THE OPPORTUNITY

The Capital University Board of Trustees invites nominations and expressions of interest for the University’s 17th president. Located in Columbus, Ohio, and affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the picturesque campus is situated on 54 acres in the community of Bexley. Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital is adjacent to the Bexley campus, and the Law School is located at the heart of downtown Columbus. Capital serves a diverse community of more than 3,200 students, offering degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, professional, and license/certification levels. This is an ideal moment for a visionary, energetic, servant leader to join the University.
True to its mission, the University strives to transform lives through academic, personal, and social experiences internal and external to the classroom. Capital University is a student-centric environment aligned with contemporary Lutheran values. Capital’s next president will be deeply dedicated to the University’s mission and will bring a strong and sincere commitment to preparing students through academic, co-curricular and service learning experiences that have meaning and fulfillment, and will ultimately lead to satisfying, impactful careers.

The president will engage with the faculty, staff, students and alumni of the University – known as the “CapFam” – in charting a vision for its future. In order to be successful, the next president will be an experienced and collaborative leader who communicates readily and engages authentically with a diverse group of stakeholders. The president will work to ensure the financial stability of the institution through sound financial stewardship, energetic fundraising, and creative revenue diversification including, but not limited to, entrepreneurial partnerships and philanthropic activities with the external community. While the University celebrated record-breaking applications and enrollment this academic year, Capital must continue to focus on attracting students who are prepared for persistence in their educational endeavors and resonate with the University’s mission, vision, and values.

The president will participate in refining expectations of shared governance across the University community and have a strong appreciation of its role, while ultimately having the confidence and conviction to make challenging decisions with a sense of optimism and goodwill. An advanced degree is required; a terminal degree is preferred. The next president will assume office on July 1, 2020.

For information regarding a nomination or expression of personal interest in this position, please see the section “Procedure for Candidacy.”

OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP

The following represent some of the immediate opportunities and expectations that the new president will address during the first two to three years in office.

Build Trust

The Capital community is eager to rally around a new president who will take the time to learn the history, culture, mission, and values of the University and community and will commit deeply to its success. The new president will build trust and engage authentically with a community that is enthusiastic to participate in the future of the University through open, transparent, and meaningful dialogue. Capital seeks a president who can help refine and strongly support a shared governance model and who will encourage University stakeholders to share their thoughts and collectively move forward in the best interest of the institution. The president will inspire hope and confidence by authentically engaging the community in a time of higher education challenges.

Build Upon a Tradition

In the last few years, Capital went through an intense introspection and community listening tour to create a framework for a future strategic and master plan. This effort led to the identification of six contemporary core values and strategies to support students as they pursue meaningful careers and personal achievement. The next University president will have the opportunity to revisit this framework and values to then operationalize and build plans for subsequent decades. It will be important that the president collaborate with stakeholders in a visioning and feedback process as the needs of the University continue to shift. These efforts will provide an understanding of where the University has been; its needs and desires at present; and its collective vision for the future. With input from the community, the new president must effectively envision, articulate, inspire, and rally the community around a vision for the future while honoring and fostering the University’s history, culture, and values. The president will be able to tap the collective, creative energy of faculty and staff to deepen Capital’s curricular strengths with a renewed focus on the broad spectrum of graduate programs currently offered or in the midst of being launched.

The president must be a catalyst for change and champion of all constituencies as he or she shepherds and stewards the University into its next chapter. The president should employ the most inclusive methodologies possible while also being mindful of a timely and results-oriented agenda.
Embrace CapFam

Capital University prides itself on its ability to create an intimate student experience. Professors know students by name and there are ample opportunities for social experiences in the neighborhood of Bexley and the excitement of a vibrant, growing city of Columbus. This is a relationship-based University and its president must ensure that everyone – from students and staff to faculty, alumni, donors, and friends – feels a part of one University community.

The president must inspire this unity while also honoring the unique complexity, programs and communities that make Capital special. The College includes a School of Management and Leadership, a Conservatory of Music, a School of Education, and School of Nursing, along with various areas of study in the arts, sciences, social sciences, humanities, and convergent media, in total covering 60-plus majors. Trinity Lutheran Seminary was reunited with the University in 2018, and the Law School joined the University in the 1960s. Particular attention should be paid to the integrated relationship of the Seminary and Law School – pride points for the institution – with the whole of Capital University.

