

# ASPEN • LEADERSHIP • GROUP

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MAJOR GIFTS, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Coral Gables, Florida

<http://welcome.miami.edu>



The Aspen Leadership Group is proud to partner with the University of Miami (UM) in the search for an Executive Director, Major Gifts, College of Engineering.

A vibrant and diverse, private university focused on transforming lives through teaching, research and service, the University of Miami's Division of Development and Alumni Relations, in partnership with the College of Engineering, seeks a professional with leadership skills, exceptional work ethic, detail-oriented work habits, and with preferred experience in the major gifts fundraising profession for the position of Executive Director, Major Gifts.

The Executive Director will join a diverse and high skilled growing team as the university enters into a billion dollar plus campaign and will work with the Associate Vice President of Alumni Relations and Individual Giving and the Dean of the College of Engineering to develop and implement key campaign fundraising and Alumni Relations strategies for the college and guide the fundraising program. The Executive Director will be an integral part of the leadership team for the College of Engineering and will serve on the Dean's senior management team. The Executive Director will oversee an Associate Development Director and a Donor Relations Manager.

A private research university with more than 16,000 students from around the world, the University of Miami is focused on teaching and learning, the discovery of new knowledge, and service to the South Florida region and beyond. The University comprises eleven schools and colleges serving undergraduate and graduate students in more than 180 majors and programs. In 2016, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the University of Miami No. 44 among the top national universities in the country in its "Best Colleges" listings. *U.S. News* also cited several of its programs in "America's Best Graduate Schools."

Established in 1925 during the region's famous real estate boom, the University of Miami is a major research university engaged in \$324 million in research and sponsored program expenditures annually. While the majority of this work is housed at the Miller School of Medicine, investigators conduct hundreds of studies in other areas, including marine science, engineering, education, and psychology.

The College of Engineering at the University of Miami transforms lives by creating new knowledge; re-creating knowledge for education; translating knowledge for commercialization; and providing exemplary service to the community. Founded in 1947, the College of Engineering is recognized for the quality and diversity of its faculty, students and curricula and noted for educating tomorrow's technology leaders for career success. The College of Engineering is housed in the McArthur Engineering building, a 120,000-square-foot complex with state-of-the-art laboratories and facilities, which is comprised of five departments that offer BS, MS, PhD, and executive education programs in Biomedical Engineering; Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering; Electrical and Computer Engineering; Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; and Industrial Engineering. Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), UM has 12 academic units.

## REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Executive Director, Major Gifts, College of Engineering will report to the Interim Senior Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations.

## PRINCIPAL OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Miami is, as befits its location in one of the hemisphere's most cosmopolitan and vibrant cities, a dynamic, stimulating private institution that transforms lives through teaching, research, and service. The university's exceptional diversity, groundbreaking scholarship, strong community ties, rich traditions, and joyous spirit make it a profoundly rewarding place to learn, work, engage, and grow. *Forbes Magazine* recognizes as much, ranking the university 15<sup>th</sup> on their list of America's best large employers, making the University of Miami the highest-ranked university in the nation and the highest-ranked organization in Florida.

The University of Miami is currently preparing for the public launch of its next campaign, leading up to its centennial in 2025. To that end, and at this pivotal moment in its history, the university seeks skilled, experienced major gift officers to join the leadership team in its Division of Development and Alumni Relations. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to make critical contributions to the overall success of the campaign. Those contributions will, in turn, elevate the university to the next level of distinction as it advances its educational, scholarly, healing, and humanitarian missions, and serves as a catalyst for positive change to its institution and the community.

## PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Director, Major Gifts, College of Engineering will

- identify prospective donors and funding sources, in conjunction with faculty and staff, and develop cultivation and solicitation plans, involving the aforementioned groups and volunteers, as appropriate;
- develop and oversee a small cadre of volunteers whose purpose is to help identify, cultivate, and solicit other prospective donors;
- ensure regular communications and stewardship with donors both locally and nationally, including re-solicitations, proper acknowledgement of gifts and pledge payments, reporting, visiting, and providing regular information on the progress of the departments;
- prepare and maintain a master plan of funding priorities, in conjunction with above-mentioned leadership and staff;
- determine fundable projects and package them appropriately for consideration by donors;
- develop and implement an annual work plan with measurable objectives and courses of action for all relevant activities during the years;
- make appropriate recommendations to administration, and appropriate faculty concerning their roles and involvement in the identification, cultivation, or solicitation of donor prospects;
- facilitate face-to-face interactions with appropriate donor's and prospects;
- in concert with the central department of Alumni Relations, manage alumni relations and annual giving for the College of Engineering including but not limited to alumni engagement efforts, alumni programming both regionally and locally, and manage any college-based alumni volunteer groups;
- maintain communications with colleagues in other departments, other schools and colleges as well as central development to ensure effective collaborations and synergy in achieving the university's key fundraising goals and objectives;

- document all contacts, communications, visits, and proposals in Raiser's Edge and other appropriate donor files;
- work with the Associate Vice President of Alumni Relations and Individual Giving to develop appropriate fundraising budgets and revenue projections for annual and campaign giving;
- design and implement major gift development cultivations and special events, designed to assist with identification, cultivation, and solicitation of major gift prospects;
- manage volunteer and staff activities related to planning and execution of these events;
- ensure regular communications and stewardship with donors, including re-solicitations, proper acknowledgement of gifts and pledge payments, reporting, visiting, and providing regular information on the progress of the departments;
- supervise the Associate Director of Development and Donor Relations Manager;
- follow university policies and procedures; and
- attend meetings and appropriate training sessions for University Advancement.

