One of the most dynamic and diverse of the 14 institutions in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education (State System), California University of Pennsylvania (Cal U), founded in 1852, is distinguished among System institutions by its unique focus on applied education. All of Cal U’s 130 undergraduate majors and concentrations, its 35 graduate and professional programs, and a variety of certification, certificate, and professional development opportunities build on solid academic foundations by adding experiential components that may include fieldwork, clinical practice, student teaching, or meaningful research. The new President will further Cal U’s mission of pursuing student achievement and success, institutional excellence, and community service for Cal U’s more than 6,000 undergraduate and 2,000-plus graduate students, a strong program of community engagement and partnerships, and an active shared governance philosophy involving mutual participation in decision-making by the affected constituencies. Cal U has experienced continued success, including a growing and highly diverse student body, a dynamic Study Abroad program and, since July 2015, the ability to offer applied doctoral degrees. The President will report to the Chancellor of the State System and work very closely with an engaged and effective local Council of Trustees. In collaboration with the leadership of the other 13 State System universities, the President of Cal U plays a key role in assuring the viability and vibrancy of publicly funded higher education within the Commonwealth. Cal U is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and various academic programs are further accredited or licensed by discipline-specific oversight bodies.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate for the Presidency at California University of Pennsylvania will be an experienced leader with a full understanding of, and preferably experience working within, complex higher education systems, knowledge of strategic planning, and sound fiscal management skills. The next President will be mission-driven and a skilled advocate for the institution. Passion for and commitment to full inclusion throughout the institution, an appetite for the Presidential role in external affairs and fundraising, and the ability to unite a team behind a shared vision of success in public higher education are key. The Council of Trustees seeks in the next President a person who has a record of success in executive leadership, who can embrace and build upon the history and mission of this distinctive University, and who has the organizational and political acumen to engage effectively with the institution’s internal and external stakeholders. A doctoral/terminal degree or equivalent experience is preferred. Non-traditional candidates with comparable leadership experience in complex organizations are encouraged to apply.

Campus and Location: Cal U’s 294-acre campus in southeastern Pennsylvania, nestled on a bend of the Monongahela River in the borough of California, is renowned for its natural beauty, with tree-lined lawns, broad walkways and exquisite landscaping surrounding restored historic buildings and new residence halls recognized by the National Building Museum as among the finest in the nation. Cal U boasts an expanding public garden that encompasses the 92-acre lower campus, full athletics and recreational facilities, public art installations and galleries, and a variety of venues for public gatherings. A 35-mile drive north to Pittsburgh on well maintained highways makes a cosmopolitan array of commercial, recreational, and cultural amenities easily accessible, while the rural, picturesque environs provide ample opportunities for leisure and recreation benefitting from the ambiance of a small and friendly, rural town. Ease of access to world-class healthcare and educational options, and an almost unlimited variety of lifestyle choices are available to the new President.

Application: For a confidential discussion or to make a nomination, please call Kate Nolde at RPA Inc., 800-992-9277. Candidate confidentiality is a priority. Applicants should submit only a letter of application and resume or CV to calupresident@rpainc.org, using “president” in the subject line. We ask that candidates not provide references at this time, as they will not be retained. For full consideration, please submit your materials by January 18, 2016. Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education and California University of Pennsylvania are equal opportunity employers. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.