



## **Humboldt State University Presidential Search**

### **Position Description**

The California State University Chancellor, Timothy P. White, and Board of Trustees seek a President to lead Humboldt State University (HSU) into its second century. HSU is known for its focus on social and environmental responsibility and students who provide creative leadership in these areas.

#### **University Information**

<http://www.humboldt.edu>

Humboldt State University is located in Arcata along California's North Coast where the Redwood forests meet the Pacific Ocean. Founded in 1913, it is just completing its Centennial Year. It is situated about 275 miles north of San Francisco and 90 miles from the Oregon border. It is a beautiful campus with a friendly and welcoming community. For an aerial view of the campus and our region, please see [www.humboldt.edu/explore](http://www.humboldt.edu/explore)

More than 630 full and part-time faculty members at Humboldt State teach 8,300 students of which a majority comes from the San Francisco Bay area and southern California. The university offers 56 undergraduate, graduate and pre-professional programs. Humboldt State is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. In addition, national professional accreditation is held by 16 disciplines. Academics are organized into three colleges: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Natural Resources and Sciences; and Professional Studies.

Humboldt State University is known for its small class size, low student-faculty ratios, job placements, and the rate at which students go on to earn doctoral and medical degrees. Each

year about 500 Humboldt students volunteer in local community projects. Humboldt boasts an unusually high proportion of graduates serving in the Peace Corps and managing public and nonprofit service organizations. The university has made a special commitment to Native Americans through unique support services to Native American students in teacher preparation programs and in sciences, natural resources, and engineering, through outreach activities, and through academic programs. Sustainability is a core value of the campus community. Practices include waste reduction, environmental education through the campus Recycling Program, a student-initiated program that diverts 60% of HSU's waste from the landfill. In 2004, students initiated and tax themselves for the Humboldt Energy Independence Program whose mission is to reduce the environmental impact of energy use at HSU through student-driven projects.

At Humboldt State University, students enjoy an extraordinary college experience. They are part of a tight-knit community where learning takes place in small classes and professors know them by name. And they live in a beautiful area known for its redwood forests and expansive beaches. Humboldt State offers 45 majors and 73 minors. Programs in natural resources and sciences are nationally recognized, while the arts and business are also popular areas of study. Humboldt State University offers the state's only undergraduate oceanography program and an array of other programs focused on marine sciences. Students conduct research at its coastal marine lab and aboard the university's research vessel, the Coral Sea.

HSU prides itself on its commitment to environmental responsibility and social justice. In 1987 students created the Graduation Pledge to inspire graduates to consider the social and environmental impact of their careers. This, along with programs like a student-run eco-demonstration house and student-led campus energy savings projects, contributed to HSU being named to Princeton Review's list of Green Colleges.

California's North Coast is an outdoor adventurer's paradise, and, for Humboldt State students, it's also a natural laboratory for learning. Students picnic at the same beaches where they study marine life, and they learn from the world's foremost expert on redwood canopies. They do film shoots, wildlife studies and archaeological digs. They carry out projects on the Coral Sea, the only research vessel in America used primarily for undergraduate research. They work with leading experts in sustainable energy at the Schatz Energy Research Center and they study the stars at the campus observatory. Humboldt State's hometown of Arcata is a vibrant and welcoming community filled with music, art and festivals. It has been called one of the top college towns by Outside magazine and a "next great adventure town."

## **Mission and Vision**

### **Mission**

"Humboldt State University is a comprehensive, residential campus of the California State University. We welcome students from California and the world to our campus. We offer them access to affordable, high-quality education that is responsive to the needs of a fast-changing world. We serve them by providing a wide array of programs and activities that promote

understanding of social, economic and environmental issues. We help individuals prepare to be responsible members of diverse societies.”

### Vision

- Humboldt State University will be the campus of choice for individuals who seek to improve the human condition and our environment.
- We will be the premier center for the interdisciplinary study of the environment and its natural resources.
- We will be a regional center for the arts.
- We will be renowned for social and environmental responsibility and action.
- We believe the key to our common future will be the individual citizen who acts in good conscience and engages in informed action.
- We will commit to increasing our diversity of people and perspectives.
- We will be exemplary partners with our communities, including tribal nations.
- We will be stewards of learning to make a positive difference.

### **Budget**

HSU’s overall budget for 2013-14 totals \$181.3 million. The largest single funding source is the general operating fund budget, totaling \$114.0 million, which consists of state appropriations of \$60.9 million and tuition, fees and other revenues of \$53.1 million. Designated budgets totaling \$31.8 million include: three enterprise fund operating budgets, which are parking (\$1.5 million), housing (\$13.4 million), and continuing education (\$4.0 million); \$14.1 million for anticipated financial aid and scholarship awards; and the Lottery budget of \$0.4 million. Additionally, the University has auxiliary organizations with combined revenue budgets of \$35.5 million, which are Associated Students (\$0.8 million) the University Center (\$13.9 million), the Advancement Foundation (\$3.5 million), and the Sponsored Programs Foundation (\$17.3 million).

### **Community Engagement**

Humboldt State University enhances the quality of life on the North Coast through research, arts and community service. Humboldt State University houses the lead center for 10 Small Business Development Centers across Northern California. The Centers provide one-on-one business mentoring to thousands of small businesses each year and are funded through grants, including \$27 million from the federal government.

Humboldt State University is a leader in providing college opportunities for Native American students, and it has the highest proportion of Native American students in the CSU system. Its academic offerings include a graduate program in social work that focuses on the needs of indigenous communities and a first-of-its-kind minor in American Indian Education.

Humboldt State University faculty and students produce the Humboldt Economic Index, the only monthly source of broad-based economic indicators for the county.