Enhance Student Experience

Students are the heart of CapFam. In collaboration with the campus community, the president will have the task of identifying and articulating Capital’s value proposition. The president must bring a keen understanding of the changing higher education landscape and the needs of the student today. The president will work with the faculty leadership to continue to maintain and build academic quality and critical advancements in Signature Learning. Capital students will welcome a student-centered president who is visible, actively engaged, and eager to understand and improve the student experience from matriculation through graduation.

The student experience should be a top priority for this president. While the largest population of students are in the traditional undergraduate program, it is critical that the president focus on the activity and style of engagement related to the full diversity of the University’s population, many of whom are first generation, and also include adult learners and commuters of various lifestyles, faiths, and lived experiences.

Lead Fiscal Change and Sustainability

While Capital celebrates a number of accolades in its academic and co-curricular achievements, the University’s reliance on tuition and room and board revenue has created an environment of extreme fiscal conservatism. From admitting its largest-ever undergraduate class in fall 2019 and through lean resourcing, the University has been successful in reducing its deficit. In addition to the Board of Trustee’s clear charge on this matter, there is a commitment to a balanced 2020-2021 budget across University constituencies.
The next president must bring a creative, collaborative approach to fiscal management and identify new revenue and investment strategies for the future of the University. The right-sizing of University spending and allocation will require a nuanced, data-informed understanding of higher education prioritization and planning and long-term success in increasing the endowment. It is imperative that the president engage authentically and openly, communicating clearly to the community around budget and fiscal realities.

There are a number of items that have been delayed by fiscal restraint, that as the financial picture improves need to be addressed, including: investing in new and growing academic programs; creating an actionable plan following a complete compensation study; reinstating annual performance increases; renovating buildings and residential housing; renovating or building a new science facility; and developing a plan for enhanced and consistent application of and improved infrastructure for IT resources.

**Further Strengthen External Relations**

Capital University has an identity that is strong in the Central Ohio metro-area and is recognized as a high-quality institution in an area with dozens of colleges and universities. This makes for a strong network of sister institutions and higher education presidents. It also creates an opportunity for Capital to set itself apart from the rest. The Capital University president should continue to focus on off-campus relationships while maintaining a campus presence.

The president’s role in engaging with partners in the business and arts community, families, alumni, and donors will be of great importance. Capital University has laid a groundwork and continues to enhance robust relationships at the Statehouse and with government and civic leaders.

**Build leadership culture**

The new president will be proactive and diligent in maintaining and enhancing the quality of the senior cabinet and will establish and personify a highly collaborative, student-centric, and team-oriented approach. It will be particularly critical for the new president to be a connector and unifier and to work closely with the University’s academic and student affairs leadership to provide a high-quality academic program and experience for the students. In order to devote the necessary time to externally facing duties/priorities, the president will empower the senior team to collaborate and to provide strategic leadership to their units, increasing autonomy and accountability while coordinating across divisions.
PRESIDENTIAL QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

Capital University’s next president will possess an unwavering commitment to contemporary Lutheran values and willingness to embrace and build upon the best of the University’s history and traditions. The ideal candidate is highly empathetic with a history of building trusting relationships and unifying organizations. A person with strong interpersonal skills and an ability to self-evaluate personal effectiveness, and who is comfortable with regular transparent expressions of leadership responsibilities is desired. The new president will be a person of unquestioned integrity who exercises sound judgment, is creative, empowers institutional colleagues and partners to take ownership and be accountable, and demonstrates a sense of perspective and good humor. A personal commitment to and track record for enhancing human diversity in all its forms is required. The president must be a leader of impeccable character and recognize the value of teamwork.

