

SEARCH PROFILE:

DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING AND SCIENCES



PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST

College of Engineering and Sciences

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THE OPPORTUNITY

With its vision to cultivate leaders, inspire excellence, and impact our world, Purdue University Northwest (PNW) invites nominations and applications for the next Dean of the College of Engineering and Sciences (CES). This is an exciting opportunity for an exceptional, innovative, and collaborative academic leader and scholar to strategically guide the college amidst the changing landscape of higher education, the growing vibrancy and diversity of Northwest Indiana and the Greater Chicago Area, and a renewed sense of optimism across the university.

Reporting to the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Dean provides strategic academic leadership for the college and is responsible for enhancing the core missions of learning, discovery, and engagement. The successful candidate will provide innovative, equity-focused, and engaged leadership to establish and fulfill a new vision and direction for the college aligned with the university's 2025-2030 strategic plan, [Excellence Evolving](#). In so doing, the Dean will be expected to take an active role in ensuring a climate supportive of all populations across the university—a university recently designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution. The Dean will build upon the established

reputation, programmatic strengths, and dedication to improving the quality of life and place for students (including first-generation college students, adult learners, and other non-traditional students), their families, and communities, as well as for faculty and staff.

Collaborating with faculty, staff, students, donors, alumni, and community stakeholders, the Dean will actively lead the academic and research enterprise of the college; ensure an exceptional educational experience; maintain accreditation standards; foster continued growth in scholarship; strengthen relationships with industry and other community partners; and broaden participation in STEM. Moreover, the Dean will be actively engaged in undergraduate and graduate program development, curricular enhancement, assessment of student learning, budget planning, resource development and allocation, and fund-raising.

The Dean of the College of Engineering and Sciences is expected to begin in Summer 2025. For information on how to apply, submit nominations, or inquire about the role, please see the section "Nomination and Application Process" near the end of this document.



ABOUT PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Northwest Indiana is entering a new era of growth and transformation, providing exciting opportunities for Purdue Northwest in regional economic development and participation in cutting-edge initiatives related to industrial decarbonization, clean energy, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, and quantum communications, among others. The university's involvement in the MACH H2 Midwest hydrogen hub—awarded \$1 billion by the U.S. Department of Energy—underscores Northwest Indiana's growing prominence in sustainable energy solutions.

Additionally, as a member of the Bloch Tech Hub (the Chicago MSA's quantum tech hub designated by the U.S. EDA), Purdue Northwest is positioning the region as a leader in quantum research and emerging technologies. Moreover, the [Greater South Shore Initiative](#), a regional master planning and market positioning strategy led by world-renowned architecture, design, and planning firm, Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill, is designed to set the stage for substantial new investment, positioning Northwest Indiana much more competitively for businesses and households, similar to the transformational impact of the Burnham Plan on Chicago. These efforts, combined with other major infrastructure investments, are catalyzing new transit-oriented development, attracting new industries, and developing a vibrant innovation ecosystem in emerging technologies. Such endeavors are creating significant opportunities for STEM graduates to engage in high-impact careers that will shape the region's future while driving inclusive, knowledge-based economic growth. For the first time in decades, moreover, Northwest Indiana is experiencing population growth, much of which is driven by Hispanic and Latino populations, leading to demographic change in the region and among our students.

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Part of the Purdue University System, Purdue University Northwest is a diverse, student-centered university that transforms lives and serves our region through innovative education, impactful research, and community engagement. Located in Northwest Indiana in the Greater Chicago Area and near the Indiana Dunes National Park, Purdue Northwest serves over 9,000 students—6,000 of whom are core students—in more than 70 academic programs at the baccalaureate, master's, and applied doctoral levels. It is also the largest federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) in Indiana.

Purdue Northwest employs over 1,000 faculty and staff for its operations on two campuses (Hammond and Westville) plus additional sites in Northwest Indiana, including the Gabis Arboretum. Academic programs are offered by six colleges:

- [College of Business](#)
- [College of Engineering and Sciences](#)
- [College of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences](#)
- [College of Nursing](#)
- [College of Technology](#)
- [Honors College](#) and [University College](#)

Purdue Northwest is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and four undergraduate engineering programs in the College of Engineering and Sciences are also accredited by ABET.

The university is consistently ranked among the best public regional universities in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual Best Colleges report and ranked #64 among Midwest institutions with respect to upward social mobility in the most recent report. Its engineering, computer science, and cybersecurity programs have earned national recognition. As a member of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletics Conference (GLIAC), the PNW Pride compete in NCAA Division II athletics, with more than 500 student-athletes in 21 sports excelling both in the classroom and in competition.

