



## Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

Suffolk University, one of the nation’s most vibrant urban institutions of higher education, invites applications, expressions of interest, and nominations of candidates in its search for its next dean of the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS). Suffolk seeks an experienced and innovative academic leader who will collaboratively advance the goals of the college in concert with the university’s strategic plan and long-term aims. The new dean will begin in the summer of 2022.

### ABOUT SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

Suffolk is a thriving private university of 6,830 undergraduate and graduate students who are taught and mentored by more than 370 full-time and 250 part-time dedicated and gifted faculty. Suffolk offers a wide range of undergraduate, graduate, and law degree programs with real-world experience at their cores. Since its founding in 1906, Suffolk has been woven into Boston's thriving metropolitan landscape, offering an immersive environment in which to live, learn, and explore. It is the ideal location to provide students with the keys to successful lives and careers: access, opportunity, and experience.

Suffolk University’s founding and continuing mission has been to combine academic excellence with access to education, serving those denied educational opportunity by virtue of social class, culture, nationality, religion, or income. Suffolk grew from humble beginnings more than a century ago in the Roxbury parlor of Gleason L. Archer, a young lawyer who had worked his way through high school and college. Archer believed that the growing waves of immigrants arriving in America at that time should be given the educational opportunities that were then reserved for the wealthy few. In 1906, Archer founded Suffolk Law, a night school established to “serve ambitious young men who are obliged to work for a living while studying law.” The commitment to opening doors to people from all walks of life has remained core to Suffolk’s mission as it has grown into a major urban university with campuses in Boston and Madrid. As it has since its founding, the university continues to open doors and offer life-changing opportunities to students of all backgrounds.

Suffolk degree programs and course offerings break through traditional boundaries. An interdisciplinary approach reflects the complex world into which students graduate, and Suffolk’s programs are constantly calibrated to meet the evolving needs of employers. The university plays a critical role in the regional economy by using its innovative, experiential programs to connect students from diverse backgrounds with businesses, nonprofits, and government entities. Within months of receiving their undergraduate degrees, 95 percent of 2021 Suffolk graduates were employed or in graduate school. The vast majority of working graduates were employed in positions related to their career aspirations. Even with more than 60 undergraduate programs and 50-plus graduate programs, Suffolk’s small class sizes forge close connections between students and the faculty who are actively engaged in their success. Suffolk’s faculty members are more than teachers. They are mentors who collaborate closely with each student, helping them to develop their knowledge and potential, and they are scholars committed to using their research and expertise to advance the knowledge in their fields and the discourse in their classrooms.

## MISSION, VISION, AND STRATEGY

### Mission Statement

*At Suffolk University we are driven by the power of education, inclusion, and engagement to change lives and positively impact communities. Committed to excellence, we provide students with experiential and transformational learning opportunities that begin in the center of Boston, reach across the globe, and lead to extraordinary outcomes for our graduates.*

### Vision

*Suffolk University will be a leader in experiential learning, known nationally and internationally for excellence in providing students access to real-world and global learning opportunities through outstanding academic and co-curricular programs and partnerships that take full advantage of our borderless, urban campuses in Boston and Madrid.*

*We will advance our mission by ensuring that our students gain the core competencies needed to build successful careers in a rapidly changing world. A sharp focus on preparing students and alumni for lifelong career and community success will put Suffolk at the forefront of career education efforts at colleges and universities nationwide.*

### Strategic Plan

[Suffolk 2025](#) is the strategic plan that is guiding Suffolk in its decision-making and focus over the next several years. At the heart of the plan are three key areas of university-wide focus and commitment:

- Integrated Education;
- Building Community and Partnerships; and
- Enhancing Reputation and Reach.

Suffolk has undertaken many initiatives over the past few years to work towards these goals, and even in the midst of the pandemic, progress has continued at an impressive pace.