The ideal candidate will possess a combination of academic credentials, leadership capacity, and intellectual abilities that will command the respect of the community, as well as the following skills, attributes, and strengths. They are listed here in no particular order:

- Committed to students’ holistic well-being;
- Successful experience in and strong appreciation for shared governance;
- Exceptional communication skills with the proven capacity to engage, inspire, and connect with varied audiences;
- Experience building strong external relationships to bolster community, philanthropic, and entrepreneurial opportunities;
- Experience in creating, maintaining, and supporting international linkages;
- Capacity to make very challenging decisions with a pervasive sense of optimism;
- Dedicated to diversity initiatives on a comprehensive, systematic, and institutional level through policies, hiring, and University climate which encourages retention;
- A champion of inclusion and access needs and accommodations;
- For non-academic candidates, must possess an understanding of the academy, be passionately interested in students and their development, and articulate the power of higher education;
- Partiality for data-driven decision-making;
- Strong understanding of organizational change and management;

- Emotional intelligence that will support culture change;
- Demonstrated ability to advance an agenda through inclusive and collaborative partnerships;
- Experience identifying and implementing new revenue streams and fiscal approaches relative to contemporary higher education challenges and business models;
- Trusting and trustworthy;
- Demonstrate authentic leadership that inspires unification;
- Understand contemporary admissions, financial aid, retention, and marketing strategies related to the business of enrollment-dependent institutions;
- An understanding of the different needs of undergraduate and graduate education;
- Ability to gain the attention and excitement of external constituents;
- An understanding of the identity, mission, and opportunities of a private, faith-based institution;
- Demonstrated history of impactful fundraising and building a robust culture of philanthropy;
- Dedicated to Capital University for the long-term; not as a stepping stone to other opportunities;
- Appropriate sense of urgency balanced with communication;
- Demonstrated success in working with students and helping them persist in their education;
- Listens carefully and consults broadly with the courage of convictions necessary to make difficult decisions and to see them through;
- A sensitivity and consistency in serving the needs of a multi-campus environment;
- Works in and respects a high-transparency environment;
- A visible member of the University community; and
- Consistently delivers in word, action, and values.
PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

Nominations and expressions of interest are welcome and should be sent electronically to Capital University’s consultants, Ann Yates, Melissa Fincher, and Veena Abraham, J.D. at CapitalPresident@wittkieffer.com. Questions may also be directed to the consultants through the office of Meagan Shimkus at 630-575-6725.

Credential review will begin immediately. Applications should be submitted by March 2, 2020, for fullest consideration. Candidates should provide a résumé or curriculum vitae; a letter of application that addresses the responsibilities and requirements described in this leadership profile; and the names and contact information of five references. Candidate confidentiality will be respected, and references will not be contacted without prior knowledge and approval of candidates.

Presidential candidates will remain completely confidential throughout the recruitment process, including during first-round interviews. To ensure candidates are thoroughly vetted, they will also participate in a second round of confidential interviews with the search committee. All search committee members will be signing a “code of ethics” which ensures the confidentiality of all nominees, prospects, and candidates.

After the first two rounds of interviews, there will be an open approach for third-round finalist interviews, including open campus visits. Finalist candidates will be invited to make public appearances on campus to directly address all stakeholder groups.

Capital University is an equal opportunity employer. Capital University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin or ethnicity, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law in its admissions, educational programs or activities, and employment.

This is Capital

• 2,504 undergraduate students; 772 graduate students
• 26% students of color
• 34% of traditional undergraduates are the first in their family to go to college
• 25% of FTIC students commute
• 12:1 undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio
• <20 average class size
• 168 full-time faculty; 244 part-time faculty
• 4 undergraduate degrees and 13 graduate degrees
• 60 majors and 51 minors
• 30% of undergraduates conduct research with their professors
• 750+ internship sites
• 160+ community partnerships
• 100% of accepted undergraduates receive a scholarship
• $107 million endowment
• $72.5 million operating budget
ABOUT CAPITAL University

Capital University is a mid-sized, four-year undergraduate institution and graduate school whose main residential campus is in the Central Ohio community of Bexley. Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University is adjacent to the Bexley campus, and Capital University Law School is located four miles west in the heart of downtown Columbus, the 15th largest city in the United States.

As a community of learners, we see the world as a progression of opportunities to inquire, explore, practice, and work through the discomfort of not knowing. We collaborate, theorize, try, risk, learn, solve, and triumph.

