional and sustained focus on achieving inclusive excellence. Makes recommendations for systemic and organizational actions needed to achieve real and sustained progress toward a diverse and inclusive learning and work environment.
- Participates in educational and professional networks as an informed and committed advocate of the University.
- Serves as an ambassador for the University by publicly expressing the University's core equity values and promoting University efforts and accomplishments in the areas of equity and inclusion.
- Leverages data to inform and help set clear measures of accountability and success indicators for advancing core equity values, institutional goals and priorities. Implements a robust system for collecting and analyzing data related to diversity and equity on campus. Reviews and develops indicators to inform the President and the senior leadership team on progress and trends in order to identify opportunities for growth.
- Regularly assesses the campus climate, surveys the CSUN community, and uses metrics to track progress toward equity goals.

## Facilitation and Coaching

- Collaborates with students, faculty, staff and administrators across campus engaged in equitable and inclusive learning and working initiatives to provide thought partnership, build bridges and amplify their efforts and promote an inclusive culture.





# THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR EQUITY & INCLUSION AND CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER (CONT.)

- Creates structures that intentionally and regularly promote collaboration, trust, and communication between individuals, groups, committees, and coalitions advancing inclusive excellence and equity work, so they can easily share information and build effective, efficient, and synergistic efforts.
- Partners and collaborates with campus units (e.g. Office of Human Resources, Faculty Affairs and the Center for Teaching and Learning) to create strategies, tools and training to increase competencies and institutional knowledge about identity-based and intersectional diversity, including racial justice, disability justice, individuals without documentation, LGBTQIA+ communities, veteran communities, formerly incarcerated/justice-involved communities and people or groups from different religious/spiritual worldviews and traditions, recognizing that each population is not monolithic or mutually exclusive.
- Creates a communication strategy that provides visibility to CSUN's cultural wealth, proactive equity innovations and progress in inclusive excellence. Develops tools that inform, educate, inspire and empower the campus community and external partners.
- Oversees an annual reporting of progress that ensures the transparent communication of challenges, efforts, impact and next steps.
- Demonstration of in-depth, contemporary knowledge on issues of: access, inclusion, diversity, equity, and multiculturalism in a large complex organizational setting, with a strong lens of intersectional understanding regarding race, gender, sexuality, disability, immigration status, veteran status, and other dimensions of personal and social identity.
- Demonstrated experience in implementing intersectional approaches in the advancement of equity and inclusive excellence in a learning and working environment.
- Demonstrated record of collecting and using data to assess the effectiveness of initiatives and to achieve measurable results.
- Demonstration of well-developed skills in facilitating inclusive dialogues that enable positive growth.
- Demonstrated experience in developing and translating strategic goals into actionable plans for implementation, and experience in institutional change management.
- Demonstrated record of building consensus, finding support and working through competing interests.
- Outstanding written and verbal skills and the ability to convey complex information and concepts in accessible terms, that are relevant and meaningful to specific communities.
- Outstanding interpersonal communication skills including the modeling of curiosity, listening to learn and understand, diplomacy, inclusion, and consensus building to inform the decision-making process and sophisticated relational ability to connect with others across intersectional identities and belief systems.
- Demonstration of anticipatory, solution-oriented thinking around broad cultural and societal concerns.
- Crisis management experience and the ability to provide intellectual and emotional leadership, bringing communities together during challenging and sometimes public or high-profile circumstances.
- A high level of energy, focus and the capacity to effectively partner with the president, cabinet, deans, faculty, staff, and students of diverse backgrounds.
- Demonstrated success in leading a team and the willingness to serve as a motivator and mentor to staff while achieving university, division and unit goals.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Minimum Qualifications

- A Master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- A minimum of eight years full time work experience advancing equity and inclusion initiatives through best practice programs, education, and awareness, at least five years of which must be in a leadership capacity.
- At least three years of demonstrated and direct experience in building financial capacity to enact equity and inclusive excellence initiatives through the successful securement of federal, state or private grants and philanthropic investment.
- Doctorate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- Experience in higher education and a university system setting.

### Preferred Qualifications





## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Background check:** This position is a sensitive position as designated by the CSU. A background check (including a criminal records check) must be completed satisfactorily. Failure to satisfactorily complete the background check may affect the status of candidates who apply for the position.

**CANRA:** The person holding this position will be considered a 'limited reporter' under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act and is required to comply with the requirements set forth in CSU Executive Order 1083 as a condition of employment.

**Conflict of Interest:** This position is a "designated position" in the California State University's Conflict of Interest Code. The successful candidate accepting this position is required to file Conflict of Interest forms subject to the regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPOINTMENT:

July 1, 2025

### HOW TO APPLY

The university is being assisted by Academic Search. Applications should consist of a substantive cover letter, a curriculum vitae, and a list of five professional references with full contact information. No references will be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted electronically, and in confidence, to: [CSUNVPEI@academicsearch.org](mailto:CSUNVPEI@academicsearch.org)

The position is open until filled but only applications received by Wednesday, February 12, 2025, can be assured full consideration. Confidential discussions about

this opportunity may be arranged by contacting consultants Ann Hasselmo at [Ann.Hasselmo@academicsearch.org](mailto:Ann.Hasselmo@academicsearch.org) and Chris Butler at [Chris.Butler@academicsearch.org](mailto:Chris.Butler@academicsearch.org). The anticipated hiring range is \$245,000 – \$255,000 per year, dependent upon qualifications and experience. Further information about California State University, Northridge is available at <http://csun.edu/>.

*CSUN is an Equal Opportunity Employer and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, national origin, age, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, medical condition, marital status, covered military and veteran status, and disability. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for applicants with disabilities who self-disclose by contacting Recruitment Services at 818-677-2101.*

# ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting California State University, Northridge in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations. Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute.

