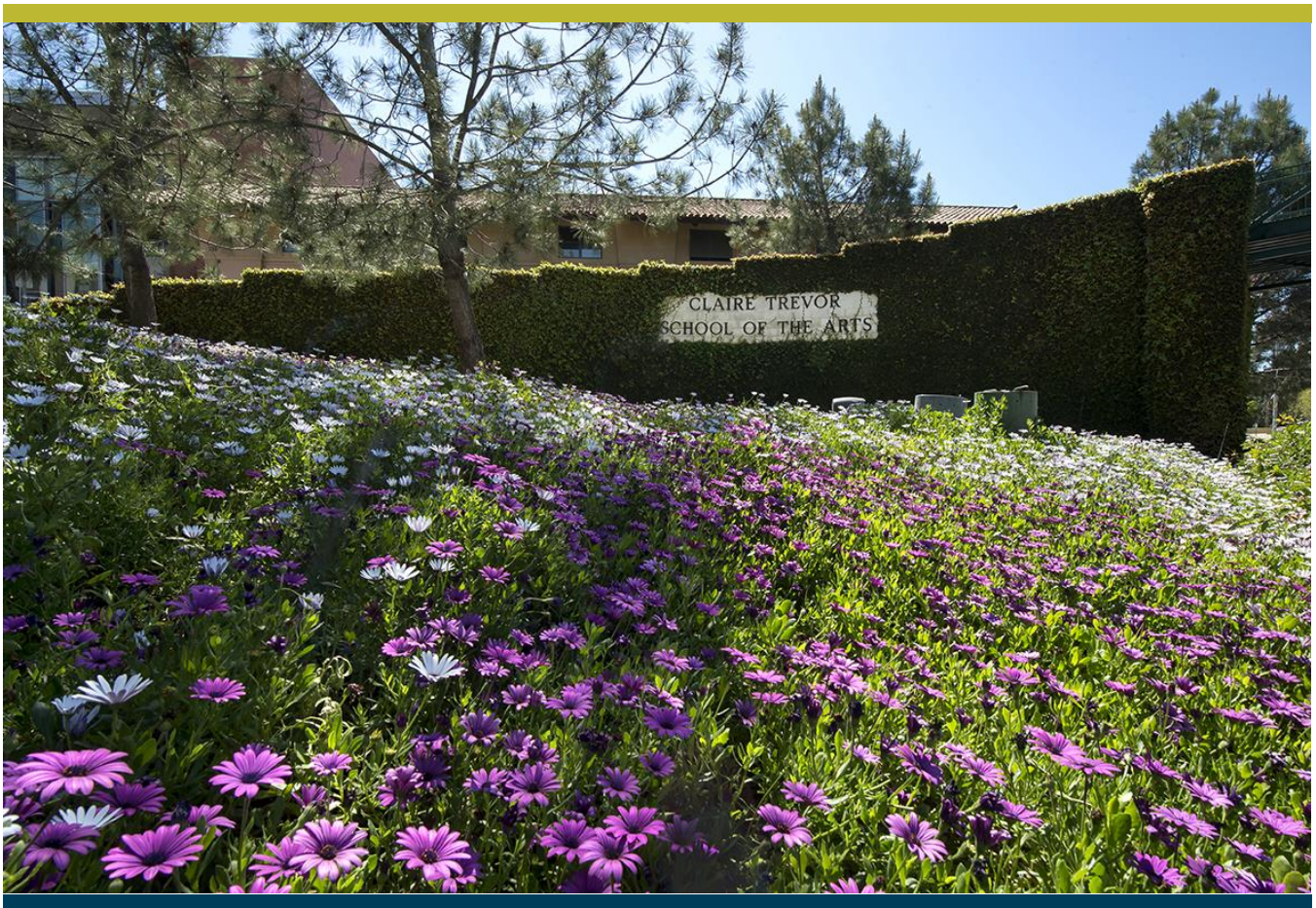




Dean of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Leadership Profile

November 2021



WittKieffer

Executive Summary

The University of California, Irvine (UCI) is seeking a dean for its Claire Trevor School of the Arts (CTSA). The new dean will bring a strategic vision for the future of the School. The dean should also possess a knowledge of and an affinity for collaborative approaches to learning and research excellence. The dean will lead the School into its next chapter of growth by re-imagining creativity and responding to shifting trajectories in emergent disciplines in the arts.

