

SEARCH PROFILE:

DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY



LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Kennesaw State University (KSU) is seeking a visionary, collaborative, and strategic leader to assume the role of Dean for the College of Computing and Software Engineering (CCSE).

The College of Computing and Software Engineering is one of the largest and most comprehensive computing colleges in the country, with each of its degree offerings nationally recognized for excellence. The College comprises three departments plus the School of Data Science and Analytics, offering comprehensive undergraduate and graduate programs. Through innovative education, cutting-edge research, strategic industry partnerships, and meaningful community outreach, the College embraces technology to empower people, improve lives, and promote social good through computing.

This exceptional opportunity invites a distinguished educator, scholar, and accomplished academic leader to contribute significantly to the College's ongoing success and expansion. Reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean will serve as the chief executive and academic officer for the College, responsible for driving academic excellence through strategic, operational, and financial leadership, with an unwavering emphasis on student success and engagement.

The Dean will lead highly qualified faculty, dedicated staff, and an intellectually curious student body comprising approximately 3,929 undergraduate and 1,290 graduate students, supported by 202 faculty (141 full-time, 61 part-time), and 27 full-time and part-time staff.

The Dean will articulate and execute a compelling vision for the future trajectory of the College of Computing and Software Engineering, leveraging remarkable leadership skills to continue expanding the College's influence and prominence. Working closely with the College Leadership, the Academic Deans' Council, the Provost, and other University leaders, the Dean will spearhead a strategy focused on elevating academic distinction, fostering student success, and deepening engagement. Furthermore, this pivotal leader will enhance the College's research profile and secure its financial future through strategic development, innovative programmatic growth, and impactful partnerships across the University and beyond.

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



KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

For over 60 years, Kennesaw State University has been recognized for its entrepreneurial spirit and strong sense of community. As a leader in innovative teaching and learning, KSU offers over 190 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees and certificates. With 11 colleges, Kennesaw State is a member of the University System of Georgia and one of Georgia's largest universities serving over 50,000 students.

With high-impact research initiatives and NCAA Division I athletics, Kennesaw State University attracts students from across the region and around the world. As a member of the University System of Georgia and a Carnegie-designated R2 doctoral research institution, KSU is committed to becoming a world-class academic leader by broadening its academic and research missions and expanding its impact locally, regionally, and nationally.

Kennesaw State University is more than just a place to learn and work—KSU's vibrant culture, meaningful career opportunities, mission-driven values, and comprehensive benefits make KSU an employer of choice. Guided by core institutional values of respect, integrity, collaboration, inclusivity, and accountability,

and aligned with the University System of Georgia's commitment to accountability, excellence, integrity, and respect, KSU is a student-centered, research-driven institution with a bold vision for the future.

In Fall 2024, the University launched a new strategic plan to guide its next chapter of growth and impact. To learn more, visit: [KSU Strategic Plan](#). For general information about the University, visit <https://kennesaw.edu>.

Click to watch a video



THE LOCATION

Kennesaw State University is located on two suburban campuses in Kennesaw and Marietta, approximately 30 minutes northwest of downtown Atlanta. The metro-Atlanta region is distinguished by its rich historical heritage and continues to grow as a dynamic hub of culture, innovation, and opportunity. Due to KSU's unique location, faculty, staff, and students benefit from the advantages of both a suburban campus environment

and direct access to the professional and cultural resources of a major urban center.

The College of Computing and Software Engineering is located on KSU's Marietta campus along with the College of Architecture and Construction Management and the Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE AND ANALYTICS

The School of Data Science and Analytics has 368 students and 63 faculty (34 full-time and 29 part-time). The School offers an undergraduate minor, online certificates, a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and the first Ph.D. in Data Science and Analytics in the US.

<https://kennesaw.edu/ccse/academics/data-science-analytics/>

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Department of Computer Science has 2,293 students and 53 faculty (47 full-time and 6 part-time). The Department offers three degrees (B.S., M.S. and Ph.D.) in Computer Science in addition to three certificate programs and a minor. The department also offers an M.S. in Artificial Intelligence.

<https://kennesaw.edu/ccse/academics/computer-science/>

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Department of Information Technology has 1,271 students and 50 faculty (31 full-time and 19 part-time). The Department offers a B.S. in Information Technology, a B.A.S. in Information Technology, a M.S. in Information Technology and participates in a Ph.D. in Computer Science, a Ph.D. in Data Science and Analytics and a B.S. in Cybersecurity.

