NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Dean, College of Engineering
2026-2027

The College of Engineering

The College of Engineering at NC State University is among the largest and most preeminent engineering colleges in the nation, recognized for its excellence in education, research, innovation and service. As a cornerstone of NC State's land-grant mission, the college prepares engineers and computer scientists to solve complex challenges and improve lives through discovery, collaboration and technological advancement. With more than 12,500 undergraduate and graduate students, the College of Engineering is one of the largest in the nation. Across nine academic department and three additional affiliated departments in other colleges, the college offers 18 bachelor's degree programs, 23 master's degree programs and 14 doctoral degree programs across a broad range of engineering disciplines.

The college's faculty and staff support a nationally recognized educational and research enterprise. The college's research expenditures are **nearly $290 million annually**, placing NC State Engineering among the top engineering colleges in the nation for research activity. The college's research portfolio spans critical areas of national importance including artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, semiconductor technologies, energy systems, cybersecurity, materials innovation, biotechnology, sustainability and resilient infrastructure. The College of Engineering is home to more than 20 federally funded research centers and institutes, along with additional laboratories and collaborative research initiatives that advance interdisciplinary discovery, large-scale sponsored research and partnerships with industry, government and nonprofit organizations. The college has a distinguished record of leadership in major national research efforts, including two National Science Foundation (NSF) Engineering Research Centers (ERC) — ASSIST and FREEDM — and is one of only two institutions nationally to have simultaneously led two ERCs and one of only two institutions to have been awarded leadership of three ERCs.

Among its nationally recognized initiatives are PowerAmerica, a Manufacturing USA Institute advancing wide-bandgap semiconductor technologies; AERPAW, a national platform for advanced wireless research; the Secure Computing Institute; the Golden LEAF Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center; and major research efforts in artificial intelligence, clean energy, nuclear engineering, advanced manufacturing and sustainable engineering. The Department of Nuclear Engineering is also positioned at the forefront of the next generation of nuclear technologies. NC State's longstanding leadership in nuclear engineering research and education has been strengthened by significant state investment in advanced reactor research, supporting the university's role in advancing innovative nuclear energy technologies, workforce development and national leadership in a rapidly evolving energy landscape.

Together, these efforts position NC State Engineering as a national leader in research areas critical to technological innovation, economic competitiveness and societal impact.

The majority of the College's departments are located on NC State's Centennial Campus, a groundbreaking research campus that brings together academia, private businesses and government agencies and is a model for the 21st-century research-intensive university campus. The newest engineering building in the complex, Fitts-Woolard Hall, opened in 2020 and is home to two academic departments, plus the dean's administrative offices. The college is continuing to expand its physical infrastructure and educational capacity through major state-supported investments. **Engineering North Carolina's Future**, a state-supported initiative, is enabling the college to expand engineering and computer science enrollment and includes significant investment in faculty growth, equipment and facilities. In addition, the North Carolina General Assembly has provided $5 million in recurring funding for the initiative as well as major capital support for a new Engineering Classroom Building on Centennial Campus, a transformational facility designed to expand instructional capacity and support innovative approaches to engineering education.

The college's outstanding faculty includes 12 members of the National Academy of Engineering, three members of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, three winners of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation and an Emmy Award winner. The outstanding young faculty members regularly receive NSF CAREER awards, averaging three to five per year over the past 10 years. U.S. News & World Report currently ranks the college No. 28 in graduate programs and No. 13 among public colleges of engineering. The college offers a robust online learning program called Engineering Online and is consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a top program among online graduate engineering and computer information technology programs.

Efforts to engage the college's 82,485 living engineering alumni are led by the NC State Engineering Foundation. As of June 2026, the college received $401.3M in endowment support.

The Opportunity

NC State invites applications and nominations for the position of dean of the College of Engineering. The university seeks a visionary, collaborative and entrepreneurial leader to build upon the College of Engineering's longstanding record of excellence in education, research and innovation. The next dean will lead one of the nation's largest and most accomplished engineering colleges at a pivotal moment of growth, as North Carolina experiences unprecedented investment in technology, advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, biotechnology, energy and artificial intelligence.

