



# Columbia Christian

FAITH • CHARACTER • ACADEMICS

**Our Mission: To provide a Christ-centered education focused on excellence in faith, character, and academics.**

## PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

### Opportunity Profile

#### Overview

Columbia Christian School's President serves as chief executive officer with overall responsibility for planning, development, implementation, assessment, and improvement of all programs and policies. The President's prime responsibility is to see that all dimensions of the school contribute to Christ-centered education focused on excellence in faith, character, and academics. The President leads and oversees the pursuit of excellence in all aspects, including academic and spiritual development, athletics and extracurricular activities, advancement and fundraising, and budgeting and finance. The President ensures that the strategic direction and policies of the school are aligned with its mission.

The President reports to the Board of Trustees and is its only employee.

#### **Recognizing the educational challenges of the 21st century, the President will:**

- Be the chief advocate of the school's mission
- Place the highest priority on leading students to know and love God, to develop a Christian worldview, and to recognize and develop their God-given talents.
- Address and meet the challenges facing Christian education while enhancing Columbia's commitment to her 70-year tradition of spiritual and academic excellence.
- Cultivate a cohesive leadership team and an excellent faculty and staff
- Serve as a compelling spokesperson for Columbia Christian School to both Christian and secular communities.
- Lead efforts to enhance and implement the strategic plan
- Manage the schools finances and resources
- Expand the school's resources, in particular by serving in a prominent role of cultivating and soliciting donors.
- Support Columbia's diverse community and culture of inclusiveness.



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## THE PRESIDENT'S ROLE

### **Be the chief advocate of the school's mission**

The President must be a visionary and strategic leader who embraces, articulates, and promotes Columbia's mission of providing a Christ-centered education focused on excellence in faith, character, and academics both internally and externally. The President will reach beyond the borders of the school to convey the mission to alumni, parents, grandparents, and friends in the greater Portland community, the region, and beyond.

### **Place the highest priority on leading students to know and love God, develop a Christian worldview, and recognize and develop their God-given talents**

The President will ensure that every dimension of the school from the academic curriculum to the extracurricular programs are designed, evaluated, and continually improved to provide students with a strong foundation for Christian faith and to equip them to use their God-given gifts for life-long Christian leadership and service.

### **Address and meet the challenges facing Christian education while enhancing Columbia's commitment to her 70-year tradition of spiritual and academic excellence**

The President must navigate the rapidly changing educational environment and work with the administrative team and faculty to address and meet these challenges while maintaining the school's commitment to Christ-centered education. S/He will assure that the school's academic program is rigorous and challenging, inspiring students to fully develop their God-given intellectual, emotional, and spiritual capacities.

### **Cultivate a cohesive leadership team and an excellent faculty and staff**

The President is responsible for the development of a dynamic, visionary, and excellence-oriented leadership team that includes the Principal, Vice Principal, and department directors. S/He must be a collaborative leader who will forge strong relationships with the leadership team and school family. Together with the leadership team, the President will maintain and improve staff and teacher excellence through a careful recruiting process, training in Christian worldview, and faculty/staff development.

### **Serve as a compelling spokesperson for Columbia Christian Schools within the CCS community and beyond**

As the public face of Columbia Christian Schools, the president serves as ambassador to the Christian community and beyond and must effectively tell the CCS story to a wide variety of audiences, including school families, alumni, current and potential donors, area church members, and community leaders.



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## **Lead efforts to enhance and implement the strategic plan**

The president is responsible for implementing the school's strategic plan and working with the board to update it annually and re-envision it every three to five years. The strategic plan will guide the near- and long-term future of the campus, identifying and nourishing areas of excellence and establishing priorities for improvement of programs, policies, practices, and facilities to promote the academic and Christian mission of the school. The current plan places highest priority on leadership toward improving academic outcomes.

## **Manage the School's finances and resources**

The President must use budget and fiscal management skills to oversee school properties and programs. S/He will recommend an annual budget to the board for income from tuition, fees, property rentals, fundraising, and other revenue streams and for expenditures to carry out the school mission and maintain affordability for students. The President oversees school investments and maintenance of campus facilities and rental properties acquired in the purchase of the former Cascade College campus.

## **Cultivate and solicit donors to expand the school's financial base**

The President is responsible for increasing the school's donor base and raising funds to support CCS's operational and capital needs and to expand the endowment. S/He will develop and nurture meaningful relationships with key alumni and potential benefactors, engaging in fundraising efforts and connecting benefactors to the mission and programs of the school. S/He will work closely with the Development Director and School Board to identify, cultivate, and solicit donors.

## **Support Columbia Christian's diverse community and culture of inclusiveness.**

The President will embrace students and families from diverse experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives and will work to create and maintain a welcoming environment that enables the school to achieve its mission among all its students.



