



ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ADVANCEMENT
MAXWELL SCHOOL OF CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
[SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY](#)
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK



Aspen Leadership Group is proud to partner with Syracuse University in the search for an Assistant Dean for Advancement, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

The Assistant Dean for Advancement will identify, solicit, and steward a portfolio of major donors and prospective donors, working closely and collaboratively with the Dean and faculty, and central Advancement colleagues to achieve a high level of engagement and financial support from alumni, parents, and friends whose philanthropic priorities match the educational mission and academic programs of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Syracuse University is a student focused R1 research university fueled by more than 150 years of tradition, academic distinction, and a spirit of discovery. Founded in 1870, Syracuse University is a private research institution located in the heart of Central New York. With 13 schools and colleges, 200 customizable majors and 100 minors, and online degrees and certificates, Syracuse University provides limitless educational pathways. New interdisciplinary areas ranging from social justice and artificial intelligence to energy and environment provide hands-on research experiences that broaden perspectives and prepare students for the careers of tomorrow. Syracuse University has five award-winning study abroad centers, and international programs in 60 countries, where students gain global perspectives that last a lifetime.

There are more than 22,000 students from all over the world taking part in clubs, athletics, and gatherings of all kinds at Syracuse. With over 300 student organizations, students have opportunities to explore interests, pursue passions, and engage with the Syracuse University community. The university's global footprint includes more than a quarter of a million alumni in 160 countries.

Syracuse University aspires to be a pre-eminent and inclusive student focused research university, preparing engaged citizens, scholars, and leaders for participation in a changing global society. As a university with the capacity to attract and engage the best scholars from around the world, yet small enough to support a personalized and academically rigorous student experience, Syracuse University faculty and staff support student success by encouraging global study, experiential learning, interdisciplinary scholarship, creativity, and entrepreneurial endeavors; balancing professional studies with an intensive liberal arts education; fostering a richly diverse and inclusive community of learning and opportunity; and promoting a culture of innovation and discovery.

Syracuse is a university of national stature and international opportunity, known for its investment in research and innovation, its professional programs, and its undeniable school spirit. Syracuse University offers many highly ranked programs and co-curricular opportunities. The university is ranked number one for Best Public Affairs Schools and number two for Information Technology Management by *U.S. News & World Report*. Other top ten rankings by the publication include its learning communities and study abroad opportunities.

Syracuse also receives top ranking for Best Photojournalism Schools and second spot for Best Elementary Special Education by *College Factual*. In addition, Music Management; Public Relations, Advertising and Applied Communications; Design and Applied Arts; Information Science; and Food and Nutrition all received top ten rankings by *College Factual* in 2023.

MAXWELL SCHOOL OF CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

One hundred years ago, George Holmes Maxwell, a Syracuse alumnus, provided funding for the university to establish a school with an aim to train all undergraduate students for their role as informed citizens in the American democracy. Today, the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs is a community of scholars who believe that responsible citizenship is not just a concept; it's the active, ongoing pursuit to empower a more healthy and inclusive society. It's a community of diverse individuals dedicated to making the world a better place—and to helping each other succeed.

The first school of its kind, the Maxwell School is known for a tradition of innovative excellence in teaching and research across the social sciences, public policy, public administration, and international relations. Organized around 15 interdisciplinary research centers focused on addressing pressing societal issues, Maxwell's unique structure cultivates an ecosystem for ideas sparked by the convergence of expertise across the social sciences and public policy.

At the Maxwell School, diversity is both a core value and a distinguishing characteristic. The school strives to create spaces that make every member of the community feel welcomed, supported, empowered, and valued. Time and again, the Maxwell School finds that the most innovative ideas and comprehensive solutions arise when people representing different identities, backgrounds, and experiences are brought together. In a complex, collaborative environment like the Maxwell School, diversity not only enriching but it is also essential for achieving the highest ambitions.

