



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**Dean, The Ohio State University at Lima  
Position Profile**



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The Ohio State University invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the Lima Campus. The regional campuses are integral in the success and identity of Ohio State, and the Dean will have a unique opportunity to play a defining role in shaping the future of the Lima campus, develop new and additional priorities and aspirations, and lead the campus to even greater levels of excellence and impact.

The Ohio State University regional campuses offer diverse opportunities for learners, have unique assets, robust partnerships, and are in vibrant and supporting communities, all of which allow for personalized teaching, learning, research, and community engagement experiences for students, faculty, and staff. These open-access campuses offer multiple pathways for students to develop the skills and knowledge to successfully meet their future career goals. We seek an entrepreneurial leader with a record of innovative, student-centered program design and implementation who is passionate about serving an open-access campus and is energetic about building dynamic and supportive community relationships and partnerships.

The success of each regional campus requires a leader with experience supporting and engaging in state-of-the-art student recruitment and retention initiatives, developing, and supporting an engaging student experience, mentoring, and leading faculty, promoting high impact practices, and developing and stewarding community partnerships. The dean will have a record of building and developing teams, especially with staff and faculty that have diverse responsibilities in support of student success. They must have a record of assessing student outcomes and partnering on designing academic experiences that offer students clear pathways to achieve their goals. The dean must promote a holistic faculty experience and engage as a collaborative partner to create and support opportunities for excellence in teaching, scholarship, and community engagement while recognizing the unique mentoring, student support, and service functions on a regional campus.

### **Position Overview**

The dean is the academic leader of a regional campus, has faculty status and tenure in an appropriate department, and works collaboratively and consultatively with faculty, staff, and university administrators. The regional deans serve on the Ohio State Council of Deans and have collaborative working relationships with their cohort of regional deans, college deans, department chairs, and academic administrators. The dean will be expected to align the campus priorities with the current university academic plan and work collaboratively with college deans, unit vice presidents, and other academic leaders to clearly articulate and operationalize the regional campus as an anchor institution, locally. The dean reports to the Senior Vice Provost for External Engagement and works closely with the Executive Vice President and Provost to:

- Promote, direct, and/or support the teaching and learning, community engagement, partnership, and research opportunities of the campus.
- Collaborate with academic units, faculty, partner institutions, and the community on the development and implementation of new and innovative student/learner pathways to an Ohio State degree, minor, and/or certificate.
- Support shared service models with co-located institutions and actively engage with Columbus and regional campus partners to identify opportunities to share expertise across campus boundaries to enhance student enrollment and outcomes.

- Evaluate, in an ongoing manner, curriculum offerings and enrollment trends in collaboration with departments and colleges to meet the needs of regional campus students and be appropriately responsive to local stakeholders.
- Provide campus leadership and partner with university offices to support and advance a broad range of support services and student life programs that meet the needs of commuter and/or residential students.
- Collaborate with the Office of Strategic Enrollment Management in a way that advances student recruitment, marketing, onboarding, yielding, enrollment, and progression initiatives; serve as a public face in the community and advocate for student engagement in higher education.
- Establish clear priorities and engage in robust fundraising and alumni engagement initiatives in collaboration with University Advancement.
- Collaborate with the Vice Provost and Dean for Online Learning, in a way that advances the core academic functions of the campus, provides pathways for learners, and engages new partners.
- Contribute to a positive and welcoming environment for all current and potential faculty, staff, students, and community members while exercising transparency and strong communication.
- Seek input from external stakeholders, including the campus Advisory Board and key current and potential collaborators on program opportunities and partnerships.
- Represent the campus and university within the local and regional communities through service on nonprofit and community leadership boards.
- Review faculty for annual performance, promotion, and/or tenure in partnership with academic units where required.
- Engage and support a cohort of associated faculty and work in partnership with campus leaders to ensure appropriate integration into campus and units.
- Work cooperatively with the co-located community or technical college, an independent institution that shares the campus, to enhance student pathways, engage with the community, and activate campus assets, in alignment with the current framework plan, to increase access to higher education knowledge, expertise, and resources.
- Provide leadership for campus budget and operations, working collaboratively with the campus Vice President of Business and Finance and/or campus finance director, directors of facilities and operations, and appropriate campus and university stakeholders.

