



## The University of Texas at San Antonio™

### **Dean, Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design Position Profile**

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) invites nominations, expressions of interest, and applications for the position of **Dean, Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design** (KCEID). The new Dean will be charged with strengthening KCEID's reputation in San Antonio and the region and continuing its mission centered in academic excellence, student success, and social mobility.

#### **The Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design**

In September 2021, UTSA College of Engineering and Integrated Design was named after Margie and Bill Klesse. Former Valero CEO and Chairman of the Board Bill Klesse and his wife, Margie, committed a transformational \$20 million gift to The University of Texas at San Antonio College of Engineering and Integrated Design to advance student success through the creation of new endowments for student scholarships, faculty support and programs to promote student success. In recognition of the gift, The University of Texas System Board of Regents authorized the naming of the college to the Margie and Bill Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design. KCEID now combines the academic departments and programs previously housed under the College of Engineering and the College of Architecture, Construction and Planning.

KCEID is home to more than 4,300 undergraduate and graduate students in 9 undergraduate, 16 masters, and 6 doctoral degree programs. The College is supported by over 140 tenure/tenure-track and fixed-term faculty and a dedicated cadre of staff. KCEID educational programs are accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE), and the Council of Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). Each of the KCEID's five units bring unique value for advancing its mission. These include:

- **Department of Biomedical Engineering and Chemical Engineering**  
The Department offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees with a focus on experiential, hands-on learning that prepares students to excel in this rapidly growing fields of expertise. Biomedical engineering programs have been offered since 2004, and chemical engineering enrolled its first class in 2017. Additionally, the department has been offering graduate programs in engineering education since 2022. The Department is rapidly expanding and contributing to the greater academic community, which is a great testament to the quality and dedication of the students, staff and faculty and the interdisciplinary environment within the College.
- **Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)**  
The Department's experienced and knowledgeable faculty members are dedicated to providing students with a hands-on learning experience that prepares them for success in the real world. ECE has state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment that enable students to work on exciting projects, collaborate with their peers and gain valuable industry experience. ECE is the ideal place for students who want to make a difference in the world through technology and innovation.

- **Department of Mechanical Engineering**

The Department offers programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level that prepare students for future challenges and opportunities. The Department offers a BS., M.S., and Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering as a joint program with Southwest Research Institute as well as an M.S. in Aerospace Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing and Enterprise Engineering. In addition to its degrees, the Department also offers undergraduate certificate programs in aerospace engineering, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning, industrial and manufacturing engineering, and oil & gas, and a graduate certificate program in aerospace engineering.

- **School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P)**

SA+P's programs possess a rich and successful history of transforming talented students into successful architects, interior designers, urban and regional planners, and historical preservation professionals. Undergraduate and graduate degree programs leverage the intersection between theory and practice while offering students a critical, experiential approach that translates locally and globally. This means students learn in the classroom and studio as well as in community settings and study abroad programs. SA+P prepares the next generation of designers and planners to strategically address the challenges of a dynamic and rapidly evolving built environment. SA+P resides on UTSA's Downtown Campus, located in the heart of beautiful and historic San Antonio.

- **School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction Management (CECM)**

CECM programs prepare students by providing civil engineering fundamentals through design and hands-on laboratory courses, as well as providing opportunities to participate in cutting edge, interdisciplinary research. CECM has innovative engineering research programs in traditional and emerging fields focusing on environmental engineering, transportation, water resources, structures, and geotechnical engineering. These research programs seek to serve the needs of San Antonio, South Texas and the nation.

KCEID is San Antonio's leader for engineering and designed environment research and instruction and is home to several research institutes and centers, a student success center, a large-scale testing laboratory, and a Makerspace, all supporting research and discovery as well as educational excellence. Collectively, these programs, departments and academic units support KCEID's mission to identify and solve grand challenges where humanity intersects the physical world. For more information about KCEID, please visit <https://klesse.utsa.edu/>.

### **The University of Texas at San Antonio**

As the third largest of nine academic universities and six health institutions within The University of Texas System, UTSA is a leading public, Carnegie-designated R1 research university specializing in health, cybersecurity, fundamental futures, and human-social development. With over 34,000 students supported by more than 1,400 faculty and 5,600 staff and student employees, it is the largest university in the San Antonio metropolitan region.

As one of the first universities designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and committed to its urban-serving mission, UTSA embraces multicultural traditions and is highly focused on student success and meeting the educational needs of its diverse student population. Although 63% of its students come from San Antonio and South Texas, nearly half (45%) of UTSA undergraduates will be the first in their family to earn a bachelor's degree. Additionally, transfer students comprise about 40% of UTSA's total undergraduate population. Further enhancing an already diverse student population is UTSA's military community, which makes up approximately 13% of total students. This includes active-duty military members, veterans, reserves/guard, and their spouses and dependents. For more information about UTSA, please visit <http://www.utsa.edu/>.