From their first day on campus, Capital students begin preparing for jobs that become careers – careers that have meaning and fulfillment. They work toward becoming Purpose Ready™ – prepared for a life driven by a deep sense of purpose and lived at the speed of change. And they become accomplished at embracing ideas and inventions not yet considered or imagined.

University Governance

The University is governed by a Board of Trustees that currently has 27 members. Each trustee is eligible for re-election for up to three successive three-year terms. The Board is led by an Executive Committee made up of 10 trustees, including the chair and vice chair of the Board. The terms of the current chair and vice chair conclude in June 2020, at which time new officers will be elected and each will begin a three-year term. According to the University Bylaws, the current vice chair is expected to succeed to the position of chair subject to agreement of the vice chair, recommendation of the Governance Committee, and election by the Board.

Faculty governance operates at two levels – the full University Faculty body and the faculties of the three units (the College, the Law School, and Trinity Lutheran Seminary). Each faculty body operates as a unit of the whole and, in addition, there are committees at each level of the Faculty that carry out specific duties. The committees of the University Faculty have responsibilities that are relevant to all faculty and units of the University, whereas the committees of the College, the Law School or Trinity Lutheran Seminary have responsibilities that are specific to those units.

At the University level, the University Faculty Executive Committee is the committee responsible to represent the University Faculty with a unified voice to the administration and Board of Trustees with respect to University-wide issues affecting the faculties of the College, the Law School, and Trinity Lutheran Seminary. The chair of the University Faculty Executive Committee is an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees and serves as a member of the President’s Cabinet, as does the chair of the faculty budget and planning committee.
Mission and Values
Capital University is a comprehensive, private University, centered in contemporary Lutheran values, offering undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professions.

The University's mission is to transform lives for a brighter world. It is a mission rooted in the 1830 founding by the Lutheran Church and in the 1850 charter granted by the Ohio legislature. The mission flourishes today in Capital's vision for purposeful people, courageous community and hopeful humanity, and experience based on six global values.

Free Inquiry
Cultivating open dialogue and critical exploration.

Ethical Stewardship
Acting in pursuit of human dignity and social justice.

Challenging Boundaries
Using multiple perspectives to create new knowledge and solutions.

Authentic Contributions
Developing and applying the innate gifts of each person for the good of society.

Open Community
Celebrating an empowering, faith-friendly environment of inclusion and respect.

Embracing Hope
Cultivating joy in our daily experience and optimism for a better future.

Core Strategies
Capital's four core strategies focus on doing what's best for its students, community and society.

Purpose Ready™
Developing leaders for the sake of the world.

Originality
Committing to individuality, wholeness and inclusion.

Health and Well-Being
Educating leaders and practitioners for a healthier community.

Columbus
Engaging fully with opportunities in our capital city.

The Campuses
Capital University's Bexley campus is a picturesque, urban location situated on 54 acres in the Columbus, Ohio, community of Bexley. Throughout campus, facilities with historic significance sit beside state-of-the-art showcases, supporting and enhancing teaching and learning, and the development – academic, personal, and social – of our students. From classroom buildings and administrative offices to residence halls, labs, performance spaces, and studios, campus facilities have been designed with students in mind.

The Convergent Media Center, Capital's newest building, supports existing and emerging degree programs that flourish in an interdisciplinary, innovative and collaborative environment. High-impact experiences connect students and faculty from program areas as diverse as communication, music, electronic media, film, creative writing, and digital design. It is a space where students and academic programs impact one another in an innovative, technology-rich space. Strategic partnerships develop to create cross-disciplinary, mutually beneficial, immersive learning opportunities that make Capital students stand out in the workforce.

Blackmore Library on the Bexley campus is much more than a collection of books. A major renovation incorporated collaborative work spaces, modern study rooms, casual seating, 24-hour access, and technical support at the center of the main floor. The second level houses the offices of Academic Success and Career Development. The fourth floor of the library is devoted to The Schumacher Gallery, the second-largest art gallery in Columbus. The wonderfully diverse permanent collection of more than 2,500 works – all donated to the University – encompasses 2,000 years of cultural history and includes pieces by Picasso, Warhol, Rembrandt, Chagall, Goya, Dali, and other prominent artists. The Schumacher also exhibits a sizable collection of African art, as well as the Midwest's largest assemblage of Inuit art. Since the Gallery's inception in 1964, hundreds of donors have provided objects of art, funds, and services to create this important cultural legacy.