## RECOGNIZED EXCELLENCE

The strength of Suffolk University is recognized across the country and around the world in a variety of ways, including:

- The Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification; Suffolk was one of 119 institutions nationwide that received this classification in 2020.
- *U.S. News & World Report's* 2022 Best Colleges lists Suffolk University as 34<sup>th</sup> out of 175 Regional Universities in the North Region.
- *U.S. News & World Report's* 2022 Best Law School rankings rate the Suffolk Law programs among the nation's best, with Legal Writing at No. 4, Trial Advocacy at No. 24, Dispute Resolution at No. 32, and Clinical Programs at No. 14.
- *The Wall Street Journal* 2022 ranks Suffolk University 327<sup>th</sup> out of 796 among "Top U.S. Colleges."
- The Princeton Review's 2022 edition of *The Best 387 Colleges*.

## BOSTON – A CITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Suffolk's downtown Boston location offers students unparalleled access to internships, job experiences, and professional networks that are critical to career success. Nearly 70 percent of undergraduates complete an internship at companies and organizations like General Electric, Fidelity Investments,

Brigham and Women’s Hospital, the Boston Red Sox, The Boston Globe, Hill Holliday, the Massachusetts State House, HubSpot, and scores of other employers. The experience Suffolk students gain both inside and outside of the classroom gives them a tremendous advantage in the marketplace.

More than 100 campus clubs and organizations, as well as Suffolk’s 19 NCAA Division III sports teams, also benefit from an urban environment that dramatically broadens the options for social interaction, leadership development, educational enrichment, and just plain fun. Suffolk students hone teamwork skills while sailing on Boston Harbor, connect with tech leaders while touring Google’s Cambridge campus, and find creative inspiration at local readings and theatre performances, along with hundreds of other activities.

## **A TRADITION OF SERVICE**

Suffolk students log about 30,000 hours of community service each year. Social responsibility and community engagement are among the core values of Suffolk University today, as they have been since the university was established more than a century ago. Students experience firsthand the transformative power of service in their own lives and in the community through our Center for Community Engagement’s service learning and volunteer opportunities, and the Law School’s legal clinics and pro bono efforts. This institutional focus on community engagement has earned Suffolk University the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching’s Community Engagement Classification, the gold standard for community engagement.

## **GLOBAL REACH**

Students on Suffolk’s downtown Boston campus make up a vibrant mosaic, hailing from countries around the world. In recent years, over 20 percent of Suffolk’s students are international. That diversity of backgrounds and perspectives makes the Suffolk educational experience richer and deeper for each of its students. Moreover, the Suffolk curriculum emphasizes global perspectives: Students at all three schools study abroad through global travel seminars, internships, faculty led programs, and summer- or semester-long programs with partner institutions. First-year students may begin their Suffolk journey by studying for a year or two at Suffolk’s Madrid campus. An international emphasis in Boston, Madrid, and international programs around the world fosters an expansive outlook that builds a strong foundation for success in an increasingly interconnected world.

## **DEDICATED COMMUNITY**

Suffolk University graduates make extraordinary contributions to the life of Boston, the Commonwealth, the region, and the world. They share a desire to use their education and skills to make a difference—not just in their own lives, but also in the lives of others. Suffolk University’s alumni community is more than 80,000 strong and extends to 144 countries worldwide. Graduates are leaders in business and government, law, and the arts. They include hundreds of active judges, leaders in state government, corporate CEOs, and partners in law firms. Internationally, the university has thousands of alumni making a difference in their home countries. This group gives back to students through internships, mentoring, and their financial commitment to the university. Alumni boards and leaders are active in the life of the university and dedicated to its success.

## **UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP**

**President Marisa J. Kelly** is creating positive momentum for Suffolk University through her explicit focus on academic quality, global reach, diversity and inclusion, reputation, advancement, and enrollment—all of which she sees as contributing to an outstanding student experience. Kelly was named Suffolk’s permanent president in March 2018 after guiding the university as acting president for 20 months. Her leadership accomplishments are both concrete—shattering fundraising goals, adopting innovative

curricula, embracing best practices in governance—and more subtle—fostering an environment of inclusion and instilling confidence in students, faculty, and staff. At a time of changing demographics, Suffolk is seeing positive enrollment trends under Kelly’s leadership. And her focus on financial management, local and international partnerships, and academic excellence are yielding positive trends for the university and enhancing the educational environment.

