DEAN
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Elon University invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the School of Education. This position requires a dynamic and creative leader who has strong academic credentials; demonstrated skills as an administrator, teacher, and collaborator; and the ability to cultivate both internal and external partnerships in order to improve student learning in a diverse and digitally-driven society. The Dean of the School of Education will have many opportunities to be innovative and to lead collaborative initiatives on campus and with university partners in the broader community, while working alongside talented and motivated faculty, staff, and students.

ELON UNIVERSITY

Elon University is a top-ranked comprehensive university that is widely recognized as a leader in student engagement and experiential learning. The academic program is distinguished by a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences combined with outstanding professional programs.

The University is located in central North Carolina midway between North Carolina’s Triad and the Research Triangle. Elon’s historic 620-acre campus is designated as a botanical garden and has been cited as one of the nation’s most beautiful college campuses.

The Elon community is characterized by a strong student- and learning-centered mission, a commitment to excellent teaching, and a spirit of innovation. In its 2015 "America's Best Colleges" guide, U.S. News & World Report ranks Elon #1 among Southern Regional Universities and one of the nation's top colleges and universities "with an unusually strong commitment to undergraduate teaching"; Elon is the only university recognized for excellence in seven of eight programs that “Focus on Student Success.” Newsweek names Elon “The Leader in Engaged Learning.”

The University includes more than 460 full-time faculty members and 5,782 undergraduate and 701 graduate students from 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 47 other nations. The University has six academic units: Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences; the School of Communications; the School of Education; the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business; the School of Health Sciences; and the School of Law, which is located in downtown Greensboro. Elon offers more than 60 undergraduate majors and six graduate programs. The University sends more students to study abroad than any other master’s-level university in the nation, and the core curriculum includes a strong global focus.
Founded in 1889, Elon University has held its core values constant throughout its history: close working relationships between faculty and students, a culture that supports constant innovation, and a strong sense of community. Strong academics, active intellectual engagement outside of the classroom, frequent cultural and social events, and animated sidewalk conversations are the hallmarks of this friendly and welcoming academic community.

Elon seeks candidates who have a demonstrated ability to support and promote a rigorous academic environment in which diversity, in all its forms, is valued and incorporated in the full range of activities.

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Mission

The School of Education at Elon University is committed to the well-being of self and others in mind, body, and spirit. Our mission is to prepare educators who embody the best of what Elon stands for. They approach life and work with optimism, integrity, knowledge, passion, skill, and respect for the diversity of humanity. They are proactive leaders, proficient instructors, advocates for social justice, and ethical decision makers.

Vision

To prepare highly effective professionals who have the knowledge and skills to work as teachers, educators, advocates, and mentors. Graduates will be recognized as leaders in their work with diverse populations in a variety of settings.

Values

In the School of Education we value a strong sense of community in which all members’ identities and contributions are celebrated and where the rights of all individuals and groups are protected. We invite and embrace a wide range of types of diversity including abilities, sex, geographical location, race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status. Our students and colleagues are diverse, and all are welcome and valued as a crucial part of our community.

About the School of Education

The School of Education brings together a very talented, innovative, and creative full-time faculty of 16 from the Department of Education and 6 from the Department of Health and Human Performance, as well as 5 full-time faculty from other departments within the College of Arts and Sciences who work with our Teacher Education programs. The School enrolls over 250 undergraduate and approximately 75 graduate students and offers undergraduate and graduate degrees leading to North Carolina teacher licensure.
The School of Education is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and its programs are approved by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Elon offers the prestigious Elon Teaching Fellows Program. This program provides financial, professional, and development support to approximately 80 Elon Education majors annually. Highlights of this program include: a U.S. History Study Tour, a semester study abroad experience, leadership experiences at the Washington Center, and engagement in an inquiry project with a faculty member.

The Department of Education offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Middle Grades Education, and Special Education (General Curriculum). The Department of Education also works in concert with departments across campus in the licensure of teacher candidates in special subject areas for grades K-12 (Physical Education and Health, Music, and Spanish), and in secondary school subject areas of English, History (Social Studies), Mathematics, and Science (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Physics). The Department of Education houses minors in Early Childhood Education and in Teaching and Learning. The School of Education offers a Master of Education degree, leading to advanced licensure, in Elementary Education, Special Education-General Curriculum, and Gifted Education, as well as an AIG licensure-only option.

The Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP) offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Health, and minors in Coaching, Wellness and Health Education, Physical Education and Health, and Adventure Based Learning. The Department also offers a variety of activity courses that develop an appreciation and commitment to lifelong physical activity. HHP is the home to three volunteer programs linking Elon students as mentors to children in public schools around health education and physical activity. HHP sponsors an online magazine, Student Health 101, which addresses current health issues including stress, sleep, nutrition, alcohol, and healthy sexual relationships. The Department facilitates a culture of health and well-being through multiple curricular initiatives and collaboration with departments across campus that offer co-curricular initiatives.

The School collaborates with area school districts including Guilford County Schools, Orange County Schools, and the Alamance-Burlington School System. These relationships will continue to play an integral part in the success of the School and the surrounding school systems.

Faculty from the School are leaders of Elon University’s Center for Access and Success, which serves Elon and the surrounding community from pre-K to adults through initiatives including the Elon Academy, It Takes a Village Project, Odyssey Scholars Program, and Collegiate Start@Elon.

Emerging opportunities for the School of Education include initiatives related to learning technologies, continuing education, and Life@Elon (a community outreach program).

To learn more about the School of Education, please visit: http://www.elon.edu/education

About the Dean of the School of Education

Reporting to the Provost/Executive Vice President, the Dean is responsible for the direction of teaching, scholarship, service, and outreach functions of the School. The Dean provides strong
leadership in the planning, development, and implementation of all School programs and policies. The successful candidate is expected to collaborate with other leaders across campus and in the community to continue to enhance the reputation and quality of the School. The Dean will lead the initiative to prepare graduates to teach, lead, and positively affect others in the local and global community. The position requires an understanding of the impact of current trends on a School of Education that is part of a private, liberal arts university setting.

**Essential characteristics of the Dean of the School of Education:**

- Leadership in teaching, scholarship, and service to the professional community;
- Experience in academic administration including budget development and management, and the evaluation of faculty and programs;
- Commitment to promoting diversity, social justice, and critical multicultural and global perspectives;
- Focus on the development and support of faculty, staff, and students throughout their careers;
- Ability to facilitate strategic and creative responses to the changing educational landscape;
- Capacity to lead effectively and cooperatively the School’s efforts in recruitment, enrollment management, program development, and community partnerships;
- Expertise to enhance the School’s culture of assessment;
- Skill to collaborate with faculty and staff colleagues from multiple disciplines across the entire Elon University community;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills for relating effectively with the varied constituencies of the School, University, and the larger community;
- Energy and vision to lead the School of Education in its continued pursuit of excellence;
- A successful record as an advocate for the essential role that excellent education and excellent educators play in our community; and
- A doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher education, and qualified to hold Professorial rank within the School.

**Preferred characteristics of the Dean of the School of Education:**

- Demonstrated successful leadership with NCATE/CAEP and a deep knowledge of the entire process of accreditation and state approval of teacher preparation programs;
- Experience and knowledge in the fields related to health education and health promotion;
- Recent successful engagement and collaboration with K-12 schools;
- Experience, skill, and motivation to acquire external funding in support of the mission of the School and in the ability to increase scholarships for the recruitment of diverse students;
- Experience with development, instruction, or implementation of online and blended education;
- Experience with continuing education; and
- Experience with initiating and supporting efforts for access and success.
Review of candidates will begin on September 30, 2015, and will continue until a successful candidate is identified. Candidates should submit a letter of interest that addresses the position’s responsibilities and qualifications outlined above, and a curriculum vitae, to the email address listed below. All correspondence relating to the position should be sent to the co-chairs of the search committee, Drs. Richard Mihans and Peter Felten, at EducationDeanSearch@elon.edu.

*Elon University is an equal opportunity employer committed to a diverse faculty, staff and student body and welcomes all applicants.*