



UMassAmherst

Manning College of Information
& Computer Sciences

**Dean, Manning College of Information
and Computer Sciences**

Position Description – November 2024

POSITION SPECIFICATION

Position	Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Dean Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences
Institution	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Locations	Amherst, Massachusetts
Reporting	Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Website	https://www.cics.umass.edu/

THE OPPORTUNITY

The University of Massachusetts Amherst seeks an innovative, collaborative, and strategic academic leader to serve as its next Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Dean of the Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences. As the chief academic and executive officer of the College, the Dean reports to the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and serves as a member of the University's Provost Leadership Council. The position is endowed as the Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Dean.

The Dean will bring exemplary achievements in computer science with strategic leadership, collaborative and creative energy, outstanding interpersonal and communication skills, entrepreneurial ambition, and a passion for the *common good* mission of the College and the University. This position is an opportunity to join a university that is on an upward trajectory, with a strong executive leadership team, a collaborative council of college deans, and internationally recognized faculty, dedicated staff, and outstanding students.

The Dean will build upon an established and very successful enterprise of teaching, research, and service across disciplines in computer and information sciences. Direct reports to the Dean include the chair of the faculty and a set of associate deans who are responsible for the main functional units of the College. The College's chief development officer, an employee of the UMass Amherst Foundation, has a dotted-line reporting structure to the Dean. Currently, the College encompasses nearly 90 tenured and tenure-track, teaching, and research faculty and 103 professional and support staff, with an annual operating budget of over \$30 million.

The Dean provides strategic and operational leadership to all aspects of the College's academic and scholarly programs. The Dean sets priorities and provides strategic guidance toward the College's goals of ensuring excellence in teaching and education, fostering world-class research, and supporting robust community engagement. The Dean will lead the College in a highly collaborative way, working with an extraordinarily broad population of students, faculty, and staff across campus. The Dean is also the College's chief advocate and steward, promoting its goals and achievements, leading its development and fundraising activities, and speaking for its mission of excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service both externally and internally.

In supporting the institution's research mission, the Dean advances the scholarly activities of the faculty, including interdisciplinary opportunities. The Dean also focuses on the wellness and academic success of the College's students. The Dean is the College's public voice, promoting innovative ideas and solidifying partnerships both within the UMass Amherst campus and nationwide as a recognized leader in the field. The successful candidate will be an approachable, collegial, nationally recognized, strategic, and entrepreneurial leader prepared to advance the *common good* mission of the College and to inspire innovation in all areas.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The University of Massachusetts Amherst

Founded in 1863, UMass Amherst was initially established as Massachusetts Agricultural College under the Federal Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act. Today, with its 12 schools and colleges, it is the flagship and the largest of the five campuses in the statewide University of Massachusetts system. More information about the University's founding and land acknowledgement statement can be online at <https://www.umass.edu/diversity/umass-land-acknowledgement>.

UMass Amherst supports its community, its state, and the nation, and it is estimated that the University's impact on the Massachusetts economy is \$2.5 billion annually. UMass Amherst serves approximately 32,000 students (24,000 undergraduate and 8,000 graduate students) in 12 schools and colleges, taught by nearly 2,000 (including over 1,000 tenure-track) faculty. Federal, state and private sourced sponsored research projects are led by more than 800 faculty with annual expenditures of more than \$250 million. UMass Amherst enrolls more first-year students from Massachusetts than the Commonwealth's top eight private universities combined. UMass Amherst has nearly 300,000 alumni worldwide, the majority of whom live and work in the state.

The University is located in the historic Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts, about an hour from the scenic Berkshires, two hours from Boston, and three hours from New York City. The University offers a rich cultural environment in a rural setting close to major urban centers. The University is among the largest employers in the region and an engine of the local economy. With its high national profile, the University is a magnet for talented faculty, substantial state funding, and an outstanding student body.

The campus includes more than 13 million square feet of buildings. The University's investment of \$1.8 billion in facilities during the past decade has created a revitalized learning and living environment. This decade of renewal has focused on new and renovated facilities, including classroom and learning buildings, administrative offices, research laboratories including core facilities, a student union, athletics facilities, and many other impressive projects. Of particular note is the new building for the College of Information and Computer Sciences, estimated to be ready for occupancy in Fall 2025. The town of Amherst is a diverse and inclusive community, bustling with shops, bookstores, and restaurants, and the University and nearby colleges, cities, and towns offer a wide variety of cultural events, lectures, art museums and galleries, and the Fine Arts Center.

