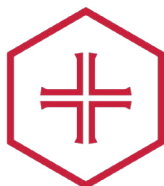


# SEARCH PROFILE:

VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



COLLEGE OF  
**Saint Benedict**



**Saint John's**  
UNIVERSITY



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The College of Saint Benedict (CSB) and Saint John's University (SJU) seek an inaugural joint Vice President of Institutional Advancement (VPIA) to serve as the senior leader responsible for shaping, driving, and executing a comprehensive vision for advancement for these two institutions. Reporting directly to CSB+SJU President Brian Bruess and serving as a member of the CSB+SJU Leadership Team, the VPIA will provide strategic oversight of all advancement functions, including major gifts, annual giving, planned giving, corporate and foundation relations and partnerships, grants, and donor and alumnae and alumni relations. This leader will guide a large, multifaceted team with direct and indirect reports and work in close collaboration with the Boards of Trustees, senior leaders, faculty, staff, alumni and alumnae associations, and the monastic communities.

The VPIA is expected to take office on July 1, 2026.



## ABOUT CSB + SJU

Built on a 1,500-year legacy of Benedictine education and hospitality, the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University (CSB+SJU) are two highly ranked liberal arts institutions that share a unique partnership to achieve joint goals. The faith, traditions, academics, and values of the CSB+SJU community make these campuses a place where "Bennies" and "Johnnies" don't just learn – they lead, grow, and thrive.

The College of Saint Benedict (CSB) was founded in 1913 by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. Saint John's University (SJU) was founded in 1857 by the Benedictine Monks of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, six miles away. Over 60 years ago, the two institutions formed a one-of-a-kind partnership and created a shared educational framework. While committed to providing a combined educational experience for all students, each institution retains its own residence halls, athletic programs, endowments, and traditions. The creation of this new joint Vice President of Institutional Advancement (VPJA) position is a bold and strategic step in the evolution of this partnership.

### **STRONG INTEGRATION AT CSB+SJU**

In 2018, the CSB+SJU Boards of Trustees and the founding monastic communities embarked on a journey to create a governance structure that would allow the institutions to develop bolder strategies, increase innovation, and deploy more effective decision-making processes. From this process, Strong Integration was developed in 2021. This groundbreaking governance model brought the institutions under unified leadership for the first time, with Brian J. Bruess, Ph.D., becoming the inaugural president of both institutions in July 2022.

Under Strong Integration, CSB+SJU operate with a single president, an integrated leadership team, and unified administrative functions while maintaining two legally distinct governing boards composed of the same trustees. Both schools maintain independent governing boards with fiduciary responsibility to their respective institution, sharing the same trustees, meetings, board committees, and board leadership.

Their first strategic move was to identify one president to serve both schools, which culminated in hiring President Bruess. Soon after, CSB+SJU hired one Chief Operating Officer to further integrate administration in close collaboration and partnership with the Provost. In the continuation of this process, CSB+SJU is now searching for their future Vice President of Institutional Advancement, under whose leadership CSB+SJU Advancement Offices will be integrated. Furthermore, the current Provost has announced his retirement and CSB+SJU is in the process of identifying a new provost who is targeted to take office in summer 2026.

The strategic decision to join Institutional Advancement operations under a single leader reflects the commitment to CSB+SJU's traditions, growth, and long-term success. This unified approach leverages institutional strengths, streamlines advancement work, and amplifies the impact of fundraising and development efforts. This innovative structure allows the institutions to develop more coordinated strategic direction, achieve greater operational efficiency, make decisions with enhanced agility, and build a unified brand identity—all while preserving the distinctive single-sex missions and campus identities that make each institution special. The move to Strong Integration positions CSB+SJU to navigate the challenges facing residential liberal arts education with greater strength and sustainability.



## ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT AND SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

Together, CSB+SJU enroll approximately 3,096 students—2,895 undergraduates and 201 graduate students—and employ 228 faculty members, ninety percent of whom hold terminal degrees. The institutions share a joint undergraduate curriculum, a single faculty, and identical degree requirements. They are surrounded by 3,000 acres of forests, prairies, and lakes in central Minnesota, minutes from the St. Cloud metropolitan area and seventy miles from Minneapolis and St. Paul. This distinctive environment provides students with both the natural beauty and contemplative space, which many graduates credit as an impactful part of their formation, characteristic of Benedictine communities and with the close proximity to urban cultural, internship, and career opportunities.

