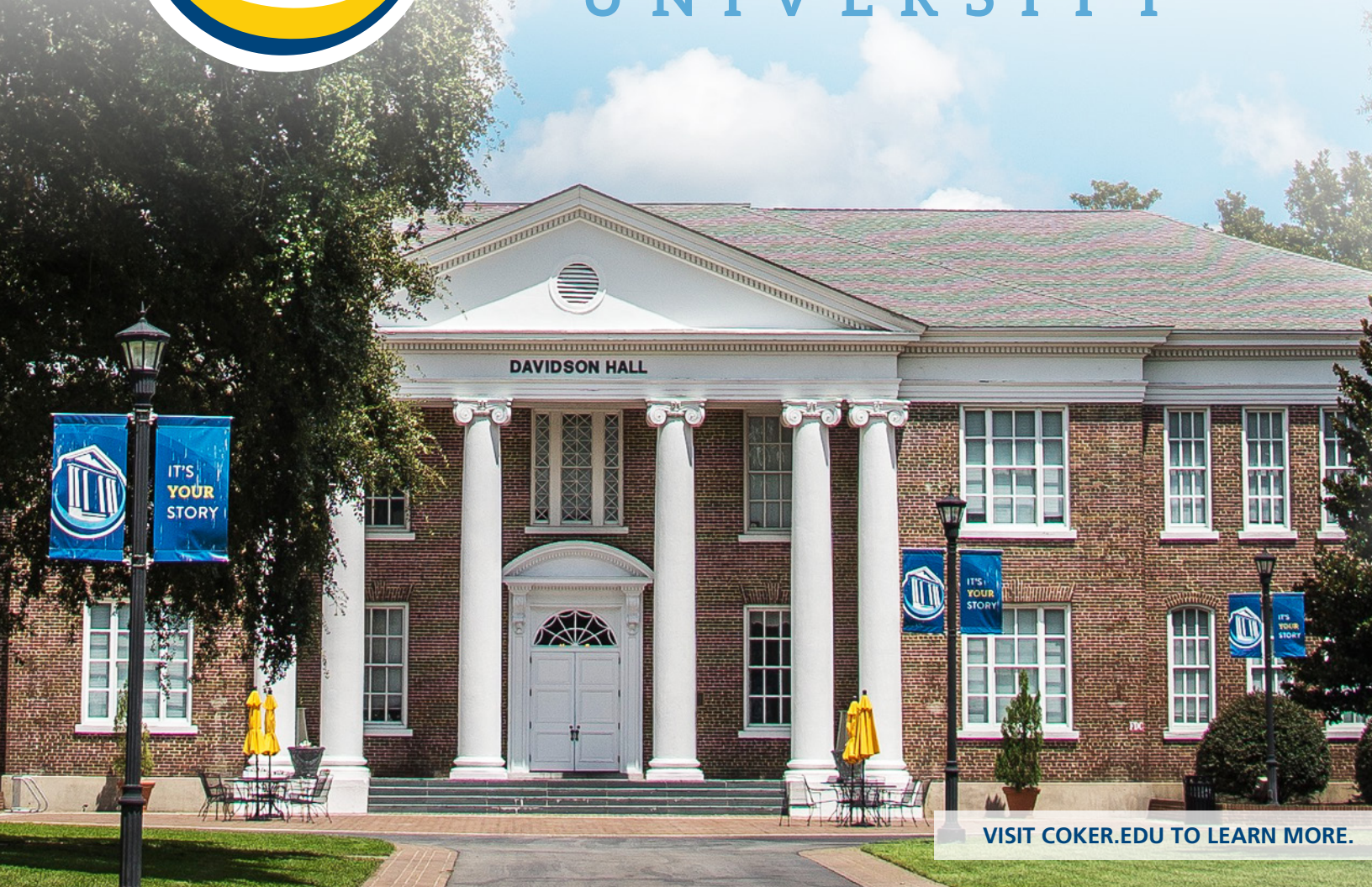




C O K E R

U N I V E R S I T Y



Inviting Applications and Nominations for

Vice President of Student Experience



COKER UNIVERSITY, a student-centered, private university in South Carolina, seeks a dynamic, data-driven recruitment and admissions administrator to serve as **VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT EXPERIENCE**. Reporting directly to the President, the Vice President of Student Experience has overall responsibility for creating a vibrant, innovative, and supportive experience for those engaged with the division from applicant to graduate.