In addition, UMass is a leadership institution in the Pioneer Valley's Five College consortium, providing opportunities for extended impact and collaboration between UMass Amherst and its sister colleges Amherst College, Mt. Holyoke, Smith College, and Hampshire College.

In 2018, UMass Amherst acquired a secondary instructional and residential site (the former Mount Ida College), eight miles from Boston, Massachusetts, as a center for student experiential learning and professional development. The Mount Ida Campus of UMass Amherst is home to the

Wadsworth Library, which is part of the University Libraries. The goal of efforts at Mount Ida is to facilitate connections between UMass Amherst and the Greater Boston region, thereby amplifying UMass Amherst's impact in the Commonwealth.

Leadership

Chancellor Javier A. Reyes became the 31st leader of the University of Massachusetts Amherst on July 1, 2023, following his selection as chancellor of the Commonwealth's flagship campus by the UMass Board of Trustees. Chancellor Reyes is an economist who has devoted his career to the cause of public higher education, holding leadership positions at the University of Illinois Chicago, West Virginia University, and the University of Arkansas. He most recently served as interim chancellor of UIC, Chicago's largest university campus. Chancellor Reyes is the first Hispanic person to serve as Chancellor of UMass Amherst. Chancellor Reyes received his bachelor's degree in economics from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Campus Estado de Mexico, in 1998, and his doctorate in economics from Texas A&M University in 2003. Chancellor Reyes was formally inaugurated on April 26, 2024.

Provost Fouad Abd-El-Khalick joined the university on July 1, 2024. Most recently, he served as Dean of the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before that, he spent 16 years at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he served as the Head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Associate Dean of Research for its renowned College of Education. An elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. Abd-El-Khalick is a leading international science education researcher. Dr. Abd-El-Khalick earned his bachelor's degree in biology and his master's degree in science education from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. He received his doctorate in science education from Oregon State University.



Illustration of New CICS Building

Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences

The Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is a top-tier college dedicated to *computing for the common good*. Excellence and integrity are central values across the College and are embodied not just by innovative research that contributes to a better world, but also through delivering high-quality education by top faculty using the most effective pedagogical techniques. The College is committed to the highest standards for

ethics and personal responsibility and takes the responsibility for continual innovation and improvement in all aspects seriously, leveraging data to drive these efforts.

The work of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni builds on the College's nearly 60 years of foundational contributions to artificial intelligence, computing systems, theory, and networking. Faculty currently lead 40+ centers, labs, and institutes (many of them interdisciplinary) in critical areas of computer science. With extraordinary growth over the last five years, the College is excited to work with the next Dean to expand its leadership in computing research, teaching, and service to the campus and the community, as well as the Commonwealth, nation, and the globe.

Faculty interests include critical and mainstream computer science and areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, and Quantum Computing as well as informatics and interdisciplinary areas, including a strong focus on the impacts of technology in society.

The College offers top-ranked undergraduate and graduate programs. Through coursework and hands-on experience, students prepare to take on society's big problems. CICS students regularly go on to top graduate programs, join or found cutting-edge startups, and work with industry giants across sectors, from health care and finance to technology, commerce, and the arts. Please visit the following websites to learn more about the Manning College:

Mission & Values: <https://www.cics.umass.edu/about/college-overview/vision-mission-and-values>

National Rankings and Enrollment: <https://www.cics.umass.edu/about/college-overview>

New Building: <https://www.cics.umass.edu/building>

Strategic Plan (2021-2023): <https://www.cics.umass.edu/about/college-overview/strategic-plan>

Undergraduate and Graduate Education: <https://www.cics.umass.edu/academics>

Research Areas: <https://www.cics.umass.edu/research/research-areas>

Research Centers and Labs: <https://www.cics.umass.edu/organizations>

Faculty Directory and Achievements: <https://www.cics.umass.edu/research/faculty-achievements>

Diversity and Inclusive Community Development: <https://www.cics.umass.edu/diversity>

Dean's Office Leadership: <https://www.cics.umass.edu/about/leadership/deans-office>



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Reporting to the Provost, the Dean is the chief administrative and academic officer of the College. The Dean must possess a robust understanding of the current and impending challenges and opportunities facing the fields of information and computer sciences research, education, and service. The Dean must be a champion of all stakeholders and have the motivation to support their success and wellbeing, including being a robust champion of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

The Dean will have a broad understanding of computer science and its interdisciplinary connections, and the role that leaders within the academy play to make the most impact. The Dean will work with state and national stakeholders, including industry leaders, to address challenges and opportunities and to advocate for the broad fields of information science and computer science, forging relationships for future partnerships and innovation.

