SEARCH PROFILE:

DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

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Utah Valley University (UVU), located in Orem, Utah, the heart of Utah County, invites inquiries, nominations, and applications for an innovative and experienced leader as the next **Dean of the School of Education**. The ideal candidate will foster an environment that promotes UVU's core values of exceptional care, exceptional accountability, and exceptional results. Reporting to the Provost, the Dean serves as the academic and administrative leader for the School of Education and works collaboratively within the school, as well as across UVU and the community, to cultivate a positive scholarly environment focused on excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.



ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1941, Utah Valley University is the largest public university in the state of Utah, and one of a few in the nation offering a dual-mission model that combines the rigor and richness of a first-rate teaching university with the openness and vocational programs of a community college. UVU's mission is unique and fundamental not only to meeting the educational needs of the community, but students from throughout the world.

Utah Valley University is home to more than 48,000 students (Fall 2025) and many outstanding academic programs, utilizing a semester-based academic calendar. With more than 300 degree options – from certificates to master's programs – UVU has exceptional faculty and staff who set high standards for student learning and development and equip students with the knowledge and skills to achieve their goals.

UVU is a teaching university committed to student success, providing real-world learning experiences near Utah's tech epicenter and growing job market, and welcomes students at every stage of their educational journey, from high-achieving scholars to those seeking new opportunities. With a range of support centers and tailored academic advising, UVU invites students to come as they are and leave prepared to make a difference in the world.

Located between the beautiful Wasatch Mountains and Utah Lake, Utah Valley University's main campus in Orem, Utah, offers a suburban setting along with a vibrant social scene. UVU ranks No. 93 in Regional Universities West and No. 48 in Top Public Schools according to the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges 2026 edition.



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The Dean will lead a dynamic and supportive community of faculty, staff, and students committed to excellence in education. The Utah Valley University School of Education (SOE) prepares educators and leaders to serve the needs of the region, the state, and beyond by engaging in productive community and professional collaborations. Through engaged pedagogy, transformative programs, and meaningful innovations, the school cultivates competency and inspires lifelong learning.

The School of Education prepares future educators, leaders, and professionals through programs in Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Special Education, Graduate Education, Student Leadership and Success Studies, the Autism Certificate, and the Master of Applied Behavior Analysis. Through hands-on learning and real-world experiences, students develop the knowledge and skills needed to make meaningful contributions in schools, organizations, and communities. Enhancing these academic opportunities, the Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism advances awareness, education, research, and support for autistic individuals, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

The School of Education at UVU emphasizes in-field experience, which allows students to apply their learning in real-world contexts and develop confidence in their career paths. The faculty are deeply invested in student success, providing mentorship and support to help students reach their goals. By joining UVU, the Dean will play a crucial role in shaping the future of education and leadership.

VISION STATEMENT

UVU's School of Education will be an innovative leader in learning, technology, research, and community engagement, students' first choice for accessible, relevant, re-imagined, and high-quality educator preparation and leadership development.

MISSION STATEMENT

UVU's School of Education prepares forward-thinking educators and leaders through innovative teaching, reflective practice, cutting-edge research, ethical AI integration, and impactful partnerships with schools, communities, and industries.



THE OPPORTUNITY

Utah Valley University seeks a visionary, energetic, and innovative Dean to guide the School of Education's future growth and champion its talented faculty, staff, and students. The Dean will be a strategic and collaborative leader, energized by opportunities to develop innovative programs and delivery methods that address the need for competent educators and leaders for the twenty-first century. The Dean will foster a supportive culture while bringing creative solutions to challenges in education.

The School of Education is committed to advancing educational excellence through innovative programs, strong community partnerships, technology, and a focus on student success. By continuously evaluating and enhancing its offerings, the School responds to workforce and community needs while preparing graduates to become effective educators, leaders, and professionals. These efforts support academic achievement, professional growth, and meaningful contributions to schools and communities throughout Utah and beyond.

Opportunities ahead include increasing enrollment, strengthening pathways to educator licensure and professional credentials, expanding collaborations with industry and community partners, launching programs that reflect changing demographics and student interests, and pursuing fundraising and revenue-generating opportunities that enhance access and opportunity for students.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Dean is expected to lead effectively and deliver results. They will formulate strategy, execute program expansion, manage student growth, and ensure academic programming meets community and industry needs.
- The Dean will enhance and execute the school's strategic vision, facilitate student success (retention, completion, and job placement), and motivate faculty and staff to do excellent work. The ideal candidate will foster an environment that promotes UVU's core values of exceptional care, exceptional accountability, and exceptional results.
- The Dean will lead in telling the story of the School of Education and the noble profession of teaching. In so doing, they will contribute significantly to fundraising, working in partnership with Institutional Advancement.
- The Dean will help secure financial support from industry partners, government, alumni, and the community.
- The Dean will support academic departments, oversee specialized accreditation, and manage a sustainable budget. They will cultivate collaboration within the school, UVU, and the community to create a positive scholarly environment focused on excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.
- The Dean will maintain high standards for faculty and staff performance and lead by example in cooperation, innovation, accountability, and ethical governance.

THE OPPORTUNITY (CONT.)