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## Expectations and Requirements

### Christian Commitment

CCS's next president must have a mature and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ and will be a member in good standing in a local congregation of the Churches of Christ. The preferred candidate will be able to effectively articulate his or her faith and a worldview consistent with CCS's Statement of Faith and will demonstrate personal faith through a life marked by a strong Christian character and a passion for living out his or her faith daily.

### Professional Expectations

CCS's next president will articulate and demonstrate a calling for work in Christian education and a commitment to the integration of faith and learning. He or she will support CCS's Mission, Faith Statement, and Education Philosophy, as well as all policies and procedures established by the CCS board.

Strong leadership skills are required. Education and successful teaching and leadership experience in the K-12 educational environment is highly preferred. The preferred candidate also will demonstrate existing or developing strengths in strategic planning, financial management / budgeting, and marketing.

The preferred candidate will demonstrate a commitment to study and understand CCS's history and distinctiveness in order to move the organization towards a successful future consistent with its historical character.

### Educational Requirements

A bachelor's or master's degree in education and a master's degree from an accredited college or university are minimum requirements; a degree from a Christian college or university strongly is preferred. A masters' degree or higher in educational leadership, organizational leadership, or similar field of study is strongly preferred.



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## Candidacy Process

On behalf of the entire Columbia Christian School community, thank you for your interest in the search for our next president. Please join us in prayer for the work being done in the lives of our students, and for God's leading in finding the right person to be our next president. If you believe that your gifts and experiences are a match for the leadership role of our next president, we invite you to begin the inquiry process. All candidate information will be handled confidentially. You may contact Marquita Moss, Interim President and Search Committee Secretary at [SearchCommittee@ColumbiaChristian.com](mailto:SearchCommittee@ColumbiaChristian.com), at any stage of the process for more information or to ask questions. To be considered for this position, please submit the material below. Please note that preference will be given to candidates who provide their material by February 1, 2019.

- 1. Your current resume or CV**
- 2. Please respond to the following questions, in writing.**
  - a. Please describe your personal journey to faith in Jesus Christ. How has that affected your personal worldview, your day-to-day life, and your career?
  - b. Why do you support Christian education? What do you see as the significant challenges and opportunities for Christian schools going forward?
  - c. CCS is deeply committed to fully integrating faith and learning. Please explain what that concept means to you and share your thoughts about CCS's commitment.
  - d. Leaders have different strengths and skill sets – what are yours? What is your philosophy of leadership?
- 3. Please provide names and contact information (telephone and e-mail addresses) for four (4) references who know you and your qualifications for the role of CCS's president well enough to comment on your suitability for this position.** References will be contacted only after we have requested and received your permission to do so.

Please submit this information by e-mail to Marquita Moss, Interim President and Search Committee Secretary at [SearchCommittee@ColumbiaChristian.com](mailto:SearchCommittee@ColumbiaChristian.com). Again, thank you for your prayerful consideration of this opportunity! We look forward to hearing from you.



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## FAITH STATEMENT

Columbia Christian School is associated with the Churches of Christ and is guided by the Holy Bible, particularly Christ's teachings in the New Testament. Columbia Christian Schools accepts the following as the core of Christian faith.

1. There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: the Father, creator and sustainer of all that is; the Son, existing from eternity as the Word, who became a man being born of a virgin, lived a life of sinless perfection, confirmed his word by miracles, died for our sins, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven where he reigns as Lord and King, and will come again in judgment; the Holy Spirit, given to all believers as the indwelling, sanctifying presence of God.
2. Men and women, through sin, are separated from God and are utterly unable to save themselves.
3. Salvation is the unearned gift of God to all who place their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through repentance and baptism.
4. The church, being composed of all baptized believers, is to be Christ's presence in the world, witnessing to his Lordship, teaching his word and serving in his name.
5. The scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the divinely inspired written record of God's work and word, and they are sufficient for faith and practice.

## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Columbia Christian Schools believes education is an opportunity to demonstrate love for God. As Jesus instructs his disciples, humans are to love God with all of their minds, as well as their hearts, souls and strength (Matthew 22:37).

The education God desires, furthermore, is an education steeped in truth and the fear of the Lord. Scripture instructs humans that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7), and Jesus declares, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John. 14:6).

Columbia Christian Schools centers its curriculum, therefore, around Bible classes at all levels and an integration of scriptural truth in all subjects.

Further, Columbia Christian believes a complete education provides students not only knowledge but also the tools to acquire knowledge, the tools of learning. In this case, Columbia Christian instructs students in critical thinking through reading, writing, analytical assignments, and classroom discussions.

Finally, Columbia Christian Schools believes a complete education incorporates mental as well as physical, social and spiritual instruction. The curriculum CCS offers provides opportunities for exercise of the mind as well as the body, for individual as well as corporate study, for spiritual as well as social growth.

