



PRESIDENT

ABOUT THE POSITION

The Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents invites applications and nominations immediately for the position of **President of East Central University**, which will begin **no later than July 1, 2022**.

As the institution's chief executive officer, the president provides strategic leadership, leading the overall operations and administration of the university, reporting to the Regional University System of Oklahoma Regents ("Board"), and performing all duties required by law, policies, rules, regulations, and directives from the Board. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) serves as the coordinating Board of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.



ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Articulate ECU's vision, mission, and values with internal and external stakeholders
- Build upon the existing traditions, distinctiveness, and strengths of ECU
- Support and enhance ECU's overall operations and academic quality by maintaining regional accreditation and maintaining or increasing academic program accreditations or approvals
- Ensure ECU maintains the highest level of compliance with all accrediting bodies for academic programs
- Execute thorough, astute financial management and approval of the annual institutional budget
- Ensure ECU's compliance with legal and business ethics
- Spearhead the development, communication and implementation of effective growth strategies and processes through shared governance
- Endorse a success-oriented, accountable environment within the institution
- Drive ECU to achieve and surpass its goals and objectives
- Enforce adherence with legal and regulatory guidelines and in-house policies
- Ensure positive, productive relationships with RUSO, OSRHE, elected officials, alumni, donors, and the community to promote the value and advance ECU's mission
- Demonstrate support and respect for students and parents, faculty, administrators, staff, and other employees
- Accept accountability for and answer for ECU's performance in the areas of:
 - Strategic planning
 - Fiscal management
 - Quality of educational programs and accreditation status
 - Quality of faculty and staff
 - Meeting fundraising goals
 - Enrollment, retention and graduation rates
 - Quality and size of freshman class
 - Any internal campus assessment



REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Dynamic written communication and verbal presentation skills
- Interpersonal skills to interact effectively with RUSO and OSRHE, elected officials, and governmental bodies, in addition to students and parents, various constituencies of ECU, alumni, advancement, media, and the community at large
- Ability to establish and nurture relationships with and connections to community and state leaders to maximize opportunities for partnerships and support to ECU
- Proven ability to hire, develop, maintain, and advance an effective administrative team
- Proven ability to identify opportunities and to convert challenges into innovative solutions and programs that will advance the future of the institution
- Ability to promote a shared vision to address challenges and create opportunities, especially in the areas of student recruitment through graduation, employee excellence, and finances with ongoing attention to facilities and technology in support of student success
- Ability to articulate opportunities and needs to external audiences, sharing the value of supporting ECU
- Strong, proven leadership skills in strategic planning; organizational improvement and accountability; fiscal planning and responsibility
- Earned doctorate preferred

DESIRED COMPETENCIES:

- Collaborative leadership style
- Effective team building
- Understanding and appreciation of shared governance
- Knowledge of online and distance education
- Ability to empower others
- Strategic thinking
- Business acumen
- Leadership
- Results-driven
- Financial management/fiscal responsibility
- Problem solving/analysis



ABOUT EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY



Established in 1909, East Central University (ECU) is a public comprehensive student-centered regional university located in Ada, Oklahoma, whose mission is to **educate and empower students to understand and transform our world**. It is part of the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO).

ECU's vision is to be the **first-choice university for students** because of its core values of:

- being humble, kind and generous, caring for its students and one another
- going the extra mile to provide an exceptional experience for students and those it serves
- remaining forward-thinking, adaptable, and open to new ideas
- fostering a commitment to solving problems, whether its own or others

Spread across 142.3 acres, the 40-building campus is home to 3,577 students (2,965 undergraduates) of diverse races, ethnicities and ages. Approximately 55% come from within a 60-mile radius of Ada, serving a critical need for college education in rural Oklahoma, but **more than 30 countries and 25 states are also represented in the student population**.

ECU offers more than 70 undergraduate degree options as well as seven master's degrees across seven colleges and schools: College of Education and Psychology; College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; School of Fine Arts; College of Health & Sciences; School of Nursing; Harland C. Stonecipher School of Business; and the School of Graduate

Studies. Students can attend ECU classes on campus in Ada or completely online, as ECU is rapidly expanding virtual learning opportunities. Currently, **15 percent of ECU students are online**, with the majority of those students being from Arkansas and Texas.