CTSA is a nationally-ranked arts school dedicated to research, scholarship, performance and critique, with active partnerships worldwide. The School is home to the departments of Art, Dance, Drama and Music. The faculty consists of award-winning researchers and authors who lead national arts research organizations. The School delivers a superb developmental experience by combining superlative artistic training with a top-ranked liberal arts education. CTSA offers three Ph.D. programs, four master's programs in 13 specializations and eight bachelor's programs. Undergraduate and graduate degree courses include extensive studio, workshop and performance experiences; theoretical and historical studies; and arts and technology practices. CTSA brings art to the local community by offering more than 200 student performances and exhibitions; engaging hundreds of Orange County K-12 students through classes and facilities; and collaborating with numerous local arts, cultural, educational and civic organizations.

CTSA is a multi-disciplinary community where artists are encouraged to collaborate with each other across conventional categories to conjure new expressions. By breaking through artificial barriers, this ongoing exchange of ideas and methods opens up fresh perspectives, sparks out-of-the-box innovation and energizes the creative community as a whole. CTSA thrives on the diversity of its artists and performers, which represent multiple forms and styles and a range of racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds and voices.

As one of the nation's leading schools of the arts within an internationally renowned university system, the dean will serve as the main administrative and academic officer of the School. The dean will be expected to collaborate with the School's leadership team, faculty and staff to oversee an academic and creative curriculum that serves a diverse national and international student body. Additionally, the dean will partner with the provost and executive vice chancellor and university leadership to elevate the School as a central academic unit within UCI and the University of California system.

The dean is expected to maintain a significant level of professional, external engagement with donors, alumni and key artistic organizations in Orange County and Southern California. The dean should have a background as a proven leader within higher education or arts administration, a scholar-practitioner in their field, and have relevant experience working with diverse communities and cultural organizations. Furthermore, the dean should seek to understand and respect the multiple areas of creative practice and cutting-edge scholarship in which the faculty and students participate.

In addition to being an enthusiastic and inventive problem solver, the dean should be an adaptive and agile colleague with a capacity for patience, openness and a transparent approach to communication. The dean should be a leader that can cultivate an environment of trust, respect, cooperation and diversity among faculty, staff and students. Above all, the incoming dean should be passionate about and serve as an advocate for arts practice and research at the university level.

Relevant leadership, administrative and managerial experience in higher education or a major arts or cultural institution is desired.

Information about how to nominate a candidate or to apply for this opportunity can be found later in this document in the section entitled "Procedure for Candidacy."

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Provide strategic leadership for the Claire Trevor School of the Arts

As the visionary leader for the School, the dean will engage members of the community in a broad conversation focused on shaping a clear strategy and setting priorities to guide a common purpose for the School's future. The dean will encourage and facilitate community dialogue about academic programs and potential for growth to ensure a cohesive and collaborative model of shared governance. The dean must be able to articulate the School's distinctions and strengths for incoming students, staff and faculty. The dean will provide a supportive and encouraging environment for members of the CTSA community. The dean will leverage the unique resources of the university to capitalize on emerging trends and opportunities that are aligned with the School's strategic goals.



Generate new resources through active and ongoing fundraising

The dean will be highly entrepreneurial in generating new resources for CTSA to support students, faculty and facility needs. The School is currently engaged in UCI's Brilliant Future fundraising campaign with a unit goal to raise \$14M. The dean should commit significant effort to generating philanthropic support in collaboration with the School's development team. To diversify revenue streams, the dean should explore opportunities for partnerships inside and outside the university.

Support and advocate for scholarly research and steward community engagement

CTSA is home to several nationally-ranked creative programs and internationally-renowned scholars. The dean must understand the respective mechanisms necessary for scholars across all academic and programmatic areas to conduct innovative and rigorous research. This includes the impact of teaching loads, grants, promotions, facilities and/or equipment needed to support and advocate for faculty in their scholarly pursuits. The dean will work to connect faculty research and creative activities with the community in a way that fosters impactful and meaningful experiences and relationships. The dean will maintain existing partnerships and establish new ones, building on the relationships faculty have with community, industry, government and other partners across Orange County.

