# SEARCH SUMMARY:

PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS





#### **SEARCH SUMMARY**

The State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill (SUNY Cobleskill) is a public regional anchor institution of higher education devoted to serving students and external communities with an emphasis on experiential education. Drawing on a rich academic tradition that spans more than 100 years, our purpose remains constant: to be the premier College of Agriculture and Technology and remain relevant through our academic enterprise. Today, we accomplish this through our one Goal: To be a Thriving and Effective College, and the five pillars of our Strategic Plan (noted below). Fundamental to this mission is our core Liberal Arts and Sciences offerings and our robust general education program through which students develop critical thinking and communication skills and learn to apply creative methods and innovations in fields and issues associated with Agriculture and Technology. This work also includes securing the future of our local industries through education at every stage, while creating effective partnerships that enhance the quality of life in our region and beyond.

SUNY Cobleskill seeks a Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs to be a source of vision and inspiration for our academic community as we collectively work toward fulfilling our continued goal to be a thriving and effective College. The Provost/VPAA will join us at an exciting stage in the evolution of our history, in which we continue honoring the traditions upon which the institution was founded while leading innovative practices that will shape our future.

The Provost/VPAA reports to the President and, in partnership, will co-lead the College's continued transformation; with emphasis on faculty development, program innovation, and delivery within an Industry 4.0 ecosystem.

As the Chief Academic Officer, the Provost/VPAA is responsible for ensuring a vibrant academic enterprise. This includes educational policy, program and curriculum development, academic program review and improvement, accreditation and self-evaluation, assessment of student learning outcomes and advancement of student achievement, academic services, academic personnel decisions, enrollment focused academic schedule development, academic budget development, and the encouragement and improvement of teaching and learning.

With assistance from leadership across the campus dedicated to student and institutional success, and through the lens of our Strategic Plan, the Provost/VPAA cares for, supports, and supervises the following areas::

- Academic program excellence, relevance, revitalization, and development.
- Specialized student cohorts, including College in the High School, PTECH, articulation agreements, transfer support, and adult students.
- Student success and academic support services, including library, tutoring, advisement, AccessABILITY Resources, the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Honors, International Programs, Internships, and Registrar.
- Grants, Continuing Education, Industry and Community Partnerships/Institute for Rural Vitality.
- Faculty and academic staff well-being, including selection, mentoring, training, evaluation, promotion, and tenure.
- Online education continuity and expansion.

The expected start date of the appointment is Summer 2023.

## SUNY Cobleskill's Strategic Plan to Sustain a Thriving and Effective College

#### I. Fulfilling our Vision

- Determining and implementing a contemporary institutional structure for forward-thinking presentation of ourselves to internal and external audiences
- Developing an institution-wide branding campaign and narrative that reflects the vision, mission and values

#### II. Honoring our Mission

• Maximizing learner access, progression and success

#### III. Living our Values

• Creating greater opportunities for diversity, inclusion, belonging and community – to be "One Coby"

#### IV. Achieving Operational Excellence

- Achieving fiscal and operational sustainability
- Being a great place to work

## V. Strengthening Vibrant Community Partnerships

- Fostering effective partnerships that will have an impact on economic and human capacity within and beyond our local community
- Creating global citizens

## YOUR ROLE WITHIN THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Provost/VPAA will perform duties to ensure that our academic enterprise remains relevant, fosters fulfillment of our mission and vision, and sustains a culture of inclusion and belonging through our Strategic Plan. We believe that accomplishing our goal of being a thriving and effective college requires a paradigm that allows for both adaptation and innovation within an evolving context. Our academic structure, based on an ecosystem model, provides us with a framework to advance our role as a regional anchor institution while imparting contextualized direction through collaborative processes ("Blue Ocean Strategy," niche market analyses, etc.) that will ensure our programs keep pace with the ever-changing socio-economic and environmental demands of the future.

#### I. Fulfilling Our Vision

#### **SUNY Cobleskill Vision Statement**

As the premier educational institution of agriculture and technology, SUNY Cobleskill calls all learners to grow, to sustain and to renew the world and its citizens.

We continue to be guided by our founding vision: "Education is the hope of the world...If our young men and women are to grow quality in their lives they must learn to direct their own thinking, their own wanting, and their own doing." (1921 College Catalog)

Responsibilities of the Provost/VPAA

- Enhance flexibility within academic offerings, including online, hybrid, and accelerated programming to meet the demands of a diverse and geographically dispersed student body
- Lead efforts to increase student retention and graduation rates by strengthening academic advisement, identifying, analyzing, and removing roadblocks, and developing programs for at-risk students
- Enhance the use of technology in teaching and learning
- Align faculty growth and development opportunities to foster their vital role and responsibilities in the academic enterprise

#### II. Honoring Our Mission

#### **SUNY Cobleskill Mission Statement**

SUNY Cobleskill sets the standard for applied education that extends theory into practice. We cultivate our students to positively affect the cultural, economic, natural and technological forces in their lives.

In pursuit of our mission we strive to honor our history, teach by doing, forge pathways for success, think globally and across disciplines, cultivate sustainability, embrace and support our community, and promote personal growth.