ECU has 422 dedicated full-time faculty and staff, and a **student-teacher ratio of 18:1**. Academically ECU students perform exceptionally well, earning a 100% pass rate during spring and fall 2020 on the Praxis Performance Assessment for teacher certification (OK average=90%); and a 96.97% pass rate on the nursing licensure exam (OK average=86.1%, national=85.69%). Additionally, 75% of ECU students are accepted into medical school (national average=41%) while 100% are accepted into law school (based on a three-year average of Political Science & Legal Studies).

In 2015 ECU had a vision to become a leader in practical water solutions, with the formation of the Oka' Institute. Over the last five years, it has raised more than \$2.8 million in funding and is now nationally and internationally recognized by researchers and scientists.

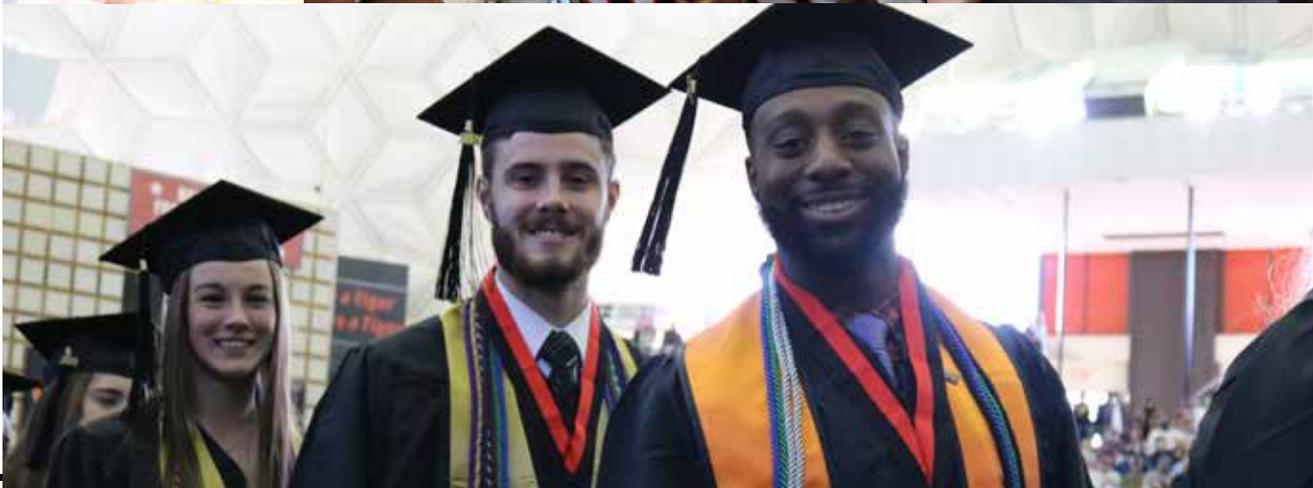
The ECU Foundation has total assets of \$42.57 million (one of the highest among the state's regional universities), and **awarded \$760,925 in scholarships in 2021**. Overall, the University has a significant economic impact. Not only do 70% of ECU graduates stay in Oklahoma after graduation, but there is an economic output-to-appropriations ratio of almost \$10 per every \$1 of state appropriation.

ECU greatly values its longstanding partnerships, enjoying close relationships with the community including the **Ada Jobs Foundation, the City of Ada and the Chickasaw Nation.**

In March 2017, ECU developed a Strategic Plan, Shared Horizons 2019-2024, which focuses on fostering **excellence** in both students and employees; boosting **engagement** via partnerships with external constituents and the community; and encouraging **expansion**, both in enrollment and on the physical campus.

ECU boasts a vibrant and varied student life. There are **more than 70 student organizations on campus** including departmental clubs, honor societies, religious organizations, and special interest groups - plus national fraternities and sororities.

