

# SEARCH PROFILE:

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE  
AND OPERATIONAL INNOVATION



# Manhattanville

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**Manhattanville University announces a national search for a bold and collaborative leader to serve as the Senior Vice President for Finance and Operational Innovation (SVP). The first cabinet hire of Manhattanville’s new President, Frank D. Sanchez, Ph.D., this is a unique opportunity for a chief financial officer who understands the nonprofit higher education landscape and is eager to play a transformative role in preparing the university to serve tomorrow’s learners. The SVP will come to the university as a thought leader ready to employ the latest best practices and lead systemic institutional innovation and change. The new SVP is expected to assume the role in July 2024.**

**Manhattanville University is an independent liberal arts institution dedicated to academic excellence and social and civic action. Situated on a picturesque 100-acre campus 30 miles from New York City, the student body is comprised of people from many countries, states, territories, Westchester County, and the greater Hudson Valley region. The majority of faculty and staff call New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut home and with each state comes the opportunity for rural, suburban, or urban living. The campus’s proximity to New York City affords students, faculty, and staff easy access to a never-ending array of cultural, recreational, and educational experiences.**



## ROLE OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONAL INNOVATION

Reporting to the president and serving as a key member of the cabinet, the SVP will provide vision and innovative leadership for revenue generation, process improvement, systems optimization as well as data informed planning and forecasting. The SVP will identify and incorporate new technologies, mindsets and opportunities into the university and will implement strategies for achieving improved outcomes. In this capacity, the SVP will be the president's and provost's thought partner on all matters of finance and operations.

As the university's Chief Financial Officer with responsibility for areas such as Budgeting, Finance, Human Resources, Legal, Facilities, Campus Safety, and contracted vendors, the SVP will exhibit in their leadership of all groups the fostering of a superior student, staff, and faculty experience. They will oversee the operations of the university in a manner that improves its fiscal health, keeps Trustees informed, supports increased enrollments, and implements policies and practices that enable the university to attract and retain an exceptional and diverse faculty and staff.

In addition, the SVP is expected to:

### **Develop an Infrastructure that Supports University Growth, Innovation, and Impact**

The new SVP must be an innovative and creative solution developer as well as a skilled steward of financial and human resources, ensuring the functions under their purview provide sustainable and effective

support for the university's fiscal health as well as for students, the faculty, and staff. The SVP will embody the ideals of open communication, trust, transparency, collegiality, and shared governance, as well as secure revenue diversification through grants and advancement acquisitions.

### **Enhance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

The SVP will ensure and reinforce a diverse, equitable, and inclusive climate throughout the division. This will include, but is not limited to, being a leader in assuring that the staff is representative of the changing demographics of the student population and developing inclusive leaders within the division.

### **Partner with the Local Community and National Funding Organizations**

The SVP will establish and maintain mutually beneficial partnerships with external organizations. As an anchor institution in Westchester County, the university must continue to engage the surrounding communities to leverage county, state and federal funding partnerships and opportunities to enhance operational capacity. On the national level, the SVP will emphasize the university's contributions to matters of critical national interests and to build financial partnerships that lead to mutually beneficial results.



## QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

### REQUIRED

- Master's degree in Business, Finance, Operations Management or another field related to the role
- 10+ years of financial leadership experience
- Experience and familiarity with Auditing and GAAP principle

### PREFERRED

- Higher education leadership and strategic planning experience
- Experience preparing and managing cash flows
- Experience securing and managing capital improvements financing
- Understanding of higher education funding options and demonstrated experience realizing new funding sources including grants and entrepreneurial endeavors

- Proven success using data to inform the development of innovative approaches to financial management and operations
- Experience working with the New York State Education Department
- Experience with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation process
- Experience engaging with senior leadership to further a shared strategic vision
- Excellent people management skills, including the ability to inspire innovation and bring people together to work toward a common goal
- Strong interpersonal and written communication skills
- Desire to be an active member of the Manhattanville community and university representative to appropriate regional and national organizations/associations



## ABOUT MANHATTANVILLE

Founded in New York City in 1841, relocated to Purchase, NY in 1952, and [becoming a university in 2024](#), Manhattanville is an ever-evolving private liberal arts institution dedicated to academic excellence, purposeful education, and social justice. The university community shares a commitment to ensuring the intellectual, ethical, and social development of each student, and supports each student's development as an independent and creative thinker. The ability to learn in a diverse, inclusive, and nurturing environment enables graduates to achieve social mobility and lead lives of service and leadership.