CSB+SJU produce outstanding student outcomes, regularly ranking among the top liberal arts colleges nationally. They are recognized as the top two colleges in Minnesota for securing jobs after graduation, are national leaders among baccalaureate institutions for study abroad participation, have been honored as top producers of Fulbright scholars, and maintain non-governmental observer status to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Students benefit from more than 65 clubs and organizations, competitive NCAA Division III athletic programs in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with rich legacies and continual national rankings, and meaningful spiritual and cultural programming rooted in the institutions' Catholic and Benedictine traditions.

### **CATHOLIC AND BENEDICTINE IDENTITY**

CSB+SJU are Catholic and Benedictine residential liberal arts colleges founded and enriched by Saint Benedict's Monastery and Saint John's Abbey. The academic communities at both institutions are dedicated to the intellectual, spiritual, and ethical formation of all members and to academic excellence in the search for truth. The founding and ongoing inspiration of the institutions are the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and Catholic Social Tradition in the context of Benedictine values.

The Catholic identity of these schools extends beyond religious sponsorship to encompass continual engagement with the ideas and traditions of Catholic social teachings. The intellectual life of the campuses affirms the harmony of faith and reason, honors the full dignity of each person, and seeks to promote justice and the common good. The Benedictine character emphasizes community, hospitality, stewardship, respect for persons, and the integration of prayer and work that creates balance and wholeness in life.

As single-sex undergraduate institutions, CSB+SJU each maintain particular attention to holistic and contemporary gender development within their respective missions. CSB's mission focuses on providing women an unparalleled undergraduate, residential, liberal arts education and fostering exceptional leadership for change. CSB has an established and reputable nursing program that offers a variety of graduate nursing programs, including the doctorate in nursing, which is open to men and women.

# ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT AND SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY (CONT.)

SJU's College of Arts and Sciences prepares young men to reach their full potential and lead lives of significance and principled achievement. SJU's graduate School of Theology and Seminary educates women and men for ordained and lay ministry in the Catholic and Benedictine tradition.

## FINANCIAL STRENGTH AND STABILITY

CSB+SJU maintain strong financial foundations, as evidenced by their U.S. Department of Education Financial Responsibility Composite Score of 3.0—the highest possible rating. CSB's operating budget is approximately \$52 million with a total endowment of \$157 million (as of June 30, 2025); SJU's combined operating budget across three divisions (College of Arts and Sciences, School of Theology, and Artist in Residence) totals approximately \$60 million with a total endowment of \$308 million (as of June 20, 2025; College of Arts and Sciences was \$252 million).

Both institutions have demonstrated consistent financial discipline, effectively managing enrollment-related operating shortfalls through the prudent use of stewarded reserve funds while continuing to invest strategically in key enrollment related priorities while simultaneously growing the endowments at both CSB+SJU. Primary revenue sources include net tuition and fees (approximately 60% of budget), endowment and annual fund support (26%), and auxiliary operations (11%). Both maintain manageable debt levels. The move to Strong Integration has generated additional efficiencies and cost savings while positioning the institutions for greater long-term sustainability.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION: MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER

CSB+SJU's current strategic plan, launched in 2023, is a rolling plan updated annually around three core directions: Mission Centered Practice, Financial and Operational Excellence, and The Student Experience. The plan emphasizes leveraging Benedictine wisdom and Catholic traditions to create inclusive, welcoming communities that empower students to solve society's most urgent problems; achieving sustainable balance between revenues and expenses through operational excellence and strategic resource allocation; and providing exceptional residential liberal arts education combined with compelling co-curricular experiences that

## MISSION

The mission of the College of Saint Benedict is to provide for women the best undergraduate residential liberal arts education along with select graduate programs, in the Catholic and Benedictine traditions. The college fosters integrated learning, exceptional leadership for change and wisdom for a lifetime.

Grounded in Catholic and Benedictine values and tradition, Saint John's University provides young men a distinctive residential liberal arts education, preparing them to reach their full potential and instilling in them the values and aspiration to lead lives of significance and principled achievement.

## VISION STATEMENTS

The College of Saint Benedict will be nationally recognized as a community that provides a liberal arts education preparing women to think critically, lead courageously, and advocate passionately.

Saint John's University seeks to be one of the nation's great Catholic liberal arts colleges by providing the best holistic learning experience for men in the country. We will inspire undergraduate men to new heights of intellectual, spiritual, physical and social development that is informed by ethical reflection and grounded in our Catholic and Benedictine tradition.

