THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THROUGH ITS PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE, INVITES NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF SIMPSON COLLEGE.

Affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the College seeks an exceptional leader who will continue the positive momentum enjoyed under John Byrd, who will retire following eight years of outstanding leadership as President. It is expected that the next president of Simpson College will begin duties on or about July 1, 2013.

This visionary leader will build on the College’s strengths, position it for future success, and influence a generation of students.
ABOUT SIMPSON COLLEGE

Simpson College is a four-year private college of the liberal arts and sciences affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Located just south of Des Moines, the capital of Iowa, Simpson’s picturesque 85-acre campus in Indianola is home to about 1,500 full-time undergraduate students with an additional 500 part-time, mostly adult students at two sites in Des Moines.

The College was founded in 1860 and named in honor of Bishop Matthew Simpson: teacher, abolitionist, and close friend to President Abraham Lincoln. Since its founding, the College has endeavored to honor Simpson’s legacy and the College’s Mission by acting on its enduring commitment to civic engagement, social justice, and the public good.

MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY

Simpson College is an independent, selective, church-related, comprehensive liberal arts college dedicated to excellence in higher education. The Simpson College community is equally committed to:

- Promoting integrative learning that enables students of all ages to develop intellectual and practical skills;
- Nurturing values which foster personal worth and individuality within a creative, diverse, and just community;
- Graduating students who continue to grow as free, responsible, and fulfilled individuals in the world of family, work, service, and scholarship; and
- Drawing upon our relationship with the United Methodist Church and our religious traditions that guide us on issues of personal integrity, moral responsibility, social justice, and global citizenship.

Consistent with the Mission and values of the College, members of the Simpson family contributed over 50,000 hours of community service last year to Des Moines and the surrounding region. It is no wonder Newsweek recently named Simpson one of the top 25 colleges and universities in the nation for students interested in community service.
ACADEMIC INNOVATION

Simpson combines the best of the liberal arts with planned skill development and career preparation. To that end, the College recently instituted an innovative “Engaged Citizenship” curriculum. Inspired by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) LEAP initiative, it combines traditional areas of study with the seven transferable skills most valued by today’s employers, and encourages students to engage in Simpson’s community partnerships, internships, and study abroad opportunities.

Simpson’s distinctive calendar highlights the College’s commitment to 24/7 and experiential learning. The calendar features a three-week May Term designed for internships, field research, and domestic or international travel. Besides May Term travel, Simpson offers six semester abroad programs (in places like Argentina, Tahiti, and Thailand) designed and led by full-time faculty. As recognition for its global educational programs, US News and World Report named Simpson one of the nation’s top 100 schools for study abroad.

Individual mentoring and opportunities to work closely with professors are hallmarks of the Simpson experience. The Simpson faculty comprises about 90 scholars, 90 percent of whom hold the highest degree in their fields. Student-faculty ratios are low (14:1) and writing-intensive courses are capped at 18. Many students are engaged in undergraduate research and creative work, and Simpson recently initiated an exciting new tradition: an annual research symposium showcasing the best student work.
BUILDING FOR GROWTH

With the help of generous donors and alumni, Simpson is in the midst of new building projects and campus upgrades. The 54,000 square foot Kent Campus Center, overlooking scenic Buxton Park, will have its grand opening at Homecoming this October. This new campus hub features a multi-purpose grand room, a black box theater, a coffee shop, new food venues, and an expanded bookstore. Simpson recently finished a multi-million dollar renovation of the Blank Performing Arts Center, and upgrades to its athletic facilities (Buxton Stadium and Cowles Athletic Center) are ongoing.

The institution maintains an endowment of approximately $70 million and an annual operating budget in the $35-million dollar range. Simpson is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association since 1913. Its last accreditation report was outstanding and the College anticipates a similar outcome from its next review in 2014-15.

The next president will face the challenges confronting all private colleges, but we operate from a position of strength. The entire Simpson community has rallied to help in student recruitment and retention, and the efforts have had great results. This year’s first-year class is one of the largest in Simpson’s 152-year history, and retention rates are also near record levels.

Success is a word you hear often at Simpson, and for good reason. We have a great story to tell, and the next chapter promises to be the best yet. This brochure describes some highlights of the College, but as any Simpson student will tell you, you can’t appreciate the full picture until you visit campus and feel the spirit, pride, and energy of the people who work, study, and teach here.