UTSA is proud to be located in San Antonio, the nation's seventh largest city and one of the fastest growing in the country. UTSA considers San Antonio an extended campus for its urban-serving mission and has a presence through various campuses: Serving the majority of UTSA's students, the Main Campus includes the Carlos Alvarez College of Business, College of Education and Human Development, Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, College of Sciences, Honors College, University College and the UTSA Graduate School. The 600-plus acre campus is surrounded by San Antonio's thriving Medical Center district, and major employers such as USAA, Valero, Fiesta Texas and anchor retail facilities such as The Shops at La Cantera and The Rim.

The Downtown Campus is located between San Antonio's historic West Side neighborhood and the downtown core and is in close proximity to a number of cultural, historic and commercial venues. The campus is home to the Margie and Bill Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design, the College for Health, Community, and Policy, the College of Education and Human Development, and the School of Data Science.

UTSA has three additional campuses: the Southwest Campus is located on the San Antonio River in downtown San Antonio, on the historical site of the Southwest School of Art, which merged with UTSA in 2022; the Hemisfair Campus, (UTSA's second downtown location) home to the Institute of Texan Cultures, where historical exhibits, cultural programs and live performances are offered year-round; and the Park West Campus, which serves Roadrunner student-athletes and features a soccer field and a track-and-field stadium. It is designated as a host site for many community sporting events.

### **Position Summary**

The Dean will serve as the chief academic officer for the Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design with responsibility for developing a comprehensive, ambitious, and dynamic vision for the College's future. UTSA is on an upward trajectory in pursuit of academic excellence, student success, research growth, creativity and community service, and the Dean must serve as a passionate advocate for these ideals—working in collaboration with College stakeholders to create a refined vision for KCEID.

In leading the College during this important period of institutional growth and transition, the new Dean will play a critical role in effectively aligning the departments that now comprise KCEID, articulating and implementing a strategic plan, and guiding the College through the process of creating a refined identity, increasing its academic culture of excellence, and strengthening external partnerships to advance research/scholarship/creative activity and community impact. To enhance the quality and reputation of KCEID's academic programs, the Dean will provide thoughtful academic and administrative leadership while identifying future areas of growth; strengthening interdisciplinary collaborations among the academic units in the College; and building strong connections with alumni, donors, and industry partners.

The Dean will be responsible for the academic, research, creative and outreach leadership of the College, as well as the management of its human and financial resources. The Dean has responsibility for leading the faculty and staff to work cohesively to advance the College as a whole and represents the College within the institution and to the outside world.

The Dean shall also:

- Be a strong advocate on behalf of KCEID in securing resources as the College's programs grow and diversify, and as some seek accreditation.
- Establish new and strengthen existing partnerships with other units and align disciplines to engage in cross-disciplinary collaborations.

- Leverage the collective expertise, passion, and commitment of faculty, staff and students at the Main Campus and the Downtown campus in creating a cohesive identity.
- Coalesce design and creative thinking to fully integrate the disciplines in KCEID.
- Position KCEID to support UTSA's mission of being a catalyst for social mobility and development for San Antonio and a workforce contributor through excellence in research and education.
- Demonstrate a willingness to actively and enthusiastically engage students and support their interests and creative contributions.
- Inspire and lead faculty with diverse interests and backgrounds through shared governance.
- Implement best practices around curriculum, teaching methods, and co-curricular activities to improve retention and graduation rates.

### **Key Opportunities and Challenges**

UTSA is on a dramatic upward trajectory in the pursuit of academic excellence and student success. KCEID seeks a dynamic leader who will capitalize on this momentum, collaborating with faculty and staff to provide visionary leadership and achieve the goals set forth in its strategic roadmap. The new dean will:

#### **Provide Strategic Leadership to Enhance KCEID's Mission and Impact**

The Dean will be instrumental in developing a unified vision for KCEID and elevating the presence of the College across UTSA and the region. The Dean will serve as a catalyst, inspiring internal and external stakeholders to focus their collective energy on pursuing a shared vision for academic excellence; engaging in interdisciplinary and transformational research that advances the economic development of San Antonio and beyond; and fostering the intellectual and personal development of students as future professionals and leaders. Ultimately, the Dean will work in collaboration with the faculty and other divisions on campus to strengthen UTSA's R1 status while supporting the University's efforts and commitment to student success and access.

#### **Promote Student Success**

UTSA is committed to connecting, empowering and equipping students to be lifelong learners and active citizens. The new Dean, in collaboration with the faculty and other divisions, will guide KCEID's work in improving academic services and student support programs, prioritizing future program development and expanding existing delivery methods of instruction to further elevate the student experience in meaningful ways.