Responsibilities of the Provost/VPAA

- Embrace and promote the unique distinction of the College's mission and identity as seen through our name as the College of Agriculture and Technology.
- Build and oversee a vibrant market-focused academic enterprise that offers programs that are academically sound and attractive to students.
- Create pathways for student success, meeting students where they are, and building and overseeing supports to facilitate student success in college and career.
- Lead efforts to continuously assess and improve academic programs and services.
- Lead the development of new credentials, certificates, associate, baccalaureate, and potential master's degree programs. Assemble the resources necessary to develop and launch new academic programs by bringing market research, curriculum development, instructional design, streamlined processes, and other necessary resources together to assist faculty with expedited program approval.
- Oversee recruitment, development, and retention of highquality faculty and academic staff.



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### III. Living Our Values

#### **SUNY Cobleskill Values Statement**

SUNY Cobleskill is a campus community characterized by empathy, inclusivity, respect, personal growth, integrity, and a collaborative spirit fostering well-being and sustainable practices. We recognize and celebrate student, faculty and staff achievements. We take pride in our campus and encourage collaboration with our surrounding communities.

Responsibilities of the Provost/VPAA

- Lead with integrity and honor the tenets of shared governance
- Work to create an atmosphere of trust and respect that fosters success of faculty, staff, administrators, and students
- Ensure the integrity and viability of the College's curriculum
- Model and cultivate a climate of mutual respect, civility, empathy, and inclusive behavior on campus

#### IV. Achieving Operational Excellence

SUNY Cobleskill is setting the standard as a public regional educational enterprise that embraces our evolving role in preparing future-ready learners and as a lead player in creating an innovation ecosystem that will elevate community well-being and provide industry with needed technology and expertise. This College held this role at its inception over 100 years ago and is transforming our current niche to take that role again.

Responsibilities of the Provost/VPAA

- Identify resource needs and curriculum revisions required to maintain successful programs as well as new and ongoing program and curriculum development while confirming that programs are current and designed to ensure student success in employment and/or transfer
- Ensure compliance with accreditation, SUNY, SED, NYS and other governing standards and regulations. Serve as the Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO), the primary contact with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education

(MSCHE) staff and a resource to the institution on MSCHE accreditation issues.

- Maximize available resources to create, maintain and promote an environment of academic excellence.
- Lead efforts to obtain grant funding to enhance programming
- Maintain a focus on revenue generation, partnering with senior leadership to increase enrollment and retention. Lead efforts to develop new academic offerings, new audiences, and new revenue-generating opportunities
  - Oversee responsible spending and budgeting and optimize the use of the College's financial, human, physical, and material resources.
  - Propel high-quality and effective student-centered supports and service

#### V. Strengthening Vibrant Community Partnerships

An educated workforce is essential for building an economically vibrant community replete with high-wage job opportunities. SUNY Cobleskill focuses on creating effective partnerships that enhance the quality of life in the region and generate opportunities for advancements in agriculture and technology, leading to more jobs in the Mohawk Valley. The College has the capacity to mobilize its human and physical resources through engaging activities that generate these outcomes. These connections between employers and students are vital for career-focused programs in agriculture and technology.

Responsibilities of the Provost/VPAA

- that programs are current and designed to ensure student success in employment and/or transfer

  Foster partnerships to support the community, the College, and its academic programs
  - Serve as chief administrative officer for the College in the President's absence.

## YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

**Education:** Earned doctorate from an accredited institution.

**Experience and Skills:** At least seven years of progressively responsible management experience with demonstrable

evidence of meeting and/or exceeding the goals and mission of an institution of higher education.

Experience in a tenured or tenure-eligible position, at the associate professor level or higher.

A strong commitment to teaching, service, scholarly research activities, academic values, and the passion for advocating for these values.

An understanding and appreciation of the liberal arts and sciences and the critical core role of general education.

Demonstrated leadership and management skills. Excellent organizational, interpersonal, human relations, financial management, oral and written communications, analytical and team-building skills.

An entrepreneurial and innovative mindset with experience in successfully launching new programs and initiatives.

Demonstrated success in leading change and fostering interdisciplinary and cross-departmental collaboration and consultation, including experience developing a culture of student service.

An unwavering commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Experience working effectively with shared governance structures and/or other leadership teams.

### **YOUR TEAM**

The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs works closely with all members of the President's Cabinet, senior leadership, and campus governance.

#### Dr. Marion A. Terenzio

President

#### Derwin Bennett

Chief Diversity Officer

## Dr. Illona Gillette-Ferguson

Presiding Officer of the Faculty

#### Wendy Gilman

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration

#### Dr. Anne Hopkins Gross

Vice President for Student Development

#### Gus McGiver

Chief of Staff

## Anna Miarka-Grzelak

Vice President for Strategic Enrollment and Innovation

#### John J. Zacharek

Vice President for Development



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#### **Equal Opportunity Employment**

SUNY Cobleskill is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity educational institution. It is guided by the principle that equal opportunity means more than equal employment opportunity, and that access to facilities and services shall be available to all people regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation. This principle is applicable to every member of the SUNY Cobleskill community, both students and employed personnel at every level, and to all facilities and services.

Cobleskill employs United States citizens and persons lawfully authorized to work in the United States. All qualified individuals are encouraged to apply.

#### **Diversity Statement**

SUNY Cobleskill is committed to creating a community of practice that fosters the exchange of ideas in a respectful and non-threatening way, and creates better understanding, awareness, and opportunities to learn from each other.

We reject bigotry, hateful speech, oppression, harassment, bullying, and all forms of injustice.

We believe in the inherent dignity of each person. We value fairness, civility, and kindness. We listen to, encourage, and support each other. We seek to instill in our faculty, staff and students a lifelong appreciation for the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion so that we can create a better world.

## To apply, please visit www.cobleskill.edu