MISSION, VISION, VALUES

Mission

Purdue University Northwest is a diverse student-centered university that transforms lives and serves our region through innovative education, impactful research, and community engagement.

Vision

To cultivate leaders, inspire excellence, and impact our world.

Values

- Student-Serving
- Excellence
- Innovation

*The Core Values are in draft form, as of October 21, 2024.



LEADERSHIP

CHANCELLOR

Dr. Kenneth (Chris) Holford assumed the position of Chancellor of Purdue University Northwest on January 8, 2024, after having served as Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at Purdue Northwest since May 2020, where he prioritized the quality of the student experience, the importance of developing a highly trained workforce, and the enrichment of the regional community. He has emphasized the importance of academic and research quality at PNW, leading to tripling sponsored research activity at the institution over the past three years.

A professor of Biology, Chancellor Holford has served the PNW campuses for more than 20 years, previously as the founding Dean of the College of Engineering and Sciences since the formation of Purdue Northwest in 2016. He also was Dean of the College of Sciences and Chair of the Department of Biology and Chemistry at the former Purdue North Central University, which is now the Westville branch campus of Purdue Northwest.

Chancellor Holford earned a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Illinois State University, with a primary research specialization in crustacean endocrinology. He holds a master's degree in Zoology (Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory) from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with specialization in avian reproductive physiology and eggshell production. Prior to these, Chancellor Holford earned his baccalaureate degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, with a major in Biology.

Chancellor Holford is actively engaged in the Northwest Indiana community, currently serving on the boards of the Shirley Heinz Land Trust and the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra.

PROVOST AND VICE CHANCELLOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Marie T. Mora assumed the position of Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Purdue University Northwest on July 15, 2024, after having served as Deputy Provost as well as Provost Ad Interim and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Her academic career as an economics faculty member has spanned nearly 30 years, all but three years of which has been at Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

A labor economist, Provost Mora has been invited to share her research expertise on socioeconomic outcomes of Hispanics and Latinos with institutions and agencies across the country, including the White House and the Federal Reserve System Board of Governors. She has served as PI or Co-PI on approximately \$4 million in externally funded projects and has published two books, four co-edited volumes, and numerous journal articles and book chapters.

Provost Mora currently serves on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) and is a founding member and former President of the American Society of Hispanic Economists. Among her recognitions is the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring from the White House.

Provost Mora earned her Ph.D. in Economics from Texas A&M University and bachelor's and master's degrees in Economics from the University of New Mexico in her hometown of Albuquerque.



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCES

The College of Engineering and Sciences (CES) at Purdue University Northwest graduates students well-prepared for careers in science and engineering disciplines. With a combined enrollment of nearly 1,500 graduate and undergraduate students, the Dean oversees a budget of approximately \$15.4 million.

During fiscal year 2022, PNW moved to an incentive-based budget model (a modified responsibility center management, or RCM, model) for the colleges that provides innovative and entrepreneurial leaders the ability to make significant changes in their respective colleges. Moreover, in support of scholarly work, faculty members are actively involved in pursuing external funding. In 2023-24, Purdue Northwest faculty and staff received external grants totaling \$15 million.

The CES offers a wide variety of opportunities for its students, including the following degree programs (many of which have specialized concentration options):

UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

- [Applied Mathematics and Statistics](#)
- [Biological Sciences](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Civil Engineering](#)

- [Computer Engineering](#)
- [Computer Science](#)
- [Electrical Engineering](#)
- [Integrative Human Health](#)
- [Mechanical Engineering](#)
- [Medical Laboratory Science](#)
- [Physical Sciences](#)
- [Physics](#)

GRADUATE MAJORS

- [Master of Science Biology](#)
- [Master of Science Biological Sciences \(4+1\)](#)
- [Master of Science Civil Engineering \(4+1\)](#)
- [Master of Science Computer Science](#)
- [Master of Science Electrical and Computer Engineering](#)
- [Master of Science Interdisciplinary Engineering](#)
- [Master of Science Mechanical Engineering](#)

The university's engineering programs are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET. The college also provides opportunities for internships and other forms of experiential learning.



