PRESIDENT

Bridgewater College, a leading undergraduate liberal arts institution affiliated with the Church of the Brethren, seeks nominations and expressions of interest for the Presidency of the College. Bridgewater’s next President will lead an institution that is academically superior, financially secure, and fully committed to offering programs of the highest quality to an exceptionally talented national and international student body. It is anticipated that the new President will assume office on or about July 1, 2010.

ABOUT BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE:

Bridgewater College was founded in 1880 as the first private coeducational college in Virginia and has had a close affiliation with the Church of the Brethren since its inception. The College has led the way for more than 125 years by developing leaders in fields such as business, industry, medicine, law, communications and education.

As a liberal arts college, Bridgewater prepares students to gain a comprehensive appreciation for the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. The College offers a breadth of intellectual experiences while allowing for proficiency in specific disciplines. Our students discover how they think while exploring new ways of thinking. Life at Bridgewater is as much about transformation as it is about learning.

Located in the scenic Shenandoah Valley within the Town of Bridgewater (population 5,203), the College offers a quiet, safe and invigorating environment in which to learn. Situated between the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains near the city of Harrisonburg (population 41,170), students are surrounded by historical attractions including significant Civil War battlefields, and in an area known for its outdoor adventures, local artisans, music festivals, resorts, museums and dining.

FAST FACTS ABOUT BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE

• Founded: 1880 as the first private coeducational college in Virginia.
• Affiliation: Church of the Brethren.
• Location: In the town of Bridgewater in the scenic Shenandoah Valley, eight miles from the city of Harrisonburg.
• Students: Approximately 1500 men and women mainly from Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic States; 25 other states and eight countries represented.
• Faculty: 96 full-time faculty members.
• Student-faculty ratio: 14 to 1.
• Activities: More than 70 campus organizations, including student government, campus theatre, foreign language clubs, forensics, dance team, cheer leading, student recitals, art exhibits, visiting scholars, and concerts by the college choirs, symphonic band, and jazz band. Museums, ballet, opera, musical concerts and other cultural and entertainment opportunities are within two hours drive in Washington, D.C., Richmond or Charlottesville.
• Athletics: 21 intercollegiate teams; member of the NCAA Division III and Old Dominion Athletic Conference; a wide variety of intramural sports and sports clubs.
• Alumni: Over 15,000.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE

The Presidency of Bridgewater College is an uncommon opportunity and an attractive leadership position. The College offers the next President the following strengths and opportunities:
• A college and community of ideal size that creates unusual opportunities not found in other liberal arts colleges;
• A strong and accomplished faculty dedicated to the teacher – scholar model;
• A selective and talented student body;
• An innovative, international education program that is infused throughout the curriculum and offers extensive study abroad programs;
• A fully engaged and vibrant Board of Trustees;
• Dedicated and hard-working staff members who care deeply about the institution and students they serve;
• A distinguished Presidential Cabinet;
• A sense of pride and intense community spirit shared by Bridge water alumni faculty, staff and students;
• A college truly poised for greatness.

PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

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

EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE THE BRIDGEWATER VISION TO EXTERNAL CONSTITUENCIES
• The President must be an effective spokesperson and enthusiastic champion of the distinctive academic program and mission of the College. These abilities are especially important in representing the College to potential donors, students, and their parents.

STRENGTHEN RESOURCE ACQUISITION, ALLOCATION AND MANAGEMENT
• Although the College maintains financial stability, and has a long history of fiscal responsibility, financial management must be a top priority of the next President. Candidates for the position should be able to demonstrate a background of outstanding financial management experience. Fundraising should continue to be a principal focus of the President. The College’s endowment, while solid at over $50 million, must increase to provide stronger support for Bridgewater’s future development and operations. The President must be a successful steward of the College’s finances and investment performance from both strategic and operational perspectives.

PROVIDE DISTINGUISHED AND TRUSTED LEADERSHIP
• Bridgewater has a loyal and hard-working faculty and staff who look to the President for leadership, collaboration, and empowerment. The next President must engage the entire community in reflecting, visioning, and planning for the future of the College and exemplify a life of intellectual achievement, acceptance and inclusion. Additionally, he/she must maintain a working knowledge of trends and national priorities for higher education as well as public and social policy in America. In doing so, the President must engage the community in discussions of the academic mission and program; encourage the setting and achievement of high standards, and serve as an external interpreter and an enthusiastic spokesperson for the College, its academic mission, and its programs.

CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF ACADEMIC STRENGTH AND RIGOR
• Bridgewater’s approach to higher education encourages students to combine reflective thought with effective action and to become active, thoughtful citizens of the world. With a strong liberal arts foundation, the President must work to continue to strengthen academic offerings and present to students a well defined and rigorous liberal arts curriculum. Among issues to be addressed are faculty workload and research opportunities for faculty and students.

EXTEND BOARD/PRESIDENT PARTNERSHIP
• Bridgewater’s trustees are deeply dedicated to the institution and supportive of its programs and community. Board members are intelligent, skilled, experienced and eager to bring those qualities to bear in addressing Bridgewater’s challenges. The President/Board partnership will be crucial in addressing the planning and fiscal needs of the College and in connecting the Board to the larger college community.

FOCUS ON STUDENTS AND CAMPUS DIVERSITY
• Bridgewater students, not surprisingly, are successful and positive about their collegiate careers. They thrive in a community interested in both their intellectual progress and personal development. Students describe a culture of hard work, shared purpose, and individual freedom that encourages each individual to reach his or her full potential. In an effort to carry out its mission more effectively, and to prepare its students for the environment in which they will function in the 21st century, efforts to reflect diversity should continue. Academic freedom and excellence flourish in an environment that encourages the fullest possible diversity of ideas and expression.
MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN RELATIONSHIP

• Bridgewater has a long standing and supportive relationship with the Church of the Brethren. The new President should build on that foundation, incorporating the Church’s heritage and opening new avenues of cooperation with the Church while fostering a campus environment inviting to Brethren students and students of all faiths.

CAPTURE AND BUILD UPON FACULTY STRENGTH

• Bridgewater has a distinguished faculty of teacher-scholars with a solid reputation. Notwithstanding their teaching responsibilities, Bridgewater faculty members are active scholars, student mentors and advisors. Faculty and administrators also maintain an extensive shared governance structure that reflects and supports the College’s emphasis on collaboration and community. The President must capture and build upon faculty strength and provide needed support through the promotion of academic initiatives, the acquisition of resources for faculty development and a commitment to attracting and retaining the highest quality faculty.

VALUE AND INVOLVE STAFF

• Bridgewater’s talented and committed staff play key roles in shaping a residential learning community. A successful President will recognize, utilize and celebrate the value of the programs and services this group provides to the College.

FOSTER COLLEGIATE AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

• It is imperative that the new President forge the best of personal and professional relationships with key constituencies. Bridgewater is a caring residential community of faculty, students and staff living and working together in an atmosphere of respect and common purpose. It is expected that the new President will provide a style of leadership that recognizes the central importance of continuing to build campus community, while nurturing the College’s relationships with its alumni, the town of Bridgewater and surrounding region.

PRESIDENTIAL ATTRIBUTES

To provide the leadership required to enhance the College’s distinguished academic program, it will be important that the next President have the following attributes:

• An informed commitment to the ideals of a liberal arts education;
• The ability to articulate those ideals persuasively;
• A principled view of the world and the confidence to make decisions, in part, founded upon those principles;
• Significant and successful administrative or executive experience reflecting a proven aptitude for prudent financial management;
• An aptitude and passion for asking others to support an exceptional institution financially;
• An appreciation of Bridgewater’s affiliation with the Church of the Brethren and its distinctive culture and values, and its special niche in higher education, and the commitment and passion to convey this distinctiveness to those within and beyond the college community;
• The ability to effectively strengthen the reputation and standing of Bridgewater College;
• A collaborative leadership style that builds upon relationships and a sense of community and teamwork;
• An excellent mind with a broad vision, varied interests, a fresh perspective, balanced judgment and creativity;
• Excellent communication skills, with a confident and comfortable public presence;
• The ability to excel as a leader in a consultative environment, and skill in negotiating with all groups;
• Energy, stamina, enthusiasm and a sense of humor.

NOMINATIONS AND INQUIRIES

The presidential search committee will begin a review of applications in August, 2009, and continue work until an appointment is made. To assure full consideration, applications should be received by September 25, 2009, and must include a letter of interest, curriculum vitae and five professional references with e-mail and telephone numbers (references will not be contacted without prior authorization from the applicant). Applications should be sent electronically (MS Word or Adobe PDF) to:

Bridgewater@academic-search.com

The search is being assisted by:

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For additional information about Bridgewater College, please visit its Web site at www.bridgewater.edu

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