



CHAIR OF NURSING

ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY

CBIZ Talent & Compensation Solutions

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Rockford University

Chair of Nursing



THE OPPORTUNITY

The President of Rockford University has begun the search for the University's next Chair of Nursing. The Search Committee invites nominations of, and applications from, accomplished, dynamic, and inspiring individuals ready to provide outstanding academic leadership to the University.

ABOUT ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY

Rockford University is a four-year, co-educational institution founded in 1847, offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in traditional liberal arts and professional fields. Rockford offers approximately [80 majors, minors and concentrations](#), including the [bachelor's degree completion program](#) for a B.S. in Management Studies. Through their [Graduate Studies](#) department, degrees are

extended to include the [Master of Business Administration \(MBA\)](#) and [Master of Arts in Teaching \(MAT\)](#), and a [Master of Education \(M.Ed.\)](#)

In addition to the degree programs, Rockford University offers the following programs.

- [The HUB: Academic Coaching & Testing Services](#)—offers academic success opportunities to RU students. The HUB emphasizes quality academic coaching with a strong commitment to aid each student in attaining academic potential while directing the student towards independent learning and improved personal achievement.
- [English as a Second Language \(ESL\)](#)—Programming includes listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar components for preparation of the TOEFL test

Rockford University is home to one of only 11 [Phi Beta Kappa \(PBK\)](#) chapters in Illinois, the most prestigious honor society in the United States. Named by The Princeton Review as a Best Midwestern College and as a 2018 Best Midwest Regional University by U.S. News and World Report, Rockford currently serves approximately 1,260 full-and part-time students.

An [NCAA Division III institution](#), the university offers 12 intercollegiate varsity teams along with several junior varsity teams and participates in the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference. Approximately 33 percent of the university's students participate in at least one intercollegiate sport. For more about Regent Athletics, visit goregents.com.



Mission

Rockford's mission is to educate people to lead responsible lives by means of a curriculum grounded in liberal arts learning and complemented and extended by professional and practical experience. Through the total academic and co-curricular experience, Rockford University strives to prepare students for fulfilling lives, careers, and participation in a modern and changing global society.

Rockford University Learning Expectations

- **Knowledge** – for Understanding the world
- **Values** – for Envisioning the world
- **Skills** – for Shaping the world

Accreditation / Distinctions

Since 1913, Rockford University has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc (ACEN).

Rockford has garnered numerous distinctions in recent years, making it an institution that stands out. Among the most notable:

- **Academic Excellence:** [One of 11 colleges](#) and universities in Illinois and 290 in the country with a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious liberal arts academic honor society.
- **Community Engagement:** Rockford University joins [just 361](#) other colleges and universities from across the nation, and [one of only 11 in Illinois](#), to receive the 2015 Community Engagement Classification from The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The classification is valid through 2025.
- **College with a Conscience:** One of 81 U.S. colleges and universities in the [Princeton Review book, Colleges with a Conscience](#), Rockford University was recognized for their strong ethos of civic engagement and the opportunities for community service offered to students.
- **Access through Economic Diversity:** Ranked by the U.S. News and World Report as an Economically Diverse Regional University, underscoring a long-standing and successful effort to promote access for qualified students to excellent higher education, irrespective of the financial means of those students and their families.
- **Student Engagement and Satisfaction:** Shown by the [2014 National Survey of Student Engagement](#) as performing at or above U.S. norms on virtually all measures of student engagement.

- **Best in the Midwest:** Regularly recognized as a best Midwestern university by national ranking websites, including:
 - **U.S. News & World Report:** Named as a 2021 [Best Regional University](#).
 - **The Princeton Review:** Consistently ranked as one of the [Best Midwestern Colleges](#) based on student opinion data and The Princeton Review's standards for academic excellence within each region.
 - **College Consensus:** Named one of the 2020 Best Regional Universities based on results from the most reputable college ranking publishers and student reviews.
- **Advocate for Social Mobility:** Named by the 2020 U.S. News & World Report as a Top Performer on Social Mobility for successfully advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students that receive Pell Grants.
- **Emphasis on Community Service:** Named consecutively since 2008 to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll based on innovative and effective community service and service learning programs.

University Strategic Plan

Engage

Rockford University will demonstrate to all current and potential stakeholders that Rockford University is a vital resource, worthy of support and partnership.

Experience

Rockford University will optimize student support services and enrich the co-curricular experience in order to reinforce classroom learning while securing the achievement and satisfaction of all students.

Build

Rockford University will invest in human capital and campus infrastructure in order to establish a stable environment for success in all university endeavors.

Grow

Rockford University will refine the university's curricular offerings, providing advanced pedagogy and assessment, while meeting market demands through the filter of the university's central mission



ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



Patricia Lynott Ph.D. President

Dr. Patricia Lynott joined Rockford University in December 2022 serving as interim President until becoming the 19th President of Rockford University on March 1, 2024. Lynott's almost forty years in higher education includes being a tenured, Associate Professor of Speech, serving as Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education at Elmhurst University, and becoming the founding director of Elmhurst Partners, the university's corporate training division.