The Position

Reporting to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, the dean serves as the chief academic, administrative and budgetary officer and principal spokesperson for the College of Engineering. The dean provides strategic leadership for the college's nine academic departments, research centers and institutes, academic programs, faculty, staff and students, while advancing the college's mission of excellence in education, research and engagement.

As a member of the university's academic leadership team, the dean will work collaboratively with fellow deans, university leadership and external partners to advance NC State's strategic priorities and strengthen engineering's role in addressing society's most pressing challenges. The dean will foster an environment that supports excellence in teaching, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and public engagement while ensuring student success and preparing graduates to lead in an increasingly complex and technology-driven world.

The successful candidate will be an accomplished scholar and academic leader with a distinguished record of achievement in research, teaching and administration. The dean will possess the vision, collaborative leadership style and strategic perspective necessary to lead a large, complex academic enterprise and will have demonstrated success in building high-performing organizations, cultivating partnerships and advancing institutional priorities.

The dean is responsible for the following:

- Providing visionary leadership that advances the College of Engineering's strategic priorities and strengthens its national and international reputation;
- Serving as a collaborative member of the university's leadership team and advocating effectively for the college within the university while contributing to institution-wide priorities;
- Recruiting, retaining, supporting, and developing an outstanding faculty, staff, and student community while cultivating an environment where all members can thrive and contribute fully;
- Recognizing and valuing the contributions of everyone in the college, encouraging the high performance and excellence of faculty, staff and units within the college and the delivery of high-quality academic programs;
- Strengthening the college's nationally recognized research enterprise by supporting interdisciplinary scholarship, expanding sponsored research and fostering collaboration across the university and with external partners;
- Building strategic partnerships with industry, government, national laboratories, alumni and philanthropic partners that enhance the college's educational, research and economic impact;
- Providing strategic leadership for the college's continued growth, including expansion of academic programs, research infrastructure and state-supported capital investments;
- Adapting the college's programs to shifting educational landscape and leading advancement of engineering education;
- Engaging with internal and external constituencies regarding the development implementation, and evaluation of programs;
- Managing the college's financial and physical resources with transparency, accountability and sound stewardship while effectively advocating for new investments; and
- Leading comprehensive fundraising efforts in partnership with University Advancement, the NC State Engineering Foundation and the Engineering Foundation Board of Directors to secure philanthropic support for the college's strategic priorities.

Qualifications

The successful candidate will possess the following qualifications and experiences:

- A distinguished record of scholarship, research and academic leadership that merits appointment as a tenured full professor in one of the College of Engineering's academic departments.
- Experience working effectively as a key member of an institutional leadership team, advocating for organizational priorities, and building productive partnerships across organizational units and with external stakeholders.
- Experience managing a complex organization with significant fiscal, personnel, and operational responsibilities.
- Strong leadership skills and a demonstrated commitment to personal integrity and professional ethics.
- A demonstrated commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and scholarship.

Furthermore, preferred qualifications and experiences include:

- A demonstrated ability to provide visionary, strategic leadership for a large, complex academic and research organization while fostering collaboration, accountability and shared purpose.
- Demonstrated success in strategic planning, setting priorities, allocating resources and leading organizational change in support of institutional goals.
- A record of success in advancing excellence in research, education and innovation, including support for interdisciplinary scholarship and high-impact research initiatives.
- Experience leading or supporting successful fundraising and philanthropic engagement, with the ability to build enduring relationships with alumni, donors and corporate partners.
- Experience recruiting, developing and retaining outstanding faculty, staff and students while fostering a culture that values excellence, collaboration, professional growth and broad participation.
- Outstanding interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present, listen, and engage effectively with faculty, staff, students, alumni, industry leaders, government officials, donors and other external partners.
- A record of fostering an environment that supports collaboration, innovation, academic excellence and student success.
- A strong commitment to excellence in undergraduate, graduate and professional education and to preparing students for leadership in engineering, technology, and related professions.
- Demonstrated success in developing partnerships with industry, government agencies, national laboratories and other academic institutions that advance research, education and economic impact.
- Experience supporting entrepreneurship, technology translation, and commercialization of university research.
- A demonstrated ability to support faculty, staff, and students, and coordinate across departments during periods of challenge or uncertainty while fostering resilience, cohesion, and continued progress toward shared academic and institutional goals.

