COMPANY DESCRIPTION

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The University of Calgary is Canada’s leading next-generation university – a living, growing and youthful institution that embraces change and opportunity with a can-do attitude. Located in the nation’s most enterprising city, the University is making tremendous progress on its Eyes High journey to be recognized as one of Canada’s top five research universities, grounded in innovative learning and teaching and fully integrated with the community it both serves and leads. The University of Calgary inspires and supports discovery, creativity, and innovation across all disciplines.

The University now sets its eyes on a new strategic plan, Growth through Focus. This plan puts the University on course to be Canada's most entrepreneurial university in the country's most enterprising city by ensuring a transdisciplinary focus for our scholarship; deeper partnerships and integration with businesses, governments, and purpose organizations in our community; and future-focused program delivery that sees us offer more modes of instruction, modularization, and micro-credentials. The Vice-President Advancement will play a leading role in achieving the end goals of this strategy which include growing annual revenue to $2B, five profit-generating partnership ventures, and recognition of its stature as a top five university in Canada.

Despite its youth, at 54 years of age, UCalgary is already one of the nation’s leading research universities, with over $488M in annual research revenue and 146 research chairs (75 Canada Research Chairs), NSERC Industrial Research Chairs and more than 50 research institutes and centres. UCalgary benefits from the ongoing support of its community, which rallies behind the university, recently completing the third-largest fundraising campaign in Canadian history, surpassing their goal of $1.3B.

For a more in-depth description of the University and role: https://careers.ucalgary.ca/jobs/6939680-vice-president-advancement-university-of-calgary

SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Reporting to the President and Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-President Advancement is the senior officer of the university responsible for leading, enhancing and developing community support and engagement across the University. Working collaboratively across the University, the VP Advancement promotes and articulates the university’s value to society; attracts philanthropic support; develops programs and opportunities to engage alumni and the community at large and advances the University’s brand and connection through social media, digital engagement, strategic communications, and traditional marketing initiatives. This position is a member of the University’s Senior Leadership Team (SLT); and the President’s Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

The VP Advancement functions in a highly demanding environment which requires constant scanning for issues and challenges against multiple priorities and demands on limited resources. The workload is significant; the issues are frequently complex; and the partnerships and decisions required of the VP Advancement are critical to the university, its reputation, and its positioning in the community and across the global stage. This position develops and maintains positive and productive relationships with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders including other ELT and SLT members, the Board of Governors, the Senate, faculty, students, staff, alumni, community partners, donors, foundations, and other educational institutions.
The VP Advancement has responsibilities across four primary domains:

❖ Strategic Leadership of Integrated Office of Advancement.
❖ Community Engagement and Alumni Relations.
❖ Communications.
❖ Development (including Advancement Services).

A significant focus for the VP Advancement (spelled out in the Growth through Focus plan) over the next few years will be on the strategic leadership of the integrated Advancement portfolio, to align talent and resources to proactively seek out and capitalize on opportunities as they arise. The University has big ambitions for a University still less than 60 years old and the VP Advancement will play a critical role in its development. This is a permanent position with the University of Calgary.

DESIRED CANDIDATE ABILITIES, BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Given the role this individual will play in the University of Calgary’s continued growth and success, it is essential the successful candidate possess at a minimum a university degree in Business Administration, Finance, or a related discipline, with a preference for a graduate degree. They will bring a minimum of 10 years’ progressive experience in senior leadership roles relating to one or more of the following areas: community engagement and alumni relations, communications, and development. Exposure to all areas will be considered a key advantage.

To achieve the objectives of this role, the ideal candidate will bring demonstrated experience and leadership in leading a complex and comprehensive communications, engagement or development plan that speaks to multiple stakeholders, ideally on a global stage. They will have a track record of translating strategic thinking into action plans and output that create immediate impact and measurable results. In order to be successful, they will have a solid track record of attracting resources and bring a highly attuned political acumen and community awareness to the role.

The ideal candidate will have led large, complex teams across multiple divisions or departments. They will bring the ability to create a vision, with a common thread and ambition across all areas. They will have developed and advanced many other careers and bring a proven service leadership style. Given the University’s ambition of being the leading entrepreneurial university in the most entrepreneurial city, the ideal candidate will bring demonstrated entrepreneurial thinking and innovation and will bring a commitment to continuous learning.

PERSONAL / PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

The Vice-President Advancement is a key driver of the University’s advancement on the global stage. This will require someone with the gravitas and personality to engage and inspire others in a vision and someone who can handle difficult situations with diplomacy, sensitivity, and tact. The ideal candidate will be a natural change agent and relationship architect. They will easily slice through complexity and get to the core of the message and will inspire and energize all involved with the University in the future path and possibilities.

DHR International Contacts

The University of Calgary is partnering with the executive search firm, DHR International on this search. All deliberations of the Vice-President Advancement Advisory Search Committee will be conducted with full confidentiality for all candidates. Inquiries, nominations, and applications are invited. Interested candidates should submit confidentially, in electronic form (Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF files preferred) a Curriculum Vitae, a summary of accomplishments, and a letter of interest to VPAdvancement@dhrinternational.com by July 5, 2021.

The University of Calgary has launched an institution-wide Indigenous Strategy in line with the foundational goals of Eyes High, committing to creating a rich, vibrant, and culturally competent campus that welcomes and supports
Indigenous Peoples, encourages Indigenous community partnerships, is inclusive of Indigenous perspectives in all that we do.

The University of Calgary recognizes that a diverse staff/faculty benefits and enriches the work, learning and research experiences of the entire campus and greater community. They are committed to removing barriers that have been historically encountered by some people in our society. They strive to recruit individuals who will further enhance their diversity and they will support their academic and professional success while they are at the University. To ensure a fair and equitable assessment, we offer accommodation at any stage during the recruitment process to applicants with disabilities.

The University of Calgary’s comprehensive benefits and pension program is designed to promote productive level of health and well-being to staff members through coverage for health, dental, life insurance, income protection for disability, and retirement income planning. The base salary wage range is established to be between $250,000 and $320,000 Canadian dollars per annum and will be negotiated based on the candidate’s skills and experience. This is a Calgary-based, English speaking position.

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