Dr. Lynott spent fifteen years at Southern New Hampshire University where she played a critical leadership role in transitioning a small regional business college into a national, multi-faceted university. During her tenure at SNHU, Lynott served as vice president of academic affairs, university provost, and president of SNHU's University College.

Dr. Lynott's community involvement is extensive. She was a founding member of Manchester Proud, a citizen's coalition dedicated to uniting the City of Manchester behind an aspirational vision for the city's public schools. She served on the steering committee of New Hampshire Scholars, a federally funded, community-based program that encourages students to enroll in a rigorous Core Course of Study in high school. She was also a member of the New Hampshire Advisory Committee of the US Global Leadership Coalition—a network of businesses and NGOs, national security and foreign policy experts, business, faith-based, academic and community leaders who support elevating diplomacy and development alongside defense in order to build a better, safer world.

Dr. Lynott has served on the board of directors of numerous non-profit organizations such as the Fulbright Association; Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society; the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce; the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire; America's Credit Union Museum; and the Boys & Girls Club of Manchester. She is currently President of the Board of Governors of the Boys & Girls Club of North Central Illinois.

After graduating magna cum laude from Trinity College, Dr. Lynott completed a master's degree in communication studies from Northern Illinois University. She completed her doctorate at Loyola University Chicago and has a certificate from the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard's Graduate School of Education.

ABOUT THE AREA

ROCKFORD, IL

Rockford is a city located in Winnebago County in northern Illinois. With a population of approximately 150,000, it is the third-largest city in the state outside of the Chicago metropolitan area. The city is situated on both sides of the Rock River, which runs through the city and provides recreational opportunities such as boating and fishing.

Rockford has a diverse economy, with manufacturing being a major industry in the city. It is home to several major companies, including aerospace manufacturer Woodward Inc. and the outdoor equipment company, the Bergstrom Inc. The healthcare sector is also prominent, with Mercy Health System and UW Health being two of the largest employers in the city.

The city is home to several educational institutions, including Rockford University, Rock Valley College, and the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. The Rockford Public School District is the largest school district in the city and serves over 28,000 students.

Rockford has several cultural attractions, such as the Anderson Japanese Gardens, the Coronado Theatre, and the Burpee Museum of Natural History. The city also hosts numerous events throughout the year, including the Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition and the Rockford AirFest.

Meaningful information about the region:

City of Rockford, Illinois	City of Rockford (rockfordil.gov)
Welcome to Rockford	Welcome to Rockford Rockford, IL Trips & Travel Planning (gorockford.com)
Plan your Visit to Chicago	Things to do in Chicago Enjoy Illinois



POSITION SUMMARY

The Office of Academic Affairs is excited to announce an exceptional opportunity for a forward-thinking Nursing Department Chair to join its dedicated team beginning in Fall!

Reporting to the Dean of the College of Science, Math, and Nursing, the Chair of Nursing will provide visionary leadership of the Nursing Department. The ideal candidate will have a deep understanding of higher education administration and a passion for strategic planning, budgeting, and curriculum development. The Chair will work with college stakeholders to ensure program and student outcomes are of the highest standards, as well as develop a strategic plan for growth and expansion of the existing BSN program and development of new programs



MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's degree in nursing (MSN); preference given to candidates with a Ph.D. or a terminal degree in Nursing.
- Two years of clinical experience.
- Licensed as a Registered Nurse by the State of Illinois or eligible for Illinois licensure as a Registered Nurse.

DESIRED EXPERIENCE

- Proven experience in higher education administration.
- A track record of leadership and vision, with the ability to lead, inspire, and motivate faculty, staff, and students to achieve their best.
- Experience in program accreditation to ensure continuing accreditation and compliance with state regulatory requirements.
- Experience in higher education teaching, with a focus on developing and implementing innovative and rigorous curricula.
- Experience in budgeting and financial management.
- Experience in program recruitment, admission, and retention efforts.
- Commitment to strategic planning, with the ability to develop and implement comprehensive plans to support the university's goals and objectives.
- A passion for student success, with a focus on promoting academic achievement and personal growth with a diverse student population.

NOMINATION & APPLICATION PROCESS

CBIZ Talent and Compensation Solutions an executive search firm, is assisting **Rockford University** with its search for this important leadership position. All calls and inquiries should be made through the search firm. Nominations and applications will be held in strict confidence and candidates will remain confidential until the final stage of the search, at which time the express permission of finalists will be obtained before making their candidacy public.

Application Process

STEP 1: Complete Online Application

- Click [here](#) to begin. OR
- Copy/paste the URL into browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RUCON>

STEP 2: Submit Your Application Materials. Send the following documents in PDF format:

- Cover letter
- Résumé or curriculum vitae (CV)

Submission Details:

- Email to: ApplyHigherEd@eflassociates.com
- Email Subject line: *Chair of Nursing, Rockford Univ Application*

Key Dates

- Application deadline is April 30, 2025
- Semi-Finalist Interviews are tentatively scheduled for mid May 2025
- Campus Interviews are tentatively scheduled for late May 2025
- Desired start date is July 2025, but is negotiable

Confidential Inquiries

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Nominations & Application Questions:

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