Advocate for the role of the arts and enhance the prominence of the arts within the university

To effectively lead a school with nationally recognized programs in the performing and fine arts, the dean must believe in the central role the arts play in the UCI mission. The dean should understand the interdisciplinary value of the visual and performing arts and the transformational impact of fostering creativity in every area of study and professional practice. The dean must understand that practice and scholarship are one entity grounded in critical thinking and training. The dean will be creative, persistent and opportunistic in identifying and exploring new synergistic collaborations. The dean will seek opportunities to meaningfully involve the School with the rest of the university and promote the School both internally and externally.

Foster and support the production of art through faculty and staff collaborations

The School is an ecosystem of faculty and staff who also serve as collaborators, technicians, artisans and resources for scholarly research and external performance and exhibition. The dean will have an extensive understanding of the collaborative and tangible needs of implementation for the art and performance-making process to foster and support these relationships and systems. The dean will advocate for ongoing support to expand research and curricula. The dean must demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the staff, equipment and budgetary resources that are essential to aid in the learning trajectory for students and for making the art into a reality.

Promote an environment committed to diversity, equity and inclusion

UCI is committed to excellence through diversity and aims to demonstrate diversity in its faculty, student and staff populations, as well as in its teaching, research and service mission. Through art ranging from the most traditional to the radically new, CTSA's educational goals explore and present the arts as the essence of human experience and expression. CTSA's distinguished international faculty partner with others across UCI and globally to reimagine creativity for the 21st century. The university aims to cultivate a campus climate that reflects its diverse student population and promote human dignity, civility and mutual appreciation for the uniqueness of each community member. The dean is expected to uphold and promote these values in all aspects of the role.



Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The successful candidate will be a nationally recognized, strong, self-assured, entrepreneurial leader able to infuse UCI's Claire Trevor School of the Arts with a sense of common purpose and to realize outstanding accomplishments that engender pride.

Requirements include an active record of distinguished scholarly research, teaching and/or artistic accomplishment; substantial administrative experience, preferably at a research university with Ph.D. and masters programs; proven success in external fund development; and credentials that merit appointment at the rank of full professor in one of the departments of the School.

The next dean will champion and support the scholarly mission of the School as well as its preparation of creative artists and performers.

In addition, the candidate will possess:

- the leadership skills to develop a unique vision for CTSA and the capacity to design and implement a sound strategic direction for the School's future in conjunction with the faculty, staff and students
- experience as a senior management professional and fiscal planner
- an ability to steward fundraising and diversify revenue streams to support strategic priorities and provide infrastructural support for facilities
- superb communication skills
- integrity of the highest caliber

- high standards for personal and professional achievement
- the skills and experience to represent the School effectively to audiences within UCI, Orange County, nationally and internationally
- a commitment to creating and nurturing a distinguished faculty
- a commitment to an intellectually and culturally diverse academic environment
- a commitment to the School's leadership role in the world of arts and scholarship globally
- a commitment to advocating transnational and intercultural scholarship
- experience in working with bilingual, multicultural, international communities
- personal commitment to the transformative role of the arts in society
- experience in managing change, resolving conflict and building consensus
- intelligence, sophistication, empathy, creativity and the willingness to take calculated risks
- high energy, grace under pressure and a sense of humor

This is a rare opportunity for a gifted leader to guide and shape a school with a high level of excellence and an impact on the arts globally. Success will elevate UCI's Claire Trevor School of the Arts to a more influential position of leadership in its disciplines, creating a defining moment in the history of the School and of UCI.



About the Claire Trevor School of the Arts

UCI's Claire Trevor School of the Arts is a leader in training aspiring artists, supporting arts research, cultivating new technologies in the arts and promoting the arts in the community at large.

CTSA programs are grounded in liberal arts, meaning students learn through critical thinking, writing skills, research, collaboration and problem-solving. The School offers premier academic and professional programs in the departments of [Art](#), [Dance](#), [Drama](#) and [Music](#) at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Creativity intersects with technology in every academic department, providing students with opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations on the campus and in the business community. The Digital Arts minor attracts students throughout the university who are passionate about studying the latest in digital technology. It also provides them with an opportunity to investigate the connection between practice and analysis in the arts. Arts Outreach links students, faculty and staff to the community at large. The Creative Connections program places arts scholars in K-12 classrooms across the county.