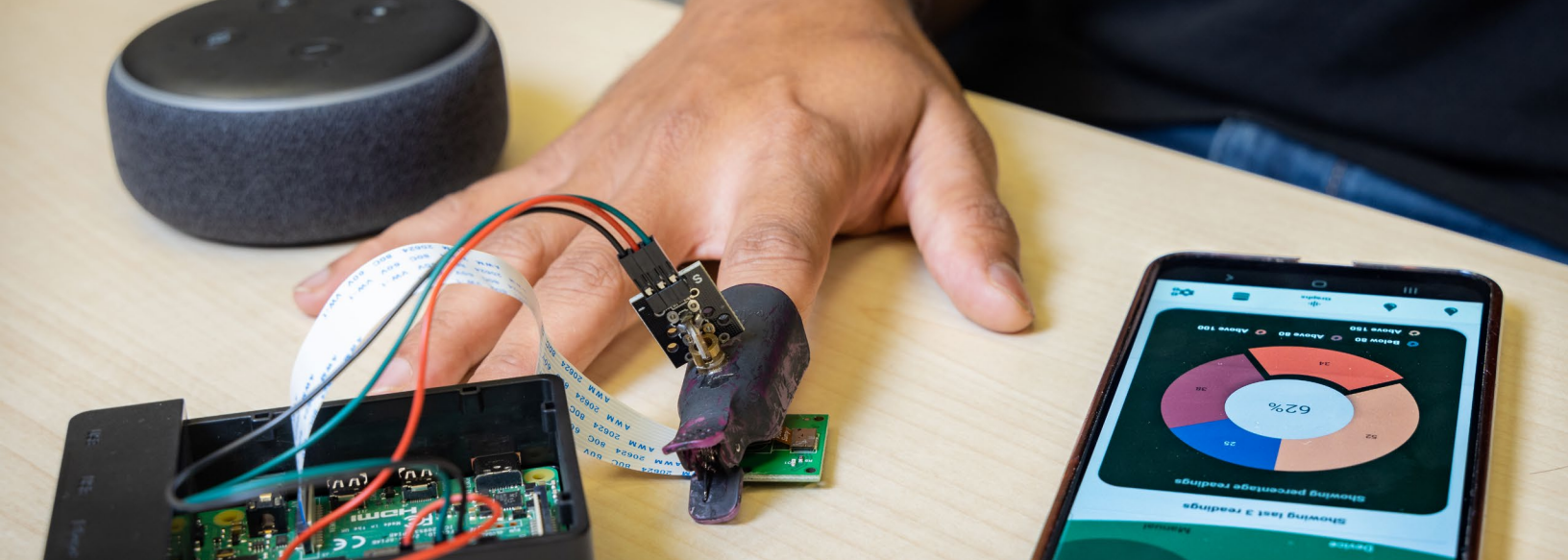
<https://kennesaw.edu/ccse/academics/information-technology/>

DEPARTMENT OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING AND GAME DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Software Engineering and Game Development has 1,287 students and 36 faculty (29 full-time and 7 part-time). The Department offers a minor and a B.S. in Computer Game Design and Development. It also offers a minor, a B.S., and a M.S. in Software Engineering as well as certificates in Software Engineering and Software Engineering Foundation.

<https://kennesaw.edu/ccse/academics/software-engineering-and-game-development/>





LEADERSHIP AGENDA

The Dean of the College of Computing and Software Engineering provides strategic leadership and comprehensive academic, administrative, and financial oversight of the College. This multifaceted role encompasses strategic planning, instruction and research support, personnel evaluations, astute budget preparation and management, faculty and staff development, curriculum innovation, external collaborations, donor cultivation, and fundraising initiatives.

Serving as the College's chief executive and academic officer, the Dean will ensure its enduring vitality and success by actively engaging with the wider community to champion excellence in computing education and research. The Dean manages a \$22.5 million operating budget and will be expected to cultivate development opportunities, inspire a talented faculty to continuously improve degree programs, pioneer new academic programs, and expand research endeavors, thereby fostering the College's holistic growth. The incoming Dean will guide a college distinguished by its committed faculty, staff, and students toward achieving full potential and national prominence.