Student-centered learning also takes place outside the traditional classroom. In 2005, a generous donation of property enabled Capital to establish the Merl and Margaret Primmer Outdoor Learning Center, fostering hands-on research experiences in biology, ecology, and environmental science that preserve the natural resources of the land and exemplify principles of ecological restoration, biological conservation, and environmental sustainability. This 74-acre research and learning center in Ohio's Hocking Hills creates educational outreach opportunities through collaboration with external partners, including scouts, elementary school science teachers and research experiences for eSTEM high school students.
The Capital Center, the University's athletics facility, not only pays homage to the tradition and architecture of the Bexley campus but also provides a functional and modern place for the University to reach new horizons. The 126,000-square-foot recreational and athletic complex includes a 2,100-seat performance arena, a 3,000-seat stadium, a 51,000-square-foot multipurpose forum, a 5,000-square-foot fitness center, and a multitude of offices, classrooms, and hospitality areas. Functionality and usability are the key in the multipurpose forum, as the infield of the NCAA regulation indoor track has four courts with lines for basketball, volleyball, and tennis and can be split into a multitude of configurations for a variety of events.

Additionally, there are campuses specifically dedicated to Trinity Lutheran Seminary and the Law School. The Seminary is part of the main Bexley campus, separated by a single street but sharing a number of structural, academic, and personnel resources. The Law School is part of the Discovery District in downtown Columbus, a nod to the city's strength in education, culture and innovation, and just blocks away from the hub of multiple governmental and judicial entities.

**Academics**

Capital serves a diverse student body of more than 3,200, including traditional undergraduates, students who have returned to college to complete their bachelor’s degrees, graduate students, professional degree students, and those seeking a specific license or certification. Graduate and professional degrees are available in law, nursing, business, education, music education, and theology. Capital’s 60 majors, 51 minors, four undergraduate degrees, and 13 graduate degrees are offered in:

- Arts, Music, and Communication
- Business and Management
- Education
- Humanities
- Law
- Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science
- Nursing
- Social Sciences
- Theology

New degree programs include the Master of Legal Studies at Capital University Law School (introduced in 2019) and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (enrolling its first class in fall 2020).
**Undergraduate**

With a 12:1 undergraduate student-faculty ratio, being a Capital faculty member requires a deep passion for teaching, learning, scholarship, and engaging students. Endowed chairs and professorships have been established in biological sciences, education, business, nursing, computational studies, humanities, law, philosophy, and religion.

The Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching is a key partner in helping faculty optimize student learning. Services offered are always growing and adapting to the changing landscape of technology, including advances in academic technology, assessments, grants, and instructional design.

The liberal arts and sciences at Capital shape idea explorers, analytical minds, careful communicators and scientists – social, natural, mathematical, and computational. Offerings in the arts, humanities, social sciences, education, social work, mathematics, computer science, and the natural sciences prepare well-rounded, critical thinkers, and educated citizens. The University created the state’s first combined 3+3 BA/JD program, an accelerated pathway for qualified and motivated students to complete their baccalaureate and law degrees in six years instead of seven.

The Conservatory of Music has been preparing students for a wide range of music careers for 100 years. Individual students and ensembles win the highest honors at regional, state, and national competitions. Graduates establish themselves as professional performers, teachers, conductors, composers, and music business and industry entrepreneurs. For generations, Capital University has encouraged students to pursue meaningful, creative lives. One hundred years may have passed since Otto Mees, eighth president of Capital University founded the Department of Music, but Capital’s dedication to artistry, inspiration, and community has remained unchanged. This powerful combination of purposeful introspection, enriched by artistic vision is contagious. It has encouraged the formation of dynamic partnerships within the Columbus community and produced advocates, educators, performers, and composers. This legacy of leadership, accomplishment, and dedication continues to inspire our work together. The creative, optimistic, and adventuresome artistic excellence that defines and motivates the Conservatory is a true mark of distinction for the University.

