

National Louis University (NLU)
Chicago, Illinois

Position Specifications
Director of Innovation
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NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY



www.nl.edu

THE INSTITUTION

Overview:

National Louis University (NLU), a 127 year old institution and one of the nation's most innovative institutions of higher education, has defined a bold new future as a professional university, preparing leaders, predominantly adult learners who are ready to address tomorrow's challenges in the context of increasing global urbanization.

NLU is a private, non-profit, independent institution serving a diverse multicultural population of approximately 8,500 students enrolled in three Colleges with programs from the baccalaureate to the doctoral level. Students attend classes primarily on five campuses in the Chicago metropolitan area and three other campuses in Southern Wisconsin, Florida, and Poland. NLU has a long tradition of serving urban, immigrant, and minority populations. Its programs are highly regarded for the quality of instruction, innovation, small classes that create strong ties between students and faculty, and flexibility that speak to the needs of its non-traditional student population, most of whom study part-time while continuing their careers.

Location:

Chicago, IL

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Position:

The **Director of Innovation** is a newly created role that will be responsible for establishing innovative models of education and positioning the institution as a leader in technology innovation in higher education. Reporting to the President, the Director will initially be charged with establishing a re-engineered model for undergraduate education. He/she will work collaboratively with institutional stakeholders to create a model that will reduce cost and enhance quality through digital technologies. The model will facilitate student success by providing enhanced student service and support combined with contemporary coaching and learning models. The Director will have broad latitude to explore and establish new approaches to learning. Partnership and utilization of external content will be paramount to the success of the initiative.

The Director of Innovation should possess a solid understanding of technology, online learning, and familiarity with the myriad of new approaches in education such as open source content, MOOCs etc. The successful candidate will have an entrepreneurial spirit coupled with strong business acumen, including but not limited to project management, budgeting and operations. Understanding of student learning and assessment is preferred. The successful candidate must be a strategic leader but able to roll up his/her sleeves and engage in the day to day activity related to innovation.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Leads development and sets product innovation strategies for undergraduate programming.
- Identifies opportunities for partnership.
- Develops and executes an innovation process.
- Prioritizes drives and executes on innovation projects.
- Establishes and fosters relationships with industry leaders in educational innovation and technology.
- Synthesizes internal and external feedback on innovation projects, functionality, strengths and weaknesses, and makes adjustments accordingly.
- Partners with marketing, enrollment, regulatory, the online learning unit among others to achieve goals.
- Establishes testing standards for innovation.
- Develops an innovation advisory board and seek funding to support innovation effort.
- Manages innovation budget.

Position Qualifications:

- Minimum 3 years of related experience with a demonstrated track record of innovation.
- Master degree required, doctorate a plus.
- Expertise in all elements of program development, including online learning and the use of technology in education.
- Understanding of higher education trends, market, and consumer.
- Understanding of business processes, budgets, and financial management.
- Strong relationship building ability both internally and externally.
- Ability to manage and lead professionally and effectively.
- Demonstrates leadership through clear and authentic communication style.
- The ability to engage all multiple stakeholders in different locations in open dialogue.
- Demonstrated commitment to an open culture that is respectful of all members of the community and committed to the highest standards of integrity.
- Positive leader who proactively manages change with urgency and persistence.
- Proven Project Management skills with the ability to manage multiple competing projects.

Why consider the opportunity?

- **Mission & Reputation:** National Louis University has a 125 year history of transforming the lives of first-generation college students through innovative, high-value educational programs that combine the best of theory and practice.
- **Transformation:** You will join the leadership of NLU during a significant cross road for the University as they work to transform under the leadership of President Dr. Nivine Megahed. NLU is re-focusing its mission, moving toward a more market driven culture, and utilizing new and flexible models for higher education.
- **Create:** You will be part of creating NLU's new undergraduate programming.
- **Lifestyle:** Chicago provides an exciting urban environment in which to live, work, and play.

PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

Confidential review of applications will begin immediately. Click the following link to apply and submit your CV/resume.

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Chicago, Illinois

Few cities in the world can match the character and culture of Chicago. Visitors and residents alike find world-class dining, museums, entertainment, and striking architecture in the largest and most visited city in the Midwest.

Chicago is the third most populous city in the United States with approximately 2.7 million residents.

The city is traversed by the Chicago and Calumet rivers, and with many parks and green spaces the city offers stunning natural beauty along with an urban landscape. Lake Michigan offers a wonderful escape, and Chicagoans can stroll the shoreline, play volleyball, bike, or jog along the lakefront. The Chicago Park District consists of 552 parks with over 7,300 acres of municipal parkland. There are 33 sand beaches, two world-class conservatories, sixteen historic lagoons, and ten bird and wildlife gardens.

As a multicultural city that thrives on the harmony and diversity of its neighborhoods, Chicago today embodies the values of America's heartland – integrity, hard work, and community and reflects the ideals in the social fabric of its 77 distinct neighborhoods. Some favorite ethnic communities to explore in Chicago include Greektown, Chinatown, Ukrainian Village, and Little Italy.

Chicago is recognized across the United States as a very passionate sports town. With professional teams such as the: the Chicago Bears, Blackhawks, Bulls, Fire, Cubs, and White Sox.

The dining choices in Chicago area are as diverse as the people, and everything from ethnic food to contemporary and innovative dining can be found. The city is home to 23 Michelin-starred restaurants, with one three-star restaurant, Alinea. Saveur Magazine even dubbed Chicago “America’s new culinary star.”

Chicago has long been known for theatre, from big productions at landmark venues in Chicago’s downtown Theatre District to experimental works at small storefront theaters in outlying neighborhoods. In addition, Chicago's theatre community spawned modern improvisational theatre. When it comes to music, there are live performances of every kind every night of the week, although jazz and blues have a special place in the city’s cultural history.

Chicago is a travel hub, which means it’s easy to get to and from anywhere in the country or the world. Chicago is served by Midway International Airport on the South Side and O'Hare International Airport, the world's third busiest airport, on the far Northwest Side. Once one is in Chicago, there are many convenient options for getting around, from bike paths and L trains to buses and cabs.

For additional information on Chicago, please visit:

<http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en.html>

<http://www.explorechicago.org/city/en.html>

