

# Announcing a national search for the Dean of the College of Sciences and Technology



SAVANNAH  
STATE UNIVERSITY



In historic Savannah, Georgia



## Mission Statement

Savannah State University, the oldest public historically black university in the State of Georgia, develops productive members of a global society through high quality instruction, scholarship, research, service, and community involvement. The University fosters engaged learning and personal growth in a student-centered environment that celebrates the African American legacy while nurturing a diverse student body. Savannah State University offers graduate and undergraduate studies including nationally accredited programs in the liberal arts, the sciences, and the professions.

**Savannah State University**, a unit of the University System of Georgia, seeks an experienced academic leader to serve as **Dean of the College of Sciences and Technology**. The appointment will be effective July 1, 2018. Applications and nominations are invited.

### The Opportunity

The oldest public historically black university in Georgia, Savannah State University has been providing students with high-quality and relevant academic programs while serving its community with distinction for the past 128 years. With an increasingly diverse student population today, the University provides a comprehensive higher education experience for the academic, personal, social, and cultural growth of its students.

Michael J. Laney, Ph.D., is the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Savannah State. Committed to a supportive and inclusive learning

and working community, Dr. Laney fosters shared governance, faculty development, and best practices in higher education. He seeks an experienced, entrepreneurial academic leader to serve as the Dean of the College of Sciences and Technology (COST).

The Dean of the COST is an opportunity to serve in a meaningful leadership role at an institution committed to student success by embracing faculty success. As the senior administrative officer of the college, the Dean is responsible for strategic direction, oversight, and organization of academic programs of

the College and all necessary support.

Reporting to the Provost and VPAA, the Dean manages seven departments: Biology, Chemistry and Forensic Science, Engineering Technology, Marine and Environmental Science, Mathematics, Military Science, and Naval Science. In addition to master's degrees in Marine Science and Mathematics, the COST offers Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology, Chemistry (certified by ACS), Environmental Science, Forensic Science, Marine Science, Mathematics, Civil Engineering Technology (Accredited by ETAC/ABET), Computer Science Technology,

## Quick Facts about Savannah State University

Established: 1890

Enrollment: 4,125, with 60 percent living on campus

Degrees: 30 baccalaureate majors and degrees;  
6 graduate programs

Number of Faculty: 145

Student/Faculty Ratio: 19:1

Colleges and Schools:

- College of Business Administration
- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- College of Sciences and Technology
- School of Teacher Education

Athletics: National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I AA



and Electronics Engineering Technology (Accredited by ETAC/ABET).

### Principal Accountabilities

- Collaborate across the University and with the external community in offering the Regional Engineering Pathway Program (REPP).
- Work with faculty, staff, students, alumni, external supporters, and campus administration to accomplish the University's mission, while also strengthening recruitment and retention of students.
- Work with fellow deans to foster boundary-spanning collaboration among the University's diverse disciplines.

### Other Duties

- Enhance financial resources for the College.
- Encourage innovation, creativity, and the professional growth of the students, faculty, and staff.
- Provide leadership in teaching, published research, grantsmanship, student and faculty development, and fundraising.
- Ensure and support continued professional accreditation and certification of COST programs.
- Provide management of one of the University's four academic centers of excellence.
- Ensure continuing success of

faculty in securing grants, which has placed the University among the top 10 University System of Georgia institutions in securing grants.

- Work in collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, College of Business Administration, and the School of Teacher Education.

### Qualifications

Candidates must have an earned doctorate from an accredited institution of higher learning and administrative experience at or above the level of Department Chair, Associate Dean, or equivalent. Professional, scholarly, and educational accomplishments commensurate with an appointment as a tenured faculty member within the discipline are required.

Additional requirements include:

- Graduate and undergraduate college teaching experience
- Demonstrated success in published research, grantsmanship, student and faculty development, and fundraising
- Ability to manage multiple projects

## Michael J. Laney, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs



Michael J. Laney, Ph.D. joined Savannah State University as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in January 2018. Previously, he served five years at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, as Dean and Professor of the College of Arts and Sciences. During his career in higher education, he also has held academic and administrative positions at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, from 1995 to 2012 and Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya in 2006-2007 (on sabbatical).

Prior to his distinguished career in higher education, he served 20 years active duty in the United States Army, where he held command and deputy command responsibilities. He retired at the rank of major in 1995.

Dr. Laney earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with honors at the University of Massachusetts, North Dartmouth (formerly Southeastern Massachusetts University), he attended Michigan State University, where he earned his Master of

Arts degree in Telecommunications and completed the Army Reserve Officer Training Program. He was awarded his Ph.D. in Communications Broadcasting from the University of Tennessee in 1998.



simultaneously, with attention to details, deadlines, and making decisions

- Exceptional interpersonal/analytical skills and excellent verbal/written communication skills
- Demonstrated commitment to the principles of higher education
- Ability to understand, support, and articulate, both internally and externally, the centrality of the academic enterprise and SSU's role as a historically black institution

## Savannah State University

Founded in 1890, Savannah State University holds the distinction as the oldest public historically black university in Georgia.

The University's mission and educational goals are realized through comprehensive program offerings in the College of Business Administration, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the College of Sciences and Technology, and the School of Teacher Education. The University has several new programs in the high-need professional fields, such as the STEM disciplines (sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

The University aggressively seeks funds from federal sources, including NIH and NSF research and program development grants. Presently, the university has approximately \$43.7 million approved external funding for multiple years (2015-2020). These grants support curriculum enhancement, faculty and student

research, student scholarships, presentations at conferences and other scholarly activity.

Savannah State provides a supportive yet challenging learning environment with opportunities to establish close student-faculty relationships and relevant social/professional networks. In addition to its academic support programs and extracurricular activities, the University has exhibits, performances, sports teams, concerts, and community volunteer

service projects geared to improving relationships with neighborhoods in the greater Savannah area.

One of the most picturesque campuses in Georgia, the University is located on a beautiful 201-acre tract adjacent to a salt-marsh estuary.

## Savannah, Georgia

The University is located in Savannah, Georgia, a historic city with a revered past, a vibrant present, and an exciting future. Known as one of the "World's 30 Friendliest Cities" by *Condé Nast Traveler* readers, this coastal town has a world-class reputation for hospitality and grace.

With nearly 300,000 area residents, Savannah has maintained steady growth, with the economy based mainly on ports, manufacturing, tourism, and the military. The city offers a high quality of life and a family-friendly lifestyle.

## Applications & Nominations

Confidential inquiries are welcomed; nominations are invited.

### 1. Application packet must include:

- a) Cover letter
- b) Curriculum vitae
- c) At least three references with full contact and e-mail information (references will not be contacted without applicant's consent)

### 2. Submit application packet to [SSU-Dean@myersmcrac.com](mailto:SSU-Dean@myersmcrac.com) by April 18, 2018, for best consideration.

Submit nominations to [SSU-Dean-Nominate@myersmcrac.com](mailto:SSU-Dean-Nominate@myersmcrac.com) with full contact and e-mail information of the nominated individual.

**Emily Parker Myers**, Chief Executive Officer, and **Jennifer Barfield**, Senior Vice President, of **Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting** are assisting Savannah State University with this search.



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