For three years in a row, "U.S. News and World Report" has ranked Manhattanville the #1 private, non-profit institution in New York for Top Performers of Social Mobility in Regional Universities North.

Located 30 miles from New York City on a 100-acre suburban campus in the heart of Westchester County, Manhattanville enables easy access to entertainment offerings, educational resources, and business opportunities for its primarily residential and diverse student body. The university serves more than 1,300 undergraduate students and nearly 1,000 graduate students from more than 44 countries and 33 states. Founded in 1841, the university offers more than 75 undergraduate and graduate areas of study in the arts and sciences, education, nursing and health sciences, business, and creative writing, as well as continuing and executive education programs. Graduate students can choose from over 70 graduate and certificate programs. Extracurricular offerings include more than 45 clubs and activities and 22 NCAA Division III teams.

Manhattanville has also been recognized by "U.S. News and World Report" for Ethnic Diversity. The university has earned a designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education. This has enabled the university to recruit more Latinx students. For the sixth consecutive year, Manhattanville has been named to the Colleges of Distinction list which recognizes institutions that excel in student engagement, great teaching, vibrant

communities, and successful outcomes. The university is also among those that have earned the Equity and Inclusion badge from Colleges of Distinction, while continuing to be recognized for excellence with Business, Education, and Career Development badges.

Because of its reputation for teaching excellence, commitment to student satisfaction, and service-learning opportunities, the university draws more than 1,700 undergraduates and 1,000 graduate students from 50 countries and 30 states and territories. Every student at Manhattanville receives experiential learning opportunities including internships, practicums and service learning. Also known for its dedicated faculty, the university offers [45 majors and minors](#) in fields such as education, business, arts, sciences, nursing, languages, and creative writing and has led the region with the development of a Design Thinking center with curricular infusion across all of these programs. Manhattanville graduate students can enroll in 75 certificate- and degree-granting programs, including the doctoral program in educational leadership. A diverse student body, low student-to-faculty ratio, and inclusive and competitive athletic programs combine to make Manhattanville an attractive educational setting.

Some of Manhattanville's additional accolades and achievements include:

- Accredited by
  - Middle State Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
  - Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
  - Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
  - Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)
- 46 NCAA Division III tournament appearances including multiple recent conference championship teams
- Over 100 collective regular season and conference tournament championships

## FINANCE AND OPERATIONAL INNOVATION

This is an important time in the evolution of the university, both financially and operationally. Formerly known as Finance and Operations, the Finance and Operational Innovation division includes a dedicated staff working in the areas of Finance (including Purchasing, Budget, Controller, Bookstore, Copy Center, Bursar's Office), Human Resources, Legal, Campus Safety, and Facilities. Finance and Operational Innovation will be led by a

highly skilled administrator focused on continuous improvement. The new leader will possess significant financial and operational management experience, people management experience, and a high propensity for innovation and agility. The division's culture must quickly evolve from one of reacting to directives to one of continuous data analysis followed by innovative improvement and outcomes.



## UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



### **FRANK D. SANCHEZ, PRESIDENT**

In July 2023, Frank D. Sánchez, PhD, began his tenure as Manhattanville University's fifteenth president. In April of 2024, Dr. Sanchez will be officially installed as president, simultaneous with the institution's transition from a college to a university. A longstanding champion of diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education, Dr. Sánchez is renowned for expanding opportunities for increasingly diverse student populations and implementing innovative approaches for student success.

