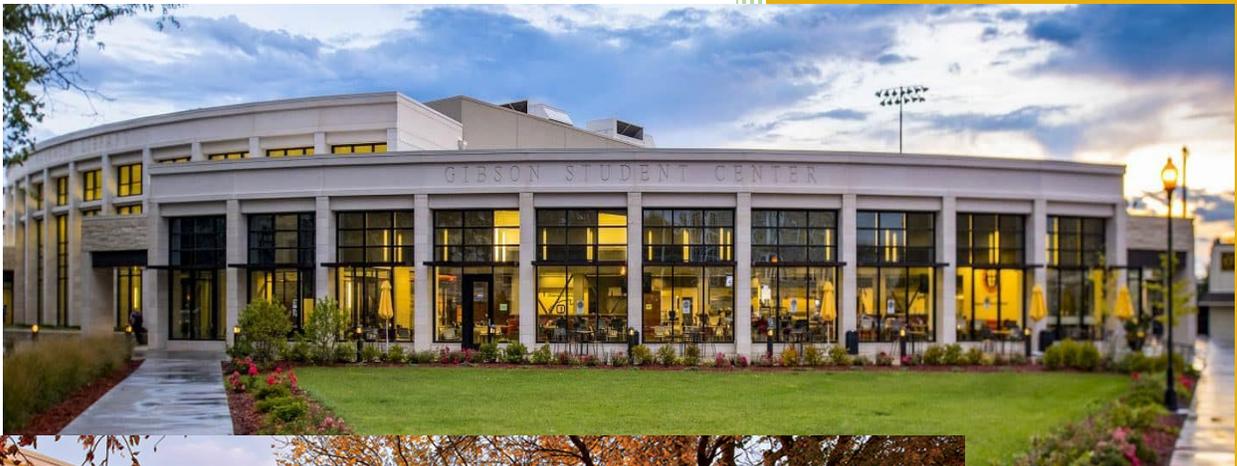


# Ottawa University

## President & CEO



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# Ottawa University President & CEO

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*Ottawa University invites applications from dynamic and inspiring leaders for the position of President & CEO.*

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## **THE OPPORTUNITY**

Ottawa University invites applications from, and nominations of, dynamic and inspiring leaders for the position of President & CEO, Ottawa University. The new leader will report directly to the Board of Trustees and serve as the chief executive for the entire system including the University's two residential campuses in Kansas and Arizona, its adult learning centers in Overland Park, Milwaukee, and Phoenix, and all online and international programs. The President & CEO will be supported collaboratively by a superb team of professionals and a robust, University-wide infrastructure.

Ottawa University is an institution with a proud 155 year heritage of educating adults and students of traditional ages for lifetimes of faith, service, leadership and significance. From its founding in 1865 in

Ottawa, Kansas, the university has grown to an institution today that serves nearly 5,000 students through its residential campuses, adult and graduate studies campuses, and online. Ottawa University offers exceptional breadth and depth in its curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate levels which is constantly being updated and enhanced to make the greatest possible impact on the lives of its students.

Chancellor Kevin C. Eichner has served Ottawa University as a student leader, Trustee, President, and Chancellor for much of his adult life. Elected as the 21<sup>st</sup> President of the University in 2008, Dr. Eichner plans to serve in his current capacity through June of 2021, at which time he will assume a non-executive role focused on strategic campus and partnership development, fundraising, and onboarding of the new University President and CEO on a reduced time basis through the end of his contract term in June of 2022.

As part of a carefully orchestrated succession plan, Dr. Eichner and the Board of Trustees have chosen to move now in attracting the best possible successor and to putting that person in position to benefit from the Chancellor's many years of experience with the institution. The next chief executive will assume this position on or before July 1, 2021. Dr. Eichner and the Board will immediately transition all executive authority and day-to-day leadership responsibilities of the institution to the new President & CEO. The President & CEO will report directly to the Board of Trustees and all members of the cabinet and senior leadership team will report directly to her or him.

It is anticipated that the new President & CEO will assume the title of University Chancellor at the completion of Dr. Eichner's term in June 2022.

