SEARCH PROSPECTUS:

Vice President for Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer

LAMAR UNIVERSITY
MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™
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Lamar University invites applications and nominations for the position of Vice President for Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer.
Home to over 15,000 students, Lamar University is among the fastest growing Texas colleges and universities. LU offers more than 100 programs of study leading to bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees. The 333-acre campus in Beaumont is about 90 miles east of Houston and about 25 miles west of Louisiana.

The university is classified as a Doctoral Research University in the Carnegie Classification Institutions of Higher Education and is one of only two universities classified as such within the Texas State University System. It has been recognized nationally for its general education core curriculum and leadership in online education, being one of the 100 most diverse campuses in the country and selected as a member of the Honor Roll of The Chronicle of Higher Education’s “Great Colleges to Work For.” Additional information about the institution can be found at www.lamar.edu.

The institution is engaged in a five-year strategic plan that became operational in 2015 and will finalize a new strategic plan in the next few months.

Areas of focus for the current strategic plan are:

• Education Programs (including curriculum development, instructional innovation, quality enhancement)
• External Relations (including fund raising, government and system relations, accrediting bodies)
• Internal Operations (facilities, technology)
• Mission & Values
• People (faculty, staff, students)
• Scholarship & Creative Activity (including research and creative activity support, recognition enhancement)

For more information, please visit: https://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/strategic-plan.html.
STUDENT LIFE

Over 230 student organizations, 20 fraternities and sororities, sports clubs and a full array of intramural sports, community service opportunities, student activities and outdoor trips throughout Texas are open to all students. The Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center offers a 130,000-square foot space for fitness, weight training and jogging. It is equipped with multipurpose activity courts and a 43-foot indoor climbing wall. Cardinal Village is the on-campus home for 2,500 students with single and double suite-style living offering residents pool, sand volleyball and basketball court space.

Complementing the classroom are programs and events for students to develop leadership, make life-long friends and become involved in all types of student leadership positions in residence life, student activities, orientation and recreational sports.

ATHLETICS

Lamar University students enjoy cheering on the Cardinals in seventeen NCAA Division I men’s and women’s sports. Competing in the Southland Conference, Cardinals teams have a history of winning championships in sports including men’s and women’s basketball, golf, tennis, track and field, and cross country. The baseball program has been nationally recognized for decades and has produced multiple major leaguers. LU’s football program heightens excitement on campus with conference-leading crowds and students involved in marching band, cheerleading, the dance team and all the fun of game-day tailgating. The soccer, volleyball, and softball programs at Lamar University are perennial conference leaders whose fans cheer on the Cardinals at the top-notch facilities on campus.
ABOUT BEAUMONT

The university is located in Beaumont, Texas, a city of approximately 120,000 located about 30 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, 90 miles from Houston and 40 miles from the Louisiana border. Beaumont is the center of one of the largest refining and petrochemical complexes in the nation, in a region arguably the energy hub of the country. The city is ranked 2nd in the U.S. among the “Best Cities for Chemical Engineers,” and it serves the entire area as the focus for government, education, business, health care, entertainment and culture. It is also the gateway to the Big Thicket National Preserve, a national eco-tourism treasure. With a deep-water port, enviable rail infrastructure, abundant supplies of water and a workforce capable of designing, building and operating billion-dollar investments, Beaumont has it all. For more information visit: www.beaumontcvb.com.
The Vice President for Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer serves as a member of the executive leadership team for Lamar University. The CFO provides visionary, ethical and strategic leadership in maintaining the financial integrity of the university. Lamar University is a member of the Texas State University System and enrolls more than 15,000 students on a campus of 333 acres with a physical plant of 98 buildings comprising 2,600,000 square feet of space. The VPFO/CFO oversees a staff of more than 200 employees and the university’s operating budget that exceeds $200M, while also supporting innovation in academic programs and serving as the chief investment officer of the university.

Areas of management accountability include finance, procurement, human resource management, auxiliary operations, parking and transportation, facilities management, planning and construction, risk management, contracts and sustainability. The VPFO/CFO is responsible for providing executive management for the business operation of the university including financial planning, budgeting, accounting and business operations, finance controls, procurement, contracts, State and Federal reporting, communication with the Texas State Legislature and Texas State University System, investments and bond management.

The ideal candidate will hold a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in an appropriate field, have seven years of progressively responsible experience in a similarly complex institution of higher education, professional success and evidence of high-quality judgment in management and leadership of a wide range of business affairs activities. The candidate must demonstrate proven skills and leadership in the following areas: budget, financial management, finance, investments, determining returns on investments, human resources, procurement, contracts, and strategic and master planning, as well as demonstrate the ability to provide clear communication and leadership within a collaborative team environment in support of the university’s strategic goals and mission.

Preference will be given to candidates with a graduate degree in the appropriate field and with qualifications that include experience in and knowledge and understanding of all the areas and responsibilities within the division of finance and operations.
Additional qualifications include:

- Evidence of successful, progressive and entrepreneurial leadership
- Evidence of strong interpersonal, communication and facilitation/collaboration skills
- High academic and ethical standards and unquestioned personal and professional integrity
- Highly developed analytical skills
- Demonstrated strong written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work positively and effectively with the academic community, public officials, media representatives and the public
- Ability to exercise effective interpersonal, problem-solving, decision making skills
- Successful experience in strategic planning
- Commitment to enhancing cultural diversity among professional staff
- Knowledge of best practices, current issues and future trends in higher education
- Proven ability to work with state and system governing boards

Salary
The salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

APPLICATIONS, NOMINATIONS AND INQUIRIES

A completed application will include a cover letter addressing the characteristics in the profile, curriculum vitae and the names, email addresses and phone numbers of five references, none of whom will be contacted without the permission of the applicant. The position will remain open until filled, but only applications received by November 18th, 2019 can be assured full consideration.

Submit materials as an e-mail attachment in PDF format to: LamarCFO@academicsearch.org. If you wish to have a confidential discussion regarding this position, you may contact Jerry Israel, Senior Consultant, at jerry.israel@academicsearch.org or George Ross, Senior Consultant, at George.ross@academicsearch.org.
ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search, Inc. is assisting Lamar University in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services exclusively to institutions of higher education. Academic Search was founded on the principle of strengthening higher education leadership through professional search services. We are the only search firm in the nation with a formal relationship to a premier leadership development program. As the subsidiary of the American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI), Academic Search provides substantial financial support to a number of leadership identification, development, and support programs across all sectors of public and private higher education. For more information, visit http://www.academicsearch.org/.