ARTICULATE A VISION FOR COMPUTING EXCELLENCE

KSU has experienced remarkable growth in recent years, offering the next Dean of the College of Computing and Software Engineering a unique opportunity to build on this momentum and shape a bold, forward-thinking vision for the College. The successful candidate will position CCSE as a nationally recognized leader in computing education, research, and innovation that bridges academic excellence with real-world impact.

This vision must be both aspirational and achievable, recognizing the College's distinctive strengths while identifying strategic opportunities to elevate its reputation and influence. The Dean will serve as the College's chief ambassador, bringing authentic enthusiasm and clarity to articulate what makes CCSE distinct. This includes championing the College's commitment to its innovative approach to interdisciplinary collaboration, and its dedication to preparing students for leadership in an increasingly digital world.

Aligned with KSU's strategic plan, the Dean must demonstrate both visionary thinking and strategic execution capabilities. The successful leader will amplify existing strengths in areas such as data science, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital health, and software engineering while identifying emerging opportunities in fields like quantum computing and sustainable technology solutions.

FOSTER A CULTURE OF COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

The College of Computing and Software Engineering thrives on collaboration, with faculty and staff working together to create a vibrant culture of engaged and supportive learning. The new Dean will play a pivotal role in strengthening this collaborative spirit by leading with transparency, encouraging open communication, and cultivating trust at every level of the organization.

The Dean will foster an environment where faculty, staff, and students feel valued, empowered, and connected to shared goals. This includes creating opportunities for cross-departmental collaboration, supporting interdisciplinary research initiatives, and encouraging innovative approaches to teaching and learning. The leader will recognize that the College's

LEADERSHIP AGENDA (CONT)

greatest achievements emerge from collective efforts and will build bridges between departments and disciplines.

Beyond internal collaboration, the Dean will be proactive in maintaining and deepening strategic partnerships with fellow Deans across the University. Given that computing intersects with virtually every field of study, there are powerful opportunities to engage other colleges in meaningful collaborations that enhance educational outcomes and research impact. The Dean will also cultivate relationships with industry partners, government agencies, and professional organizations to ensure the College's programs remain relevant and responsive to evolving workforce needs.

ENHANCE STRATEGIC EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Dean will serve as the College's primary external advocate, building and maintaining relationships that advance the College's mission and expand its influence. This includes developing strategic partnerships with technology companies, government agencies, research institutions, and professional organizations that can provide internship opportunities, research collaborations, and career pathways for students.

The successful candidate will understand that the future of computing education depends on strong connections between academia and industry. They will work to establish partnerships that benefit both students and faculty, including opportunities for applied research, technology transfer, and professional development. The Dean will also engage with K-12 educational institutions to build pipelines for student recruitment and to promote computing education at all levels.

International partnerships will also be a priority, as computing is inherently global in scope. The Dean will seek opportunities for faculty and student exchanges, collaborative research initiatives, and joint degree programs that enhance the College's global profile and provide students with international perspectives on computing challenges and solutions.

DRIVE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

The Dean will foster an environment that encourages faculty and researchers to pursue ambitious, impactful research that addresses real-world challenges. This leader must possess a deep understanding of the

computing research landscape and the strategic acumen to develop infrastructure necessary to support a growing and dynamic research enterprise.

Central to this mission is attracting and retaining world-class faculty who can advance the College's research profile while maintaining excellence in teaching. The Dean will work to create an environment where faculty can pursue high-risk, high-reward research while also engaging in applied research that has immediate practical applications. This includes supporting faculty in securing external funding, developing research centers of excellence, and creating opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in meaningful research experiences.

The Dean will champion efforts to build research programs that leverage the College's unique strengths and position KSU as a leader in emerging areas of computing. This includes fostering interdisciplinary research collaborations, supporting technology transfer and entrepreneurship initiatives, and creating pathways for research discoveries to benefit society. The successful candidate will understand that research excellence requires both individual achievement and collaborative effort and will work to create systems that support both.

DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

As the chief executive and academic officer of the College, the Dean will provide inspirational leadership while demonstrating exceptional administrative and organizational capabilities. This includes sophisticated fiscal management, strategic resource allocation, and effective personnel leadership that supports the College's mission and goals.