## **OTTAWA UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW**

- Ottawa University is a comprehensive, private, non-profit University, headquartered in Ottawa, Kansas. The University was founded in 1865 through a collaboration with the Ottawa Indian Tribe and the American Baptist Churches, USA.
- The Ottawa, Kansas Residential Campus is in its 155<sup>th</sup> year of service.
- The University is a pioneer in adult higher education, with over 45 years of serving the unique needs of adult learners in Phoenix, Kansas City, and Milwaukee, as well as through a robust online education division.
- Ottawa opened its highly successful Surprise, Arizona residential campus in 2017, setting new records for enrollment growth and immediate sustainability.
- The University has been continuously accredited since 1914 by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and is one of the oldest continuously accredited higher educational systems in America.

- The University operates with 786 full and part-time faculty, including adjunct faculty. Approximately 71% of the full-time teaching faculty at Ottawa University hold a doctorate and the remaining 31% have a minimum of a master's degree as the highest degree earned.
- The University benefits from its Flex-Term academic schedule, designed to meet the demands of the particular course and related student learning patterns.
- Ottawa is a highly successful member of the NAIA, the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference, the Sooner Conference, the Golden State Athletic Conference, and the National Christian College Athletics Association. OU offers 31 varsity sports at its Kansas campus and 26 varsity sports at its Arizona campus, and has more NAIA varsity athletics at its two residential campuses than any college in America.
- The University has produced a track record of organic growth from within a solid and respected 155 year old higher educational institution by growing its gross revenues and net tuition revenues by 86% and 69%, respectively since 2016.
- Ottawa has been quite successful in its fundraising activities since 2008 and has enjoyed outstanding results in its capital campaigns with strong support from the board and friends of the institution.
- A commitment to the development of the whole person is deeply embedded in the University's cultural and operational DNA.
- Ottawa benefits from an unusually well-diversified strategic business model with three lines of business operating nationally and internationally, and is strongly positioned to sustain its growth and success well into the future.
- The new Arizona residential campus located in Surprise has achieved critical mass in just three years. OUAZ benefits from its location in the 5<sup>th</sup> largest and fastest growing state in the United States and in the fastest growing county (Maricopa) in the United States--a market with very little private higher education.
- The school has been built on the foundation of its resurgent historical campus in Kansas which is enjoying its highest enrollment in thirty-five years.
- Augmenting the two residential campuses is a powerful and profitable online and adult site distribution model with adult campuses in Phoenix, Kansas City & Milwaukee.
- The leadership team has demonstrated aggressive, sensitive, effective management through the current COVID-19 pandemic and actually managed to achieve its enrollment targets at all sites for the fall 2020, opening terms.

## WHY WE SERVE



Since its inception in 1865, Ottawa University has sought to live out its mission in some unique and powerful ways. It began with the collaboration between two American Baptist missionaries, Jotham and Eleanor Meeker, and the Ottawa Indian Tribe of Kansas to promote education and peace in a rapidly changing world. Out of this relationship, Ottawa University was born. Ever mindful of the University's original commitments, treaties and agreements were refreshed and strengthened in 2008 by then President & CEO Eichner and the Board of Trustees, allowing all Ottawa Indians to attend the University at any of its locations free of charge. Since 2008, more than 350 tribal members have enrolled and over 150 have graduated, far more than in the 143 prior years put together. In recognition of this esteemed relationship, the Ottawa Tribe made a major donation in the form of a beautiful fire-and-water feature that is the signature element of the University's Gangwish Library and Gibson Student Center. The Tribe and the University continue to enjoy harmonious collaboration in pursuit of mutual aims.