### KEY COLLEAGUES



**Donna A. Arbide**

**Interim Senior Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations**

With a career of over 30 years at the University of Miami, Donna Arbide has overseen the strategic direction of the University of Miami's alumni relations, annual giving and parent programs, as well as the fundraising efforts of the school and college development programs. In June of 2017, she was appointed to serve as interim senior vice president to lead the Development and Alumni Relations division at the University.

Ms. Arbide works with the University's Board of Trustees and the academic deans in implementing the University's strategic plan and development efforts. During President Frenk's second year in office, the Alumni Relations office began the "We Are One U" tour for Dr. Frenk's introduction to national alumni in major cities. In addition, Ms. Arbide travels internationally to China, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean to visit alumni and parents.

Ms. Arbide has spearheaded numerous award-winning and innovative programs to establish a vibrant national and international network of alumni and parents. She was the lead visionary and fundraiser for the beautiful Robert and Judi Prokop Newman Alumni Center on the Coral Gables campus. As a national leader in alumni relations, she recently completed her term as a board member for the Council and Support of Education (CASE), where she was chair of the Commission on Alumni Relations.

Ms. Arbide earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she later became the associate director of Institutional Research and Planning, a position that launched her career in the field of Advancement. She began working at the University of Miami in 1986, and earned her master's degree at the School of Business Administration in 1995. She lives in Coral Gables with her husband and three children.



**Jean-Pierre Bardet**  
**Dean of the College of Engineering**

Jean-Pierre Bardet joined the University of Miami as dean of the College of Engineering in August 2015. His research interests range from earthquake engineering and tsunamis to geomechanics, civil infrastructure systems, and megacities.

Prior to UM, Bardet served as dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he later founded and directed the Urban Water Institute. Before joining UTA, he was professor and chair of the Sonny Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Viterbi School of Engineering of the University of Southern California, where he founded and directed the USC Center on Megacities.

Originally educated in France, Bardet received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the California Institute of Technology. Widely published in scientific journals, he is the author of the textbook *Experimental Soil Mechanics*, and the recipient of awards from numerous scientific organizations, including the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering Science and Technology, the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Science Foundation.

### **CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS AND QUALITIES**

The successful candidate for the position of Executive Director, Major Gifts, College of Engineering should have

- knowledge about planned giving and major gift fundraising;
- excellent command of the English language;
- excellent oral and written communication skills, as well as strong interpersonal skills;
- high level of organization, be creative, energetic, and assertive;
- exceptional work ethic and commitment;
- knowledge of Access, Excel, and Microsoft Word.

A bachelor's degree is required for this position as is at least 7 years of demonstrated successful experience in fundraising. An equivalent combination of education/experience may be considered.

### **SALARY & BENEFITS**

In addition to a competitive salary, the University of Miami offers a benefits package, which includes health care coverage, paid vacation and sick leave, paid floating holidays, a voluntary retirement program with a university-funded five percent core and up to a five percent matching contribution (up to IRS limits), professional development opportunities, education benefits, and special discounts. To learn more about University of Miami benefits visit <http://www.hr.miami.edu/benefits-and-wellness/index.html>.

### **LOCATION**

The Coral Gables campus, the University's main campus, is home to two colleges and seven schools and is located on a 239-acre tract in Coral Gables, approximately seven miles from downtown Miami. The campus is one of South Florida's prime destinations for a rich variety of arts and culture offerings. The Lowe Art Museum houses South Florida's largest and most varied art collection and hosts traveling exhibitions.

The Jerry Herman Ring Theatre brings vitality to the South Florida cultural community. The acoustically superb Gusman Concert Hall and Clarke Recital Hall are the sites of hundreds of concerts, including Festival Miami, spanning the musical spectrum that are presented by the Frost School of Music. The Cosford Cinema screens a wide variety of first-run, classic, rare, and art-house films. The Coral Gables campus is also home to the University's celebrated intercollegiate athletics program.

### **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

The University of Miami is home to some of the brightest minds in the world. It is committed to educating and nurturing students, creating knowledge, and providing service to the community and beyond. The University of Miami is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Females/Minorities/Protected Veterans/Individuals with Disabilities are encouraged to apply. Applicants and employees are protected from discrimination based on certain categories protected by Federal law.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

All applications must be accompanied by a cover letter and résumé. Before submitting your materials, please read them over for accuracy. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the successful candidate has been selected.

*To nominate a candidate, please contact Angelique Grant: Ex[angelique@aspenleadershipgroup.com](mailto:angelique@aspenleadershipgroup.com).*

*All inquiries will be held in confidence.*

## **ASPEN • LEADERSHIP • GROUP**

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