Maxwell offers a rich mix of undergraduate, graduate professional, and scholarly M.A. and Ph.D. programs that prepare new generations of leaders with an expansive foundation of knowledge and a socially responsible mindset. No major graduate school of public affairs mixes these diverse elements the way Maxwell does. The school is consistently ranked one of the nations' top schools of public affairs in surveys of peer-school faculty conducted by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Undergraduates who major or minor in the social sciences, public policy, or citizenship and civic engagement at Syracuse University benefit from the same faculty who earn Maxwell its high rankings in research and graduate education, as well as opportunities to conduct research, spend a semester at Maxwell's headquarters in Washington, D.C., or study at more than 100 partner locations abroad. In addition, a new accelerated bachelor's/master's program puts a Maxwell graduate professional degree in public administration or international affairs within reach for highly qualified undergraduate applicants with just one additional year of study.

Maxwell offers highly regarded professional master's degrees alongside advanced scholarly degrees in the social sciences. Its top-ranked master's degrees in public administration and international relations provide campus-based cohort learning experiences. Midcareer executive master's degrees in these fields are available for full-or-part time study, on-campus, online, and at Maxwell's D.C.-based headquarters. The school also offers M.A. and Ph.D. programs in the social sciences plus an innovative Social Science Ph.D. program for students with unique, cross-disciplinary interests.

Through partnerships with a range of domestic, foreign, and international government agencies, organizations and private businesses, the Maxwell School provides a flexible array of professional training programs ranging from one-week intensive in-person courses to longer hybrid part-time/online with in-person immersion. The executive education team also develops online short courses on topical issues that are open to the public by application.

Maxwell scholars and students conduct wide-ranging research through interdisciplinary centers, each focused on a topical area within public affairs, such as social and economic policy, conflict and collaboration, public wellness, aging, energy and environment, national security, and regional studies, among others. Faculty are sought-after experts in their field who regularly provide testimony to Congress, participate in media interviews, receive prominent grant awards and fellowships, and advise a wide range of nonprofit and public agencies at every level of government.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Assistant Dean for Advancement, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs will report jointly to the Dean of the School, Dr. David M. Van Slyke and to the Vice President Schools, Colleges, and Administration, Peter Cronin. The Assistant Dean will oversee a team of seven professionals that includes major gift officers, lead annual gift officers, alumni engagement, stewardship, and annual giving staff.

FROM THE DEAN AND VICE PRESIDENT

What does it mean to be a responsible citizen? What does it take to empower a society and make the world a better place? These questions and others drive the work of Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, which is celebrating the centennial of its founding at Syracuse University in 2024. The fact book will reveal a school with 200 faculty, 15 policy focused research centers, 3,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students across 12 departments in the social sciences and public policy, the #1 USN&WR ranking for graduate public administration program, a number of highly ranked specialties, and a program in Washington D.C. co-located at the top ranked Center for Strategic and International Studies. But in practice, we are so much more. At our core, the Maxwell School is a community of scholars who believe that responsible citizenship is not just a concept; it's the active, ongoing pursuit to empower a more healthy and inclusive society using evidence-based research and a commitment to scholarship and practice. It's a community of diverse individuals dedicated to making the world a better place—and to helping each other succeed.

The next Assistant Dean for Advancement is crucial to the school's continued preeminence. Philanthropy in support of faculty and students is essential to Maxwell's on-going success as it enters its next century of impact. We're seeking a seasoned advancement leader to be our partner, serve as a collaborative university citizen, and drive Maxwell's success as we celebrate the school's centennial. Our next Assistant Dean will lead a team of seven professionals to engage our more than 38,000 alumni, complete an ambitious \$125M fundraising effort as part of the university's \$1.5 billion Forever Orange Campaign, and lead a seasoned advancement team into a new chapter of growth.

We invite your exploration and are grateful for your interest.