THE ROLE OF THE DEAN

Reporting to the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Dean provides strategic academic leadership for the college and is responsible for enhancing the core missions of learning, discovery, and engagement. The successful candidate will provide innovative, equity-focused, and engaged leadership to establish and fulfill a new vision and direction for the college aligned with the university's 2025-2030 strategic plan, [Excellence Evolving](#). The successful candidate will also understand the opportunities and challenges facing public diverse universities in the current higher education landscape and possess the skills, leadership, and vision to advance the college in this complex environment. In so doing, the Dean will be expected to take an active role in ensuring a climate that is supportive of all populations across the university.

The Dean will build upon the established reputation, programmatic strengths, and dedication to improving the quality of life and place for students (including first-generation college students, adult learners, and other non-traditional students), their families, communities of the region, as well as for faculty and staff. Collaborating with faculty, staff, students, donors, alumni, and community stakeholders, the Dean will actively lead the academic and research enterprise of the college; ensure an exceptional educational experience; maintain accreditation standards; foster continued growth in scholarship; strengthen relationships with industry and other community partners; and broaden participation in

STEM. Moreover, the Dean will be actively engaged in program development, including at the graduate level, curricular enhancement, budget planning, resource development and allocation, assessment of student learning, and fund-raising. Collaboration with the other academic deans, including for interdisciplinary programs and projects, is also expected.

The Dean's academic leadership team includes these direct reports:

- One Associate Dean;
- Director of the School of Engineering;
- Director of the Center for Crime and Forensics; and
- Six department chairs (Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mathematics and Statistics, Mechanical and Civil Engineering).

Associated with the college are also five research centers: the [Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation](#) (CIVS), [PNW Water Institute](#), [Energy Efficiency and Reliability Center](#) (EERC), [Center for High Energy Physics](#), and [Integrative Physiology and Health Sciences Center](#)), one engineering design facility ([PNW Design Studio](#)), and the organization location of the PNW component of the [Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College](#). The Dean also works in concert with dedicated staff support in advancement to further the college's culture of philanthropy.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate for Dean of the College of Engineering and Sciences shall have ***all of the following skills and qualifications***:

- An earned doctorate in a discipline appropriate to the college;
- Academic qualifications for appointment at the rank of professor in one of the academic departments of the college;
- Evidence of a student-centered approach for enhancing the teaching and learning mission of an academic program or unit;
- Leadership experience related to faculty and staff;
- Experience related to managing financial and personnel resources; and
- Collaboration with external stakeholders, which may include alumni, donors, industry, government, and other community partners.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate for Dean of the College of Engineering and Sciences may also have ***some of these preferred skills and qualifications***:

- Experience in broadening participation in STEM fields;
- Experience in securing external funding from donors or funding agencies;
- Experience in program assessment, particularly with ABET or other external accreditation bodies at the program level or university level;
- Evidence of enhancing research and scholarly productivity among faculty;
- Experience in regional universities that are part of a larger university system;
- An understanding of responsibility center management (RCM) budget models;
- A track record of improving student outcomes; and/or
- Commitment to working with diverse student populations, including first-generation college students and adult learners.





NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Academic Search is partnering with Purdue University Northwest in this search. Those who are considering applying are encouraged to schedule a confidential conversation with Senior Consultant Dr. Ginny Horvath (ginny.horvath@academicsearch.org).

APPLICATIONS

To apply, a candidate should submit these three separate documents electronically in .pdf format to PNWDeanCES@academicsearch.org:

- A detailed cover letter addressing the CES Dean expectations and qualifications as outlined in this search profile;
- A full resume/*curriculum vitae* with relevant qualifications, responsibilities, and accomplishments; and
- A list of five professional references, including names, titles, organizations, phone numbers, and email addresses, noting the candidate's relationship for each reference.

References will not be contacted until later in the search process and only with the candidate's permission. A background check (including identity, degree verification, and criminal records check) must be completed satisfactorily before any candidate can be offered this position.

Review of materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment is made. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, but for full consideration by the search committee, please submit materials by **December 2, 2024**.

NOMINATIONS

Please submit nominations to PNWDeanCES@academicsearch.org. Be sure to include the nominee's full name, position, institution/organization, and email address.

All applications, nominations, and inquiries will remain confidential until finalists are identified for campus interview. Finalists for the position will participate in campus interviews that will include a public presentation.

Purdue University Northwest is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. All individuals, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply. Purdue Northwest views, evaluates, and treats all persons in all University related activities solely as individuals on the basis of their own personal abilities, qualifications, and other relevant characteristics. All qualified applicants for employment will receive consideration without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Purdue University Northwest 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.

