

Samuel Merritt University

PRESIDENT

Oakland, California

Samuel Merritt University (SMU) invites nominations and applications for the President of an innovative and dynamic multi-campus institution committed to educating healthcare professionals. A mission-driven institution, SMU produces graduates who work across multiple fields to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities for all members of the community. The next President has a tremendous opportunity to train the next generation of diverse healthcare providers, who will meet the needs of underserved populations in California and beyond. The successful candidate for President will be a forward-looking, visionary leader who can work in complex and changing environments to bring SMU to new levels of excellence.

Founded in 1909, Samuel Merritt University became a degree-granting institution in 1981. Today, SMU, an affiliate of Sutter Health, is a health sciences university offering a bachelor's degree in nursing as well as master's and doctoral degrees in nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, and podiatric medicine. With campuses in Oakland, San Mateo, and Sacramento, the University's facilities include a classroom complex, student recreation areas, a comprehensive health sciences library, computer learning laboratories, and specialized laboratories for gross anatomy, human performance, physical therapy, living skills, human occupation, splinting/orthotics, nursing skills, and human simulation. Students are offered a variety of clinical experiences in more than 1,000 healthcare facilities.

SMU has seen tremendous growth and progress during the tenure of President Sharon Diaz, who will be retiring in the coming year after over 35 years as President. She has led SMU through dramatic changes in the healthcare and higher education landscapes and has overseen significant growth of SMU's programs and student body while maintaining a strong financial outlook for the University. The University is now poised to usher in a new era of success. In the coming years, the next president of SMU will play a key role in ensuring that the University successfully seizes this moment of opportunity to maintain and enhance its standing as a renowned health sciences center that spans disciplines in providing exceptional training to students and in forging new frontiers in research.

As detailed in this profile, the next SMU President will face a diverse set of opportunities and challenges. To respond to these, the new President will be expected to:

- Maintain fiscal sustainability and discipline while creating meaningful change
- Continually enhance the University's relationship with Sutter Health
- Expand and improve external partnerships
- Develop the physical infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing organization
- Build a leadership team that embraces communication and transparency in decision-making
- Strengthen SMU's diverse and inclusive community
- Foster deep connections across a multi-campus system to local communities
- Nurture the strategic vision for healthcare education in the future

Samuel Merritt University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this search. Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. For more details, including the full position profile and to submit inquiries, nominations, referrals, and applications, please see the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: www.imsearch.com/6538. Electronic submission of materials is required.

David Bellshaw, Cati Mitchell-Crossley, and Sheila Burgess

Isaacson, Miller

1000 Sansome Street, Suite 300

San Francisco, CA 94111

Phone: 415.655.4900

Fax: 415.655.4905

Samuel Merritt University has an institution-wide commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. We strive to build a welcoming and supportive campus environment, and acknowledge that diversity is an educational imperative to achieve excellence.