



DEAN OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



ROBERT
MORRIS
UNIVERSITY™





THE OPPORTUNITY

The next dean of the School of Education and Social Sciences will give strong leadership to taking this important academic unit to its next level of academic excellence. She/he will work in building a collaborative relationship with the faculty in developing new programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

THE UNIVERSITY

Robert Morris University (RMU) was founded in 1921 as an accounting school by Andrew Blass, became a junior college in 1962, a four-year college in 1969 and a university in 2002. While the university's vision has changed over the past 90 years, RMU maintains two components to Andrew Blass' vision of the once accounting school: a focus on practical, career-oriented education, and a responsiveness to the needs of the marketplace. RMU is situated in Moon Township, Pennsylvania – a 20-minute drive northwest of downtown Pittsburgh. Moon has a population of 25,000, and the campus is very accessible to the many cultural, shopping, and entertainment opportunities that downtown Pittsburgh offers.

RMU's campus is set on 230 rolling acres in Moon Township, closely situated near the Ohio River and within a five-minute drive to Pittsburgh International Airport. The RMU campus features a mixture of traditional and modern buildings, including the 1999 addition of the Edward A. Nicholson Center, which is the hub for all student activities and programs. In 2010, RMU sold its downtown Pittsburgh building (The Pittsburgh Center) in order to have a single and unified campus. As a result of this transaction, the Moon Township campus is welcoming upcoming plans for new business school buildings, which will include a simulated stock trading floor and high-tech videoconference center. Furthermore, RMU aspires to strengthen its focus on a residential community by building a new residential facility set to open in fall 2011. With a total student population exceeding 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students for the 2010-2011 year, RMU had a record-setting 895 new freshmen students and 1,500 total students taking advantage of student housing.

Carnegie classifies Robert Morris University as Master's L. The student to faculty ratio at RMU is 15:1. The university prides itself on placing 92% of graduates within their academic field within six months of graduation. While RMU is considered an affordable private institution, ninety percent of all undergraduate students still receive some form of financial aid.





THE UNIVERSITY *(continued)*

RMU offers 60 undergraduate and 20 master and doctoral programs within five academic units: School of Business, School of Communications and Information Systems, School of Education and Social Sciences, School of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science, and School of Nursing and Health Sciences, in addition to online degree programs. Some of RMU's unique degree programs include a bachelor in Manufacturing Engineering, a nationally-ranked Hospitality and Tourism program, and a Nuclear Medicine Technology program – the only one of its kind in Western Pennsylvania.

Unique to RMU is a specialized program for undergraduate students called Student Engagement Transcript (SET), which is a supplemental companion to the academic transcript. SET documents student participation in experiential learning and is an excellent way for students to communicate their efforts outside the classroom to prospective employers. The SET is divided into seven categories: Arts, Culture, and Creativity; Transcultural/Global Experiences; Undergraduate Research; Service; Leadership; Professional Experience; and Special Recognition/Special Projects/Student Activity Participation.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) accredits Robert Morris University. Additional accreditations and recognition for specialized programs includes AACSB International, Society of Actuaries, Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, TEAC, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Computing Technology Industry Association. In athletics, the RMU Colonials participate in 23 NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletic programs.

RMU strives for institutional merit through six core values: academic excellence, professional focus, engaged learning, global perspective, focus on the individual, and emphasis on changing lives.

MISSION

As a private, comprehensive institution committed to active learning and student success, Robert Morris University is recognized for integrating liberal arts with a professionally focused, applied education that prepares students for leadership in a rapidly changing world.

EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of RMU education program is to develop candidates who support the intellectual, social, and personal development of all their students. Our program prepares undergraduate and graduate candidates to be sensitive educators who strive to increase K-12 student learning through the integration of technology, effective communication skills, and the application of theory into practice.



BACKGROUND

The School of Education and Social Sciences (SESS) is one of five schools at Robert Morris University. Although it was established in 2003 with enrollments growing at a fast pace, its origins are traced back to the 1980s when Business Education was offered to students who were interested in teaching at the high school level. Within SESS, there are three academic departments: Elementary Education, Secondary Education & Graduate Studies, and Social Sciences. The Department of Elementary Education offers degree programs in Early Childhood Education: PreK- Grade 4, Elementary Education/Middle Level – Grades 4-8, in addition to a dual certification in Special Education with Early Childhood or Middle Level. The Department of Secondary Education & Graduate Studies offers a Bachelor of Science in Business Education, a Master of Education in Special Education, and Master of Science in Business Education and Instructional Leadership. The Department of Social Sciences offers a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science with concentrations in sociology, history and government, and Social Studies Education. The concentrations feed nicely into the undergraduate program in Elementary Education. A new master's degree in Special Education is being introduced. The Department of Social Sciences also offers a Bachelor of Science in Social Science and Applied Psychology with concentrations in clinical, general, and Sport Psychology. Also the Department offers the general education requirements for the University. The only PhD program offered in the School of Education and Social Sciences is in Instructional Management/Leadership (IML). Created in 2005, the seventh cohort of doctoral students is now underway.

