

**SEARCH PROSPECTUS:**

# DEAN OF THE E. S. WITCHGER SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING



MARIAN UNIVERSITY®



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# MARIAN UNIVERSITY'S UNIQUE VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES



**M**ore than just an institution of higher learning, Marian University shines like a beacon of hope and opportunity. As Indianapolis's only Catholic university, Marian University's vision is to provide an education distinguished in its ability to develop transformative leaders who will serve the world with compassion, integrity, and purpose.

Marian University's commitment to the Catholic intellectual tradition shapes every facet of our educational experience, providing a moral compass for our students and faculty. Our mission remains to be a great Catholic university dedicated to achieving excellence in learning, achieved through teaching, research, and scholarly activity in the Franciscan and liberal arts tradition.

While proudly Catholic in both tradition and practice, Marian University welcomes students of all faiths who seek an educational experience framed within the context of our Franciscan values of dignity of the individual, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship. Our understanding of these **values** is informed by reflection on the life of Jesus Christ and prayer. ■

## History of Marian University



Marian University is sponsored by a Franciscan religious community, the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg. In 1851, Sister Theresa Hackelmeier and her fellow Sisters of St. Francis established St. Francis Normal School in Oldenburg, Indiana to educate the area's German immigrant population.

By 1936, St. Francis Normal School had transformed into Marian College, with programs primarily for teacher training. Marian College moved to Indianapolis in 1937 and further expanded its academic offerings, becoming a comprehensive regional institution.

On July 1, 2009, Marian College became Marian University. In early 2023, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classified Marian University as a national doctoral/professional university, indicating our wide range of program offerings, both research-focused and professional; Marian University's highest level of offering is doctorate degree – professional practice. ■



The Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg continue to inspire Marian University's bold leadership initiatives. This legacy of forging transformational leaders in education, healthcare, the sciences, pastoral ministry, and more invites everyone in the Marian community to prayerfully consider what they are called to invest in our vision, not only to protect what the Sisters created, but also to propel it forward in bold and innovative ways.

In 2022, Marian University formally launched its newest strategic plan, Journey to 2030: Always Forward. Driven by innovation, quality, and swift acts of courage, our Journey to 2030 will help to secure a better future for our university and our students. In the spirit of boldness, **Marian University is setting forth on a path to raise \$750 million by 2030.** These investments will be used primarily to fund our three strategic priorities: Access and Success; STEHM (science, technology, engineering, health sciences, and mathematics); and Faith in Action. This funding is imperative in continuing the exponential growth of Marian University and setting our students on the pathway to achieving their dreams academically, professionally, and personally.

With respect to the Journey to 2030: Always Forward strategic plan, our administration, faculty, and staff echo the sentiments of another Marian foundress, Mother Clarissa Dillhoff, guiding us with words she wrote to her fellow Sisters nearly 100 years ago: *"This new adventure has been thrust upon us with a speed never before experienced... and it's worth the venture."*

## STUDENT POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS



Current total enrollment includes approximately **3,700** students across multiple campuses and programs (associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees)



**935** student-athletes

Student housing on campus is at **CAPACITY**



**36%** growth in Latino students year-over-year.



**76%** of students from Indiana

**39%** from unrepresented backgrounds

## Notable Achievements

Dedicating his professional life to the mission of Catholic education, Daniel J. Elsener became the eighth president of Marian College, now Marian University, on August 1, 2001. As a result of President Elsener's energetic and visionary leadership, Marian University has experienced great success advancing excellence in learning, including but not limited to:



Marian University has joined the Doctoral/Professional Universities Carnegie Classification, and in its first year ranked top two in Indiana for social mobility and **ranked 250** among all

**National Universities according to U.S. News & World Report's** annual rankings (2023).

**Enrollment** has grown by **75%** over the past ten years, a testament to Marian University's relevant academic offerings.

The launch of the **E. S. Witchger School of Engineering** and opening of its state-of-the-art building (2022-2023).

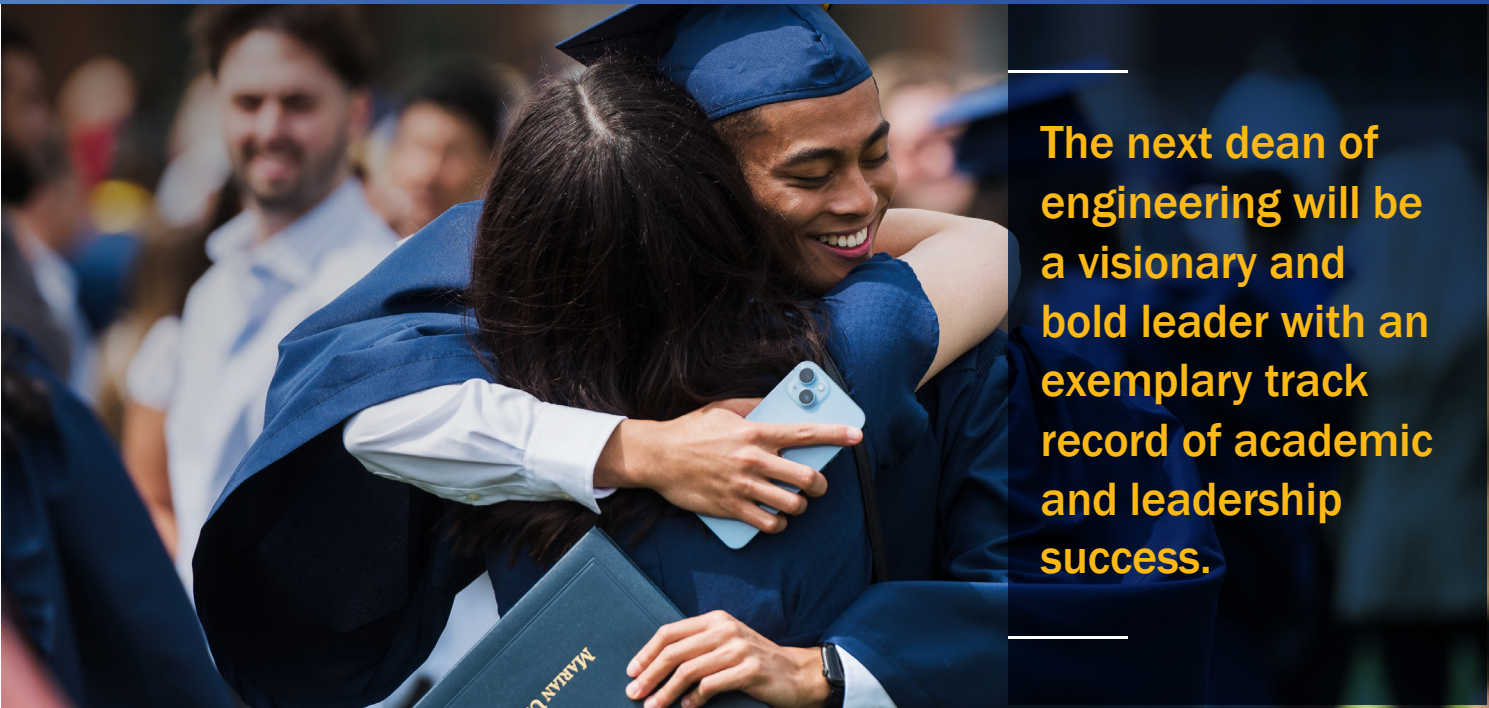
The creation and national prominence of Marian University's **Fred S. Klipsch Educators College**, an innovative undergraduate teacher preparation program recognized by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) as among just **48 universities nationwide and the only A+ program in Indiana** for going above and beyond the standards set by literacy experts for teaching the "science of reading."

The creation of Indiana's second medical school, the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MU-COM, established 2013). This year, Marian University celebrates the MU-COM's **10th anniversary and the more than 1,000 alumni physicians who have graduated** from the MU-COM.

**Intercollegiate athletics** (NAIA and Collegiate Cycling) is a major part of the leadership development at Marian University that consistently ranks among the **top 10 in the nation.** ■



# A COMMITMENT TO TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP



The next dean of engineering will be a visionary and bold leader with an exemplary track record of academic and leadership success.

**M**arian University invites nominations and applications for the next dean of the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering.

The ideal candidate is a visionary leader with a distinguished record of engineering excellence and one who is innovative, versatile and entrepreneurial. The Dean will have strong background in engineering education, a tireless commitment to academic excellence, a distinguished track-record of scholarship and research, and demonstrated leadership experience. The Dean oversees all aspect of operations within the engineering school including academic programs, faculty development, student success, and strategic planning. The Dean reports to the chief academic officer and provost.

The school's slogan is "*Engineering with a Franciscan Conscience.*" The next dean should promote Marian University's Catholic Franciscan mission and identity with a clear vision and strategy for how engineering can address key societal challenges and contributes to human flourishing.

Founded in 2022, the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering offers bachelor's degrees in biomedical, chemical, civil, computer and mechanical engineering, as well as engineering physics. Engineering has plans to launch graduate degrees as early as 2025. With approximately 15 faculty and nearly 200 students, Witchger Engineering is seeing tremendous interest and rapid, outsized growth. A new 70,000 sqft engineering building was opened in August 2023.

Marian University believes in empowering our students to become not just scholars, but agents of change in their communities and the world. Through a holistic approach to education, our next provost will have the chance to lead initiatives that prepare students for a rapidly changing global landscape. Marian University is where leaders are not just born; they are cultivated, nurtured, and encouraged to lead with purpose. ■





# OPPORTUNITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will play a pivotal role in advancing Marian University's vision, mission, values, and priorities outlined in our current *Journey to 2030: Always Forward* strategic plan. He/she will foster a culture of academic innovation and ensure the highest standards of excellence in learning. We expect our new **Dean** to (have):

- Actively engage the Catholic Franciscan mission and identity of Marian University by modeling the Franciscan Sponsorship Values and honoring the legacy of the founding congregation through transformative education, unity in diversity, leadership through service, integrating faith and life, and institutional policies.
- Honor the dignity and inestimable value of each person, reflecting the presence of God dwelling among us. Marian University recognizes that each person is endowed with the very life of our Creator, and likewise promotes equality, justice, and solidarity as we celebrate the blessing of rich diversity present within our community.
- An earned doctorate in an **engineering or closely related** field.
- Proven experience in academic administration, particularly at a national, doctoral university.
- A strong record of scholarly research achievement and excellence in teaching.
- A future-oriented approach to education with a focus on emerging trends.
- Exceptional communication and leadership skills to engage with Marian University's Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and other various constituencies.
- A passion for nurturing faculty development, research, and creative endeavors.
- Sound fiscal management and resource allocation skills.
- Collaborative and courageous decision-making skills.

The **dean** will be entrusted with advancing Marian University's commitment to academic rigor, spiritual growth, and social responsibility. The **dean's** leadership will ensure that every Marian **engineering** student has the opportunity to flourish, not only academically but as compassionate, ethical, and globally minded individuals. ■



# WHY CHOOSE MARIAN UNIVERSITY?

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- **Mission-Driven Excellence in Learning:** At Marian, we are driven by a deep sense of purpose. Embrace the opportunity to lead an institution that places service, leadership, and excellence in learning at the heart of everything we do. We take immense pride in offering a diverse array of programs that span a wide spectrum of knowledge. Marian University's next successful executive vice president and provost will oversee all aspects of academic affairs.
  - **Innovative Culture & Commitment to Growth:** Our commitment to innovation extends beyond the classroom. Our students, faculty, and staff have the resources and support to foster new ideas and pedagogical approaches that help tackle 21st century challenges.
  - **Collaborative Community:** Marian University is a place where collaboration thrives. You will work alongside dedicated colleagues who share your passion for education and the development of transformative leaders.
  - **Vibrant Campus Life:** Whether a sports fan, art enthusiast, humanitarian, or bookworm, there's always plenty to do on Marian University's friendly campus. Faculty, staff, and students love Marian's campus because you can watch live theatre, root for your favorite Knights athletic teams, work out in the newly renovated fitness facility, take in an art exhibit, help out in various community service projects, listen to exceptional guest speakers, walk the trails of our 45-acre nature preserve, and more.
  - **Outstanding Location:** Marian University's wooded historic campus is nestled in the heart of Indianapolis, a dynamic city with a rich cultural scene, thriving businesses, and a strong sense of community. Indy and its surrounding suburbs are home to hundreds of major employers in business sectors like biosciences, pharmaceuticals, logistics and distribution, and advanced manufacturing among others. Known as the "Crossroads of America," two-thirds of the United States population can drive to Indianapolis in 10 hours or less.
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## ■ **Marian University is not just a university.**

It's a calling, a mission, and a community committed to making the world a better place. We believe that education should not only inform the mind but also enrich the soul. Our campus is a vibrant community where students, faculty, and staff come together to explore the profound questions of life and the human experience. As **Dean**, you will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of this community. ■



# APPLICATION PROCEDURE

If you are a visionary academic leader who shares Marian University's commitment to transformative education and the development of leaders for a flourishing world, we invite you to submit your application for the **dean position of the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering**.

□ **Please include a letter of interest, your long-form curriculum vitae, and contact information for at least five professional references.** References will be contacted at a later stage and only with your foreknowledge.

□ **Apply now** and be a part of something truly extraordinary. Marian University is where your leadership and vision can make a difference.

*Marian University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive academic community. We encourage applications from candidates of all backgrounds and experiences.*

## **Please submit your application to:**

**Witchger Engineering Dean Search Committee**

[Marian University HR Portal](#)

For questions or additional information, please contact: [EGRDean\\_Search@marian.edu](mailto:EGRDean_Search@marian.edu)

**Thank you** for considering this important leadership position at Marian University. We look forward to welcoming a **Dean of the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering** who will contribute **greatly** toward advancing our mission of excellence in learning through teaching, research, and scholarly activity in the Franciscan and liberal arts tradition. ■

## MARIAN UNIVERSITY®

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Marian University is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.