Dean, Lee Honors College, Western Michigan University

Western Michigan University seeks nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the Lee Honors College.

The Position
The dean serves as a senior administrative officer who reports directly to the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs and is responsible for the academic, programmatic, administrative and fiscal oversight of the Lee Honors College at Western Michigan University. The dean will provide leadership for guiding the future of undergraduate honors education, in consonance with the mission, vision and the three pillars of the University. The dean will work closely with partners across the university to ensure that the honors college provides high-caliber honors programs that contribute to the overall success of students from diverse specializations and backgrounds. The dean will also work collaboratively with faculty, staff, students, alumni and local, national and international communities to foster outreach as well as to explore development opportunities.

The College
The honors program for high-achieving undergraduates was founded at Western Michigan University in 1962 and is one of the nation’s oldest honors colleges housed in a public university. In 1990, it was renamed the Carl and Winifred Lee Honors College. The LEED Silver-certified facility located in the center of campus includes two technology-enabled classrooms, a student lounge that doubles as a lecture hall, a resource library, a state-of-the-art seminar room for video conferencing, a learning lab with interactive multimedia and a fully equipped kitchen. Now in its sixth decade, the honors college strives to provide an exceptional undergraduate experience for highly-accomplished students, to inspire in our graduates a thirst for the lifelong pursuit of creative inquiry and discovery, to provide our students with the skill and passion to address critical challenges and to foster personal responsibility informed by a global perspective.

The Lee Honors College is home to WMU’s Medallion Scholars, some of our most ambitious, talented and engaged students. The Medallion Program fosters academic excellence, campus and community involvement and service. The college also sponsors many co-curricular events such as the weekly Mix It Up programming, the Metropolitan Series and regular volunteer opportunities. The Lee Honors College’s Lyceum Lecture Series features public forums that address interdisciplinary. The college also partners with other units on campus for topical evening lecture series such as the recent “Raise Your Voice” and this year’s “Science and the Human Endeavor” series.

Lee Honors College students receive the resources offered by a large, comprehensive university combined with the intimacy and personal attention of a small, highly selective college environment. Honors students’ social and academic experiences are enhanced by the option to live in one of several honors housing communities, as well as opportunities to pursue international study, rewarding internships and undergraduate research grants.

Students are the heart and soul of the Lee Honors College. From its first class of 24 students in 1962, the student body has grown to its current number of 1,756 students. Data from 2015-16 shows that the student body is composed of students from all academic colleges and programs: Arts & Sciences (26.7%), Engineering and Applied Sciences (18.5%), Fine Arts (12.5%), Education and Human Development (8.3%), Business (15.4%), Health and Human Services (13.6%), Aviation (3.1%), Extended University Programs (0.3%) and Undecided (1.6%). To review the Lee Honors College mission, vision and strategic plan for 2014-2019, please visit wmich.edu/honors/about/mission.
Required Qualifications

- Earned terminal degree;
- Distinguished record in teaching, research/creative activity and professional service with an appointment as a tenured faculty member;
- A vision for and commitment to leading the honors college into a global future;
- Record of administrative experiences including strategic planning and leadership of personnel as well as an understanding of budgets and curriculum;
- Demonstrated commitment in promoting diversity and inclusion in staffing, programming and recruitment;
- Ability to develop relationships that foster fundraising in support of the college;
- Ability to work across colleges and disciplines to provide an excellent honors program;
- Ability and desire to engage with students to actively promote their success and to articulate an understanding of the cultures in which honors students thrive;
- Capacity to foster collaborative relationships in an atmosphere of shared governance and academic collective bargaining;
- An understanding of the unique role that an honors college plays in recruiting high-achieving students into the university, including students of diverse backgrounds;
- Ability to recruit and retain high-quality students in the Lee Honors College;
- Demonstrated ability to mentor students in respect to theses, prestigious scholarships and other scholarly pursuits;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, with sensitivity to diverse audiences;
- Demonstrated success in team-building, decision-making, problem-solving, advocacy and delegation skills; and
- Professional career activities demonstrating the highest ethical standards.

Application

Review of applications will begin September 12; however, the posting will remain open until the position is filled. Applicants should submit electronically the following information:

- Letter describing background and accomplishments that demonstrates how experience matches the position’s requirements and articulates the applicant’s vision for the Lee Honors College.
- Curriculum vitae; and
- Names, addresses (including email) and telephone numbers of five references who are able to attest to applicant’s ability to successfully fulfill the requirements of this position.

Please visit wmich.edu/hr/jobs for detailed information and application procedures. For more information on the Lee Honors College please view our web site at wmich.edu/honors/.

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Minorities, women, veterans, individuals with disabilities and all other qualified individuals are encouraged to apply.