OUR MISSION

Coker University is a student-focused, comprehensive university. It is dedicated to providing every student an academic curriculum based upon a uniformly excellent liberal arts core that enhances the structured development of key personal skills. The University's goal is to graduate students with the ability to think analytically and creatively, and to write and speak effectively. Experiences both in and out of the classroom are focused on active student involvement and the practical application of academic knowledge that lead to lifelong learning. Coker measures its success by the personal and professional accomplishments enjoyed by all members of the academic community.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Coker University is ranked among the Best Colleges in the South by *U.S. News & World Report* as well as *The Princeton Review*. The University was also recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best colleges in the South for advancing the social mobility of their graduates.

Founded in 1908, Coker's campus is in downtown Hartsville, South Carolina, and covers 15 acres of beautiful grounds and Georgian-style buildings, several of which are in the National Register of Historic Places. Iconic Davidson Hall, built in 1910, is both the literal and physical heart of campus.

Coker is a close-knit, supportive community. With an average class size of 14, the Coker experience is about actively creating the college story that is tailored to the needs of students. Both faculty and staff are committed to preparing students with the confidence and practical life skills they need to reach their personal best in college and beyond.

While students from South Carolina comprise approximately 70% of Coker's approximately 1,000-member student body, there are students from 31 states and 19 nations. The student population is 56% percent female and 22% percent African American.

Among Coker's 52 full-time faculty members, more than 83% hold a doctorate or the highest equivalent degree in their field. With a student to-faculty ratio of 12:1, faculty members are both educators and mentors to their students.

Coker offers bachelor's and master's degree programs, with a well-rounded liberal arts education founded on hands-on experience. Its signature round table learning brings students and professors together in small groups for discussion and exploration. The traditional undergraduate program has more than 30 areas of study as well as the option through Coker's Interdisciplinary Studies program to design a course of study to meet a special goal.

In Fall 2022, the University welcomed its first cohort for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. At the recent annual meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), Coker received approval to offer an online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, the first doctoral program in University history. Coker is accepting applications for the inaugural DNP class, which starts in August 2023.

Additional undergraduate nursing programs at Coker include two BSN completion programs for nurses with an associate degree in nursing or for healthcare workers, such as licensed practical nurses (LPN), paramedics, and military veterans with experiential credit. At the graduate level, the University offers the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree, including a RN to MSN program for nurses with an associate nursing degree and an MSN degree with an emphasis in education or leadership, all taught online. Two additional graduate programs will begin in Fall 2023 an Entry to Practice MSN and a third track in the MSN program in mental health counseling.

The University offers three additional master's degrees online in Management and Leadership, Sports Administration, and Curriculum and Instructional Technology.

For technical school graduates seeking to further their education, Coker has 2+2 agreements with six regional technical colleges that provide students who have earned an associate degree a seamless pathway to completing a bachelor's degree at the University. All graduates from partnering institutions receive a \$2,000-a-year scholarship for up to three years, and each student is assigned a student success coach to help them navigate life as a Coker student.

Beyond the classroom, students have opportunities to find their niche, get involved, and become leaders. More than 15 student organizations offer everything from intramurals to choral groups to a croquet club. The Sory Boathouse and Clubhouse provides students with access to Prestwood Lake. Kalmia Gardens, Coker's nearby 30-acre botanical gardens, is perfect for hiking, studying, and enjoying outdoor recreation.

The Coker Cobras compete in 24 NCAA Division II intercollegiate sports as a member of the South Atlantic Conference. The campus includes a 22-acre complex for outdoor sports and the state-of-the-art DeLoach Center features a 1,908-seat gymnasium, an auxiliary gym, interactive classrooms, a student-athlete only weight room, a fitness center, athletic offices, and more.



Coker Strategic Plan 2021-2025

In May of 2021, Coker University formally launched its new strategic plan to ensure that it continues to educate, innovate, and prepare future generations for the opportunities ahead. With this strategic plan as its guide, Coker University is focused on its future, prioritizing those actions and investments that are most relevant and accessible for students, while providing Coker alumni with even stronger paths to success. Coker is committed to meeting the changing needs of its students and community.

Learn more about the plan at <https://www.coker.edu/strategic-plan/>





THE OPPORTUNITY

The **Vice President of Student Experience (VPSE)** is the chief student experience officer at Coker University and is an invaluable part of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). With excellence and integrity, the VPSE is charged with providing leadership, management, and supervision for student experience programs, student engagement, student financial aid, recruiting and retention, enrollment management, residential life, career services, and overall student needs outside of the classroom.