Capital’s School of Management and Leadership teaches students to master the broad foundation expected of all business majors, and to apply business skills in complex environments with actual clients. With access to relevant and challenging internships at local businesses, industries, and start-ups, graduates have launched successful careers with the benefits of practical learning experiences in their chosen fields.

The School of Education is the home to more than 500 students and 15 tenured/tenure-track faculty at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Intercultural Student Teaching Program is unique to Central Ohio and since its inception in 2011 has partnered with more than 17 countries and the Navajo Nation in the Four Corners region. The Girls in Science Day is an opportunity for girls from urban and rural setting to participate in a hands-on workshop led by University faculty who are women and leaders in science. For more than 40 years, The Reading Center located on the Bexley campus has provided year-round, one-on-one tutoring to students with literacy challenges. The School of Education has rich partnerships with area schools that provide classroom spaces designated for Capital courses in phonics, social emotional learning strategies, middle school curriculum, and literacy intervention.

Celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2020, Capital’s School of Nursing educates professional nurse leaders for lives of service, promoting health and healing within diverse communities through ethical thought and critical-thinking skills. Benefiting from real-world field experiences with some of the nation’s top-ranked hospitals and health care organizations in Columbus, graduates are recruited by hospitals, health care systems, and community-based care centers nationwide. The nursing program is accredited by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). This highly regarded program is noted for its endorsement by the American Holistic Nursing Certification Corporation (AHNCC) and is characterized by innovation, creativity, and service in health care and in nursing education.
Nursing is also anticipated to launch its newest program in fall 2020, the Executive Leadership Doctor of Nursing Practice. The nursing program has long-standing affiliations with major hospitals and health care agencies in the region and has exchange agreements with Malardalens Hogskola in Sweden, and Srimahasarakham College of Nursing in Thailand.

The University's new Signature Learning curriculum is structured around Program Learning Outcomes that are delivered through majors, minors, foundational courses, and co-curricular experiences. Signature Learning is designed to help students discover the world and how they can impact it through intellectual skills; critical thinking and reasoning; and the ability to reflect on ways good citizenship, religion, and ethics shape who they are and how they will live a life of impact. It’s what employers and graduate schools want: hard skills, soft skills, life skills.

Undergraduate research is highly supported at Capital and students regularly present at regional and national academic meetings, including the National Conference on Undergraduate Research and the American Psychological Society. Since 1997, Capital has celebrated its own students’ research accomplishments at the annual Symposium on Undergraduate Scholarship. A complementary Graduate Research Forum was established in 2017.

Through the undergraduate Summer Scholars program, students have the opportunity to develop and implement a scholarship project under the mentorship of a Capital faculty member, combining academics with social and cultural experiences while earning a stipend and housing allowance.

Graduate and Degree Completion

Graduate education and degree completion programs at Capital strategically create pathways to lifelong learning. In a rapidly growing and changing world, Capital University’s commitment to its adult students comes down to two primary factors: marketplace and mission. It’s a commitment to the workforce that Capital will educate students to be leaders of change. And it’s a commitment to students that Capital will champion purpose and provide opportunities for learning that aligns across societal, community, and University interests.

Capital offers graduate degrees in business, education, music education, nursing, theology, and law. These programs have respected reputations, connected communities, and committed faculty. Capital tailors classes and degrees, both in scope and delivery, to meet the needs of busy adults through rigorous, highly personalized, highly interactive, and flexible programs.