CTSA is at the forefront of developments in the burgeoning field of the arts and technology. The [Beall Center for Art + Technology](#) serves as an exhibition showplace and teaching center for all forms of experimental media arts.

The school's primary exhibition and performance facilities include the Claire Trevor Theatre, Winifred Smith Hall (with additional access to the on campus Irvine Barclay Theatre) and the University Art Galleries. The Contemporary Arts Center contains a multimedia performance space, enlarged art gallery and exhibition spaces, motion capture studio, Meyer Sound Design Studio, faculty offices and art studios for graduate students. CTSA also has a stage production shop and a costume design and construction studio, where graduate students can see their artistic vision come to life as they work alongside costume professionals.

CTSA is home to the New Swan Shakespeare Festival, the only Shakespeare festival in Orange County that brings whimsical, intimate productions in a moveable mini-Elizabethan theater to the campus each summer. Students enrolled in CTSA drama programs work alongside professional actors and production managers to gain one-of-a-kind career experience.

CTSA alumni impact the world every day – from Broadway stages and Hollywood recording studios to European art galleries and international dance companies. UCI alumni are reshaping art in America and throughout the world.

Department of Art

With an emphasis on experimentation and innovation, the Department of Art is a leader in genres addressing cultural identity and emerging technologies. Headed by an internationally distinguished faculty, the three-year MFA program offers a rigorous interdisciplinary environment for training in the visual arts.

Department of Dance

The Department of Dance is a community that builds bridges and develops connections to the larger dance community. A conservatory style program with an outstanding faculty, the department is highly respected and acknowledged nationally and internationally. Students work in all areas including technique (ballet, modern, jazz and hip hop), choreography, history, critical issues, movement analysis, dance science and technology.

Department of Drama

The Department of Drama is widely recognized and ranked as one of the top academic and professional training programs in the country. A diverse and distinguished faculty prepare students for fruitful careers in theatre, film, television and more by providing them with a wide range of focused academic and creative experiences.

Department of Music

The Department of Music curricular philosophy is based on the ideals of the conservatory within the academy. It is concerned with the performance and creation of music within the context of the highest standards of historical aesthetic and theoretical inquiry. The faculty are highly active in their fields as publishing scholars, musicologists and music theorists, concert and recording artists, performers and well-known composers.

Please visit <https://www.arts.uci.edu/strategic-plan> to view [UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts Strategic Plan 2016-21](#).



About University of California, Irvine

Overview

Since 1965, the University of California, Irvine has combined the strengths of a major research university with the bounty of an incomparable Southern California location. Through its unyielding commitment to rigorous academics, cutting-edge research and leadership development, UCI is a driving force for innovation and discovery that serves local, national and global communities in many ways.

With approximately 37,000 students, nearly 1,500 ladder-rank faculty, and over 12,000 campus and medical center staff members, UCI is among the most dynamic campuses in the University of California system. Increasingly a first-choice for students, UCI ranks among the top U.S. universities in the number of undergraduate applications and continues to admit freshmen with highly competitive academic profiles. UCI ranks among the nation's top 10 public universities for the seventh year in a row by *U.S. News & World Report*. *The New York Times* named UCI No. 1 among U.S. universities "doing the most for the American dream" in its College Access Index. As Orange County's largest employer, UCI generates an annual economic impact of \$7B locally and \$8B statewide.

Located in the heart of Orange County, UCI enjoys the best of what Southern California has to offer: beaches, mountains, deserts and a broad variety of cultural, intellectual and entertainment activities.



University Facts

UCI is consistently recognized as a trailblazer in a broad range of fields, garnering national and international honors in every school. The U.S. Department of Education named UCI a Hispanic-serving institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution. This demonstrates the university's dedication to providing a world-class education to every qualified student. UCI's diverse academic offerings paired with excellent leadership create an environment worthy of any passionate and dedicated scholar. Explore some of UCI's points of pride below:

UCI Points of Pride

1 of 66 elected institutions in the Association of American Universities.

31 graduate programs ranked in nation's top 50 among public universities by *U.S. News & World Report*.