In 2008-2009, SESS had a total of 640 students enrolled in its programs, which represented nearly 13 percent of RMU's total student enrollment (360 undergraduate students, 235 graduate students, and 45 doctoral students). The National Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) accredits all education programs at RMU, the first such accreditation in Pennsylvania. SESS prides itself for supporting its students' intellectual, social, and personal development. SESS also prepares students for futures in their chosen professions through the integration of technology, effective communication skills, and the application of theory into practice. Experiential learning is highly encouraged for all SESS degree-seeking students through practicum and internship experiences in addition to study abroad opportunities. The Applied Psychology and Instructional Leadership programs are the first two on-line offerings at the University.

Dr. Gregory G. Dell'Omo, elected president in 2005, ably leads the University. He came to Robert Morris after a successful career in external affairs at Saint Joseph University in Philadelphia, where he also served as associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of the Erivan K Haub School of Business. Among his RMU accomplishments are obtaining AACSB International and Teacher Education Accreditation Council specialized accreditation. He has given new energy to strategic and master planning and to increasing student residential life on campus. The president's provost and chief academic officer is David L. Jamison, JD. He came to Robert Morris after a successful career, including serving as academic vice president at the University of Akron. His first appointment at RMU was dean of Communication and Information Systems. Both leaders are highly supportive of the programs and faculty of the School of Education and Social Sciences. Dr. John E. Graham, founding dean of the School and a long-time and highly respected faculty member, is returning to the faculty.

CHALLENGES

Major challenges for the next dean of the School of Education and Social Sciences are:

- Leading the School to its next level of academic excellence; continuing to build new academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels; developing more on-line and blended offerings;
- Implementing the new master's degree program in Special Education; marketing, staffing, and planning this important offering;



CHALLENGES *(continued)*

- Working with the other four school deans to offer their curricula in secondary education;
- Being an important team player with the Council of Deans under the leadership of the provost/senior vice president for academic affairs;
- Developing a positive relationship with the Pennsylvania Department of Education; completing the first electronic filing of RMC education programs and certifications; easing student concerns about the Department's new certification requirements for Pre K-4 and 4-8 grade levels; making the certification changes a seamless transition;
- Guiding the School in its reaffirmation activities involving TEAC accreditation; involving the Education faculty in making this effort a successful undertaking; and
- Assisting the provost and deans in preparing for MSCHE reaffirmation of accreditation and related activities.

QUALIFICATIONS

The president, provost, and the Education and Social Sciences faculty seek a new dean who is a person of unquestioned integrity, a strategic thinker, a team player, and who:

- Is a strong entrepreneurial leader who exudes vision;
- Has an earned doctorate in an education or related discipline from a regionally accredited institution of higher education; is a noted scholar in research and writing and has a record of excellence in teaching and service that merits the rank of full professor in one of the departments within the School;
- Is an accomplished administrator at the rank of dean and/or associate dean and departmental chair;
- Knows best practices and is effective in the delivery of on-line or blended curricula;
- Possesses substantial accreditation experience and is proficient in student outcomes assessment;
- Demonstrates excellent communication skills in speaking, writing, and listening;
- Is a leader in strategic planning, budget development, and financial modeling;
- Has a record in securing federal/state funds and foundation grants; is enthusiastic about cultivating and securing individual gifts for the School;
- Possesses knowledge of collective bargaining; is an accomplished negotiator (an added plus);
- Is adept at working with others, including other schools and faculty, in delivering courses that are required for certification programs; and
- Wishes to effectively represent the School to state, federal, and professional organizations in Education and Social Sciences.



ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY KEY INDICATORS 2010

**All data is as of fall 2010 unless indicated otherwise*

Investment in Plant, less depreciation:	\$114 million
Plant Replacement Insured Value:	\$157 million
Cost of Operating Physical Plant:	\$8.6 million
Deferred Maintenance:	\$7.2 million
Endowment:	\$23 million
Budget:	\$100 million
Tuition:	\$20,940
Student Enrollment for fall, 2010:	4,967
Tuition Discount Rate:	21.9%
Average SAT Score:	1,017
High School Rankings:	Top 10% = 13% Top 25% = 38% Top 50% = 74%
Freshman Retention Rate:	73%
Graduation Rate:	61%
Living Alumni:	41,316
Number of Full-time Faculty:	189
Tenured:	75% Non-Probationary TM
Average Faculty Salaries: 2009	Professor: \$98,039 Associate Professor: \$80,565 Assistant Professor: \$70,756
Student/Teacher Ratio:	14.7:1
Degrees:	Undergraduates: 737 Graduate: 357
Library Volumes:	103,000
Athletics League:	NCAA Division I: Northeast Conference



APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To be considered, candidates should e-mail, as MSWord attachments, a cover letter that addresses the challenges and qualifications listed above, a current résumé, and the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of three references to: RMU@rhperry.com. Review of applications begins **February 28, 2011**. To ensure full consideration, materials should be received by that date. The anticipated start date is July 1, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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POLICY

R. H. Perry & Associates is committed to the highest standards of professionalism in all dealings with candidates, sources, and references. We fully respect the need for confidentiality and assure interested parties that their background and interests will not be discussed without consent of the applicant prior to her or his becoming a candidate.

Robert Morris University is an equal opportunity employer.

www.rmu.edu