The successful candidate will have comprehensive knowledge and experience in planning and executing student experience and student development programs and is able to provide demonstrated leadership in evaluating and ensuring quality in all aspects of student experiences, student development, and enrollment management programs. In addition, successful candidates will have a work history where they developed and implemented student experience policies, procedures, and practices that fostered and promoted student learning and student success and supported the educational programs of an institution.

To meet the strategic goals of Coker University, the VPSE develops, fosters, and promotes new opportunities for partnerships with public and private sector entities. The VPSE also provides leadership for establishing multi-year tactical and annual operational goals, including improvement in the recruitment and retention of students.

This position requires the kind of teamwork, supervision, and personal interaction that cannot be had in a home office situation; therefore, regular and predictable on-site attendance is a job requirement.

A commitment to the value of their peers on the executive leadership team is a must. Trust, honesty, respect, collaboration, inclusiveness, and transparency are non-negotiable qualities of the team and the next VPSE will not be successful without bringing these same qualities to Coker.

Responsibilities

- Provides leadership to ensure the University exhibits a comprehensive array of student experiences, student development programs that are focused on student success, and enrollment management programs, including, but not limited to, admissions, career planning and placement, recruiting and retention, registration and records, student discipline, student activities, intramural programs, student advocacy, experiences for students with special needs, cultural activities, grants management, and other student support experiences and programs.
- Plans, designs, develops, and delivers student programs and services that implement the goals of the University; provides leadership for evaluating and ensuring quality in all aspects of the University's student experience, student development, and enrollment management programs, and staff.

- Recommends, develops, and implements student experience policies, procedures and practices that foster and promote student learning and student success, and support the educational programs of the University; recommends organizational structures, personnel, and resources to ensure a student-centered / learner-centered environment at all levels; represents the University to various external entities and with outside agencies in matters relating to the University's student experience.
- Develops, fosters, and promotes new opportunities for partnerships with public and private sector entities; provides leadership for establishing multi-year tactical and annual operational goals designed to implement the strategic goals of the University; assumes responsibility for other University affairs and matters at the discretion of the President.
- Provides leadership and guidance for the recruitment and retention of students; actively recruits for the University and works to promote retention and student success.
- Assumes leadership and responsibility for establishing an environment supportive of the University's Standards of Service, which promotes respect for students, faculty, and staff and recognizes initiative and excellence.
- Prepares appropriate reports; analyzes and evaluates enrollment and retention data; projects student enrollment and retention data to be used in strategic decision making.
- Provides leadership for directing University-wide activities related to student due-process/judicial proceedings, including, but not limited to, writing appropriate policies and procedures, and conducting investigations and hearings on student judicial matters.
- Provides leadership in maintaining a student- and learner-centered philosophy and focus for student experience initiatives with a clear focus on successful student outcomes, including enrollment, program selection, retention, graduation, placement, and transfer success.
- Provides leadership and oversees the application of Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Campus Safety Office to ensure a safe and secure campus where all students have equal access to services.
- Maintains continuous evaluation of the economic feasibility of student experience to ensure that only those programs with appropriate priority in terms of need and demand are continued; participates in and supervises the preparation and recommendation of detailed budgets, with cost estimates, for functions supervised; establishes and maintains budgetary control of functions supervised.
- Supports University activities and special events through attendance and/or participation.
- Is a positive and active representative of the University and is available to address impromptu situations involving the University during non-traditional work hours.



- Maintains confidentiality of information exposed to during business regarding students, supervisors, or other employees.
- Pursue, develop, and manage appropriate grants.
- Contributes to a safe educational and working environment by participating in all drills and training and being prepared to act should a health or safety emergency occur.
- Is a tireless advocate for students and recognizes the value of student engagement.
- Performs all other duties necessary to accomplish the educational objectives of the University and/or as assigned by the President.