Capital’s Master of Business Administration program, the longest-running evening MBA in Columbus, is respected, flexible, and experienced at meeting the needs of working professionals who want a challenge and who care about work-life balance. The Master of Music in Music Education allows music educators to elevate their teaching and musicianship in only three summer semesters. Students in Capital’s graduate program in education discover new ways to reach students, extend their impact, and advance their careers – personally, professionally, and financially – through concentrations in teaching, school counselor, and school administrator. The Nursing program offers the Master of Science in Nursing degree and, beginning in fall 2020, the online Executive Leadership Doctor of Nursing Practice.
The Law School’s extensive curriculum balances advanced courses in emerging areas of law with meaningful experiential opportunities and skills training. It was the first law school in Ohio to offer a course in oil and gas law and a concentration in energy law. The Law School provides robust opportunities for experiential learning through an extensive externship program, pro bono honors program, litigation clinic, and the unique Foster Youth Advocacy Clinic. Law faculty include nationally recognized authorities in bankruptcy, privacy, election law, tax law, family law, and constitutional law. Law alumni include federal and state judges, elected officials, and leaders of law firms and corporations. In addition to the Juris Doctor degree, the Law School offers master’s programs in legal studies, taxation, and business, with certificate programs for aspiring paralegals, life care planners, and legal nurse consultants.

Since its founding in 1830 as the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in Ohio, which later resulted in the charter of Capital University in 1850, the relationship between the church and the University remained strong. On January 1, 2018, official bonds between Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Capital University were restored as the institutions reunited, promising a stronger future for both institutions. Trinity Lutheran Seminary provides opportunities for faith training in the classroom and around the globe, equipping students for transformative ministry in a variety of settings. The Seminary is committed to expanding its students’ discernment of faith, responsibility to one another, and purposeful impact through a holistic experience of academics, worship, ministry in context, community life, and special programs. Students can earn master’s degrees in Divinity, Theological Studies, Youth and Family Ministry, and Sacred Theology.

Trinity’s unique 2+2 Program for completing the Master of Divinity degree allows for flexibility in life, study, and work balance. During the first two years of full-time study, students take classes on campus and work at their contextual education sites. Clinical Pastoral Education in a chaplaincy setting is typically completed in the summer between the first and second years. During the second two years of full-time status, students live and work at their internship sites in a variety of church settings.

Capital has several new graduate programs on the horizon in areas such as clinical counseling, social work, and public health. These are proactive ways Capital will be able to meet the changing needs of the community.

Degree completion programs for adult learners who want to finish a bachelor’s degree are designed to meet students where they are and make lifelong learning accessible and meaningful. A key component is Capital’s major in interdisciplinary studies, a blended major that can be completed in-person or through hybrid pathways, which allows students to customize their baccalaureate degree by combining two areas of focus to create a degree path unique to their experiences, interests, and career plans.
Student Success

Capital faculty and staff believe that every student brings the potential to positively impact an evolving world, giving everyone on campus a vested interest in student success and a determination to work together – as teachers and students, as mentors and scholars. Our goal is to make sure students are having the best experience possible at Capital and that concerns are being addressed.

- The Academic Success team helps traditional undergraduate, graduate and adult students make the most of their learning experiences and gives students the services they need to shine in the classroom – in every subject and at every level, through academic coaching, peer tutoring, a writing center, and supplemental instruction.

- Capital's comprehensive Student Success Office advocates for students and families, working with students who may be having a difficult time transitioning to college or who may be struggling with personal issues that could be hindering academic progress. In addition, the Student Success Coaching Program matches students with a mentor for the semester who can assist them with academic, social, and personal problems, and connect them to the appropriate campus and community resources.

- Cap 101 is a six-week online, interactive experience that first-year students take before they come to campus to become acquainted with University services and gain confidence in proven study strategies.

- Sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion Office, Smooth Transitions encourages all incoming students to participate in a three-day pre-orientation program, designed to support the introduction, matriculation, and retention of underrepresented student populations in transitioning to the academic, cultural, and social environment at Capital University. Smooth Transitions begins three days before the August New Student Orientation and extends throughout the academic year, focusing on a mentorship structure. Daily activities explore utilizing campus resources, developing supportive networks, understanding academic expectations, and encouraging involvement in campus activities and community service. The primary goal of Smooth Transitions is to assist students in building a strong relationship with Capital University.