## VALUES

The Benedictine wisdom tradition is an expression of the Catholic intellectual tradition. This tradition was inaugurated by Saint Benedict, a sixth-century monk, who wrote a rule for communal living known for its humanity, balance, and moderation. The Benedictine way of life is animated by Christ who is encountered in Scripture, in the human person, and in the Rule of Benedict as it is lived in community. Thus, the Benedictine tradition is very much a living tradition. The members of CSB+SJU's monastic communities provide ongoing witness to the values, including hospitality, community, and stewardship that distinguish Benedictine wisdom. Inspired by this living witness, these schools strive to "listen with the ear of the heart," as the Rule directs, to the needs of each member of our communities. Benedictine education calls for a lively interplay between rigorous thinking and the development of practices for right living.

The Catholic intellectual tradition at CSB+SJU affirms that faith and reason are complementary paths to truth. It encourages critical inquiry, dialogue across difference, and an enduring search for meaning that integrates intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth. The Benedictine tradition animates this foundation by emphasizing community, stability, and hospitality as the framework for how we live and learn together. These values call our campuses to honor the dignity of every person, to listen "with the ear of the heart," and to shape an educational environment marked by respect, humility, stewardship, and justice.

CSB+SJU prioritize community building, the awareness that we are all part of a larger ecology, and the just and sustainable use of resources. At the same time, there is a high level of respect for individuals. Living in community allows CSB+SJU communities to embrace difference and provides opportunities for mutual support. Ultimately, the education that is shaped by our Benedictine values sets its sights on the transformation of the human mind and heart. It encourages an active sense of belonging to both campuses and to the larger global community. Read more on Benedictine Identity at CSB+SJU [here](#).

# ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT AND SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY (CONT.)

## ACCREDITATION AND ACADEMIC QUALITY

Both CSB+SJU are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, which has reaffirmed both institutions' accreditation for ten-year periods extending through 2027-2028. This accreditation reflects sustained commitment to academic quality, continuous improvement, and mission fulfillment across all programs and services.

## LOCATION

The CSB campus in St. Joseph features a food co-op, boutique shops, walking trails, and nationally recognized restaurants, bakeries, and breweries. The SJU campus in Collegeville is set on 3,000 acres of woods, lakes, prairies, and a private beach. About six minutes apart, both highly residential campuses are nestled amid the serene landscapes of central Minnesota, offering abundant outdoor recreational activities. Students travel between campuses on the LINK, a complimentary inter-campus bus system with regularly scheduled shuttles. Both campuses are just minutes from St. Cloud, a city with shopping, restaurants, and entertainment options.

## KEY FACTS

- 2,895 Undergraduates Enrolled Fall 2025
- Approximately 800 employees
- 32 College and University Trustees
- 53,000+ Living Alumni
- \$112M Combined Operating Budget
- \$23M FY24 Combined Contributed Revenue

## ADVANCEMENT OPERATIONS AT THE COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT AND SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

The College of Saint Benedict's Office of Institutional Advancement is composed of a team of 22 dedicated professionals organized under six direct reports to the current advancement leader: an Executive Assistant, Executive Director of Major and Planned Gifts, Executive Director of Alumnae Relations, Executive Director of Advancement Systems, Director of Annual Giving, and a Senior Principal Gifts Officer. In fiscal year 2025, CSB raised \$21.5 million, building on a ten-year average of \$16.1 million annually. The annual fund contributed \$3.9 million in FY25 (\$2.8 million unrestricted and \$1.1 million restricted), consistent with the ten-year average of \$4.3 million. The college's most recent comprehensive campaign, Illuminating Lives, ran from July 2012 through June 2020 and raised \$113 million against priorities of providing access, building confidence, and improving learning. During this campaign, CSB's endowment grew from \$43.2 million to \$89.1 million—an impressive 106% increase. As of June 30, 2025, the endowment stands at \$157 million.

CSB is currently in year two of the quiet phase of an inaugural joint comprehensive campaign with SJU, an ambitious eight-year initiative targeting \$400-500 million of priorities to support student affordability, student experience, student learning, and facilities. To date, CSB has raised \$29 million toward this goal. The advancement operation supports athletics through restricted annual giving and corporate partnerships, raising \$248,742 for athletics in FY25—more than double the amount raised in FY16. CSB maintains a separate fundraising relationship



## ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT AND SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY (CONT.)

with Saint Benedict's Monastery while providing assistance to donors making gifts to the monastery and vice versa. The College's 34-member Alumnae Board serves as a vital volunteer leadership body, supported by the Executive Director of Alumnae Relations and organized into committees focused on chapters, resource development, alumna-in-training, alumnae development, special projects, alumnae connections, board development, and young alumnae engagement. Alumni giving participation stands at 10%.

