

SEARCH PROFILE:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR
SOCIOECONOMIC MOBILITY THROUGH EDUCATION



UNT | DALLAS

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THE OPPORTUNITY

The University of North Texas at Dallas ([UNTD](#)) welcomes applications for the position of Executive Director, Center for Socioeconomic Mobility through Education (CSME) starting in the Summer of 2022. The Executive Director will be the thought leader and program director for socioeconomic mobility initiatives. Working with partner agencies, the Executive Director will develop and assist in the implementation of programs to increase socioeconomic mobility for citizens of Dallas County and the region.

The University of North Texas at Dallas, the only public university in Dallas and the only university that focuses on urban Dallas students, has a student body that is 85% Hispanic and African American,

most of whom are first-generation students. The University and its partners work together to achieve socioeconomic mobility for the students and the neighboring southern Dallas communities.

By providing affordable degree programs, partnering with community organizations, and providing educational and community workshops the University is decreasing the economic disparity that exists for many. A recent major study of universities that boost economic mobility ranked UNTD #1 in Dallas, #3 in the Southwest, and #15 nationally. Creating new pathways to socioeconomic mobility today will empower, transform, and strengthen these communities of tomorrow.



THE UNIVERSITY AND THE UNT SYSTEM

Located on a hilltop, overlooking the Downtown Dallas skyline, the University of North Texas at Dallas is an urban focused, rapidly growing metropolitan university that serves a diverse and predominantly first-generation student body of over 4,000 with opportunities in 20 undergraduate programs, seven master's programs, and one professional program, the Juris Doctor. Since its establishment in 2010, it has served as a pathway to socioeconomic mobility for those whom it serves. It demonstrates by word and action its commitment to Dallas, the surrounding communities, the State of Texas, and the nation.

The University opened in 2000 as a University of North Texas satellite campus, and in 2006 the first classes were held at the current 264-acre campus in southern Dallas. In 2010 the first freshman class was admitted, and in May 2013 the first graduating class received degrees. In January 2014 the University was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools ([SACS](#)).

The University's 264-acre main campus is located in southern Dallas on University Hills Boulevard, north of Interstate 20 and between Interstates 35 and 45. At present there are four handsome, modern buildings that provide space for classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, student housing, dining, and student activities. The first two buildings on the campus provided space for many purposes. Then, the first [residence hall](#) was completed in early 2017 to serve local students who choose to live on campus or students who are recruited to the University from other cities, states, or countries. A fourth building, the Student Learning and Success Center, was completed in 2019. Plans for future expansion include the 180-foot Ryan Tower that will be visible for miles in each direction. There is, extensive parking and outdoor meeting and recreation space. The recently completed Dallas Area Rapid Transit ([DART](#))

blue line terminates near the campus effectively linking the university to all of DART's service area in Dallas.

UNTD offers [programs](#) leading to bachelor's and master's degrees in high-demand fields, including criminal justice, teacher education, business administration, sociology, public health, and counseling, many of which are complementary to the College's legal studies. The UNT Dallas College of Law, the city's only public law school, is located downtown in the building that formerly housed the Dallas City Hall. New programs are regularly being added to serve both the students' needs and the area's needs for a highly qualified workforce. Both faculty and staff are student-centered and demonstrate uncommon interest in serving the students, most of whom are the first in their families to enroll at a university. There is determination to develop the potential of each of the students and to ensure their success. There is also keen awareness of the need to engage and serve the University's surrounding community and the recognition that improving the social mobility of people in that area will benefit not only those individuals, but also the city and the state.

The University provides students with co-curricular engagement and development opportunities that appeal to an intergenerational and diverse population to enhance student learning outside the classroom. UNTD hosts 30 clubs and organizations for its students and offers basketball, track, and cross country [athletic programs](#) for both men and women.

The [University of North Texas System](#) includes three separately accredited institutions, the University of North Texas (UNT) located in Denton, the [UNT Health Science Center](#) in Fort Worth, and UNTD. UNTD's main campus is located in southern Dallas. The UNT System is governed by a Board of Regents whose nine voting members and one student regent are appointed by the Governor of the State of Texas.



THE POSITION

Reporting to the President in consultation with the Provost, the Executive Director of CSME will handle a wide range of responsibilities of institutional importance and will be responsible for the creation and oversight of a comprehensive and integrated program that supports socioeconomic mobility.

EXAMPLES OF WORK:

- Provide vision, leadership, strategic direction and administrative oversight for CSME
- Serve as the public-facing expert on socioeconomic mobility
- Guide the development of programs and initiatives that lead to increased socioeconomic mobility
- Establish and develop training and programs with partner agencies to increase socioeconomic mobility
- Interface with community partners on implementation of program initiatives
- Teach six hours annually in area of discipline or topics of socioeconomic mobility

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Earned doctorate from a regionally accredited university
- Documented experience that would meet the requirements for holding the rank of Associate or Professor in an academic field of study offered at UNT Dallas

- Documented knowledge of current trends and best practices in increasing socioeconomic mobility
- Ability to coordinate multiple projects simultaneously and efficiently while meeting required deadlines
- Excellent interpersonal, planning, organizational and communication skills
- Ethical leader and advocate with a commitment to collaboration, collegiality, and transparency
- Experience working with culturally diverse students, staff, faculty and community partners

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Documented ability to work well with faculty in promoting institutional goals
- Experience with fundraising, obtaining external grants, and soliciting other donors
- Ability to work independently within a broad strategic framework and institutional priorities
- Positive attitude and initiative to problem solve independently within organization guidelines and policies



PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION AND NOMINATION

The search for the Executive Director of the Center for Socioeconomic Mobility through Education is being assisted by Academic Search, Inc. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted in confidence to UNTDExDir@academicsearch.org. Applications should consist of a cover letter addressing the qualifications and expectations listed above, a curriculum vitae, and a list of five professional references with full contact information and a note indicating the nature of your working relationship with each. References will not be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, but only those received by **April 2, 2022**, can be assured full consideration. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting Dr. Wanda D. Bigham, Senior Consultant, at 334-425-6865 or wanda.bigham@academicsearch.org

The University of North Texas System is firmly committed to equal opportunity and does not permit – and takes actions to prevent – discrimination, harassment (including sexual violence), and retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, family status, genetic information, citizenship or veteran status in its application and admission processes, educational programs and activities, facilities, and employment practices. The University of North Texas System immediately investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

The University of North Texas System also takes actions to prevent retaliation against individuals who oppose a discriminatory practice, file a charge, or testify, assist or participate in an investigative proceeding or hearing.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting the University of North Texas at Dallas 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. For more information, visit www.academicsearch.org.



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