Required Minimum Qualifications

- A relevant master's degree and increasingly responsible management and supervisory experience in one or more areas of student experiences; or an equivalent combination of education and experience
- Knowledge of federal guidelines to maximize University policies and practices to best serve students
- Demonstrated understanding of and a commitment to the University mission and purpose, teaching and learning, high academic standards, and student success
- Evidence of increased enrollment or student success measures while managing a program, department, or division
- Knowledge and understanding of student development theory and programs
- Knowledge of student due process policies/procedures
- Knowledge and understand of the current issues and trends in student affairs, student experiences, and student development

- Knowledge and understanding of evaluation techniques and methods
- Skill in supervisory practices and techniques
- Strong computer skills; skills in technological support and delivery of student programs and services; knowledge and skill in the use of integrated software systems
- Familiarity/knowledge of mediation and/or conflict resolution strategies and methods
- Skill in establishing and maintaining collaborative working relationships with all segments of the University; ability to develop collaboration among diverse groups; creative problem-solving experience to lead and manage change
- Familiarity/knowledge of Title IX
- Ability to demonstrate the true belief that ethnically, culturally, and socially diverse student and colleague populations lead to better decision making.

Preferred Qualifications

- Relevant doctoral degree with a minimum of 10 years increasingly responsible management and supervisory experience in one or more areas of student experiences or an equivalent combination of education and experience with at least three years of experience at the Dean's level (or equivalent) or higher
- Demonstrated experience working with academic and athletic colleagues to use the assessment of student learning outcomes to change practices to improve outcomes
- Experience with strategic planning and implementation, resource development and allocation, personnel and faculty development, management, and initiation of change





Natalie Harder, Ph.D.

President of Coker University

Dr. Natalie Harder is Coker University's 17th president and its first female president. She joined Coker University in 2020 with over 12 years of executive leadership experience in higher education.

Previously, Dr. Harder served as Chancellor at South Louisiana Community College (SLCC) for eight years. During her tenure, she built a student-centered culture focused on support, engagement, and retention; expanded the college's network of community partnership; and grew enrollment from 6,100 students to over 18,000. Between 2012 and 2017, SLCC's graduation rate increased five-fold.

Prior to her appointment at SLCC, Dr. Harder served as Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, Virginia, and Executive Director of the Erie Community College Foundation in Buffalo, New York. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, SLCC, Old Dominion University, Patrick Henry Community College, and Ashford University.

Dr. Harder holds a B.A. degree in Economics from The State University of New York at Buffalo, a M.S. degree in Public Policy and Administration at The H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, and a Ph.D. in Community College Leadership at Old Dominion University.



Coker University, in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, marital status, veterans or military status, or against individuals with disabilities, or other legally protected classifications in the areas of employment, admission, financial aid or access to educational or extracurricular programs, activities, or facilities.



Hartsville, Small Town with a Big Heart

Located in South Carolina's northeast region, Hartsville is one of the most dynamic small towns in the South. Home to major industries, charming neighborhoods, and a vibrant downtown, the city of 7,700 residents has been recognized as an All-American City twice—1996 and 2016.

Downtown is a five-minute walk from the center of Coker's campus, making it convenient to enjoy delicious dishes and beverages of the restaurants and coffee shops, participate in the ongoing family-friendly activities and events, and shop at local stores. The weekend Farmer's Market offers not only fresh foods, but also time to visit with neighbors and friends.

Hartsville is a center of industry and education. Sonoco Products Company, a multinational corporation with 20,000 employees operating more than 300 plants across 33 countries, has been headquartered in Hartsville since its founding in 1899. In addition to the educational offerings of Coker, the city is home to the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, a public, boarding high school for students in grades 11 and 12, that concentrates on science and mathematics, but offers the full spectrum of the humanities as well.

Hartsville has mild falls and winters, averaging 69°F, allowing outdoor recreation year-around. When seeking fun adventures at some of the South's most popular destinations, Charlotte, Columbia, Charleston, and Myrtle Beach are all within a two-hour drive.

Application & Nomination Process

Confidential inquiries are welcomed, and nominations are invited.



Applications

1) Application packet must include:

- a) A letter of application that addresses the responsibilities and qualifications of the position
- b) Current résumé or curriculum vitae
- c) At least four references with full contact and e-mail information. (*References will not be contacted without applicant's consent.*)

2) Submit application (preferably as PDFs) to Coker-VPSE@myersmcræ.com by **July 6, 2023, for best consideration.** Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Additional information will be requested upon receipt of application.

Nominations

Submit nominations to Coker-VPSE-nominate@myersmcræ.com with complete contact and e-mail information for the individual being nominated.

Consultants

Jennifer Barfield, Executive Vice President, and **Emily Parker Myers**, CEO-Higher Education, of **Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting**, are conducting this search. To schedule a private conversation, e-mail your request to JenniferBarfield@MyersMcRae.com.