The East Central University athletics department is a member of NCAA Division II and participates in the Great American Conference. In the first 11 years of the GAC, the Tigers have compiled 13 championship titles and numerous league, regional and national honors both on the court and in the classroom. ECU has seen 11 players named to the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America teams, with 10 coming in the last 10 years. The Tigers have also seen one student-athlete named a NCAA Woman of the Year Top-30 finalist, which exemplifies all aspects of a student-athlete (athletics, academics, leaderships and community service). Over the years, ECU has also advanced 35 players to the National Football League and has seen four move on to represent their home countries in the Olympics.



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY



Incorporated in 1901, Ada is a progressive, quality-oriented community located in the rolling hills of southern Oklahoma.

Home to 17,140 residents, the city, imbued with ingenuity, a pioneering spirit and hospitality, has been **described as “a place where the West meets the South.”**

Ada is large enough to offer many big-city amenities, such as a four-year university and thriving business climate, yet still small enough to provide a safe, fun and affordable place to raise a family.

Home to a world-class EPA water laboratory and the nation’s most progressive tribe, the Chickasaw Nation, Ada is birthplace to the state’s first native-born governor and longtime U.S. Senator Robert S. Kerr as well as evangelist Oral Roberts. Many celebrities,

including country music superstar Blake Shelton and NFL tight end Jeremy Shockey, have called Ada home.

Downtown Ada has a rich history, with many of its buildings dating back to the early 20th century. In addition to the **Federal Courthouse/Opera House** built in 1903, **Central Fire Station** built around 1908 and **The McSwain Theater** built in 1920, there is **The Thompson College Shop**, a bookstore/soda fountain that opened for business in 1926 and is still owned by members of the Thompson family; and **The Ada News**, which has occupied its spot since 1904 and is the only community newspaper in continuous operation since the early 20th Century. (Fun fact: The second-floor round window was used by reporters to announce election results to crowds waiting in the street below!)

In 1987, Ada became one of the first cities in Oklahoma to receive the Main Street designation and establish a Main Street organization with the purpose of revitalizing and preserving downtown Ada. Having achieved a reinvestment of more than \$20 million and counting, **Ada’s downtown district offers plentiful dining, shopping and historic sightseeing options.**

Ada, a Tree City USA member, has a regional airport and is also served by the Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City (OKC), which is 84 miles away.

It is located within easy driving distance of many other major cities as well, including Tulsa (120 miles), Dallas (167 miles), Wichita, Kan. (238 miles) and Little Rock, Ark. (334 miles).





ABOUT THE REGIONAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OKLAHOMA

As the largest four-year university system in the state, the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) governs six of the state's universities, and these institutions enroll more than 37,000 students each year.

Eight governor-appointed members of the Board of Regents and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction govern RUSO, whose mission is to provide higher education programs for Oklahoma universities and service to eligible students in the university service areas in preparation for success in a global society.

RUSO Universities include East Central University, Northeastern State University, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and University of Central Oklahoma.

RUSO institutions beat the national average in affordability and have a significant positive impact on Oklahoma's economy. An estimated 92% of RUSO graduates stay in the state, and Oklahoma taxpayers will earn \$8.38 for every \$1 invested in a RUSO student.

Together, RUSO schools represent 40% of undergraduate degrees awarded in Oklahoma, and RUSO graduates makeup 58% of the degreed workforce five years after graduation.

To learn more about the Regional University System of Oklahoma visit www.ruso.edu.





To apply for this position, visit:

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To nominate someone for this position, e-mail:

nominations@highereducationleadershipsearch.com

Bill Meehan, Ed.D. and **Alan Medders, Ph.D.**

will be assisting RUSO and East Central University with the search. If you have questions or would like to have a confidential conversation about the position, call **256-239-2305** or e-mail:

billmeehan@highereducationleadershipsearch.com

alanmedders@highereducationleadershipsearch.com

East Central University is an Equal Opportunity Employer and specifically invites applications from women, minorities, veterans and people with disabilities.

**Candidates for this position will be considered through
March 11, 2022.**



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