—David M. Van Slyke, Ph.D., Dean and Louis A. Bantle Chair in Business-Government Policy
Peter Cronin, Vice President for Advancement, Schools, Colleges, and Administration

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Syracuse University maintains an inclusive learning environment in which students, faculty, administrators, staff, curriculum, social activities, governance, and all other aspects of campus life reflect a diverse, multi-cultural, and international worldview. The Syracuse community recognizes and values the many similarities and differences among individuals and groups. The university is committed to preparing students to understand, live among, appreciate, and work in an inherently diverse country and world made up of people with different ethnic and racial backgrounds, military backgrounds, religious beliefs, socio-economic status, cultural traditions, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities. To do so, it commits itself to promoting a community that celebrates and models the principles of diversity and inclusivity.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Assistant Dean for Advancement, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs will

- work closely with the Dean of the Maxwell School to develop and execute a comprehensive fundraising and engagement plan;
- serve as the school's chief development officer, creating and implementing strategies to identify, cultivate, and solicit alumni, parents, friends, corporations, and foundations;
- demonstrate accountability to the Vice President for Schools, Colleges, and Administration and to the Dean for executing the campaign plan and the achievement of advancement and unit goals;
- manage Maxwell advancement staff;
- work strategically and collaboratively with centrally based Advancement and External Affairs offices and staff, including Philanthropic Engagement, Gift Planning, Principal Gifts, Major Gifts, International and Regional Development, Alumni Engagement, Advancement Services, Prospect Development, and Analytics and Donor Relations;
- work with the Associate Dean for Diversity Equity and Inclusion to further engagement of underrepresented alumni and affinity groups;
- represent the school and its priorities across the university community;
- plan, manage, and staff domestic prospect visits for the Dean;
- serve as the primary contact and provide oversight to the school's volunteer advisory boards, identifying, engaging, soliciting, and stewarding past and present board members;
- record and maintain updated plans and opportunities for an assigned portfolio as well as all other activity relative to donors and prospects into the CITRUS/CRM database including meaningful interactions, ensuring the accuracy of all entries;
- develop and maintain a deep understanding of Maxwell's priorities, academic programs, and centers of excellence in order to translate these assets into compelling funding opportunities and align them with donor interests;
- work with Maxwell faculty and staff to involve them with alumni engagement and funding opportunities; and
- work with the Maxwell Budget Office to align gift accounts and the operational budget.

LEADERSHIP

David M. Van Slyke, Ph.D.

Dean, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

Professor, Public Administration and International Affairs Department

Louis A. Bantle Chair in Business-Government Policy

Senior Research Associate, Campbell Public Affairs Institute

Senior Research Associate, Autonomous Systems Policy Institute

David M. Van Slyke is Dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and the Louis A. Bantle Chair in Business-Government Policy. Prior to becoming Dean on July 1, 2016, Van Slyke was Associate Dean and Chair of Maxwell's department of public administration and international affairs. He is a tenured, full professor of the Maxwell School and the College of Arts and Sciences and a two-time recipient of the Birkhead-Burkhead Award and Professorship for Teaching Excellence.

Van Slyke is a leading international expert on public-private partnerships, public sector contracting and contract management, public and nonprofit management, and policy implementation. He is a member of the Defense Business Board (2020, 2021-Present), a former Director (2015-2021) and Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, a member of the National Academy of Public Administration's Expert Advisory team for the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security, and a former co-editor of the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* and the *Journal of Strategic Contracting and Negotiation*. He is actively engaged in the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs, and the University Leadership Council on Diversity and Inclusion in International Affairs Education. He is the co-chair (with Dr. Susan Gooden) of a Volcker Alliance-NASPAA working group on addressing structural racism in public affairs and served as the co-chair of the 2021 NASPAA annual conference. He also sits on the editorial boards of several top-ranked public affairs and nonprofit management journals including the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. He has provided expert guidance to the Office of Management and Budget, the Government Accountability Office, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Coast Guard, the World Bank, and a range of philanthropic foundations. As part of his executive education teaching and research he has worked extensively with senior leaders in government, nonprofit, and business organizations in China, India, Russia, Singapore, and Thailand.