The Dean will be responsible for overseeing complex budgets, making strategic investments in faculty and infrastructure, and ensuring efficient operations across all College units. This requires both analytical skills and creative problem-solving abilities, as well as the capacity to make difficult decisions that serve the long-term interests of the College. The successful candidate will demonstrate fiscal accountability while also being entrepreneurial in identifying new revenue streams and cost-saving opportunities. Personnel management represents one of the Dean's most critical responsibilities. This includes recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty and staff, conducting fair and thorough evaluations, and supporting professional development opportunities that help individuals reach

LEADERSHIP AGENDA (CONT)

their full potential. The Dean will also be responsible for succession planning, ensuring that the College has the leadership capacity needed for continued growth and success.

ADVANCE COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT SUCCESS

Student success represents the ultimate measure of the College's effectiveness, and the Dean will lead a comprehensive strategy that supports students from recruitment through graduation and into successful careers. This comprehensive approach recognizes that student success depends on multiple factors, including academic support, financial assistance, career guidance, and community building.

The Dean will champion innovative approaches to instruction, high-impact experiential learning, and student support services. This includes preparing students to thrive in an environment shaped by emerging technologies, such as generative AI, while promoting ethical and responsible use of these tools.

Career preparation and placement will be key priorities, with the Dean working to ensure that graduates are prepared for leadership roles in rapidly evolving technology fields. This includes maintaining strong relationships with employers, developing robust internship programs, and creating opportunities for students to engage with industry professionals throughout their academic careers.

LEAD STRATEGIC FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Dean will serve as a key advocate for fundraising and development initiatives, working to secure the resources needed to advance the College's mission and support its continued growth. This includes building relationships with individual donors, corporate partners, and foundation supporters who share the College's commitment to excellence in computing education and research.

The successful candidate will approach fundraising strategically, identifying opportunities that align with the College's priorities and can have transformative impact. This includes major gift solicitation, annual giving programs, capital campaign leadership, and the development of transformational gifts, such as endowed funds and naming opportunities for programs, facilities, and initiatives. The Dean will work closely with the University's development team while also taking personal responsibility for cultivating and stewarding key donor relationships.

Beyond traditional fundraising, the Dean will explore innovative funding mechanisms, including industry partnerships, research collaborations, and entrepreneurship initiatives that can provide sustainable revenue streams while advancing the College's academic mission.





THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

The University seeks an inspiring, intellectually curious, and entrepreneurial leader who can guide the College of Computing and Software Engineering toward a dynamic and successful future. The ideal candidate will combine deep expertise in computing fields with proven leadership capabilities and a commitment to excellence in education, research, and service.

The successful Dean will possess exceptional communication skills and the ability to articulate a compelling vision for the College's future. They will understand that the College's strength comes from bringing together individuals with varied backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences.

The candidate will have a track record of building high-performing teams and creating collaborative environments where faculty, staff, and students can thrive. They will understand the importance of shared governance while also being able to make decisive leadership decisions when necessary. The successful candidate will be comfortable with ambiguity and change, recognizing that leadership in higher education requires adaptability and resilience.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Credentials to hold an appointment at the rank of a tenured full professor in a department within the College of Computing and Software Engineering or another department/college at KSU
- SACSCOC qualifications to teach in CCSE programs
- A terminal degree or the foreign equivalent
- Current appointment **at the rank of tenured full professor** at their institution
- A distinguished record of achievement in scholarship, teaching, and service
- Documented success in academic leadership with significant administrative experience as Dean, Associate Dean, Department Chair/School Director, Director, or other substantial academic leadership position

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE (CONT)

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS AND LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Strategic Vision and Leadership Excellence The ideal candidate will demonstrate proven ability to develop and implement strategic visions that advance institutional goals while responding to changing external conditions. They will have experience leading complex organizations through periods of growth and change, showing particular skill in building consensus around shared priorities, and mobilizing resources to achieve ambitious goals.

- A flexible strategist with a record of successful leadership and the ability to develop and implement a bold vision for the future of the College
- Evidence of building strong leadership teams to implement strategic initiatives across and within academic units
- Demonstrated experience working collaboratively with stakeholders and fostering shared decision-making and shared governance
- Capability to identify, recruit, and retain strong leadership and faculty talent
- Demonstrated ability to use data and analytics to inform decisions and communicate priorities

Academic and Research Leadership The successful candidate will have an outstanding record of scholarly achievement in computing fields, with evidence of sustained research productivity and impact. They will understand the importance of maintaining active research programs while also supporting the research activities of faculty and students throughout the College.