Indianola & Des Moines

• Indianola is home to about 15,000 residents.
• The city hosts both the National Hot-Air Balloon Classic and Des Moines Metro Opera.
• Warren County boasts the third highest per-capita household income in Iowa.
• Simpson is just 12 miles away from Des Moines, a metropolitan area of nearly 600,000 residents, and has easy access to the Des Moines International Airport.
• Forbes.com recently named Des Moines the #1 city in America for young professionals and ranked it #4 on a list of America’s Most Livable Cities
• Parenting Magazine recently ranked Des Moines #5 on its list of the best cities for families.
• Other publications have ranked Des Moines in the top 10 cities for business and careers, a strong local economy, and educated young workforce.

To learn more about the Des Moines Metro and Indianola areas:
Greater Des Moines Partnership
www.desmoinesmetro.com
Bravo Des Moines
www.bravogreaterdesmoines.org
Indianola
www.visitindianola.com
PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

The leadership priorities for the President of Simpson College are varied but include the following:

Effectively Promote Simpson’s Mission and Strategic Initiatives to Internal and External Constituencies

- The President must be an effective spokesperson and enthusiastic champion of the strengths of a church-related liberal arts college and the distinctive academic program and mission of Simpson.

Strengthen Resource Acquisition and Sound Financial Management

- Candidates for the position should demonstrate sound financial management experience. Fundraising will continue to be a major focus of the President. The College’s endowment will need to increase to provide stronger support for the institution’s future development, operations, and cost of education for students.

Focus and Build Upon Academic Strength

- The President must build on Simpson’s strong academic quality. This will include the recognition of existing faculty strengths and the ability to attract and retain the highest quality faculty. He/she will also support and promote existing as well as new academic initiatives that position Simpson College to successfully compete in a changing educational environment.

Focus on Students

- The President must build on attracting and retaining the optimal-size student body that is racially, ethnically, and geographically diverse and of the highest academic quality. The experience at Simpson prepares students to thrive at work, at home and in their communities.

Sustain and Enhance Relationships with External Constituencies

- Simpson College historically has been an engaged partner in all aspects of its local community, region, and state. The President should maintain and enhance this relationship by being a visible presence and active leader in the city of Indianola community as well as in the broader region and state. In addition, Simpson College has a long-standing and supportive relationship with the Methodist Church. The new President should build on the College’s Christian heritage, opening new avenues of Church/College cooperation while fostering a campus environment that is open and inviting to students of all faiths.
PRESIDENTIAL ATTRIBUTES

To provide the leadership required to enhance the college’s distinguished academic programs and community relationships, it will be important that the next President have the following attributes:

Leadership & Strategy
- Significant and successful senior leadership experience with demonstrated ability to act decisively and effectively bring about change to strengthen institutional reputation and position
- The ability to promote and lead innovative and entrepreneurial planning and problem solving
- The ability to communicate effectively across multiple constituencies

Management
- The ability to value, motivate, and develop talented people while holding them accountable for their performance
- A collaborative and consultative leadership style that builds community and fosters teamwork

Fundraising
- An aptitude and passion for asking others, including alumni, friends of the College, and corporate donors, to support this exceptional institution financially

Values
- An informed commitment to and passionate support for the ideals of the liberal arts within an institution that prepares students in a wide range of professional fields. This includes appreciation for the distinctive culture and values of Simpson College and the ability to articulate those ideals persuasively
- A focus on students with a genuine enjoyment in interacting with them and in participating in the life of the campus community
- A deep understanding of and appreciation for what goes into excellent teaching, learning, and scholarship in an institution that is responsive to the needs of today’s students and society
- An appreciation for the balance of academics, athletics, and other extracurricular activities of students
- A commitment to the value of and imperative for diversity in an educational institution

Background & Credentials

A terminal degree is strongly preferred, but all applications will be considered.
NOMINATIONS AND INQUIRIES

The presidential search committee will begin a review of applications immediately and continue work until an appointment is made. To assure full consideration, applications should be received by September 21, 2012 and include a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and five professional references with e-mail addresses and telephone numbers.

References will not be contacted without prior authorization from the applicant. Applications should be sent electronically (MS Word or PDF Format) to simpson@agbsearch.com. The search is being assisted by:

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Simpson College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity education employer.

“I owe to Simpson College my real beginning in life.”
– George Washington Carver

SIMPSON COLLEGE