Van Slyke's book, *Complex Contracting: Government Purchasing in the Wake of the U.S. Coast Guard's Deepwater Program* (Cambridge University Press, 2013) is the recipient of the American Society for Public Administration Section on Research Best Book Award for 2014 and honorable mention for the Public and Nonprofit Section of the Academy of Management best book award for 2016. He received the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus in Public Administration and Policy award from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany, and the 2007 Best Article Award published in the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. He has been interviewed and his work cited in a range of media outlets including the Associated Press, *Washington Post*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Government Executive*, *Defense Industry Daily*, *Governing*, and National Public Radio among others.

Van Slyke is a first-generation college student and earned a Ph.D. in public administration and policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany, State University of New York. Prior to becoming an academic, he served in project management and team leadership roles in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.

Peter Cronin

Vice President Schools, Colleges, and Administration

Peter Cronin joined Syracuse University as Vice President for Development in 2017 with more than 30 years of experience in higher education. Cronin has spent over three decades conceptualizing, leading, and managing comprehensive alumni affairs and development programs and capital campaigns.

At Syracuse, Cronin works directly with deans and school, college, and unit-based development officers in their fundraising efforts. Cronin is tasked with establishing and implementing the infrastructure needed to grow the school, college, and unit fundraising enterprise through the strategic allocation of resources. He also leads strategic planning efforts for these teams by defining fundraising and development programs, priorities, metrics, and best practice models to meet Syracuse University's financial needs.

Prior to Syracuse, Cronin served as Cornell Law School's Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs and Development, a position he had held since 2005. In that role, he oversaw Cornell's alumni affairs and development program, including staff management, budget oversight, and strategic plan development. During his tenure, the Law School exceeded its goal in the context of Cornell University's most recent comprehensive campaign, with \$122 million in gifts and commitments against a goal of \$83 million.

Prior to his tenure at Cornell, Cronin served as Director of University Development, Director of Capital Giving, Associate Director of Development for Reunion Giving and Regional Programs, and Director of the Annual Fund at Washington and Lee University. He also served as Director of Development for the School of Nursing in the University of Virginia Health System Development Office. Cronin previously held various development, alumni, and publications positions at Worcester Academy in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Cronin holds a bachelor's degree in geology and art from Washington and Lee University and completed graduate work in visual communications at Ohio University.

PREFERRED COMPETENCIES, EXPERIENCES, AND QUALIFICATIONS

Syracuse University seeks an Assistant Dean for Advancement, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs with

- a commitment to the vision of Syracuse University—to be a pre-eminent and inclusive student-focused research university, preparing engaged citizens, scholars, and leaders for participation in a changing global society;
- an ability to lead and manage a comprehensive advancement plan and a team of professionals;
- experience in the full spectrum of development activities including cultivation, successful solicitation of gifts with significant institutional impact, stewardship, and donor recognition;
- strong written and interpersonal communication skills including the political acumen needed to establish and maintain good working relationships across a complex organization and with external constituencies;
- an ability to make persuasive and compelling cases for support;
- exceptional organizational, analytical, and critical thinking skills;
- an entrepreneurial spirit focused on goal achievement; and
- an ability to work in and foster a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment.

A bachelor's degree is required for this position. At least six years of higher education fundraising experience, including experience working with professional and graduate school constituencies, is preferred.

Syracuse 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 for this position is \$143,000 to \$174,000 annually. Syracuse University offers a [comprehensive benefits package](#).

LOCATION

This position is in Syracuse, New York. Syracuse is a medium-sized city situated in the geographic center of New York State approximately 250 miles northwest of New York City. The metro-area population totals approximately 500,000. The area offers a low cost of living and provides many social, cultural, and recreational options, including parks, museums, festivals, professional regional theater, and premier shopping venues. Syracuse and Central New York present a wide range of seasonal recreation and attractions ranging from water skiing and snow skiing, hiking in the Adirondacks, touring historic sites, visiting wineries along the Finger Lakes, and biking on trails along the Erie Canal. This position requires significant domestic travel.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications must be accompanied by a cover letter and résumé. ***Cover letters should be responsive to the mission of Syracuse University as well as the responsibilities and qualifications stated 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:

[Assistant Dean for Advancement, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.](#)

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

All inquiries will be held in confidence.