



**CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER  
THE GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
Urbana, Illinois**



The Aspen Leadership Group is proud to partner with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the search for a Chief Advancement Officer for The Grainger College of Engineering.

The Chief Advancement Officer will provide strategic vision, leadership, and direction for all fundraising, alumni engagement, and advancement operations for the College. The Chief Advancement Officer will translate the Dean's strategic vision and priorities for the College into productive relationships with the College's key prospects, donors, and alumni, serving as a partner with stewardship and donor relations, events, alumni relations, and communications colleagues on department and college-wide initiatives, and funding priorities

The Grainger College of Engineering at Illinois is among the world's most prestigious and largest engineering programs. Its faculty, students, and alumni are world leaders in education, research, scholarship, and innovation. The Grainger College of Engineering is home to 10,000+ undergraduate and 5,500+ graduate students, supported by more than 450 faculty in 10 departments, 3 interdisciplinary research units, and over 15 research centers and institutes. The college hosts 39 degree programs that ranked in the top 10 in the nation. With over 80,000 supportive alumni globally, the Chief Advancement Officer is essential to the cultivation of relationships with donors across all of the units in the College. Each department and unit produces high-achieving and successful alumni who are the driving force in the world of engineering and beyond. Over the next five years, the college will be guided by its strategic plan and direct and invest its resources to pursue 6 overarching directions to achieve excellence in pursuit of its mission and vision. Its vision includes growing and diversifying its research enterprise to achieve unparalleled impact, fostering an inclusive environment in which students are given the tools, programs, and experiences to excel in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and in which its faculty and staff thrive.

On October 13, 2017, the university publicly launched its fourth comprehensive campaign. *With Illinois* is the most ambitious philanthropic initiative in its history. The goal is to raise \$2.25 billion in support of Illinois students, faculty, research, and infrastructure; and to continue to elevate the values that make Illinois distinctive: a sense of boundless aspiration, collaborative research, and global perspective. The Grainger College of Engineering has already met their \$550 million *With Illinois* goal by more than 12%, with an original completion date set for 2022. The College is on a great trajectory to plan for the continued growth of its endowment and for an exciting future.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is charged by the State of Illinois to enhance the lives of citizens in Illinois, across the nation, and around the world through its leadership in learning, discovery, engagement, and economic development. Illinois students, scholars, and alumni are a community with the power to change the world. Since its founding in 1867, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

has earned a reputation as a world-class leader in research, teaching, and public engagement. With its land-grant heritage as a foundation, it pioneers innovative research that tackles global problems and expands the human experience. Our transformative learning experiences, in and out of the classroom, are designed to produce alumni who desire to make a significant, societal impact.

A talented and highly respected faculty is the university's most significant resource. Many are recognized for exceptional scholarship with memberships in such organizations as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, and the National Academy of Engineering. Its faculty have been awarded Nobel Prizes, Pulitzer Prizes, and the Fields Medal in Mathematics. The success of our faculty is matched by that of our alumni: 11 are Nobel Laureates and another 18 have won Pulitzer Prizes.

Academic resources on campus are among the finest in the world. The University Library is one of the largest public university collections in the world with 14 million volumes in its 20+ unit libraries. At Illinois, the focus on research shapes its identity, permeates its classrooms, and fuels its outreach. Fostering discovery and innovation is its fundamental mission. Entrepreneurship flows from the classrooms to Research Park, a space that houses everything from Fortune 500 companies to student-founded startups. Illinois is consistently ranked among the top five universities for NSF-funded research and its total annual research funding exceeds \$650 million. A major center for the arts, the campus attracts dozens of nationally and internationally renowned artists each year to its widely acclaimed Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The university also supports two major museums: the Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion; and the Spurlock Museum, a museum of world history and culture. Other major facilities include the multipurpose State Farm Center (16,500 seats); Memorial Stadium (70,000 seats), site of Big Ten Conference football games; and the Activities and Recreation Center (ARC), one of the largest recreational facilities of its kind on a university campus.

## **REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS**

The Chief Advancement Officer will report jointly to the Dean of The Grainger College of Engineering, Rashid Bashir and to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Dale Wright. The Chief Advancement Officer will lead an overall team of approximately 22 professionals.

## **FROM THE DEAN AND ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR**

*With more than 10,000+ enrolled undergraduates and 5,500+ graduate students, the [Grainger College of Engineering](#) is home to nearly one third of students at Illinois and, supported by more than 450 faculty in 10 departments. Ranked amongst the world's most prestigious and largest engineering programs, our faculty, students, and alumni are world leaders in education, research, scholarship, and innovation, and have impacted all aspects of how we live, work, and play. As we continue on this trajectory, we must direct and invest resources in support of our strategic direction to achieve excellence and impact in key areas such as growing and diversifying our research enterprise for greater impact, expanding and deepening our global educational impact at scale, and fostering an inclusive environment where all are given the tools, programs, and experiences to excel and thrive.*