Saint John's University's Office of Institutional Advancement comprises 35 professionals across the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Theology, reporting through seven direct positions to the current advancement leader: an Executive Assistant, Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Associate Vice President for University Relations, Executive Director of School of Theology Development, Administrative Director of Institutional Advancement, Executive Director of the Heritage Program, and Executive Director of The Saint John's Bible. In fiscal year 2025, the university raised \$32.8 million for the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Theology (\$31 million and \$1.8 million respectively), with an additional \$3 million raised for Saint John's Abbey, bringing the grand total to \$35.8 million. This builds upon a ten-year average of \$23.5 million annually for university operations. The annual fund

generated \$5.2 million in FY25 (\$3.3 million unrestricted and \$1.8 million restricted), compared to a ten-year average of \$5.8 million annually.

SJU's most recent comprehensive campaign ran from July 2017 through June 2024, raising \$163 million for the university and an additional \$27 million for the Abbey, totaling \$190 million. The university is now participating in the same joint eight-year campaign with CSB targeting \$400-500 million, having raised \$46.6 million for university operations and \$3.7 million for the Abbey to date. SJU conducts comprehensive athletic fundraising programs including facilities, endowment, and operations; in FY25 alone, the university has raised \$368,239 for athletic facilities and \$253,130 for athletic endowments. The university provides advancement services to Saint John's Abbey through formal agreements, with parallel campaigns currently underway. As of June 30, 2025, the university's endowment totals \$308 million. The Saint John's University Alumni Association Board of Directors, supported by the Alumni Office, organizes around committees reflecting the alumni lifecycle—student recruitment, student experience, resource development, and alumni engagement—along with a Benedictine Way Committee. The SJU+CSB alumni boards meet together periodically to foster joint collaboration. Alumni giving participation stands at 14.3%.





## THE POSITION

In collaboration with the President, the VPIA will play a central role in cultivating trust with alums, strengthening relationships, and securing transformational philanthropy to advance CSB+SJU's missions, visions, and values. They will embody the Benedictine charism of care, community, and stewardship, and signal those values both internally and externally through their leadership, communication, and actions. Recognizing this is a new role, this leader must balance patience with decisive action, listen carefully, earn confidence across diverse constituencies, and implement results and relationship-driven strategies that elevate CSB+SJU's advancement enterprise.

The VPIA will collaborate and work with committed and dedicated Boards of Trustees who understand the need to develop a robust and successful joint office of advancement. The VPIA will staff Board committees and provide direction and leadership to maximize the talents, resources, and expertise of Board members, increasing fundraising, community partnerships, and engagement with the campus community. The Boards expect the new VPIA to partner strategically in leveraging Board members' networks, influence, and philanthropic capacity to advance CSB+SJU's missions and strategic priorities.

With the integration of advancement functions across both campuses, the VPIA will lead a period of organizational and cultural transformation. Success will require the ability to continue to strengthen advancement operations and outcomes, adopt innovative technologies and approaches, and build new processes that results in collaboration, efficiency, and impact. The leader will bring a high level of sophistication in advancement, an operational mindset, and the courage to navigate change thoughtfully, ensuring that transitions are clear, inclusive, and aligned with institutional priorities.

The ideal candidate will foster authentic relationships with donors, alumni, and community partners, including the next generation of donors. They will be a strategic integrator, able to bridge constituencies, diversify the donor base, and cultivate inclusive philanthropic engagement.

Ultimately, the VPIA will serve as a trust-builder and collaborator across the CSB+SJU community, leading with courage, innovation, and humility. By embodying Benedictine values, advancing a sophisticated and advancement program, and fostering relationships rooted in care and respect, this leader will ensure that CSB+SJU is well-positioned to thrive in the decades ahead.



## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VPIA

### STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Develop, communicate, and implement the vision, strategy, and priorities for Institutional Advancement's Strong Integration plan across CSB+SJU. Optimize CSB+SJU's fundraising potential by developing, strengthening, and maintaining positive, objective, collaborative working relationships with the President, Boards of Trustees, Leadership Team, deans, faculty, students, and the college and university community to maximize philanthropic impact for CSB+SJU and its donors. Engage actively with the Boards of Trustees in a diverse portfolio of advancement efforts, staffing Board committees and partnering with trustees to advance fundraising and engagement strategies.