## **Experience and Requirements**

1. Doctoral degree or other terminal degree.
2. Experience as a dean, academic director, chair, or academic leader of a unit and/or campus is preferred.
3. Record of teaching, research and innovation, and community engagement.
4. Demonstrated leadership and administrative accomplishments.
5. Strong commitment to success in supporting diversity, equity, and inclusive environments for all.
6. Demonstrated experience working collaboratively with communities and external stakeholders.
7. Demonstrated success raising funds through private individuals, foundations, and public grants.

8. Appreciation and understanding of shared governance, university structures and processes, especially concerning an open-access regional campus.
9. Ability to meet requirements for tenure, preferably at the full professor level, in an academic unit at Ohio State.

## The Ohio State University

The Ohio State University is a world-class public, urban, land-grant research university with very high research activity, as classified by the Carnegie Foundation. As Ohio's flagship university, it is the leading comprehensive teaching and research institution in the state and one of the nation's top 20 public universities. Nearly 68,000 students are enrolled at Ohio State, including 53,557 undergraduates, 11,110 graduates, and 3,290 professional students. The Ohio State University campuses include the Columbus campus, its regional campuses at Lima, Mansfield, Marion, and Newark, and its Wooster campus, home to the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and the Agricultural Technical Institute.

The Ohio State University has 15 colleges that offer more than 200 undergraduate majors and 97 master's programs, with 94 doctoral and professional programs. Ohio State is recognized for its top rated academic medical center and premier Comprehensive Cancer Center. Ohio State has almost 5,000 tenure-track, clinical, and research faculty and 2,655 associated faculty. The faculty includes members of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Sloan, Guggenheim, and Fulbright scholars; and distinguished fellows from numerous learned societies.

## Ohio State Lima

The Ohio State University at Lima offered its first classes in 1960. The Lima campus sits on 565 acres which is comprised of 270 acres of woods, 35 acres of natural prairie, 200 tillable acres, and 60 acres that contain the academic campus (buildings, greens, and parking lots). There are 10 buildings on campus, four of which are shared with our collocated institution, Rhodes State College (RSC). Ohio State Lima also has two off-campus teaching sites: Ohio State Lima at Mercy Health St. Rita's for its anatomy/cadaver lab (1,400 square feet) and Ohio State Lima at the Engineering Education and Manufacturing Center at the Ford Engine Plant which houses five labs, 12 classrooms and breakout rooms and a 300-seat auditorium.

Ohio State Lima currently enrolls 818 students who are taught and supported by 26 tenure track faculty, 52 associated faculty, 5 visiting faculty, and 56 staff members. Outside of the classroom, students have vast opportunities for experience through internships, undergraduate research, leadership projects, and community engagement. Since 2020, faculty at Ohio State Lima have secured \$8.8M in external grants, and two current faculty have received the University's highest award for teaching. The annual operating budget for Ohio State Lima is \$12.6M.

## Student Success Programs

Ohio State Lima offers 4 signature student success programs: Buckeye RISE, Each One Teaches One, Generation One Program and STEP.

- [Buckeye RISE](#) program is designed to help students improve academic skills, identify support resources, and address barriers to academic success. Students can opt into this program, or they can be referred to the program by a faculty or staff member.
- [Each One Teaches One](#) – Peer to Peer mentoring program that connects new first-year students to the Lima community. Through summer workshops and peer mentorship throughout the year, students learn how to be successful in their academic pursuits.
- [Generation One](#) – This program is designed to meet the needs of first-generation college students by providing a cohort-learning experience that begins at orientation and continues through their first year at Ohio State.
- [STEP](#) (Second-year transformation experience program) is designed to engage students in the campus community after their first year via faculty-to-student mentorships.

## Advancement and Community Engagement Highlights

- Outreach programs:

**STEAM on the quad** (*Partnership with OSU Extension and 4H*) is a family-friendly event for kids K-8 and families to do hands-on activities that will improve their interest and awareness of careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Humanities and Mathematics fields.

**William Fowler Science Series** (*Partnership with Lima City Schools and the City of Lima*) is a cross-disciplinary program that spans a semester for local middle and high school students to learn more about the year's selected science topics and honors the achievements of William Fowler, alumnus of Lima City Schools and Ohio State, and Nobel Prize winner in physics in 1983.

**STEM Steps** is a daylong event for local high school sophomores and junior girls to participate in hands-on STEM activities with Ohio State faculty and hear from industry professionals and current STEM students.

**Theater for Young Audiences** started in 1995 and adapts a book, fairytale, or play into a children's play. Brings approximately 1,500 K-4 students to campus annually.

**Lifelong Learning Institute** began in 1991 and offers classes, seminars, and talks for seniors on campus for eight days, twice per year.

**Anatomy classes/Health Care Futures:** (*Partnership with Mercy Health*) Ohio State Lima offers an undergraduate human anatomy course in an advanced anatomy lab at Mercy Health – St. Rita's Medical Center.

- Ohio State Lima Regenerative Farm  
**The Ohio State Lima Regenerative Farm** brings approximately 200 acres of farmland under a prescriptive regenerative farming plan to decrease carbon sequestration, improve water and soil health, and thereby increase yields with fewer inputs. Researchers (faculty and students) from the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences as well as county and state extension educators are collecting data and educating the public.
- Healthcare partnerships:  
**Anatomy and Healthcare Futures** – Lima offers an undergraduate human anatomy course in an advanced anatomy lab at Mercy Health – St. Rita’s Medical Center. Throughout the academic year, Ohio State Lima and Mercy Health partner to bring local anatomy students and teachers to the lab and also to tour Mercy Health’s Graduate Medical Education building, providing a full-circle view of a pathway to a career in healthcare.

**Community Medicine Track** – Ohio State College of Medicine will launch a new community medicine track and years three and four of the MD will be in Lima. This program leverages the research expertise of Ohio State with the community care of Mercy Health to train those who want to work in a community-based setting. The program is rooted in community health and population-based medicine. Ohio State Lima will provide student support services for the MD students while in Lima.

**Mental Health** – The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties will fund a new behavioral health specialist for Ohio State Lima’s social work program to increase interest among social work students in filling the behavioral health positions in the board’s service region. The position will be funded for three years with the option to extend.

## About Lima and Allen County

Lima, Ohio, located in northwest Ohio, is the county seat of Allen County with over 35,000 residents. With small-town charm, historic architecture and buildings, and a growing arts scene, Lima has a range of attractions, museums, and outdoor parks. The state-of-the-art Crouse Performance Hall has the capacity to seat 1,700 people and hosts over 100 live performances annually. The Allen County Fair attracts over 200,000 visitors annually and is the biggest attraction in Lima. The Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima was built in 1941 and is the sole manufacturer of the M1 Abrams tank. Procter & Gamble has one of its largest manufacturing plants located in Lima, and the company recently invested an additional \$500 million for an expansion of this plant. Ford Motor Company also has a plant located in Lima, which opened in 1957. Lima is home to two major hospitals, Lima Memorial Health System and Mercy Health-St. Rita’s Medical Center.

## Applications and Nominations

Buffkin/Baker, an executive search firm, is assisting the university in the search. The search will remain open until filled, however, for optimal consideration, application materials should be received by **January 1, 2024**.

Candidates should submit a current curriculum vitae and a cover letter describing their interest and qualifications for the position.

Inquiries of interest, nominations, and applications should be submitted electronically, in confidence, to:  
[osulima@buffkinbaker.com](mailto:osulima@buffkinbaker.com)

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