SEARCH PROSPECTUS:

President, Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas

ICUT
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES OF TEXAS
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The Board of Directors of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas (ICUT) invites nominations, expressions of interest and applications for its President. The successful candidate will succeed Mr. Ray Martinez who has accepted a new leadership position in Texas higher education following a highly successful seven year tenure.

ICUT is the primary advocate for independent higher education in Texas, on behalf of its 42 member colleges and universities, serving approximately 100,000 students. The leadership transition at ICUT comes at a time of challenge and opportunity for all of higher education in Texas, as state policymakers have adopted ambitious goals (60x30TX) for increasing post-secondary degree completion in a state with robust population and economic growth and changing student population demographics. ICUT institutions, half of which have been designated as Hispanic Serving Institutions, are committed to playing a leading role in achieving these goals.

The next President of ICUT will build upon the success of the recently-adopted strategic plan, which has focused and defined the organization’s priorities of legislative advocacy and expanding member services.
ICUT was founded in 1964 as the voice for fully accredited private colleges and universities. For over 50 years, it has fulfilled its mission of helping policymakers recognize the importance and value of the independent sector of higher education by successfully articulating the sector's needs and aspirations.

OUR MISSION
ICUT supports Texas independent nonprofit colleges and universities by strengthening member institutions through advocacy, policy research and collaboration.

Specifically, our programs help our member institutions:
• advance educational opportunities for students,
• address financial needs of families,
• promote economic opportunities for communities,
• foster relationships with businesses, and
• inform and advise policymakers.

OUR VISION
ICUT will continue to be an integral, vibrant and sustainable component of the higher education landscape in Texas and will champion the diverse traditions, approaches and populations of our member institutions. The higher education system in Texas is made stronger by including Texas independent, regionally-accredited, nonprofit colleges and universities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
• ICUT will protect the opportunity for students to choose the institution that best fits their goals, interests and capabilities.
• ICUT will advocate to make college more affordable by increasing access to sufficient student financial aid and providing cost-containment opportunities.
• ICUT will be a valued resource for its members, policymakers, community leaders and business stakeholders to help advance the statewide goals of making college more accessible, affordable and effective for all Texans.

CORE VALUES
• serves as a valued and trusted resource for its members and lawmakers,
• respects the cultural, demographic and geographic diversities of members,
• recognizes the rich history of independent education in Texas.
ICUT PRIORITIES

- Legislative advocacy
- Member Services
- Marketing and Information

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

ICUT is governed by a Board of Directors composed of eleven presidents or chancellors. The board chair, currently Mr. Frederick Slabach, President, Texas Wesleyan University, serves for a two-year term.

The ICUT President and six full-time staff members are headquartered in new offices in Austin, Texas, a short walk from the State Capitol.

ICUT FOUNDATION

The ICUT Board and staff administer a separate 503(c)(3) Foundation, the purpose of which is to seek funding to support research and cooperative programs among member institutions. The Foundation has become more active in recent years. An example of a Foundation program is “Texas Pathways,” a new initiative to accelerate completion and reduce the cost of bachelor’s degrees for students in Texas. Texas Pathways uses an on-line sharing platform to connect associate degree-earners with the most transfer-friendly degrees at private, nonprofit colleges and universities in Texas. This program will provide students pathways to one of more than 60 online bachelor’s degrees, many of which are in-demand in the workforce.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENT

• Enhance the reputation and visibility of Texas independent higher education, as its public face, spokesperson and chief advocate;

• Build productive relationships with state legislators, their staffs, and state government officials, especially in support of the Tuition Equalization Grant, which is the primary source of state funding for Texas students pursuing quality educational experiences at Texas Independent colleges and universities;

• Keep members informed of potential policies and regulations which may impact the autonomy and mission of our institutions, many of which are faith-based;

• Advocate tirelessly for the impact ICUT institutions deliver in realization of expanded access to higher education and economic opportunity, especially ICUT institutions’ success in opening doors for first-generation, Pell-eligible and minority students;

• Plan and coordinate strategies to engage presidents, alumni, board members, students, faculty and staff in advocating for independent higher education with legislators and staff;

• Lead ICUT in developing new cooperative programs and partnerships in support of increased access and completion;

• Expand ICUT’s member services and programs, including legislative compliance seminars, joint purchasing programs and consultations to enhance efficiency and reduce costs;

• Ensure that ICUT, and its member presidents, are engaged in policy advocacy at the national level, and that ICUT is active in national networks of support for independent colleges and universities, such as NAICU and CIC;

• Build and support a professional and respected staff;

• Strengthen the ICUT organization through effective representation and services that balance the interests of all members, small and large, highly-endowed and more tuition-driven.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

• Significant experience at a senior level in federal or state government, or in legislative advocacy; experience with the Texas legislature is preferred;

• Outstanding communication skills, with the ability to represent ICUT effectively and confidently at legislative hearings, in media interviews, and with one-on-one meetings with representatives or their staffs; and to represent ICUT on member campuses and with boards of trustees;

• Experience, skills and personality to win the respect of education policy-makers;

• Professional stature to represent ICUT at national meetings and participate in educational policy-making at the federal level;

• A vision for how the changing landscape of higher education will create opportunities for partnerships that ICUT can support and foster;

• The personality to motivate and support staff and to work confidently with 42 university presidents or chancellors;

• Ability to set vision and strategy, while ensuring the day-to-day operational functions of ICUT are carried out;

• Knowledge, appreciation for and experience working with independent higher education preferred;

• A high degree of professionalism, integrity and moral character;

• Advanced degree preferred.
Nominations, applications and inquiries may be sent in confidence. Full consideration will be given to applications received by April 22, 2020. Application materials (to include a letter of interest, professional resume, and full contact information for five references) must be submitted electronically to:

ICUTPresident@academicsearch.org

Confidential discussions can be arranged with Stuart Dorsey (stuart.dorsey@academicsearch.org), Senior Consultant with Academic Search, Inc., Washington, D.C.

Further information about Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas can be found at: www.ICUT.org. ICUT is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

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