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- An earned doctorate or other terminal degree from an accredited institution.
- A distinguished record of teaching, scholarly or creative activity, and service commensurate with appointment in a program offered by the School of Education.
- Significant and progressively responsible experience in academic administration, including evidence of strategic thinking and data-informed decision making and a record of achieving meaningful and measurable results.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Leadership experience in K-12 and/or higher education.
- K-12 teaching experience.
- Capacity to position the School of Education for continued growth, distinction, and impact.
- Ability to advance the university's mission, vision, and strategic priorities; anticipate internal and external changes; and effectively translate institutional priorities into school-level goals and measurable outcomes.
- Understanding of emerging opportunities in teacher preparation and public service.
- Demonstrated prioritization of student success and leveraging university resources to create an engaging, supportive, and high-quality student experience.
- Understanding of current academic accreditation practices and a commitment to academic quality, continuous improvement, and institutional effectiveness.
- Demonstrated capacity to motivate, mentor, delegate, and empower faculty and staff; build high-performing teams; foster optimism and innovation; promote unity, confidence, and trust across constituencies, and create an inclusive environment where individuals can thrive.
- A clear, candid, and consistent communicator with internal and external audiences, who provides timely feedback; follows through on commitments; and holds self and others accountable.
- Record of building effective relationships across the university and externally with diverse constituencies, including higher education organizations, donors, advisory boards, industry leaders, community partners, and legislators and other government officials to advance institutional priorities and create positive social impact.
- Demonstrated sound judgment in budgeting and resource allocation, with the ability to align resources with strategic priorities and identify opportunities for new revenue and support; fundraising experience.
- Understanding of and support for the principles of academic freedom and shared governance.
- Ability to lead with integrity, respect, transparency, and humility.





UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



JON ANDERSON, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

Dr. Jon Anderson serves as the eighth president of Utah Valley University, beginning his tenure on August 10, 2026. A Utah native who grew up in Bluffdale, Dr. Anderson's connection to UVU began in childhood when spending time on campus sparked a lifelong belief in the power of higher education to transform lives and create opportunity. Known for his collaborative, student-centered leadership style, President Anderson is committed to building partnerships and expanding opportunities for student success. He has held several senior leadership positions at public universities across the country, including serving as university president of Pennsylvania Western University (PennWest) as well as provost and chief academic officer at Southern Utah University and Middle Georgia State University.

Dr. Anderson holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Kentucky, a Master of Education in Business Education from the University of West Georgia, a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Utah State University, and an associate degree from Ricks College (now BYU-Idaho).



STEVEN C. CLARK, PH.D.
INTERIM PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Steven C. Clark serves as the interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. During his 26-year career at UVU, he has served as faculty senate president, chair of the behavioral science department, interim associate dean of the college of humanities and social sciences, and dean of the college of humanities and social sciences. While dean, he launched three accredited graduate programs (Master of Social Work; M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy; M.A. Clinical Mental Health Counseling) and the UVU Community Mental Health Clinic to address community mental health needs.

Dr. Clark earned a Ph.D. in Psychology (emphasis Social Psychology) from the University of New Hampshire, an M.A. in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire, and a B.S. in Psychology from Brigham Young University with an anthropology minor. He has peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations on topics such as the judgment of contingency, mate selection, institutional policy systems, and ballot measures. Dr. Clark is currently conducting research on student evaluations of teaching.



OREM/PROVO, UTAH

The City of Orem was organized in 1919 and named after Walter C. Orem, President of the Salt Lake and Utah Railroad. The naming of Orem was an apparent attempt to curry his favor and attract future investments from this prosperous Salt Lake City resident. It shares the general location and history of Provo, Utah, and was often referred to as the “Provo Bench.” In 1942, the Geneva Steel Works was constructed by the federal government as an inland producer of steel for WWII. Built along the eastern shore of Utah Lake, Geneva provided employment and economic growth to local residents, either directly or indirectly, for six decades.

In 2021, The Milken Institute released its list of the best performing metropolitan areas in terms of creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth. The analysis considered the following items: jobs, wages and salaries, and technology growth. The Provo-Orem area was ranked #1 in the country. Orem/Provo continue to receive Top 10 rankings for cities from a variety of publications as time goes on.

Today, there are dozens of technology companies, manufacturers, and service companies employing thousands of Orem residents, making the economic importance of Geneva Steel just a memory in the historical archives.

Utah County is home to some of the most breathtaking scenery in the American West, where rugged mountain ranges meet sweeping valleys. The majestic Wasatch Mountains rise sharply to the east, their snowcapped peaks often mirrored in the serene waters of Utah Lake below. Vibrant wildflowers blanket the hillsides in spring, while the changing colors of fall transform the landscape into a painter’s palette of gold, red, and orange. Whether hiking through lush canyons, exploring picturesque alpine lakes, or simply gazing at the panoramic vistas, the natural beauty of Utah County is both awe-inspiring and peaceful.



APPLICATION & NOMINATION PROCESS

Utah Valley University is being assisted by Academic Search. Prospective candidates may arrange a confidential discussion with Dr. Gabriel Esteban by using his Bookings LINK or with Andrea Cowsert by emailing Andrea.Cowsert@academicsearch.org. Nominations may be sent electronically to UVUSOEDean@academicsearch.org.

Applications must be submitted online at https://www.academicsearch.org/UVUSOEDeanApply and include the following:

- a cover letter that addresses the responsibilities and qualifications described in this position profile;
- a curriculum vitae; and
- a list of at least five professional references with contact information, including telephone and email, and a note indicating the candidate's working relationship with each. References will not be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate.

The position will remain open until filled, but only applications received by **November 9, 2026**, can be assured full consideration.

Utah Valley University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/ Equal Access Employer and committed to fostering a diverse workforce. As an inclusive community, we actively seek diversity among our applicants. Candidates who can contribute to that goal are particularly encouraged to apply. It is the policy and practice of UVU is to recruit and select applicants on the basis of their qualifications, knowledge, skills, and abilities. This effort is in compliance with all federal and state laws, including Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1975, Executive Order 11246, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Utah Valley University in this work. For 50 years 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.

50 years

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