- Evidence of instructional and research effectiveness within an R2 doctoral university setting
- Cross-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary administrative experience including significant budgetary, personnel, and programmatic innovation
- Demonstrated success in fostering excellence in undergraduate and graduate teaching, learning and student success including retention, graduation rates, and career outcomes
- Experience in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and supporting diverse forms of scholarly activity
- Experience fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and/or technology transfer initiatives that expand academic impact and revenue streams

Operational Excellence and Resource Management

Evidence of successful budget management and resource development are essential, including experience with large-scale fundraising initiatives and strategic partnership development. The candidate will have demonstrated ability to make difficult decisions while maintaining stakeholder confidence and support.

- Demonstrated experience overseeing large, complex budgets, fiscal matters, strategic planning, and personnel management
- Strong evidence of advocacy on behalf of students, chairs, faculty, and staff members
- Proven track record in resource development and strategic allocation of funds to support academic excellence
- Experience with accreditation processes, program assessment, and compliance management

External Engagement and Partnership Development

Strong communication skills and demonstrated success in building external partnerships are essential. The candidate will have experience working with industry partners, government agencies, and professional organizations to advance academic and research goals.

- Ability to foster external relations by cultivating relationships with alumni, individual donors, corporations, and other stakeholders while collaborating with local, statewide, national, and international professional communities
- Experience representing academic institutions to stakeholder groups and building mutually beneficial relationships
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with media and communicate complex technical concepts to non-technical audiences
- Proven success in fundraising and donor development initiatives

Communication and Collaborative Leadership

The Dean will have demonstrated commitment to educational excellence and innovation, with evidence of supporting effective teaching practices and student success initiatives.

- Strong communicator with commitment to openness, collaboration, and shared decision-making
- A dynamic, visionary, and visible leader who can advance the college into its next phase of growth and development
- Ability to articulate complex ideas clearly to both technical and non-technical audiences
- Experience in crisis management and leading organizations through periods of change



PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION AND APPLICATION

Kennesaw State University has retained Academic Search, Inc., a national executive search firm, to assist the Dean of the College of Computing and Software Engineering Search Committee in its identification and review of candidates.

Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications are invited. While applications will be accepted until the position is filled, interested parties are encouraged to transmit their materials by **January 15, 2026**, for full consideration. Applications should include (as separate PDFs) (1) a current CV; (2) a thoughtful letter of interest addressing, as appropriate, the key responsibilities and qualifications outlined in this profile; and (3) contact information for five references.

Maya Ranchod Kirkhope, Vice President and Senior Consultant, with Academic Search is assisting with this search. Inquiries, nominations, and application materials should be sent electronically via email to the University's search consultant at KennesawCCSEDean@academicsearch.org.

For more information about Kennesaw State University, please visit <https://kennesaw.edu>

For the College of Computing and Software Engineering, please visit <https://kennesaw.edu/ccse/>

Kennesaw State University is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. The University is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work, and study. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, Board of Regents policy, and University policy, the University prohibits harassment of or discrimination against any person because

of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment, pregnancy, and medical conditions related to pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran or military status by any member of the KSU Community on campus, in connection with a University program or activity, or in a manner that creates a hostile environment for members of the KSU community.

For additional information on this policy or to file a complaint under the provisions of this policy, students, employees, applicants for employment or admission or other third parties should contact the Office of Institutional Equity at English Building, Suite 225. eeo@kennesaw.edu.

USG CORE VALUES STATEMENT

The University System of Georgia is comprised of our 26 institutions of higher education and learning, as well as the System Office. Our USG Statement of Core Values are Integrity, Excellence, Accountability, and Respect. These values serve as the foundation for all that we do as an organization, and each USG community member is responsible for demonstrating and upholding these standards. More details on the USG Statement of Core Values and Code of Conduct are available in USG Board Policy 8.2.18.1.2 and can be found on-line at www.usg.edu/policymanual/section8/C224/#p8.2.18_personnel_conduct

Additionally, USG supports Freedom of Expression as stated in Board Policy 6.5 Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom found on-line at www.usg.edu/policymanual/section6/C2653.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Kennesaw State 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.