Ottawa University has grown from its origins on the banks of the Marais des Cygnes river in Kansas to a comprehensive, not-for-profit, educational institution, which serves students of traditional age and adult learners worldwide. Thoroughly grounded in its mission, Ottawa University carries out its educational purposes through its liberal arts and professional studies programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Ottawa University guides learners to integrate faith, learning, and life, to gain the abilities they need to succeed and prosper, and to do so with an increased sense of the knowledge, compassion, respect, and service our world requires. Interested candidates are encouraged to review the University's Mission Documents, which include the Mission and Vision Statements reproduced below as well as the University's Diversity Policy, Hallmarks of Distinction, Guiding Principles, Statement of Strategic Intent, Statement of Educational Purposes, and Code of Conduct, all of which are available on the University's website, [www.ottawa.edu/About-Us](http://www.ottawa.edu/About-Us).

## MISSION

Building on its foundation as a Christ-inspired community of grace and open inquiry, Ottawa University prepares professional and liberal arts graduates for lifetimes of personal significance, vocational fulfillment, and service to God and humanity.

## VISION

By 2020, Ottawa University will be positioned as a rapidly expanding institution known for its innovative educational models, exceptional value, and special ability to prepare diverse student populations for lives of enlightened faith, exemplary service, inspired leadership and personal significance. The new leader will help the institution to define and achieve its next vision and plans.

## CAMPUS LOCATIONS

The University's Ottawa, Kansas residential campus is located on sixty-four acres. This campus has sixteen major buildings, including three residence halls, seven academic and administrative buildings, four athletic facilities, a student-dining center, and a library/conference center.



The University's Surprise, Arizona campus currently sits on 13 acres. This campus has access to an additional 20 acres immediately south of its current campus, which will be developed over time to include additional academic, administrative, housing, and athletic facilities as enrollments increase.

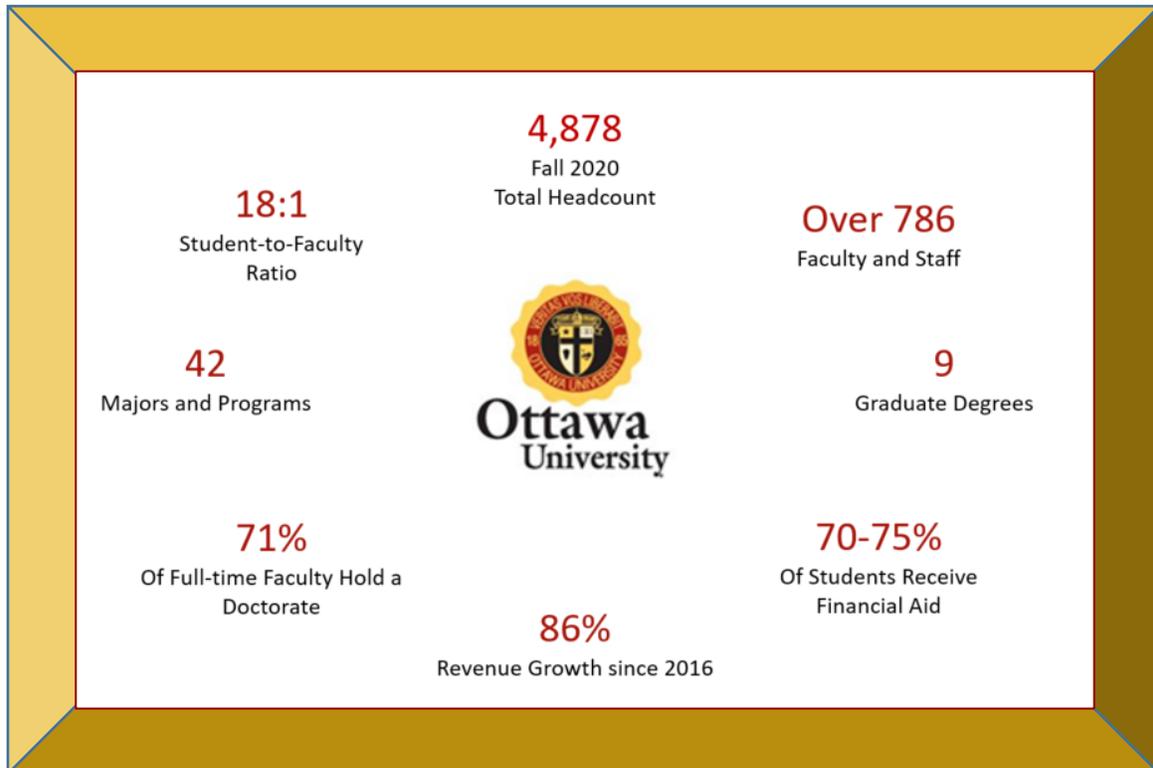
In December of 2020, the University completed a highly successful \$38 million public bond offering, allowing it to own all of its Arizona properties and to do so at materially lower costs over time. Because of its track record of growth and its unique business strategy and model, the investment banking firm of Ziegler and