#### **Leverage Resources**

To support the strategic goals of KCEID and by consulting with the College's leadership, the Dean will develop and administer the unit's budget; prioritize the allocation of resources and development of facilities; and explore innovative avenues to create new revenue streams to support current and future academic programs, student success initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and other projects. The ongoing assessment of KCEID's needs at the Main Campus and Downtown Campus will ensure that faculty and staff are operating as a cohesive and impactful team and appropriately supporting all internal and external stakeholders.

#### **Enhance Academic Programs**

With a strong understanding of emerging trends in higher education and regional needs, and in consultation with key stakeholders, the Dean will lead a data-informed process that will strategically review programs that meet KCEID's and UTSA's goals and merit long-term investment. To successfully guide this process, the Dean must demonstrate a high level of

intellectual curiosity; a collaborative spirit; and the willingness to invest time in learning about the strengths of KCEID's departments and schools, the needs of the San Antonio community and the University's goals for the future.

### **Develop Impactful Partnerships**

To extend the impact of KCEID across UTSA, San Antonio and beyond, the next Dean will serve as a catalyst for the creation and implementation of innovative academic programs and establish partnerships with industry leaders in the region. The Dean will have an opportunity to engage the College's Advisory Council, leverage their expertise, and together, enhance existing collaborations and identify opportunities for new ventures.

### **Personal Attributes**

It is desired that the Dean possess the following experiences, abilities and skills:

- A commitment to academic quality, outstanding teaching, scholarship and service;
- The ability to effectively inspire and lead students, faculty and staff;
- The disposition to work closely and build effective alliances with faculty in an environment of shared governance that promotes a healthy organizational culture;
- The ability to develop shared strategic goals and opportunities and identify effective strategies for integrating KCEID programs and disciplines;
- A respect and appreciation for the expertise, commitment and passion KCEID's faculty and staff possess;
- The ability to mentor and support the professional development of faculty and staff;
- A consensus builder capable of making decisions in a timely manner;
- A commitment to supporting student success and retention initiatives;
- Demonstrated experience managing human and financial resources and an understanding of activity-based funding models.
- An engaged communicator and listener with a commitment to transparent and sound decision-making;
- The ability to maintain exceptional quality in existing operations, while simultaneously fostering an environment of innovation;
- Demonstrated energy to work in a fast-paced environment and vigor to translate ideas into action;
- A proven and visionary leader who welcomes perspectives that differ from their own.
- The ability to elevate KCEID as UTSA goes through a period of change and institutional growth;
- An appreciation of the education, research and service mission of a major research university.

### **Qualifications**

KCEID's next Dean will play a significant role in the future growth of the College and advance knowledge through research, scholarship and creative activity, teaching and learning, community engagement and public service. The successful candidate will possess a distinguished record of academic accomplishment and service, superior interpersonal and management skills and a passion for serving the community and students UTSA serves. In addition, the successful candidate will possess:

- An earned doctorate/terminal degree in a discipline represented in KCEID from an accredited university and administrative and/or leadership experience in a research university.

- An outstanding record of scholarly achievement and international reputation commensurate with appointment as full professor in one of the departments or schools in the College.
- Experience as an innovative, decisive leader and diplomat with strong organizational and consensus-building skills.
- The ability to inspire and lead faculty with diverse interests and scholarly approaches.
- A record of success in recruiting and retaining talented and diverse faculty.
- A history of inspiring faculty to excel in teaching, research, scholarship and creative activities and rewarding excellence in these areas.
- A history of providing students with a high-quality educational experience focused on experiential learning and innovation and aggressively addressing issues related to student success.
- A deep resonance with UTSA's commitment to excellence and core values, to the personal and educational enrichment of its faculty, staff and students and a passion for the College's role in ensuring student graduation and post-graduate job success.
- Demonstrated experience in building creative interdisciplinary teams that advance innovative academic innovation, in order to serve as a catalyst for new and compelling academic and research initiatives in the College and in partnership with others in the university.
- Experience enhancing existing and developing new partnerships with industry, government and other external stakeholders.
- Proven integrity, people skills and the ability to serve as a highly effective listener and communicator with both academic and non-academic audiences, with bold enthusiasm to address challenges.
- An enterprising mindset that will capitalize on San Antonio's unique urban environment that promotes engagement and partnership opportunities with the business and civic community.

### **Application and Nomination Process**

The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications in early February and continue to accept applications and nominations until the position is filled. Applicants must submit a current curriculum vitae and a letter of interest describing relevant experience and interest in the position. Submission of materials via e-mail is strongly encouraged. Nomination letters should include contact information for the nominee. All nominations and applications will be handled in confidence.

Applications, inquiries, and letters of nomination should be submitted to:



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Email: [apsearch@spaexec.com](mailto:apsearch@spaexec.com)  
 Refer to code "Dean UTSA KCEID" in subject line

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