



**FORT VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  
EMPOWER *the* POSSIBLE.

INVITING APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS FOR  
**DEAN OF THE  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
EXECUTIVE SEARCH



FORT VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## EXECUTIVE SEARCH

**FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY (FVSU)**, a state and land-grant institution of the University System of Georgia, invites applications and nominations for the position of **Dean of the University College**. The university seeks an academic thought-leader with proven success in managing initiatives to achieve academic student success, strong retention, and increased graduation rates of students throughout the university. The start date will be **August 1, 2020**.

## The University

Located in Central Georgia, FVSU is a comprehensive institution offering 37 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. One of Georgia's three public HBCUs, FVSU is the state's only 1890 Land Grant Institution.

Paul A. Jones, Ph.D. has led the university as president since 2015. His higher education career spans more than three decades in leadership roles at colleges and universities in Colorado, Maryland, Utah, and Georgia.

FVSU offers undergraduate and graduate programs at its 1,365-acre main campus in Fort Valley, as well as online, and graduate programs at its Warner Robins Center.

FVSU advances its mission and educational goals through three academic colleges: Agriculture, Family Sciences, and Technology; Arts and Sciences; and Education and Professional Studies.

In fall 2019, FVSU enrolled 2,293 undergraduate and 331 graduate students. The university has the feel of a small, private college with the resources and research traditionally found at a large, public university.

Students benefit from strong mentoring by accessible professors. Of the 92 faculty members, 74 percent hold doctorates. The close-knit campus community encourages personal and academic growth and establishing lifelong ties that extend beyond graduation.

FVSU has repeatedly been recognized by multiple publications as the top public historically black college in Georgia, including *US News and World Report*, 2019 and *2020 Best Colleges* rankings, and the *Washington Monthly*, 2019.

In 2018, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* listed FVSU as a top 10 producer of African-Americans with bachelor's degrees in mathematics, engineering technology, family and consumer sciences, computer and information systems, psychology, and history in the state of Georgia.

The National Science Foundation provides more funding for science, technology, engineering, and math research at FVSU than at any other public teaching college in Georgia, putting it in the top 10 for NSF-funded STEM research among all colleges in the state.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY AT [WWW.FVSU.EDU](http://WWW.FVSU.EDU).



## The University College

The University College (UC) provides services and resources that support undergraduate students in their academic studies at FVSU from their first day until they graduate. Its core mission is to enable FVSU undergraduate students to be successful in their academic studies so they are able to graduate within four years.

Knowing the transition to university life can be challenging at times, the UC assists students in their acclimation to higher education by providing the foundational skills for student success. The UC collaborates with other academic, enrollment management, and student success units to assist students in acquiring the skills that enable them to graduate on time, as well as to be successful beyond graduation.

The UC challenges and supports students at the university until successful completion of the required 60-credit hours of general education courses. The services are coordinated through three offices: Academic Advisement and Tutorial Services, Academic Counseling and Disability Services, and Testing and Assessments.

The UC also provides academic support services through the federally funded TRIO Student Support Services Program. This program offers a broad range of support services, including tutoring; academic success skills, college, and personal development workshops; faculty and peer mentoring; assistance in securing admission to and financial aid for graduate studies; career guidance; and cultural exposure.

Another part of the UC is the Pre-College Academy, a five-week, intensive program designed to assist high school graduates in fortifying their skills in reading, writing, and mathematics so they can be admitted to FVSU. This program offers the opportunity to enter the university to students who, otherwise, might not receive admission.



### **T. RAMON STUART, Ph.D.**

*Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs*

Dr. T. Ramon Stuart joined FVSU in May of 2016 as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Since his arrival, Dr. Stuart has helped the university move forward in several ways. FVSU witnessed enrollment growth three of the past four years through a heightened focus on retention. This focus led to the creation of the University College, which was the impetus for FVSU leading all University System of Georgia institutions in the percentage of students who take 15 or more credit hours per semester; thus, also improving the overall graduation rate at FVSU.

Dr. Stuart is a student-centered academician who believes in the transformative impact that higher education can have on one's life. He works collaboratively with deans and others throughout the university to identify ways to provide access to a high-quality education at an affordable cost. This student-focused perspective drives Dr. Stuart to invest in student learning environments while bringing forward innovative degree programs that are attractive to students.