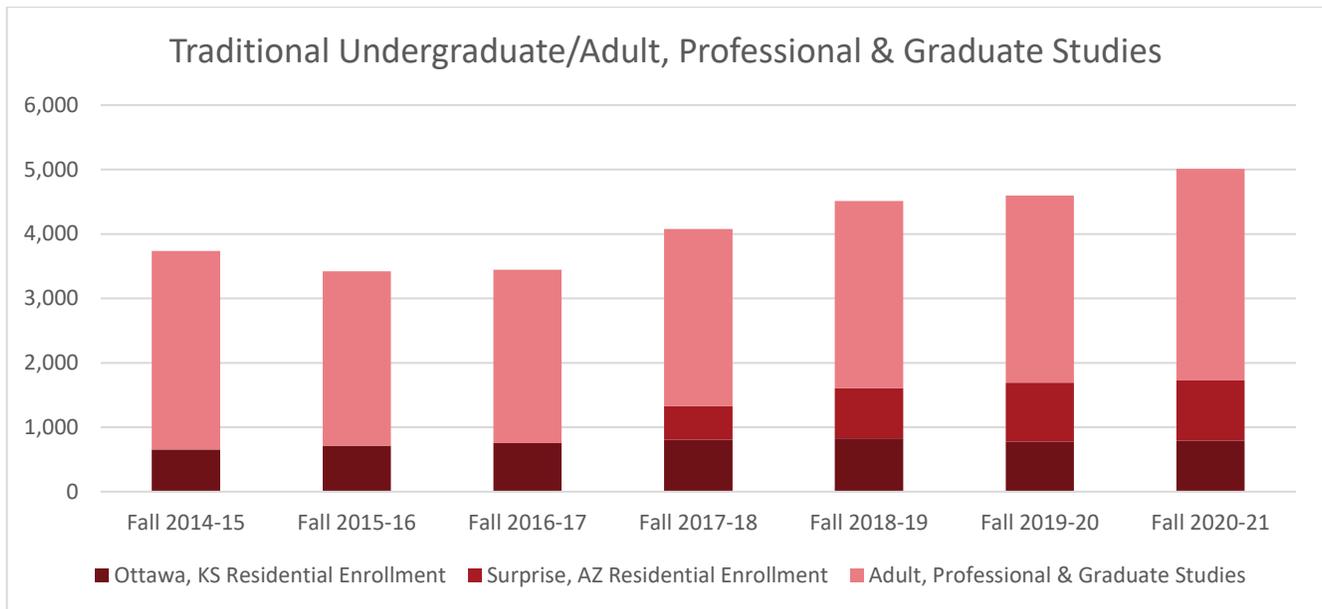
Company noted that Ottawa achieved the most favorable pricing for its bonds of any non-rated higher education credit in the entire preceding year.

In addition to the two residential campuses, Ottawa has adult sites in Phoenix, Kansas City, Milwaukee, & Online.