President Kelly joined Suffolk University as senior vice president for academic affairs and provost in August 2014, with responsibility for working collaboratively to ensure the quality of the educational experience for students at all levels, in and outside of the classroom. In that role Kelly distinguished herself on the senior leadership team and demonstrated her commitment to experiential learning and the development of interdisciplinary educational opportunities. Kelly, whose academic discipline is political science, has a distinguished record of collaborative academic leadership. Before joining Suffolk she served as provost at Ithaca College, dean and McQuinn Distinguished Chair of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of St. Thomas, Minn., and spent 12 years as a faculty member and administrator at University of the Pacific in Stockton, California.

**Provost Julie H. Sandell** oversees the academic enterprise and academic personnel at Suffolk University; she is focused on creating opportunities for students and faculty to excel academically and professionally. She works closely with the deans of the College of Arts & Sciences, the Law School, and the Sawyer Business School to shape and support an evolving student-centered experience that fosters engaged learning, rigorous scholarship, and innovative thinking. In her role as Suffolk’s chief academic officer, her work helps to ensure that Suffolk’s emphasis on experiential learning, career readiness, community engagement, and global perspectives are well integrated into the student experience and supported in ways that maximize student success. Much of her work supports the Suffolk 2025 Strategic Plan, including the university’s investments in career education, professional development, and expansion of cross-disciplinary partnerships at the university. Additionally, Provost Sandell oversees many key departments and services, and her office coordinates the university’s accreditation process.

Provost Sandell holds an AB in Psychology from Princeton University and a PhD in Neuroscience from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She came to Suffolk from Boston University, where she served as senior associate provost and a member of the BU School of Medicine faculty. As a faculty member, Sandell was awarded the BU School of Medicine’s highest teaching award in 2001 and was nominated as one of that school’s Educators of the Year eight times. She has published widely and has received more than \$5 million in research funding as principal investigator or coinvestigator at BU. In her administrative role at BU, Sandell oversaw faculty recruitment, compensation, promotion and tenure, diversity initiatives, work/life balance, and more. She worked to develop and implement BU’s first university-wide strategic plan, paving the way for one of her responsibilities at Suffolk: collaborating with colleagues to implement the university’s 2025 strategic plan.

## **ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

The CAS offers programs in the arts, humanities, social sciences, mathematics, and natural sciences, establishing broad-based learning as the foundation of a Suffolk education. CAS has as its credo that liberal learning prepares students of all ages and backgrounds to live more fulfilling lives, to appreciate and contribute to the communities of which they are members, and to reach their ethical, personal, intellectual and financial goals. To help its students optimize their potential, the college emphasizes critical and analytical thinking through a rigorous “success skills” undergraduate core program in written and oral communication, computing, analysis and integration. Faculty scholarship supports diversified liberal arts concentrations available in the humanities, the natural sciences and the social sciences, along with graduate programs in several fields, most offering career-related professional program tracks and practical experience on or off campus.

Suffolk's curriculum allows students the time to explore minor programs that reflect their personal interests and talents while helping them develop specialized knowledge and skills. Students find many opportunities to combine their academic interests with hands-on experience through internships, service learning, and a broad range of extracurricular activities.

Suffolk's College of Arts & Sciences provides a challenging, high-quality education to 2,783 students studying across the arts and sciences. Within CAS, there are 303 full-time and part-time faculty members deeply engaged in the teaching and mentoring of students as well as in scholarship and service to the college. The 48 full-time staff members are true partners in the academic enterprise and support these efforts.

