The City University of New York (CUNY) seeks a strategist Chancellor, who can broadcast the innovation and excellence of CUNY and its faculty to the world, lead and partner with its 24 college presidents and deans, execute on systemwide plans to graduate more New Yorkers from undergraduate and professional schools, and position CUNY graduates for successful careers in high value work and leadership in the knowledge-based economy.

The Chancellor is head of the CUNY system, reporting to a 17-member Board of Trustees. With an operating budget of $3.5B, CUNY serves over 270,000 students in credit-bearing programs and over 268,000 enrollments in non-credit adult and continuing education courses, across a system of eleven senior colleges, seven community colleges, five graduate and professional schools, and an honors college, dispersed across the five boroughs of New York City. Its total degree-credit enrollment grows at an average annual rate of 2% per year and is served by 20,100 dedicated faculty and over 25,000 staff.

CUNY has evolved a remarkable mission. It is a unique form of a public urban university, a fusion of the best principles of academic rigor and excellence with a fundamental commitment to maximizing opportunity, particularly those from low-income, underrepresented groups, and immigrant communities. There simply is no majority group at CUNY: Asian students account for 20 percent of the student body, Black students 25 percent, Hispanic students 30 percent, and White students 24 percent. The student body hails from 211 countries of origin and collectively speaks 174 languages. Forty-five percent of undergraduates are first-generation college students, and 58 percent are Pell grant recipients. For 170 years, CUNY has lifted generations of families and educated millions of people. A recent study showed that CUNY propels almost six times as many low-income students into the middle class and beyond as all eight Ivy League colleges–plus Duke, M.I.T., Stanford, and Chicago combined. Students graduate CUNY with little or no debt. Seventy percent of CUNY students pay no tuition.

CUNY has benefited greatly from funding support from the State and the City of New York. State and City contributions comprise 65% of its $3.5B operating budget. New York State’s Excelsior free-tuition program, announced in 2017, is an impressive declaration of NY State’s commitment to public higher education. The graduates of CUNY have the opportunity to emerge in a world class economy, with the skills learned in great research universities, at an entirely affordable tuition, and with the strong support of the public and public officials. At a moment of increased urgency for higher education, as a college diploma becomes an indispensable ticket to the middle class, the next Chancellor has the opportunity to alter the educational profile of an entire city.

The executive search firm of Isaacson, Miller has been retained to assist with the search. All inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed to:

John Isaacson, Monroe Moseley, and Lionel Anderson
Isaacson, Miller
www.imsearch.com/6534 and ChancellorSearch@cuny.edu

Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

CUNY encourages people with disabilities, minorities, veterans and women to apply. At CUNY, Italian Americans are also included among our protected groups. Applicants and employees will not be discriminated against on the basis of any legally protected category, including sexual orientation or gender identity. EEO/AE/Vet/Disability Employer.