## OTTAWA UNIVERSITY BY THE NUMBERS



## ENROLLMENT GROWTH AND SUCCESSES



- Enrollment has reached over 930 students on the Surprise campus since its opening only three years ago.
- Enrollment at historical Ottawa home campus is at the highest level in 35 years.
- Adult, Professional & Graduate Studies, experiencing growing numbers, currently serving thousands of adult learners.
- All campuses met or exceeded their enrollment targets for fall 2020 despite pandemic.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Ottawa University offers degree programs in more than 42 academic disciplines (33 undergraduate and 9 graduate), including healthcare management, mathematics, fine arts, Christian studies, education, business, and the sciences. The University offers well over 100 areas of study (majors, minors, and concentrations). These academic programs are offered in various locations throughout the country including satellite campuses, the traditional residential campuses and online.
- The most popular majors for the fall 2020 term among traditional undergraduate students included Business Administration (19%), Exercise Science (14%), Psychology (11%), Biology (9%), and Sports Studies (9%).
- Excellent graduate programs in Business, Education, Counseling, & fast growing EMBA programs for international students already in country.

## REQUIRED SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

- The successful candidate will have a proven track record of leadership and management effectiveness, preferably from within Christian, liberal arts higher education institutions.
- The new President & CEO must be committed to holistic student development and have a vibrant Christian faith with a true appreciation for Ottawa's open, welcoming and inclusive guiding principles, commitment to diversity, and the development of high impact graduates who make a difference wherever they live and serve. S/he will be adept at building rich and transformational relationships with students, parents, faculty, staff, administration, trustees, and external constituencies.
- The candidate will have significant understanding of private college leadership in the principal areas of academics, athletics, admissions, student affairs, personal fundraising, and budget management, specifically within a private liberal arts residential college serving a very diverse student population and many first generation students.
- The candidate must demonstrate a keen understanding of the multi-faceted demands of the academic enterprise at the collegiate level, including the financial demands and limitations necessary to ensure that Ottawa University maintains financial stability and the ability to invest in itself through effective revenue and expense management.
- He or she will have an appreciation for the nuances of today's highly competitive enrollment management and student recruitment environment.
- The successful candidate will also have extensive experience in community development and fundraising, and be willing and capable to lead an expansion of Ottawa constituencies fostering new friend and donor relationships that can financially impact the University in a major way.
- The new Ottawa leader will have a deep commitment to academics and be resolute in advocating for academic integrity, intellectual freedom, and excellence in and out of the classroom.
- The successful candidate will have the energy, stamina, and relationship management skills to collaborate and function within a fast changing, demanding, and high performance culture.
- In addition, the demonstration of high interpersonal versatility, a drive to succeed through and with others, and a good sense of humor and personal humility would be welcome attributes.
- The Ottawa University President & CEO and family (if one) should plan to spend significant and extended periods of time at both the Ottawa, Kansas and Surprise, Arizona campuses. S/he is expected to become a familiar and effective community presence and advocate in both communities.
- A master's degree is required and a terminal degree is highly preferred. Non-traditional candidates with exceptional gifts and track records, and a special fit and affinity for the University will also be considered.

# NOMINATION & APPLICATION PROCESS



EFL Associates (<https://eflassociates.cbiz.com>), an executive search firm, is assisting **Ottawa 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:** Interested candidates should email their letter of interest and résumé or curriculum vitae to [OttawaPresCEO@eflassociates.com](mailto:OttawaPresCEO@eflassociates.com).
- **STEP 2:** Complete a brief [online application](#) (3-5 minutes).

## Please Note

- Application deadline is March 1, 2021
- Semi-Finalist Interviews are tentatively scheduled for March 30, 2021
- Campus Interviews are tentatively scheduled for mid-April, 2021
- The desired start date is July 1, 2021, or sooner upon mutual agreement

## Confidential Inquiries

**Steve Waldron, JD**

VP & Managing Director, Higher Education Practice

816-945-5423 (direct)

Email: [swaldron@eflassociates.com](mailto:swaldron@eflassociates.com)

## Nominations & Application Questions

*If you would like to provide a nomination, please email all pertinent information (including an email address and phone number of the nominee) to:*

**Ms. Angela Lilje**

Practice & Project Manager, Higher Education Practice

816-945-5410 (direct)

Email: [alilje@eflassociates.com](mailto:alilje@eflassociates.com)



Ottawa University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family and genetic information, in its programs and activities as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and other applicable statutes and University policies. Ottawa University prohibits sexual and gender-based harassment, including sexual assault, and other forms of interpersonal violence.