*The Grainger Engineering Office of Advancement plays a pivotal role in enabling us to succeed in pursuit of our mission and vision. We have built a collaborative and high-performing team that is adept at partnering with our 10+ academic units and many research units across the college engaging as many of our 80,000 alumni and friends, as possible each year. We have already built great momentum, as seen in our success during the With Illinois campaign, exceeding our goal of \$550 million by more than 14%. Since FY'15, the college has increased the average annual new business total by more than 70%, averaging \$68*

*million at the end of FY'21. We want to build on the historic gift to name our college to further endow key programs, departments, and units in addition to other key strategic initiatives.*

*The new Chief Advancement Officer will work closely with college and university leadership to continue this momentum through the end of the campaign and into the planning stages for the next one. We seek in the CAO, an energetic, collaborative, communicative, and innovative leader who will inspire our results-oriented, 20+-person advancement team to even greater heights.*

*With a [five-year strategic plan](#) recently put into place this is an exciting time for The Grainger College of Engineering. Complementing this, Advancement at Illinois is both mature and entrepreneurial, the combination of which is unique and special in this industry. At Illinois we are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and, in Grainger Engineering, we reflect this commitment in both our strategic plan and in our actions each day.*

–Rashid Bashir, Dean and Dale Wright, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

## **GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

The entire community benefits when individuals from different personal, cultural, and disciplinary perspectives are working together. Increasing the diversity of Grainger's faculty and students is fundamental to its mission. It improves and accelerates the rate and impact of academics, research, and reputation. The Grainger College of Engineering seeks to develop a diverse and highly motivated pool of engineering researchers, students, and future graduates that will work together to address major societal challenges.

### **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Strategy and Planning**

The Chief Advancement Officer for The Grainger College of Engineering will

- plan and implement a comprehensive strategic plan and goals for the College's advancement program in support of the university's mission, vision, and goals;
- provide guidance as the Dean's chief advisor in matters related to advancement;
- build and maintain productive working relationships with academic department heads, associate deans, faculty, and administrators throughout The Grainger College of Engineering in order to thoroughly understand their programs and priorities and to collaborate on engaging alumni and donors in support of advancement activities;
- facilitate effective collaborative relationships with other advancement offices across campus, the Office of Institutional Advancement, the University of Illinois Foundation, and the University of Illinois Alumni Association;
- work collaboratively with the Assistant Dean for Marketing and Communications, providing input and direction to the public relations and marketing programs for the College, and advance communications related to fundraising and engagement activities; and
- serve as a member of the Dean's Leadership Cabinet and the College Administrative Committee. Work with other College senior administrators and faculty to identify and define priority needs to be funded through private support.

## **Major Gifts**

The Chief Advancement Officer for The Grainger College of Engineering will

- facilitate the Dean's engagement with a portfolio of the College's most important major donors and prospects;
- regularly travel with the Dean to meet alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations;
- manage a personal portfolio of high-level major prospects, using a focused and accountable approach of strategy development and implementation;
- oversee and provide direction for the College's overall prospect portfolio and gift officer assignments, engaging the dean as appropriate;
- manage the volunteer advisory boards by defining roles for advisory boards that support the priorities of the College;
- identify recruits and orient board members, lead board meetings, and evaluate board performance;
- prepare volunteers to participate in cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of major gifts as needed;
- lead a major gift team tasked with identifying, cultivating, and soliciting major donors – creating, coordinating, and writing funding proposals directed at individuals, corporations, and foundations;
- ensure consistent messaging throughout the College and its units; and
- encourage and facilitate collaboration with other advancement professionals across campus.

## **Constituent Engagement**

The Chief Advancement Officer for The Grainger College of Engineering will

- in alignment with the strategic priorities of the College, oversee coordination of enhanced, comprehensive, and meaningful alumni and corporate engagement activities that foster lifelong connections between the College and its constituents;
- ensure that the College's significant stewardship program is functioning at the highest level;
- provide strategic leadership to ensure appropriate processes and procedures for gift documentation and acknowledgement, stellar fund management processes, and outstanding donor recognition and reporting; and
- develop strategies and tactics to share the College's vision, mission, and goals with important external stakeholders, including alumni, friends, and parents through public relations, communications, and marketing efforts.

## **Management and Budget**

The Chief Advancement Officer for The Grainger College of Engineering will

- plan and administer the budget for the advancement office to ensure operation within fiscal constraints;
- set policy, procedures, and best practices for the College's advancement program inspiring innovation and collaboration across its functions;
- determine appropriate staffing levels in consultation with the Dean;
- oversee the development of programs to recruit, hire, mentor, and evaluate advancement staff;
- maintain familiarity with current academic issues in higher education; and
- retain knowledge and understanding of the specific programs, degrees, and strengths of the College.