Humboldt State University is the most prominent center for arts and entertainment on California's North Coast. Its art program is one of the largest majors, and each year the Center Arts program attracts 28,000 attendees to performances. More than 50,000 people attend 85 intercollegiate sports contests on campus each year.

### **Alumni**

Humboldt State has more than 60,000 alumni. They are concentrated in California, Oregon and Washington, though a large number live on the East Coast as well. Many are leaders in their fields and in their communities. Among them: Marla Spivak, a bee researcher and MacArthur "genius grant" recipient; Stephen Hillenburg, creator of SpongeBob SquarePants; Kenneth L. Fisher, one of the world's leading financial advisors; Devorah Lieberman, president of University of La Verne; Micheal Crooke, a thought-leader in sustainable business practices and former CEO of Patagonia, Inc.; and Rick Rosenthal, an Emmy-winning underwater cinematographer. The region's representative in the State Assembly, Wesley Chesbro, is also an alumnus.

Humboldt alumni are extremely proud of their alma mater, and through HSU's Discovery Project, a number of current students have learned about that pride firsthand. Through the project, the students have met one-on-one with hundreds of alumni across California in recent years. They have heard heartfelt stories about the importance of Humboldt's close-knit community, the connections made with other students and with faculty, and the hands-on learning experiences that made such an impact. Of course, alumni also remember the awe-inspiring natural environment for which the North Coast is known.

Humboldt alumni are also very supportive of the institution. In fact, among the 23 CSU campuses, Humboldt State consistently has the highest alumni participation rate in annual giving (8-10%).

Like the students, alumni often demonstrate a commitment to making a difference in the world. Many took the Graduation Pledge of Social & Environmental Responsibility, which was created by HSU students and has since spread to hundreds of schools. More than 700 Humboldt alumni have chosen to serve in the Peace Corps, making Humboldt State one of the leading campuses in this regard.

## **Intercollegiate Athletics**

The Humboldt State University Intercollegiate Athletics Program functions as an integral part of the academic and social environment of the university and the community in which it resides. Consistent with the university's stated mission and goals, its coaches, student-athletes and professional staff strive to maintain the highest standards of academic achievement, sportsmanship, athletic competitiveness, integrity and citizenship. The intercollegiate athletics program is committed to the principles, mission and guidelines set forth by Humboldt State University and the NCAA including equitable opportunity for all student-athletes and staff including women and minorities. We are committed to the principles of sportsmanship and ethical conduct, rules compliance and amateurism as defined by NCAA for athletics staff, student athletes and institutional personnel. HSU has twelve NCAA Division II sports programs that have been remarkably successful. The women's softball team has won two national Division II championships. The women's rowing team won the nation Division II championship in 2012. HSU's football team has won league championships and is nationally ranked and is only one of two Division II football teams in California.

## **Presidential Responsibilities**

The president, as the chief executive officer, leads the Institution by managing the human, fiscal, and physical resources to fulfill the mission of Humboldt state University. All major officers of the Institution report to the president, who is ultimately responsible for decisions. Working in collaboration with internal and external constituencies, the president provides overall leadership and guidance for the university including leading discussions and processes to identify attainable institutional goals. The president represents the campus' interests within the CSU system, with local, state and national elected officials, and with the surrounding communities.

## **Professional Qualifications**

### **Minimum Qualifications**

- Possess an earned doctoral or appropriate terminal degree in a field relevant to the mission of HSU
- At least 10 years in progressively responsible management/leadership positions
- Experience effectively managing fiscal and personnel resources of a complex public institution
- Experience developing a productive and supportive staff environment with high levels of integrity, transparency, and accountability
- Record of inspiring trust and honesty
- Evidence of ability to communicate effectively at all levels (faculty, staff, students, families, alumni, legislators, other external constituents)
- Track record of engagement and accessibility

- Politically astute
- Have a passion for students and their success
- Proven track record of fostering a rich, respectful and diverse culture within the faculty, staff and students
- Demonstrated commitment to public higher education access and completion
- Evidence of successful community engagement
- Evidence of successful fund raising (private donors, corporate sponsors, grants & research)
- A sincere interest and demonstrated success participating in shared governance

#### **Preferred Criteria**

- 4+ years of top level leadership (president, vice president levels) of a 4-year public research or comprehensive university
- Experience working in a higher education “system”
- Experience with shared governance in a collective bargaining environment
- Evidence of fostering creativity and innovation through program development
- Knowledge of current higher education trends
- Demonstrated commitment to the success of first generation, underrepresented students in a higher education setting
- Value and understand the importance of student recruitment/retention and have experience with enrollment strategies and student life
- Commitment to innovation in programs and learning, and an interest in the use of technology to deliver information
- Experience working successfully with local community leaders/legislators
- Proven experience with successful fund raising (private donors, corporate sponsors, etc.)
- Track record of support for international program development and developing alternative streams of funding for an institution
- Track record of fostering increasing levels of research and scholarly activity that is brought to the undergraduate experience
- Evidence of and comfortable living and working in a small community

#### **Nominations, Applications and Inquiries**

Résumé screening begins on January 20, 2014. Applications (to include a letter of interest not to exceed three pages and current résumé), and nominations are being accepted by email, fax or mail by the following:



executive search consultants

Sharon Tanabe, Partner  
1111 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 106  
Monterey Park, CA 91754  
323.260.7889 (FAX)

*Electronic submission preferred*

Please submit to:

[stsearch@storbeckpimentel.com](mailto:stsearch@storbeckpimentel.com)

CODE: HSU President

For a confidential inquiry, contact Ms. Tanabe at  
323-260-5045

*The university is committed to cultural diversity and it is expected that the successful candidate will further this commitment. The University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.*