Dr. Stuart earned his doctorate in higher education administration from the Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education at Ohio University in Athens, OH. He earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. He is the recipient of numerous awards from various civic, fraternal, and professional organizations.



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## The Position

The Dean of the UC provides leadership in implementing comprehensive student academic assistance, student engagement, experiential learning, study abroad, first-year transition, and academic advising to facilitate the successful retention and progression of students.

The Dean reports to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, who assigns work in terms of departmental goals and objectives. Work is primarily reviewed through conferences, reports, generated data, and observations of department activities.

The Dean has five direct reports: Director of Academic Success Services, Director of TRIO Student Support Services, Director of Learning Support Services, Coordinator of the Honors Program, and the Coordinator of Study Abroad.

## Major Responsibilities

- Guiding the growth and academic development of students through the first- and second-year experience.
- Providing academic assistance to help students transition into junior and senior courses.
- Developing the agenda for the UC in relation to the strategic priorities of the university related to student success, engagement, transfer matriculation, and retention and graduation.
- Ensuring the overall mission of the UC is accomplished.
- Initiating and managing articulation agreements with community colleges that ensure successful transition and completion of transfer students.
- Administering the Title III activity that supports programs administered by the UC.
- Supervising staff who lead academic, student success and engagement programs and services in the areas of academic advising; study abroad; honors program; writing center; academic counseling and disability services; assessment and tutorial services; TRIO Student Support Services; and learning support.
- Overseeing the strategic planning, assessment, and evaluation of the UC's programs and services.
- Developing strategic relationships with the Office of Recruitment and Admissions, Academic Affairs, Student Success and Enrollment Management, Campus Life, Residence Life and Housing, Career Services, other academic colleges, and Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness to ensure that there is a seamless transition in student academic success.





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## Qualifications

Candidate must have an earned doctorate from a regionally accredited university and full-time teaching experience at an accredited institution with a minimum of five years in faculty rank. More than five years of related experience to the services of the University College (e.g., advising, academic mindset, educational research, program evaluation, retention, etc.) is required.

Additional requirements:

- Knowledge of student success and retention principles and practices.
- Knowledge of university policies and procedures.
- Knowledge of university personnel and budget management policies.
- Knowledge of higher education practices and standards.
- Knowledge of current and developing trends in student retention and success.
- Skill in the delegation of responsibility and authority.
- Skill in the operation of computers and job-related software programs.
- Skills in interpersonal relations and in dealing with the public.
- Skills in oral and written communication.

## Fort Valley

Fort Valley is a progressive city with an estimated population of 10,000. Located 90 minutes south of Atlanta on I-75, the city is the county seat of Peach County. Along with its quiet tree-lined streets and dozens of beautiful historical homes, the city has strong community involvement, a variety of recreational activities, and dynamic business practices.

Historically known as the Peach Capitol of the World, Fort Valley is the center of Georgia's largest peach producing area. Lane Packing Co. operates a sprawling peach packing and retail facility that has become a popular tourist attraction.

Blue Bird Corp., one of the nation's largest manufacturers of school buses, was founded in Fort Valley. The city is home to the company's main manufacturing facility, which employs more than 2,000 workers.



## Application and Nomination Process

Confidential inquiries are welcomed, and nominations are invited.

1. Application packet must include:
  - a) A letter of application that addresses the responsibilities and qualifications of the position;
  - b) Current curriculum vitae; and
  - c) At least five references with full contact information including emails. (References will not be contacted without consent from applicants.)

Additional information will be requested upon receipt of application.

2. Submit application packet to [FVSU-UC@myersmcrac.com](mailto:FVSU-UC@myersmcrac.com) (preferably as PDFs) by **June 11, 2020** for best consideration.

Submit nominations to [FVSU-UC-nominate@myersmcrac.com](mailto:FVSU-UC-nominate@myersmcrac.com) with complete contact and email information for the individual being nominated.

**Emily Parker Myers**, CEO, and **Jennifer Barfield**, Senior Vice President, of **Myers McRae Executive Search** are conducting this search.



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*Fort Valley State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate against applicants, students or employees on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or marital or veteran status.*

