

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM)

PRESIDENT/CEO

The Board of Directors of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AICUM) in Massachusetts is accepting applications for the position of President/CEO of the Association.

AICUM is a non-profit membership organization, founded in 1968, representing 61 independent colleges and universities in Massachusetts. Its mission is to be the public policy voice for independent higher education in the Commonwealth.

AICUM fulfills dual roles as the sector's advocate with the legislative and executive branches of government; as the liaison for public policy and research; and as a coordinating body for relations with the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and other pertinent state agencies. AICUM also interacts on behalf of the state's independent sector with state associations representing relevant economic sectors within the Commonwealth as well as with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education, and all other national organizations representing higher education.

The annual budget of the organization is approximately \$1.7M and covers a staff of four including the president. The office is located at 5 Brighton Street in Belmont, MA.

Outstanding candidates for this position will give evidence of:

- A commitment to the mission of independent higher education.
- A successful leadership role in past and current positions.
- The ability to communicate effectively with college and university presidents individually and with internal and external constituencies at state and national levels.
- An understanding of issues facing independent colleges and universities in Massachusetts and the nation.
- Knowledge of how public policy is developed, articulated and promoted, and intimate knowledge of and successful experience with the legislative process.
- Strong management skills.
- Baccalaureate degree required; a related graduate degree preferred.

Position Description

PRESIDENT/CEO

Association of Independent Colleges and
Universities in Massachusetts

The president of the Association (AICUM) has the basic responsibility to assure that AICUM's activities serve the interests of its member institutions. In particular the president is accountable for a number of areas:

1. Consensus building and coordination. The President represents the 61 AICUM member institutions, in sum represented by their respective chief executives, to the citizens of Massachusetts and to its opinion-makers, policy developers, and elected and appointed public officials. AICUM's continuous strategy calls for enhanced appreciation of the role of independent colleges and universities in the Commonwealth's educational, social, economic, and cultural life. AICUM must build a consensus for coordinated action among its highly diverse membership. The ultimate concern is quality, access, affordability, diversity, and choice for students in higher education. The President works closely with the chair, vice-chair, and treasurer and with the annually elected Board of Directors in developing AICUM's strategy and thought leadership.
2. Legislative monitoring and advocacy. The president directs, and is ultimately responsible for monitoring legislative activity and advocating the priorities of the independent sector at both state and federal levels. While primarily focused on higher education, monitoring and advocacy must cover many other areas; including attacks on tax exempt status, zoning ordinances, and legislation and regulation affecting non-profits generally.
3. Regulation advocacy and monitoring. The president maintains constant relations with the Board of Higher Education for matters dealing with higher education in general and student financial assistance in particular. AICUM is vigilant to preserve the independent status and integrity of its member institutions. The president works closely with member institutions, as appropriate, in their dealings with the Board.
4. Communications Coordination and consensus building depend on excellent communications skills. The President, consulting with the Board of Directors, arranges regular meetings, two of which each year are for presidents only, at which topics of general concern are discussed and appropriate AICUM response or action developed. Regular meetings are also held with state and federal legislative leaders and with the Board of Higher Education. These meetings enable the professional leadership of AICUM to build cordial, mutually trusting relationships with their colleagues at the BHE.

5. Provide sound financial and organizational management for a four employee and \$1.7M operating budget with 61 college or university members and 30 or so Affiliate members (firms which work closely with higher education and which provide a range of pro bono services to AICUM and its members via professional development sessions or webinars to mid-level and senior level managers on AICUM member campuses.)

AICUM exists to provide information about educational and financial aid opportunities; strengthen financial aid programs for students; improve the state and federal climate for higher education; address state and federal legislative and regulatory issues; promote cooperation with the state colleges and universities; and bring about a greater understanding of the impact and contributions of independent colleges and universities in Massachusetts.

AICUM MEMBERS:

Amherst College	Harvard University
Anna Maria College	Laboure College
Assumption University	Lasell University
Babson College	Lesley University
Bard College at Simon's Rock	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Bay Path University	MCPHS University
Becker College	Merrimack College
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology	MGH Institute of Health Professions
Bentley University	Montserrat College of Art
Berklee College of Music	Mount Holyoke College
Boston Architectural College	New England College of Optometry
Boston Baptist College	New England Conservatory of Music
Boston College	Nichols College
Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis	Northeastern University
Boston University	Pine Manor College
Brandeis University	Regis College
Cambridge College	Simmons University
Clark University	Smith College
College of Our Lady of the Elms	Springfield College
College of the Holy Cross	Stonehill College
Curry College	Suffolk University
Dean College	Thomas Aquinas College
Eastern Nazarene College	Tufts University
Emerson College	Urban College of Boston
Emmanuel College	Wellesley College
Endicott College	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Fisher College	Western New England University
Franklin W Olin College of Engineering	Wheaton College
Gordon College	William James College
Hampshire College	Williams College
	Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Search Committee for new President/CEO of AICUM
2020-2021**

Mary-Beth Cooper, Chair, Springfield College (Chair)

Laurie Leshin, President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Ex-Officio)

Robert A. Brown, President, Boston University

Nicholas Covino, President, William James College

Robert Johnson, President, Western New England University

Paula Rooney, President, Dean College