## LEADERSHIP AND KEY COLLEAGUES

### **Rashid Bashir**

#### **Grainger Distinguished Chair in Engineering**

#### **Dean, The Grainger College of Engineering**

Rashid Bashir completed his Ph.D. from Purdue University in October 1992. From October 1992 to October 1998, he worked at National Semiconductor in the Analog/Mixed Signal Process Technology Development Group, where he was promoted to Sr. Engineering Manager. At National Semiconductor, he led the development and commercialization of 4 analog semiconductor process technologies. He joined Purdue University in October 1998 as an Assistant Professor and was later promoted to Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and a Courtesy Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. In October 2007, he joined the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as the Abel Bliss Professor of Engineering, and Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering & Bioengineering. He was the Director of the [Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory](#), a campus-wide clean room facility, from October 2007 to Aug. 2013, and the Co-Director of the campus-wide [Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology](#), a "collaboratory" aimed at facilitating center grants and large initiatives around campus in the area of nanotechnology. In October 2016, he was named the Grainger Distinguished Chair in Engineering. From August 2013 to August 2017, he was the head of the Bioengineering Department. From 2017 to 2018 he was the Executive Associate Dean and the Chief Diversity Officer of the new Carle-Illinois "Engineering-Based" College of Medicine at UIUC. In November 2018, he was appointed as the 15th Dean of the College Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 2019, the College was named Grainger College of Engineering in honor of W. W. Grainger.

He has authored or co-authored over 300 journal papers, over 200 conference papers and conference abstracts, and over 100 invited talks, and has been granted over 50 patents. He is a fellow of 8 international professional societies (IEEE, AIMBE, AAAS, APS, IAMBE, RSC, BMES, and NAI). His research interests include bionanotechnology, BioMEMS, lab on a chip, interfacing of biology and engineering from the molecular to the tissue scale, and applications of semiconductor fabrication to biomedical engineering, all applied to solving biomedical problems. Professor Bashir's key technical contributions and achievements lie in the area of BioMEMS and biomedical nanotechnology, especially in the use of electrical- or mechanical-based label-free methods for detection of biological entities on a chip. In addition, he has also made key contributions to 3-D fabrication methods that can be used for tissue engineering and development of cellular systems. He is currently involved in 2 startups that have originated from his research group (Prenosis, Inc., and LabSimply, Inc.).

He holds the Grainger Distinguished Chair in Engineering, tenured appointment in bioengineering, and affiliate appointments in electrical and computer engineering, mechanical science and engineering, materials science and engineering, and molecular and integrative physiology.

### **Dale Wright**

#### **Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement**

Dale Wright serves as associate vice chancellor for institutional advancement at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. In this role he provides vision, strategic leadership, and coaching to a portfolio of chief advancement officers, deans, and academic leaders.

Prior to this position, he served as associate dean & chief advancement officer for The Grainger College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with responsibility for the strategy and operations in fundraising and constituent engagement. He also served as campaign director for the college's \$550 million goal in the *With Illinois* \$2.25 billion comprehensive campaign, achieving 114% of goal, which concludes in June, 2022.

Over the last 20+ years, Wright has held a variety of alumni and fundraising engagement roles in higher education. He has guided several deans, academic leaders, and university leadership through the campaign planning process and execution, over three \$1 billion+ comprehensive campaigns. He is an experienced fundraiser and leader, designing engagement programs to help teams and volunteers meet philanthropic goals.

Wright is an active CASE volunteer, currently serving on CASE District V Cabinet and appears regularly as a faculty member/speaker at CASE conferences and other CASE educational programs. Wright also holds membership in organizations such as the African American Development Officers Network, the Association of Fundraising Professionals and is involved in other non-profit work, including serving on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for the American Legion Boys State of Missouri (Missouri Boys State). He earned both his bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Missouri (Mizzou).

### **PREFERRED COMPETENCIES AND QUALIFICATIONS**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign seeks a Chief Advancement Officer for The Grainger College of Engineering with a commitment to the mission of the University of Illinois at Urbana to enhance the lives of citizens in Illinois, across the nation, and around the world through its leadership in learning, discovery, engagement, and economic development; an ability to work in a highly self-directed, proactive, and creative manner; superb oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills; knowledge of the principles of advancement, fundraising, and administration in a university environment including development, communications and public relations, alumni engagement, and special events; familiarity with planned giving fundraising vehicles; and experience supervising and managing a large professional team.

A bachelor's degree is required for this position as is at least ten years of advancement experience, preferably in a higher education environment, including five years of management experience.

### **SALARY AND BENEFITS**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offers a competitive salary and [benefits package](#).

### **LOCATION**

This position is located in Urbana, Illinois. Because it is expected that the successful applicant will be an active member of the college's leadership team as well as the Urbana-Champaign community, this role requires attendance at events and meetings outside of traditional business hours and thus the next Chief Advancement Officer is expected to reside in a location reasonably accessible to the campus.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications must be accompanied by a cover letter and résumé. ***Cover letters should be responsive to the mission and values of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as well as the responsibilities and qualifications presented in the prospectus.*** Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the successful candidate has been selected. All inquiries will be held in confidence.

To apply for this position, visit:

[Chief Advancement Officer for The Grainger College of Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.](#)

To nominate a candidate, please contact Gregory Leet, [gregoryleet@aspenleadershipgroup.com](mailto:gregoryleet@aspenleadershipgroup.com) or Kim Farr, [kimfarr@aspenleadershipgroup.com](mailto:kimfarr@aspenleadershipgroup.com).