The CAS programs include a wide array of undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs in the following academic areas:

- Art and Design
- Advertising/Public Relations
- Biology
- Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Computer Science
- Communications/Journalism/Media
- Center for Urban Ecology/Sustainability
- Economics
- Education
- English
- Political Science
- History
- Mathematics
- Paralegal Studies
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Radiation Science
- Theatre
- World Language and Cultural Studies

The CAS has an honors program with more than 650 students, numerous study-abroad opportunities, including at Suffolk University's campus in Madrid, and is home to a rich array of scholarly centers and institutes that include:

- The [Center for Restorative Justice](#) sponsors and participates in a variety of events designed to foster constructive, creative dialogue about current and potential applications of restorative justice.
- The [Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability \(CUES\)](#) brings together science, business, social sciences, and the arts to tackle some of the most critical environmental issues of the 21st century.

- The [Center for Women's Health and Human Rights \(CWHHR\)](#) at Suffolk University is the first academic institute in the United States to focus on women's health and human rights in the social sciences, arts and humanities, and public policy.

The CAS community has strong ties and active roles in University-wide centers and academic organizations including:

- The [Ford Hall Forum](#) is the nation's oldest free, public, lecture series. Its mission is to foster an informed and effective citizenry and to promote freedom of speech through public presentation of lectures, debates, and discussions.
- The [Suffolk University Poetry Center](#), located in a dedicated room of the new Mildred Sawyer Library, encourages and supports the study and practice of poetry and related creative writing among students.
- The [Suffolk University Political Research Center](#), established in 2002, conducts statewide polls and bellwether survey analyses in Massachusetts, other states, and nationally.
- The [Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies](#), an endowed center established to support and strengthen Asian Studies at Suffolk.
- The [Suffolk University Gallery](#) which exhibits work from the Art & Design Department's students and faculty, as well as curated thematic exhibitions by professional artists and accompanying educational programming.

For more information about the offerings and activities at CAS, please see the website at [www.suffolk.edu/cas](http://www.suffolk.edu/cas).

## **AGENDA FOR LEADERSHIP**

The dean of CAS serves as the senior academic administrator of the college and reports to Provost Sandell. The dean is responsible for the effective leadership, administrative oversight, resource allocation and management related to the delivery of programs and the oversight of scholarly activities and service. The dean oversees an operating budget of \$28M and works closely with the associate dean, the assistant deans, department chairs, and administrative staff members to strengthen teaching and scholarship in every program. Working within the broader parameters of university-wide strategic priorities, the next dean will embrace the following agenda for leadership:

### **Provide Vision and Strategic Direction**

The next dean will partner closely with Provost Sandell and other deans to provide vision and strategic direction in alignment with the Suffolk 2025 strategic plan regarding the academic enterprise and future opportunities for CAS. The dean will collaborate with the faculty, staff, and other college constituents to create a strategic direction that focuses on building its identity and reputation, weaving together the diverse array of disciplines represented, fostering collaboration and synergy amongst departments within the college as well as with all of Suffolk, growing financial resources, and building upon the already strong partnerships that exist to support the work of the college. The dean will be a strong advocate for the college, ensuring that faculty and staff have the resources and professional development opportunities to help them continue to thrive in their service to Suffolk's students.

### **Focus on Enrollment Management Priorities**

The dean will focus on issues related to college enrollment, and will facilitate program growth and design, as well as ensure the current offerings remain strong and competitive. The dean will be innovative and entrepreneurial, ensuring that the programs offered at the undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education levels have a broad and global reach, appeal to and meet the needs of students, and utilize an

appropriate variety of curriculum delivery modes to ensure the greatest potential for success. The dean will maintain a strong focus on issues of retention, student success, experiential learning, and career readiness.

### **Champion Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access**

The dean will be deeply committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access and will approach matters through this lens. Founded on a mission of access and opportunity for all, Suffolk University is guided by the core tenets of diversity and inclusion, and seeks to create a campus that is open, respectful, and equitable and where the multilayered identities of each member are supported and celebrated. The dean will foster a curriculum that trains students to work in a diverse workplace. The dean will be a vocal champion for this continuous approach and effort within CAS and will work collaboratively with students, faculty, and staff to identify additional areas of focus for college leadership.