The ideal candidate will be an experienced, inclusive, strategic, and collaborative leader, institutionally minded and creative, and committed to guiding the College to the next level of excellence. The Dean will be expected to work effectively with faculty, staff, students, university leaders, and industry representatives as partners to advance the University's research, teaching, and service missions. The Dean will bring an understanding of, and a commitment to, shared governance at all levels of the College, including becoming a member of the local communities. The Dean will represent the College articulately and compellingly to external constituencies, enhancing its visibility and impact while increasing philanthropic support, research funding, and other mission-aligned revenue. The Dean will promote and further the impact of the College's theme of the *common good*. The Dean will lead the College with qualities of collaboration, communication, and fairness.

In addition, the Dean will:

- Lead a College committed to amplifying its intellectual depth, breadth, impact, and reputation, including within the broader university, nationally, and internationally
- Leverage faculty interests to expand research activities and increase partnerships with units across the University
- Provide leadership to the faculty in all academic matters, including research and curricular initiatives, as well as faculty recruitment, to strengthen the College's reputation across research, teaching, and the advancement of the fields of study
- Appreciate and be committed to faculty shared governance
- Lead the College's ability to catalyze federally funded research at the institutional level
- Ensure that the educational programs at all levels provide a positive learning experience and social accountability to the community, offering high-quality and innovative educational opportunities to facilitate the transition from student to professional
- Appreciate the need for visibility and outreach to students, helping to provide and create opportunities for student feedback
- Promote professionalism and high ethical standards with an understanding of cultural humility and responsiveness
- Provide the necessary stewardship of the College's resources to ensure successful execution of its mission
- Serve as principal advocate and spokesperson for the College within the UMass Amherst community and to local, national, and international constituencies
- Foster alumni recognition and participation in the growth of the College

- Promote collaborative relationships with other UMass Amherst colleges and divisions to further the goal of interdisciplinary information and computer science education and research
- Ensure that the College continues to be a leader working with the communities it serves, exemplified by the College's commitment to *computing for the common good*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE / QUALIFICATIONS

UMass Amherst seeks a Dean with exemplary academic achievements, strategic leadership ability, entrepreneurial spirit and high energy, outstanding interpersonal and communication skills, administrative acumen, and a passion for the unique mission of the College and the University.

Candidates must have an earned PhD in computer science or a related discipline, as well as credentials that merit appointment at the rank of full professor with tenure within the Manning College. Competitive candidates will also have demonstrated the following traits:

- **Scholarly Background:** An exceptional record of scholarly distinction and accomplishments in information and computer sciences.
- **Strategic Vision:** An informed, broad, exciting, and creative view of information and computer sciences, including their multidisciplinary impact and roles in enabling innovation. The ability to communicate a vision with clarity and purpose to specialists, fellow academics, and general audiences. An openness and enthusiasm to partner with industry and public sector institutions.
- **Experience in Academic Affairs:** Demonstrated success in leading the growth and development of academic units through innovative program creation, research support, and collaborative ventures. A track record of effectiveness in faculty recruitment, retention, and development.
- **Administrative Skills:** Effective leadership qualities and financial acumen. An aptitude and enthusiasm for fundraising from individual and industry donors. A proven ability to attract support from government sources.
- **Personal Qualities:** Imagination, creativity, entrepreneurial energy, integrity, dependability, and collegiality. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Charisma and public presence. A commitment to global education and cultural diversity. The ability to lead a college with a racially, culturally, and economically diverse student body. The ability to recruit and support a diverse faculty and staff.

NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

The Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences at UMass Amherst has retained Dr. Josh Ward at the executive search firm Korn Ferry to conduct this important search. All inquiries, nominations, and applications should be submitted to Dr. Ward at the e-mail address below.

Applicants should submit:

1. A current and comprehensive *curriculum vitae*.
2. A letter of interest (2 to 4 pages) describing why you are interested in the role of Dean, why you are interested in UMass Amherst and the Manning College specifically, why you are a good fit for the position based on your academic and leadership experience, and why now is a good time for you to consider the opportunity.

For priority consideration, please submit all application materials by **Friday, January 10, 2025** to Josh.Ward@KornFerry.com.

KORN FERRY CONTACT

Josh Ward, PhD, MPhil

Senior Client Partner

Higher Education | Academic Medicine | Law

(405) 640-3994

Josh.Ward@KornFerry.com

As an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer, UMass Amherst recognizes the power of a diverse community and encourages applications from individuals with varied experiences, perspectives and backgrounds.