Work in close partnership with deans, provosts, and other leadership as appropriate, ensuring clearly defined expectations, goal setting, and accountability in reaching shared goals. Ensure processes, systems, and structures are effective and efficient. Support the advancement team and its champions by having a strong foundation on which to execute and further develop fundraising work. Leverage data and insights to inform the direction and priorities of the institutional advancement office. Leverage resources strategically and responsibly.

### FUNDRAISING & MANAGEMENT

Lead, inspire, and evolve CSB+SJU's talented team of advancement professionals, ensuring staff are fully trained, resourced, supported, and provided professional development opportunities. Lead the development team to identify, solicit, cultivate, close, and steward major and principal gift prospects that meet and exceed all activity metrics and revenue goals. Develop and deploy strategic cultivation plans for new and existing donors.

Work closely with the President, Boards of Trustees, and community stakeholders to identify new major and principal gift donors and prospects. Develop and maintain robust alumni relations programming that fosters engagement through targeted communications, events, and volunteer opportunities. Understand the importance of cultivating multi-generational alumni engagement and building pathways for lifelong connection to CSB+SJU. Create strategic initiatives that strengthen alumni affinity, increase participation rates, and convert engaged alumni into philanthropic partners.

Develop and maintain relevant and robust constituent programming that contributes to the culture and tradition of lifelong connections among alumni, friends, and volunteers. Develop and manage budgets effectively to support the functions of the institutions. Maximize and leverage opportunities regarding The Saint John's Bible.

Cultivate supportive working relationships, motivation, and engagement. Communicate information to staff regularly to influence and increase their engagement throughout the greater CSB+SJU community. Recognize the value of and promote a diverse workforce; champion CSB+SJU values and encourage inclusion, diverse perspectives, creativity, and teamwork.



## KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE VPJA

Within the first 12 to 18 months, the VPJA will achieve the following major objectives:

- **Build strong, trusting relationships internally and externally.** Establish credibility and authentic connections with the President, Provost, COO, Boards of Trustees, Leadership Team, advancement colleagues, faculty, staff, monastic communities, and students, while also engaging key donors, alumni, and external stakeholders. Partner with the Boards of Trustees to maximize the talents, resources, and expertise of trustees in advancement efforts. Foster deep alumni engagement through targeted programs, events, and communications that cultivate lifelong affinity and philanthropic support. This leader must be especially adept at nurturing relationships inside the institution, ensuring that the advancement function is seen as a trusted and collaborative partner.
- **Establish a visible and dynamic presence in the broader community.** Serve as a visible leader and ambassador throughout the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, St. Cloud, and other regions important to CSB+SJU's philanthropic growth. Build and strengthen networks that elevate the profile of CSB+SJU and open new pathways for inclusive donor engagement.
- **Provide oversight for the design and launch of the inaugural joint campaign for CSB+SJU.** Establish the vision, priorities, case, and infrastructure for the campaign. Coordinate with the President and Boards of Trustees to build the campaign, generate enthusiasm, and authorize the campaign.
- **Advance and deepen the integration of Institutional Advancement.** Build upon the integration work already underway across various campus units, designing and implementing structures, processes, and cultural practices that allow the team to operate as a cohesive unit. Focus on achieving early wins that demonstrate the direction of the integration while laying the foundation for long-term growth and success.
- **Drive alignment with the CSB+SJU Strategic Plan.** Bring the institutional strategic priorities forward in philanthropic ways; ensure advancement strategies are directly tied to CSB+SJU's priorities. Clearly communicate how philanthropy supports the strategic vision, represent advancement at the leadership table, and set expectations for how institutional stakeholders and collaborators will engage in fundraising initiatives and decision-making.
- **Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the advancement enterprise.** Evaluate the current state of advancement operations, resources, and performance. Identify opportunities for modernization, increased sophistication, and areas where new strategies are required to position CSB+SJU for future success. Share findings transparently and chart a course for what it will take to reach the next level of philanthropic achievement.
- **Lead, manage, and develop the advancement team.** Provide strong operational leadership, invest in the professional growth of staff, and build a culture of collaboration, communication, and accountability. Position the team to maximize philanthropic results effectively and efficiently, while promoting innovation and adaptability.

# QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates must demonstrate a passion and commitment to the missions, visions, and values of CSB+SJU. While the Vice President need not be Catholic, they must demonstrate a genuine openness to the Catholic Intellectual and Social Traditions and Benedictine values and a willingness to draw upon these foundational principles to inform decision-making, leadership style, and institutional practice. Candidates should be able not only to understand and articulate the contemporary relevance of these traditions, but to embody them in their approach to leadership — grounding institutional decisions in discernment, collaboration, ethical reflection, and care for the common good.

## REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college.
- Minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible leadership experience in managing successful comprehensive advancement programs.
- Demonstrated ability to hire, manage, motivate, and retain a diverse team that succeeds in achieving annual fundraising goals in an ethical, transparent, collaborative manner. Models organizational culture and expectations for staff.
- Proven track record building strong, long-term relationships with senior administrators, deans, faculty, staff, community leaders, boards, volunteers, alumni, and donors.
- Experience with multi-year campaigns and leading teams to secure significant six- and seven-figure gifts.
- Confident, collaborative, and nimble leader who brings strong emotional intelligence and exceptional skills as an active listener, consensus builder, and effective advisor on short- and long-term advancement strategies and goals.
- Relationally centered and objective with the ability to navigate complex institutional dynamics while maintaining trust across diverse constituencies.
- Strong storyteller with solid experience collaborating with, or leading, marketing and communications to amplify the impact of fundraising efforts.
- Systems thinker who is strategic, bold, innovative, data-informed, and willing to fail fast and learn quickly. Proactive, adaptive, and responsive to the needs of the team and community.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with an inspiring and persuasive ability, including excellent written, verbal, research, critical thinking, and presentation skills.
- Ability to travel as necessary and attend in-person events and activities, including evenings and weekends.

## DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience as a sitting or recent Vice President for Advancement (or equivalent senior advancement role) at a comparable institution.
- Experience within a faith-based or mission-driven institution that demonstrates the ability to lead in a way that advances missions, values, and holistic educational vision.
- Advanced experience with change management or transforming an entire advancement program, particularly within a higher education context.
- Experience working with monastic communities or other religious sponsoring organizations.
- Experience in a university, healthcare, or education setting.
- Solid command of advancement technology and donor database management, ideally Slate or similar CRM systems.
- Track record of diversifying donor bases and cultivating inclusive philanthropic engagement across multiple generations.
- Deep understanding of alumni relations and demonstrated ability to foster alumni engagement through targeted programs, events, and communications that cultivate lifelong institutional connection.
- Experience working effectively with governing boards, including staffing board committees and maximizing board member engagement in advancement activities and strategic fundraising efforts.
- Proven ability to partner with board members to leverage their talents, resources, networks, and expertise in service of institutional advancement goals.





## APPLICATION PROCESS

The search for the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University's next VPIA is being assisted by Maya Ranchod Kirkhope at Academic Search. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted in confidence to [CSBSJUVPIA@academicsearch.org](mailto:CSBSJUVPIA@academicsearch.org).

Applications should consist of a substantive letter of interest addressing the candidate's qualifications and alignment with this opportunity, along with a current curriculum vitae. Both documents should be submitted as separate PDF files.

Though applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled, only those materials received by **January 29, 2026** are assured full consideration.

The start date for the VPIA is **July 1, 2026**.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT** **Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination**

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University are committed to working toward workplace and educational environments, as well as programs and activities, that are free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. CSB and SJU do not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital

status, disability, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, or other legally protected category or characteristic in their education programs and activities, admissions policies, employment policies and practices, and all other areas of the institutions.

Both institutions believe that excellent liberal arts education requires understanding and appreciation of cultural differences and that everyone deserves to feel safe and morally valued. To that end, CSB and SJU challenge their own practices and systems, incorporate inclusive values into all decision-making processes, and dedicate themselves to cultivating equitable, inclusive communities founded on respect for all persons.

### **Disability Accommodation**

Candidates requiring disability accommodations during the search process should contact [CSBSJUVPIA@academicsearch.org](mailto:CSBSJUVPIA@academicsearch.org)

*The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University are proud members of the Council of Independent Colleges and are committed to the principles of shared governance, academic freedom, and the liberal arts tradition. Both institutions hold deep respect for the natural environment and demonstrate this commitment through sustainable practices across their campuses and in their academic programs.*

# ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University 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.