#1 best college by *Money* magazine.

#2 in the nation for diversity by *The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* 2021 College Rankings

#1 university doing the most for the American dream in *The New York Times* College Access Index.

In 2020, the UCI Black Thriving Initiative launched to mobilize the campus to be accountable for confronting anti-Blackness.

Top 10 coolest school by *Sierra* magazine for 12 consecutive years.

Five members of the UCI community, including three faculty, have won Nobel Prizes.

Among many prestigious faculty awards and honors, UCI has 24 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 14 members of the National Academy of Engineering and 6 members of the National Academy of Medicine.

170+ UCI Health doctors have been named "Physicians of Excellence" by the Orange County Medical Association.

Academics

UCI is a center for quality education that fosters passionate, enthusiastic and ongoing expansion of knowledge and approaches to scholarship. Graduates are prepared to be global citizens equipped with the tools of analysis, expression and cultural understanding required for leadership in today's world.

In addition to the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, UCI includes the following schools: School of Biological Sciences, Paul Merage School of Business, School of Education, Henry Samueli School of Engineering, School of Humanities, Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences, School of Law, School of Physical Sciences, School of Social Ecology, School of Social Sciences, School of Medicine, Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the planned School of Population and Public Health.

Leadership

Howard Gillman was appointed the sixth chancellor of UCI in September 2014, having previously served as provost and executive vice chancellor since June 2013 and interim chancellor since July 2014. Before coming to UCI, he spent more than two decades as a professor of political science, history and law at the University of Southern California, including five years as dean of the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Gillman has received many awards for his scholarship and teaching excellence. He earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, all in political science, at UCLA.

Hal Stern is UCI's provost and executive vice chancellor. Since joining the university in 2002 as founding chair of the Department of Statistics, he has held a range of academic and administrative leadership positions, including as the Ted and Janice Smith Family Foundation Dean of the Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences and as vice provost for academic planning. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and master's and doctoral degrees in statistics at Stanford University.

UCI Community

UCI's students, faculty and staff reach beyond the classrooms and laboratories to address social issues and improve the human condition. A major intellectual and cultural center, UCI engages the community through many public activities and events.

Athletics

In NCAA Division I competition, UCI sponsors 18 intercollegiate athletic teams: nine men's teams and nine women's teams. The Anteaters have won 27 national team championships in nine different sports since 1969 and have had 63 individual national champions.

Event Services

UCI's Student Center and Event Services provides the campus community and its guests with a variety of venues for social, recreational, cultural and educational pursuits.

Hospital

Orange County's only university hospital and Level I trauma center, UCI Medical Center has been ranked among the nation's best hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report* for 20 consecutive years.

Medical Services

UCI Health provides the highest quality healthcare to Orange County and surrounding communities through its world-class physicians, surgeons and clinical staff.



Irvine

Irvine, California is located in the heart of Orange County with quick access to major freeways, rail service and John Wayne Airport. The coastal communities of Laguna Beach and Newport Beach are only a short distance away. Irvine is less than an hour from Los Angeles International Airport and downtown Los Angeles. Incorporated in 1971, the city is among the nation's largest planned urban communities, encompassing more than 65 square miles, and has been named the "Safest City in America" for 16 consecutive years based on FBI statistics for violent crime. UCI enjoys the best of what Southern California has to offer: beaches, mountains, deserts and a broad variety of cultural, entertainment and intellectual activities. To learn more about Irvine, see <https://www.destinationirvine.com/>.

Many UCI faculty and administrators live in University Hills, an on-campus residential community created to provide affordable housing to eligible full-time employees. University Hills is within walking distance of Irvine shopping, restaurants and entertainment, as well as campus academic and athletic activities and neighborhood recreational amenities. The community has four apartment complexes, two condominium associations, townhomes, paired homes, single-family detached homes and a few custom homes. In all, University Hills has nearly 384 apartments and 1,226 for-sale homes on more than 300 acres.



Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume, a diversity statement and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile. WittKieffer is assisting UCI in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by January 19, 2022.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's [candidate portal](#).

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Zachary A. Smith, Ph.D. and Bree Liddell
UCI-ArtsDean@wittkieffer.com

The University of California, Irvine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer advancing inclusive excellence. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy.