Dean, Macaulay Honors College at CUNY

The Board of Trustees of The City University of New York (CUNY) seeks an exceptional leader to serve as dean of Macaulay Honors College. Founded in 2001 as the honors college of CUNY, Macaulay sits at the center of a cross-campus community that includes eight of CUNY’s senior colleges—Baruch, Brooklyn, City, Hunter, John Jay, Lehman, Queens, and the College of Staten Island. Macaulay combines the intimacy of a close-knit, small collaborative undergraduate college community with the vast intellectual resources of a world-class urban research university. The Macaulay program combines a rigorous academic experience with significant opportunities for undergraduate research, global study, internships, and civic engagement.

Macaulay Honors College enrolled 2,040 undergraduate students and eight graduate students in fall 2014. Macaulay students are among the brightest and most academically gifted and promising students from New York and around the world. They enroll simultaneously as Macaulay students and as undergraduates in one of the eight senior CUNY colleges, and they graduate with a joint degree from their home campus and from Macaulay Honors College. Macaulay students who meet New York State residency requirements receive a full-tuition scholarship; an Apple laptop with technology training and support; intensive mentoring and advisement; priority course privileges; access to world class faculty, visiting professors, and guest lecturers; and a $7,000 Opportunities Fund grant to pursue global learning, research, and service. Macaulay students also receive a “Cultural Passport” that provides full or discounted access to more than 100 of New York’s most famous museums and performance venues. Seventy percent of Macaulay students have completed global experiences, visiting more than 60 countries. Since its inception, the Opportunities Fund has spent more than $20 million in support of Macaulay students’ development. Macaulay Honors College has an annual operating budget of $6.8 million and annually raises more than $2.5 million in gifts to support the Opportunities Fund and academic programs. Over the last five years, Macaulay has raised nearly $10 million through external fundraising. The College has an endowment that is valued at approximately $20 million.

Reporting to the CUNY Chancellor and working within policy set by the CUNY Board of Trustees for presidents/leaders of CUNY colleges, the dean is the chief executive officer of the college, providing vision, leadership, and strategic direction to Macaulay’s unique academic program. The dean is responsible for the College’s administrative and financial affairs, for the recruitment of faculty and support of students, and for the overall success of the Macaulay Honors program. The dean leads an administrative team consisting of the Provost and Senior Associate Dean, the Executive Director of Business and Finance, the Vice President for Advancement, and the Vice Director of Marketing and Communications, and chairs the Directors’ Council, which advises the dean on the policy and operations of Macaulay. The dean is an ex-officio member and works closely with the Board of Directors of the Macaulay Honors College Foundation. The dean will be expected to collaborate with the Board to grow its ranks and make it an even more effective source of philanthropic dollars for Macaulay. The dean is a member of the Chancellor’s Council of Presidents. Within CUNY, the dean operates in a consortial relationship with the presidents of the CUNY senior colleges and functions as a university leader and colleague in discussions around strategic issues.

The next dean of Macaulay will chart the future of the college in a time of significant change, when the challenges facing higher education are creating new opportunities for innovation. The new dean will work to develop a cohesive vision to help the college build on program excellence, expand its global reach, maximize internal and external collaboration, and promote the uniqueness of the Macaulay experience. CUNY seeks a dean who will demonstrate a broad understanding of the direction of liberal arts education, a commitment to public higher education, and the ability to articulate a vision that positions the college as a jewel within a complex urban public research university. The successful candidate will have the reputation, stature, and credibility to be an effective leader within CUNY and to garner resources to strengthen the college and enable the achievement of its vision. The successful candidate will likely come from a background of substantive leadership within higher education but may also be drawn from other environments of academic innovation. Candidates must demonstrate evidence of excellent financial and management skills; collaborative skills in working with a strong management team and an innovative and energetic faculty and staff in distributed locations; and a track record of commitment to diversity.

Candidates must possess an earned doctorate or professional equivalent from an accredited institution; a distinguished record of academic achievement and credentials warranting appointment to the rank of tenured full professor; at least five years of demonstrated strategic leadership, organizational management, and innovative transformation experience; demonstrated commitment to high quality scholarship, teaching and diversity as important components of academic excellence; and a strong track record of securing financial support from private donors, foundations and corporations. Candidates will demonstrate a commitment to promoting student success; advancing diversity and inclusion among faculty, students, staff and external stakeholders; demonstrating personal and professional integrity, fair and just decision making, keen intellectual capacity and creativity, strategic focus, and exceptional collegiality, with an open and transparent approach, ability to operate within a complex environment and collaborate with multiple stakeholders. Other necessary qualities include a commitment to participatory decision making, exceptional listening skills, communication ability and team-building skills; a passion for communicating the vision and mission of the College; and an entrepreneurial and innovative attitude and orientation.

Nominations, inquiries, and applications (including a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and the names of five references should be directed electronically in confidence to MacaulayDean@divsearch.com). Submission of applications is encouraged by March 1, 2016.