Vice President of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice

Lesley University, grounded in its mission of social justice and a leader in preparing graduates who shape a more just, humane world, seeks a strategic, collaborative and courageous executive to serve as the Vice President of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice (VP-EDIJ).

Located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, one of the most dynamic learning environments in the country — Lesley uniquely focuses on the human arts, with programs that live at the intersection of education, counseling, and the visual arts. Lesley’s 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students study across four schools and colleges — a professionally-focused liberal arts college, an independent college of art and design, a graduate school of education, and a graduate school of arts and social sciences — as well as in the Threshold Program, a residential program for students with a variety of learning differences. Its offerings include more than 20 undergraduate majors and over 90 Adult Bachelor’s, Master’s, Certificates of Advanced Graduate Study, and Ph.D. programs at its Cambridge campus, as well as off-campus and online. The Lesley Center for the Adult Learner offers an adult bachelor’s degree program, which includes on and off-campus courses as well as online and hybrid courses targeted toward adult learners. The Graduate School of Education has earned a reputation as New England’s most respected provider of teacher preparation programs.

Lesley educates the people — the teachers, counselors, therapists, social workers, artists, policy makers, writers, and business leaders — who practice these arts and act as catalysts for a more connected and just world.

Reporting directly to President Janet Steinmayer, and serving as a member of the President’s cabinet, the VP-EDIJ will provide visionary and participative leadership of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice Office (EDIJ) which includes Multicultural Affairs and Student Inclusion, EDIJ Learning and Development, and the Urban Scholars Initiative (USI). The VP-EDIJ will serve as a visible leader in the community and will develop and execute a multi-year strategic plan designed to embed the principles and values of EDIJ into the fiber of the university in a manner that values and celebrates all.

This is an exciting opportunity for a creative and thoughtful professional to serve as a role model for inclusive community engagement, leverage the knowledge of innovative emerging practices in higher education, and lead meaningful change within and beyond the Lesley community. The university seeks a leader with nuanced, matured emotional and social intelligence capabilities as well as cultural competence and communication skills to nurture cooperative relationships and foster courageous conversations to unify the community around an enduring strategic vision for the dignity of all.

The successful candidate should possess progressively responsible administrative experience that includes the advancement of equity, diversity, inclusion and justice initiatives, and management of professional staff, budgets and other resources, and a demonstrated record of success building community, leading organizational initiatives,
developing programs and promoting a climate of belonging for all employees. A Master's degree is required; a doctoral degree is preferred.

WittKieffer is assisting Lesley University in this search, which will remain open until an appointment is made. Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer’s candidate portal: https://apptrkr.com/3322417
Nominations and inquiries can be directed to Lucy Leske, Sarah Palmer, or Natalie Song at LesleyVPEDIJ@wittkieffer.com.

At Lesley University we strive for a supportive and equitable environment where people — regardless of race, physical ability, age, neurodiversity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other protected personal identities — can participate equally and fully as their true selves in all aspects of university life. We are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the fabric of our institution.