### **Build Resources through Philanthropy, Grants, and Partnerships**

The Dean will work closely with the university advancement team to build resources for CAS, both through philanthropy and grants. The Dean will proactively engage in fundraising by seeking philanthropic support from stakeholders, including alumni, foundations, corporations, and the local community. The dean will also enhance the culture of grant seeking that exists at Suffolk to further advance the work of CAS. Taking advantage of Suffolk's location in the heart of Boston, the dean will seek to increase mutually beneficial collaborations and academic partnerships with business, government, the legal community, nonprofits, healthcare entities, and the tech industry.

### **Foster Collaboration and Interdisciplinary Scholarship**

The dean works closely with CAS's faculty and staff to deliver and support a student-centered experience that fosters engaged learning, rigorous scholarship, creative thinking, and community collaboration across the various departments at the college, as well with the Sawyer Business School and the Suffolk University Law School. CAS students readily pursue double-majors in a CAS discipline and the business school and have access to a popular undergraduate law degree through close ties between CAS and the Suffolk University Law School. The dean will be intentional about enhancing this culture of collaboration and will work with the faculty of CAS, as well as with the other Suffolk deans, to think creatively and strategically about interdisciplinary program development at all levels.

### **Build Community and Cohesion**

The dean will have a positive, engaging, and influential presence at CAS. Supporting faculty and staff by honoring their central and significant contributions to the college will be crucial for the new dean. The dean will foster an intellectual climate with mentoring and developmental opportunities that will both attract and retain excellent faculty and staff members. The dean will hold a deep appreciation for the principles of shared governance and a genuine interest in the collaborations among students, faculty, and staff. The dean's ability to ask thoughtful and strategic questions, listen carefully, shape discourse, lead the community through points of difference, and foster collegiality is of paramount importance. Modeling and encouraging transparent decision-making, empowering others, and being consistently inclusive in approach will build cohesion and cultivate shared trust.

## **DESIRED ATTRIBUTES FOR THE NEXT DEAN**

Suffolk seeks an accomplished leader who will inspire CAS's faculty, students, staff, alumni, and community partners. The next dean will possess a distinguished record that commands the respect of the scholarly community, a deep appreciation of shared governance, and a passion for Suffolk's educational mission. The CAS Dean Search Committee is eager to consider both academic and relevant professional pathways to the deanship.

The dean will bring a highly relational approach, outstanding communication skills, authenticity, self-confidence balanced with humility, integrity of the highest order, a strong work ethic, and a clear understanding of the modern university to the work. Additionally, the successful dean will be:

- a visionary and creative leader who will inspire and motivate others;
- someone who fosters synergies and brings an entrepreneurial and collaborative spirit to the work;
- well versed in enrollment management, demographic trends, and the importance of staying competitive in the current higher education climate;
- a student-centered educator with a commitment to the mission of Suffolk University;
- demonstrably interested in and capable of advancing fundraising and other resource development initiatives at CAS;
- deeply committed to fostering and supporting diversity, equity, inclusion, and access;
- a proven administrator with strong management skills and fiscal acumen;
- experienced and comfortable using data from multiple sources to inform strategy, program development, policy, and practice;
- fluent with technology that supports the delivery of educational curricula and programs;
- an inclusive decision-maker who builds consensus, prioritizes well, and communicates decisions with care;
- an empathetic listener and respectful communicator who is at ease in a multitude of settings with multiple constituencies; and
- a dynamic spokesperson for CAS who is able to represent the college effectively in local, regional, and national settings.

## NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

The Search Committee will begin reviewing candidates in Fall 2021 and will continue until the position is filled. Nominations and applications should be submitted electronically as soon as possible. Applications should include a letter of candidacy that responds to the agenda for leadership and the desired attributes for the new dean and a complete résumé or vita. All application materials will be considered in full confidence. Please send all nominations, inquiries, and applications, electronically to:



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