



## Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

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Dear College of Design Faculty, Staff, and Students,

I am pleased to provide an update on the launch of a national search for a new dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Design. The College of Design is well-positioned to recruit an outstanding and diverse pool of candidates who will continue to position the school as one of the most comprehensive design colleges in the country, showcasing the wide range of design disciplines, strong research and creative activities led by award-winning faculty, and a strong commitment to excellence, diversity, and innovation.

I have now appointed a search committee that will be convening soon. The members of the committee were selected from a wide pool of nominations from the College of Design community, carefully weighed to ensure that the committee would represent diverse viewpoints of multiple stakeholders. As with all dean searches, the committee is primarily made up of faculty who have the academic networks and expertise required for an academic hiring process, but it also includes staff, student, and external representation. Thank you to all who sent nominations; I am grateful for your help. I also want to thank Dr. Robert McMaster, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, for agreeing to chair this important committee.

The search committee will work with consultants from the national search firm Korn Ferry to hold listening sessions where they will gather broad input to inform the position profile. Your engagement in these listening sessions will be pivotal and I hope you will be an active participant. We will be scheduling three listening sessions during the first two weeks of January so please watch for invitations in your email shortly. We will also provide an opportunity for written comments in case you cannot attend one of the sessions.

The position profile developed through this collaborative process will guide the recruitment and evaluation of applicants. The search committee will engage in a confidential phase of candidate recruitment and screening that will identify a small set of individuals to be recommended to me for consideration as public finalists. Once public finalists have been

announced, please watch for information about public interviews, when your engagement will again be critical. I will greatly value your input throughout this process, but especially to help me evaluate the public finalists.

We have established a [search webpage](#) on the College of Design website, which will include a list of the appointed search committee members and copies of the periodic search updates. I will continue to provide updates to the college as the search progresses. Questions about the search process may be directed to Laura Negrini in my office at [cdessearch@umn.edu](mailto:cdessearch@umn.edu).

I look forward to working with Dean Carol Strohecker as we complete the search for the next dean. Dean Strohecker has been a strong advocate for advancing interdisciplinary research, education and creative work which will position the college well for the future, and I am grateful for her continued service as we undertake this search.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the College of Design and the University, and especially for your engagement as this important search moves forward.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel T.A. Croson  
Executive Vice President and Provost

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This email was sent to all College of Design faculty, staff, and students by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, 234 Morrill Hall, 100 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN, 55455, USA. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. [Read our privacy statement](#).