- Other initiatives include a peer-advising program; promoting education and social engagement opportunities among faculty, staff, and students; and embedding career development in first-year curricula and experiences.
Student Life and Service

In an atmosphere frequently referred to as the “Cap Family” or “CapFam,” student life at Capital is inclusive, supportive and active. With more than 100 clubs and organizations, student engagement opportunities span the arts and media, fraternity and sorority life, student programming, religious and cultural organizations, student government, leadership development, sports and recreational opportunities, honor societies, and service organizations. A robust and successful NCAA Division III-affiliated athletic department includes nearly 500 student-athletes across 18 varsity sports, which provides Capital with pride and national recognition. Among its more than 50 music ensembles, Capital’s prestigious Chapel Choir is best known for performing a wide range of sacred and secular choral literature at home and abroad.

Throughout the academic year, hundreds of students and staff give back to the community at dozens of sites across Columbus and Bexley, strengthening connections among the University, Central Ohio’s social service agencies, and the people they serve. Capital students join community partners like the City of Columbus and United Way of Central Ohio for the ColumbUS Volunteer Challenge. Marketing classes have partnered with Children’s Hospital to help develop a promotional plan promoting pediatric mental and behavioral health. Public relations classes have worked with the Community Shelter Board to create a multimedia awareness campaign for youth homelessness.

Capital’s Bonner Leader Program connects Capital University and Columbus to a national network of colleges, universities, and communities dedicated to providing students the opportunity to work with community partners to address issues such as poverty, hunger, and education. This program provides students with meaningful opportunities to acquire real-world, problem-solving skills, and positions them for fulfilling careers and lives of impact, while lifting and building the capacity of others.
Finances and Fundraising

Capital University operates with a $72.5 million annual budget, including $1.9 million of capital expenditures, with a $2.5 million projected deficit for FY 20. The plan is to have a balanced budget for FY 21. Investments total $120 million, of which $22 million are unrestricted and $96 million support the $107 million endowment, which produces $4.2 million in annual support for Capital. Debt currently totals $29 million, and $1.7 million in principal is being repaid annually.

The University’s cash and pledges for FY 19 exceeded $11 million, surpassing the yearly goal of $10 million for the third consecutive year. This represents continuous growth with giving nearly tripling over the past decade. This growth has been driven by an increase in major gifts, a focus on engaging young alumni giving, and a highly successful corporate fundraising program. Advancement efforts are inclusive of the Bexley campus, downtown Law School, and Trinity Lutheran Seminary and are highly coordinated across the campuses.

Driving toward continuous improvement, new alumni engagement, and giving programs have been recently launched, including volunteer programs with career services and enrollment, advisory councils working with select academic programs, philanthropy day challenges and activities, and the Memorial Gateway Society formed to recognize annual support at leadership levels.

Our Larger Community

In the history of Capital University and the Columbus region, there has never been a better time for us to be so closely connected.

As one of the fastest-growing cities in the Midwest, Columbus serves as a vibrant extension of the Capital campus. Capital is within easy reach of a dynamic arts and cultural scene, beautiful natural surroundings including abundant rivers, lakes, and parks, and extensive trails for hiking and cycling. The Columbus region is the corporate headquarters of some of the world’s largest companies, including several Fortune 500 corporations. Ohio’s capital city is among the top 30 of Forbes’ Best Places for Business and Careers; the top five for women entrepreneurs; the top 10 for young families; and the top three best for new graduates.

Capital University’s commitment to experiential learning extends beyond the Bexley and Downtown campuses to serve Columbus and its many neighborhoods. Capital students can learn through applied experience and cross-cultural exchanges while working with communities to create solutions that improve lives and mobilize all citizens of Columbus in various stages of life, learning, and career.

Located just four miles from downtown Columbus, the community of Bexley is Capital’s home. A historic and close-knit community known for its neighborhood atmosphere, its highly ranked public school system and private schools, and an enviable overall quality of life, Bexley is largely residential, with more than 4,000 households in a 2.5 square-mile area.

Capital greatly enriches the intellectual, creative, and cultural life of the community by creating avenues of public access to figures whose commentary nurtures thought, debate, and social dialogue. For example, every January, the Capital University community celebrates the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Learning. Citizens of Central Ohio delight in an opportunity to be challenged by the keynote speaker, engage in meaningful dialogue with students, staff and faculty during the workshops, and enjoy the hospitality of the campus. The University hosts performing arts events, journalists, authors, political figures, and recreational and athletic activities to involve and enrich the larger community.