



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY

ST. BONAVENTURE, NEW YORK



**ST. BONAVENTURE
UNIVERSITY**

Aspen Leadership Group is proud to partner with St. Bonaventure University in the search for a Vice President for Advancement.

The Vice President for Advancement will be responsible for all philanthropic fundraising and alumni services at the university. The Vice President will provide strategic direction and leadership across fundraising communications, major gifts, advancement operations and services, annual fund, prospect research, planned giving, endowment, donor relations and stewardship, and alumni services. The Vice President will serve as the top resource staff member for the Board of Trustees on advancement strategy and execution.

St. Bonaventure University (SBU) is a Catholic university dedicated to educational excellence as informed by its Franciscan and liberal arts traditions. In the words of its patron, St. Bonaventure believes that there should be “no knowledge without love,” and thus seeks to transform the lives of its students, inspiring in them a lifelong commitment to service and citizenship. St. Bonaventure embraces students, faculty, and staff of all faiths and cultures and strives to bring out the best in every individual through meaningful relationships. As an academic and spiritual community, St. Bonaventure endeavors to prepare its students for the challenges they will face in their professional careers and personal lives. St. Bonaventure believes education should be a transformational experience, one enriched by the tools to love more humanely, deeply, and well in the world.

Founded in 1858 in the interest of promoting Catholic-Franciscan education, St. Bonaventure University continues to pursue academic excellence through personalized attention that reflects the Franciscan tradition of valuing human relationships. Located in the southwest corner of New York state, between the city of Olean and the village of Allegany, equally distanced between Buffalo to the north and Erie, Pennsylvania, to the west, St. Bonaventure boasts a sprawling 500-acre campus with 31 academic and support buildings and residence halls. Its nearly 1,900 students are offered more than 50 undergraduate majors and programs to choose from, including nine combined-degree programs (including granting talented high school seniors provisional acceptance into medical school upon entry to SBU) and early assurance programs (allowing students to apply for early acceptance to SBU graduate programs as SBU sophomores). The university also offers nearly 20 graduate programs, almost all of which are available 100% online. With a 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio classes have a personal touch and at least 80% of students participate in either intramurals, club sports, or recreation center activities.

At St. Bonaventure University, students are prepared for life after SBU. Its innovative Career and Professional Readiness Center aims to provide the most comprehensive and progressive career and professional development programs in the region. With programs starting freshman year and continuing through graduation, St. Bonaventure strives to ensure that every student is exceptionally well prepared to make a successful transition to graduate school or a first job. And St. Bonaventure students remain connected to the university after graduation. Of the more than 31,000 alumni worldwide, more than 19% support the university philanthropically each year, compared to a 10% average at St. Bonaventure's peer institutions.

Students and graduates understand the value of a St. Bonaventure education. Those outside its tight-knit community recognize the value of what the university does as well. Shaped by its values of compassion, wisdom, and integrity, and lauded for its value—ranked No. 6 for Value in the North for 2024 by *U.S. News & World Report*—St. Bonaventure is a transformative community committed to academic excellence and civic engagement. Additionally, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked St. Bonaventure as the 14th “Most Innovative School” in the North. St. Bonaventure is also ranked among the Best 389 Colleges in the nation by the *Princeton Review*.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Vice President for Advancement will report to the President, Dr. Jeff Gingerich. The Vice President will serve on the President's Cabinet and the President's Council and will oversee a team of 20 staff and directly supervise the Executive Assistant to the Vice President and seven current and planned direct reports.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Before I started as President of St. Bonaventure University, I was told that the alumni here are particularly passionate about their alma mater. Of course, doesn't every university say that?

But not until I walked through an airport for the first time wearing a St. Bonaventure shirt and cap did I realize the tales were true. You can't go far in any public area with Bonnies gear on without hearing a shout of "Go Bonnies!!" and meeting one of our loyal alums.

That loyalty is palpable and makes it a joy to work here. This is the setting that our new Vice President for Advancement will enter at St. Bonaventure. That loyalty and passion is a distinct advantage when seeking the resources we need to support our students.

Yes, much of this excitement comes from our great tradition of athletics, but you'll find it's really about the strong sense of community Bonaventure students experience from the moment they step on campus. The exceptional faculty relationships in and out of the classroom. Committed staff that go above and beyond to ensure that all our students feel like they're home when they're on campus. A Franciscan tradition of care and nourishment for everyone within the campus community.

It's also important to know that at a time when many small privates in the Northeast are struggling just to survive, our arrow has been pointing up the last several years, with freshman enrollment hitting 20-year highs the last two years because of a strategic plan focused on new academic programs. Our peers just ranked us 14th for Innovation in the North in the latest U.S. News rankings.

We are the small school that does great things and punches above its weight.

The new Vice President for Advancement will have the opportunity to strengthen a culture of philanthropy among the advancement and alumni teams, and to help integrate our advancement efforts across campus. Personally, I'm looking for a partner who will enjoy working with our alumni and friends of the university as much as I do.

We believe strongly in finding joy and fulfillment in our work. It is easy to do that when you work at a wonderful place like St. Bonaventure.

—Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., President

ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

A [commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion](#) is deeply a part of the Franciscan tradition at St. Bonaventure University. The university is committed to diversity and justice *because* it is Catholic and Franciscan, and not in spite of its religious tradition. St. Bonaventure University values all types of diversity and it understands that this commitment requires a close examination of the culture, institutional practices, and individual attitudes of its campus community. The university's Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is making significant strides to oversee progress in all parts of the university, but it knows that it has much education to do and many changes to make so that all students, faculty, and staff find a true home at St. Bonaventure University.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Vice President for Advancement will

- serve in a highly visible leadership role with overall responsibility for a comprehensive and integrated fundraising and alumni services program;
- articulate and drive a culture of philanthropy and high engagement across the university and further effective partnerships throughout the St. Bonaventure community;
- integrate best practices to improve results and performance within all areas of fundraising and alumni services;
- establish core fundraising expectations in collaboration with the President and the Board of Trustees and develop the strategies and tactics required to achieve those expectations;
- provide leadership, strategic planning guidance, mentorship, and oversight to a dedicated team of fundraising and alumni services professionals;
- support and provide leadership of the President's, Vice Presidents', and Deans' major gift prospect portfolios, including fundraising campaigns;
- provide progress updates to the President, President's Cabinet, President's Council, and Board of Trustees on fundraising and alumni services goals and metrics;
- serve as a representative of the university at development and alumni events nationwide;
- serve on high-level search committees, the University Planning Commission, and other ad hoc committees requiring advancement participation; and
- make or contribute to financial decisions that broadly impact all or significant parts of the university.

LEADERSHIP

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.

President

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., was named 22nd president of St. Bonaventure University in March of 2022 and officially took office on June 20.

Dr. Gingerich was Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of Scranton from 2018 to 2022. Prior to his role at Scranton, he spent more than 18 years at Cabrini University in suburban Philadelphia, teaching in the Department of Sociology and Criminology (2005-2018) and serving as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (2014-2018). He has served as Acting President at Scranton and Cabrini, both Catholic institutions.

A consistent voice for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, Dr. Gingerich advanced new initiatives and programs at Scranton related to faculty hiring and development, staff and administrator training, curricular improvements, and student support and engagement.

Dr. Gingerich was responsible for many cross-divisional institutional priorities at Scranton and Cabrini, including leading the development of strategic plans at both institutions.

He also led two successful Middle States self-study accreditation processes, strategic enrollment planning, campus master planning, the development of a one-stop student services center, and campuswide strategic planning efforts for both leadership development and global studies.

An avid supporter of student-centered program growth, Dr. Gingerich worked with faculty at Scranton and Cabrini to develop successful new undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as the establishment of Cabrini's Nerney Leadership Institute, Scranton's Slattery Center for Humanities, and four mission-focused academic centers at Cabrini.

Dr. Gingerich's four-year tenure as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs included a renewed focus on securing federal support for research and programs. In his last two years, Scranton received more than \$2 million in grants, including funding from NASA, the National Science Foundation, and National Institute for the Humanities.

At Scranton, he championed a partnership with a regional state correctional facility that is enabling incarcerated individuals to earn an associate degree through courses taught on site by Scranton faculty. At Cabrini, he regularly taught an "Inside-Out" course that included Cabrini students and incarcerated students.

Dr. Gingerich earned master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in social work from Eastern Mennonite College. He began his teaching career at Bluffton University in Ohio from 2000 to 2005.

Much of Dr. Gingerich's work prior to entering higher education was shaped by six years as a voluntary service worker in New Orleans, coordinating conflict resolution programming at the Twomey Center for Peace through Justice at Loyola University.

PREFERRED COMPETENCIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

St. Bonaventure University seeks a Vice President for Advancement with

- a commitment to the mission of St. Bonaventure University—dedication to educational excellence as informed by its Franciscan and liberal arts traditions and a desire to transform the lives of its students, inspiring in them a lifelong commitment to service and citizenship;
- an understanding of the Franciscan and Catholic mission of the university and an ability to convey that mission to constituencies;
- strong management and inclusive leadership skills and an ability to motivate and hold accountable a large advancement team;
- strategic planning expertise, including experience leading large fundraising campaigns (both university-wide and project-specific) and the targeted execution of projects;
- creativity in fundraising and alumni relations, along with an understanding of best practices in the advancement field;
- an ability to build partnerships with diverse constituencies, including senior leadership, trustees, Alumni Council members, the university campus community, and organizations related to the university;
- strong social skills, including an ability to host large functions, interact effectively at small gatherings, and engage alumni and donors in an effective manner;
- strong communication skills including an ability to speak before large and small groups of university stakeholders and other designated groups;
- an understanding of the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion to the university community and alumni relations;
- experience in, and an understanding of, university budgeting processes; and
- experience with university systems and procedures.

A bachelor's degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience is preferred for this position as is at least 10 years of senior-level supervisory experience including five years of major gift fundraising experience. St. Bonaventure University will consider candidates with a broad range of backgrounds. If you are excited about this role and feel that you can contribute to the university, but your experience does not exactly align with every qualification listed above, we encourage you to apply.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

The salary range for this position is \$180,000 to \$210,000 annually. St. Bonaventure University offers a comprehensive [package of benefits](#) including 100% undergraduate tuition remission for employee, spouse, and dependents; 80% graduate tuition remission for employee (online and ground programs); and 50% for spouse (ground programs only); 403b Retirement Plan + 10% employer contribution after two years; health insurance with a \$250 wellness card; dental insurance; employer paid vision and life insurance; short-term disability; and employer paid long-term disability.

LOCATION

This position is in St. Bonaventure, New York. Situated in the southwestern corner of New York state in an expansive region of natural beauty known as the Southern Tier, St. Bonaventure benefits from a location that is ideal for a residential college. The campus is nestled between the city of Olean on the east and the village of Allegany on the west, minutes from some of the best restaurants in the region and stores from the familiar big-box centers to small specialty shops.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications must be accompanied by a cover letter and résumé. **Cover letters should be responsive to the mission St. Bonaventure University and the responsibilities and qualifications presented in the prospectus.** Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the successful candidate has been selected.

To apply for this position, visit: [Vice President for Advancement, St. Bonaventure University](#).

To nominate a candidate, please contact Don Hasseltine at: donhasseltine@aspenleadershipgroup.com.

All inquiries will be held in confidence.