About NC State

As North Carolina's land-grant institution, NC State creates economic, societal and intellectual prosperity through excellence in education, research, scholarship and engagement. Grounded in its strengths in agriculture and engineering, the university has grown into a comprehensive research university that advances discovery and innovation across disciplines while remaining committed to serving the people of North Carolina.

NC State is a powerhouse in science, technology, engineering and math. We lead in agriculture, education, textiles, business and natural resources management. We're at the forefront of teaching and research in design, the humanities and the social sciences. And we're home to one of the world's best colleges of veterinary medicine.

Our more than 39,000 undergraduate and graduate students learn by doing. They pursue original research and start new companies. They forge connections with top employers and serve communities local and global. Through it all, they enjoy an outstanding return on investment.

NC State is consistently recognized among the nation's leading public universities for academic excellence, research productivity and value. The university ranks among the nation's top public institutions for research expenditures and is home to nationally recognized programs across a wide range of disciplines. Through a strong culture of innovation and collaboration, NC State prepares graduates for meaningful careers while advancing discoveries that improve lives and strengthen communities.

Each year, NC State adds $6.5 billion to the statewide economy, equivalent to creating more than 90,000 new jobs. That represents a significant return on investment for the citizens of North Carolina in the form of research advances, innovative technologies, successful companies, skilled graduates and new jobs waiting for them.

Our more than 10,000 faculty and staff are world leaders in their fields, bridging the divides between academic disciplines and training high-caliber students to meet tomorrow's challenges. Together, they build partnerships across disciplines and with industry, government, nonprofit organizations and peer institutions to translate discovery into real-world impact. NC State is committed to fostering a collaborative, welcoming and supportive community where all faculty, staff and students can thrive.

About Raleigh and North Carolina

As one of the fastest-growing states in the nation, North Carolina offers an exceptional quality of life, a thriving innovation economy and a collaborative environment for higher education, research and industry partnerships. At the center of this growth is Raleigh, the state capital and one of the nation's leading technology and research hubs.

- No. 1 best-performing large metro (Milken Institute, 2025)
- No.2 Best State Capital to Live in (Wallet Hub, 2026)
- No #2 of Top 20 Innovation Hubs Across the South (Commercial Cafe, 2025)
- No 4 most economically resilient metro (CardRates, 2026)
- No 4. Best big cities to live in (2 among the best places to live in the U.S. (U.S. News & World Report, 20261)
- No. 5 Happiest Residents in the U.S. (SmartAsset, 2026).

Together with Durham and Chapel Hill, the capital city anchors the Research Triangle, a national hotspot for high-tech enterprises. The area combines world-class universities, a highly educated workforce and a thriving ecosystem of global companies, startups and entrepreneurial ventures. The region is home to major technology, life sciences, engineering and advanced manufacturing organizations, including IBM, Cisco, SAS, Lenovo, Red Hat, FUJIFILM Biotechnologies, Biogen, Siemens Healthineers, Eli Lilly and Epic Games, as well as significant investments from companies such as Apple. NC State also maintains strong agricultural partnerships with Bayer, BASF, Novonesis and Syngenta, companies that collaborate with the university on research, innovation and workforce development. These partnerships create unparalleled opportunities for research collaboration, talent development and economic impact.

The region maintains a robust startup ecosystem with numerous engineering and sciences startups – many from NC State – along with abundant venture capital.

Founded in 1887 as North Carolina's land-grant university, NC State continues to fulfill its mission of creating prosperity through education, discovery and engagement. Today, career-ready graduates and world-leading faculty advance innovation and address complex challenges across North Carolina, the nation and the world: strengthening industries, improving communities and expanding the boundaries of knowledge

How to Apply

NC State has retained Charles Kaler and Kirk Schulz of CSA Search & Consulting to assist with this dean search. Individuals who wish to be considered as candidates by the Search Advisory Committee should provide a copy of their résumé or curriculum vitae along with a bullet-point summary of key accomplishments in each leadership role held. A letter of interest is welcomed but not required.

Confidential inquiries, nominations, and candidate materials should be sent via email to:

Charles Kaler & Kirk Schulz
CSA Search & Consulting LLC
NCSU.COE@csasearch.consulting

NC State provides equal opportunity and affirmative action efforts, and the university prohibits all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation that are based upon a person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability, gender identity, genetic information, sexual orientation or veteran status.