Dr. Sánchez was formerly President of Rhode Island College (RIC) in Providence, Rhode Island. His impressive record at RIC included elevating their US News and World Report Social Mobility ranking and modernizing academic facilities, as well as doubling annual fund raising. During his six-year presidency, the college endowment grew from \$28 million to \$42 million and federal and state grants increased to \$10.3 million annually. RIC became among the first federally designated, 4-year Hispanic Serving Institutions in New England, and experienced significant growth of diverse students, faculty, staff and executives. Among his many civic and community involvements, he served as member of the board of directors of the United Way of Rhode Island, the Providence Performing Arts Council, the NCAA Division III Presidents Council and as a Senior Fellow at Interfaith America.

Prior to Rhode Island College, Dr. Sánchez was the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at The City University of New York, which is comprised of 25 colleges and graduate and professional schools. He led the development and implementation of the first system-wide strategic plan for student affairs -- supporting over 500,000 students across NYC. He successfully created numerous workforce development initiatives with industry, government and nonprofit entities. During this time, he led the development of the largest "military friendly" higher education system in the country, established city-wide partnerships to support foster youth and connected city, state and federal resources to

the most economically disadvantaged students. Earlier in his career, he served as the senior student affairs officer at the University of Colorado at Denver and Anschutz Medical Center and as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Adams State University in southern Colorado.

Dr. Sanchez holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, an MS degree in Student Affairs and Higher Education from Colorado State University and a PhD in Higher Education Administration from Indiana University, Bloomington. In the fall of 2022, Dr. Sánchez received the Indiana University School of Education's Distinguished Alumni Award for his outstanding work in higher education.

### **CHRISTINE DEHNE, PROVOST**

Christine Dehne is the Executive Vice President and Provost. Prior to this, she was Dean and Professor in the Department of Communication and Media, where she taught courses in video production, animation, and multimedia. Before coming to Manhattanville, Dehne taught at Harvard University, Emerson College, Brown University, and the University of West Florida. An active video and multimedia artist, Dehne has shown her work in venues around the world, including shows in New York, Massachusetts, California, Tokyo, and Canada. She holds a BA in philosophy from Tufts University, a BFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and MFA from the University of Arizona. Dehne creates interactive theater for young audiences with Spellbound Theatre. Spellbound Theatre is one of the only companies consistently creating theater for the very young in the United States. These performances combine puppetry, animation, live action, live illustration, and interactive elements. With Spellbound, Dehne has been awarded residencies at the New Victory Theater and Miranda Arts, and grants from the Westchester Arts Council, Brooklyn Arts Council, and Jim Henson Foundation. She was the artist/co-creator of the show *The World Inside Me*, which was co-produced with the Chicago Children's Theater and staged at the Chicago Children's Theater, Miami Theatre Center, and then in the New Victory Theater in NYC.







## APPLICATION AND NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Academic Search is assisting Manhattanville in this search. Applications must include, in three separate attachments, 1) a detailed cover letter; 2) a current resume/CV; and 3) a list of five professional references with contact information and a brief description of the working relationship with each. References will not be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate and at a later stage of the search. All documents should be in PDF format.

Nominations and applications should be sent to [ManhattanvilleSVP@academicsearch.org](mailto:ManhattanvilleSVP@academicsearch.org). To ensure full consideration by the Search Committee, applications should be received by **Wednesday, April 24, 2024**. Nominators and prospective candidates may arrange a confidential discussion about this opportunity with Senior Consultant Dianne Kenney ([Bookings link](#)). When submitting a nomination, please include the nominee's full name, position, institution, and email address.

*Manhattanville University adheres to all federal, state, and local civil rights law banning discrimination in higher education institutions. The University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any employee, applicant for employment, volunteer, student, or applicant for admission on the basis of age, race, creed, color, religion, national origin, alienage or citizenship status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, military status, sex, gender, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, criminal conviction, marital status, familial status, domestic violence victim status, gender identity, transgender status, or gender dysphoria.*

### **COMPENSATION**

The target salary range for this position is \$280,000-\$310,000, plus a generous benefits package.

# ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Manhattanville 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.

