VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Opportunity:

North Park University in Chicago invites nominations and applications for the position of Vice President for Student Engagement. The University is seeking an innovative and effective team leader who will be a passionate champion of liberal arts and sciences education -- and who will embrace the distinctive role of North Park University, which is anchored in the Christian faith, is city-centered, and is thoroughly intercultural.

With the leadership of its President, Mary Karsten Surridge, and her senior leadership team, North Park University is opening an exciting new chapter in its distinguished history and envisions emerging as the model for Christian higher education in 21st Century America. Reporting directly to the President and serving as a member of her Cabinet, the Vice President for Student Engagement will be responsible for the strategic vision, direction and effectiveness of the University’s student development efforts. Specifically, the Vice President for Student Engagement will support the President’s leadership while providing vision, executive-level leadership and strategic planning for vibrant co-curricular learning on the university’s park-like campus in the world-class city of Chicago.

Department: Office of Student Engagement

Reports To: University President

Position Summary: Serve as the designated Chief Student Development Officer providing vision, executive-level leadership, strategic planning, oversight, and coordination of all student development departments including programming, policy development, support and empowerment to a dynamic, productive and accountable team which include the following four pillar areas:

- **Christian Life** (University Ministries includes the faith development of students, campus chapel and outreach)
- **Diversity and Intercultural Life**
- **Student Life** (residence life, health and counseling support services, student enrichment services and support, student activities, student care, parent and family relations, and student engagement and wellness)
- **Student Success** (advising, disability services, first year experience, career development and internships)

The vice president is responsible for the primary aspects of co-curricular learning for traditional age undergraduates, and adult undergraduates, encompassing both residential and commuter students. The vice president is a member of the university’s senior administrative leadership team and leads efforts across divisions to promote the retention of students, meeting or exceeding goals for retention at all levels.

**Essential Responsibilities:**

- This position works directly with the President in support of student distinctives, expressed through productive leadership and direction in the following areas of North Park’s identity in the student experience: Christian, City-centered and Intercultural student life on campus. The work of these pillars is summarized in these four areas:
  - fostering positive student development within a Christian community;
  - assuring that the university works to meet students’ physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs;
  - leading various efforts across departments and divisions in both setting and realizing goals for student retention by a variety of means;
  - maintaining student discipline through the development and implementation of clear, reasonable, and just disciplinary policies and procedures;
  - fostering a positive and enriching campus community for a diverse intercultural student population.

- This role will be filled by a dynamic individual with proven leadership skills to guide campus efforts to provide students with a transformative, inclusive and supportive living and learning experience.

- Work closely and engage effectively with the President, Board of Trustees, and other senior leaders to provide appropriate insight and direction on student engagement and retention theoretical frameworks.

- Lead a collaborative vision and planning effort to define clear direction and strategic goals for the division.

- Experienced higher education administrator with vision, energy, and interpersonal and leadership skills able to engage the University in achieving ambitious goals. The successful candidate will demonstrate:
  - Experience in creating, implementing and evaluating successful student development and support initiatives that promote student engagement and learning for all student populations.
  - Understanding of equity, access and inclusion concepts, issues, and best practices in higher education;
• Executive-level leadership, strategic planning, oversight and coordination of all student development departments including programming, policy development, personnel, student experience, and residential life.

• Leadership and guidance in implementing innovative, student-centered approaches to student success in curricular and co-curricular experiences. E.g. multicultural activities, student activities and events, student clubs and organizations, first-year experience and transition programming, student conduct, counseling, and retention-focused activities.

• Cultivate an integrated student life experience that contributes to the recruitment and retention of students by creating a welcoming, student centered, diverse and inclusive environment.

• Work collaboratively with the offices of: Enrollment and Marketing, Provost, Administration and Finance on matters related to student recruitment, persistence and retention.

• Display exemplary leadership skills with demonstrated ability to communicate well, build consensus and collaborate, solve problems, manage complex systems, and make decisions in a team environment.

• Provide the general leadership and vision for a collaborative team of professionals and paraprofessionals through the hiring, training and direct supervision of key administrators.

• Work closely with the Assistant Vice President of Human Resources as it relates to hiring, employee relations, personnel policies and protocols and accountability within those protocols.

• Oversee an annual budget. Provide a culture of accountability and closely supervise budget managers to direct and monitor spending within the established University policies.

**Essential Qualifications:**

- Committed to and an articulate supporter of the university’s mission, identity, and Christian faith commitment.
- Desire to and proven ability to meet, relate to and work with a diverse student population
- Master’s degree required; Doctorate preferred
- Minimum of 13 - 15 years of higher education administrative experience
- Successful evidence of campus leadership capacity
- Experience in leadership roles demonstrating progressively responsible management and supervisory experience in the areas mentioned above.
- Demonstrated knowledge of student development theory and a broad range of trends and best practices nationally in student development programs and services.

**Application Deadline:** April 10, 2020
NOTE: Nothing in this job description restricts the supervisor’s right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this job at any time.